

**Thursday, February 15, 2018
Williamsport, PA**

Council Vice President Randy Allison brought the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 7:30 PM in City Hall Council Chambers. Chris Cooley did televise the meeting. The invocation was given by Councilman Randy Allison and was immediately followed by the "Pledge of Allegiance".

Council members present:

*Jonathan Williamson, President absent
Randy Allison, Vice President
Bonnie Katz, Councilwoman
Derek Slaughter
Don Noviello, Councilman
Elizabeth Miele, Councilwoman
Joel Henderson, Councilman*

Absent:

Jonathan Williamson

Also, Present:

*Gabriel J. Campana, Mayor
Rebecca Haladay, City Engineer
Mr. William Nichols, Jr.
Mr. Joe Pawlak
Mr. Gary Knarr absent
Megan Page HR absent
Adam Winder
Dave Young, Police Chief
Sol. Norman Lubin
Janice Frank, City Clerk,
Todd Heckman, Fire Chief
Mr. Joe Gerardi*

Approval of the Williamsport City Council minutes of February 1, 2018 was approved upon a motion from **and Ms. Miele made** a second from **Mr. Slaughter**. All were in favor. **The vote was 6 to 0. Ms. Miele voted yes. Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes. Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes, and Dr. Williamson was absent.**

There was a moment of silence for the horrific shootings in Florida.

Limited Courtesy of the Floor

There were no requests for limited courtesy of the floor.

Mr. Allison changed the order of the agenda.

Resolution #8747

Resolution to Authorize a Levee Pump Station Review & Background Power AMEC

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to approve the resolution

Ms. Slaughter made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Ms. Haladay stated this resolution is an agreement with Foster Wheeler Wood, to gather information on the pump stations regarding backup power. The reason why I requested them to give this proposal, is that there are about five of us traveling to Washington DC. After meeting with some of the congressmen, they stated we need to provide information that are pump station and levee will be an environmental impact to apply for funding that we meet. So for our purposes, and for wording, if we do not have backup power, we will have a failure which will have an environmental impact. This will be a desktop review, there will be no boots on the ground, so that's why the cost is typically a little lower than what we're used to seeing. This proposal, I requested they provide us an open-ended contract to and in February of 2019. The reason being, we are traveling in March, so it is an extremely short time frame for them to do all the work. They have been working over the weeks and good faith that this would be passed tonight. Since they are working on the Swift plan, it has been over two weeks since our first meeting. The open ended contract will allow us to go ahead and work. She introduced Gaz to give a quick overview.

Gaz stated so the desktop analysis for the backup our costs is based on data that we've been collecting since 2012 since we did the original analysis. We collected a significant amount of data that was collected before, and we are able to assess the needs of those stations. The reason why we are looking at the backup power is that the Army Corps of engineers requires it, and they also looked at the life expectancy. We have acknowledged those deficiencies and we are attempting to acknowledge as many as we can to give you guys a cost that is as inclusive as possible. As part of the Swift plan, we need to provide the schedule, budget and funding. We need a better understanding.

Mr. Noviello stated we did review this at Public Works and this is one of those sagas that we are going to have to continue. The value that I see in this now is that a closer look at the pump stations and the backup systems now maybe we will see some problems, that could be more costly later on. The cost is a hard one to swallow but it also important to continue, and we do have a not to exceed amount and we do have full faith in the people who are going to be taking care of us. We sent this to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation.

Mrs. Katz asked if we are going to discuss all of the pump stations or just the two?

Gaz answered in addition to those two pump stations, The Army Corp has requested that we do all of them.

Ms. Miele asked what is the source for the funding...\$27,000?

Ms. Haladay answered we are utilizing the bank funding that we initially had for the \$500,000, you think we have used almost 20,000 so far, and it is important to touch on that anything that we utilize from present day pass, we are able to utilize bad as match for this federal and state level. She felt that is very important to reiterate the Council, the Swift plan, as the city we follow the Baltimore district, and the Baltimore district has not reviewed a Swift plan. So that is important that we keep this in mind and have an open-ended contract. They have given us a rough layout of what we need to have, but there are things that may potentially rise that they don't seem we don't see.

Ms. Miele asked what exactly have we put into the levee so far?

Ms. Haladay stated she will email them tomorrow, but she knows it is over \$600,000

Ms. Miele stated we have spent so much and we actually haven't done any real work.

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Gaz, stated one of the deficiencies was certain testing on some of the electrical systems, and that was a deficiency that gave us and on acceptable rating by the Army Corps. She believes that testing was completed, and they have started the relief well contract.

Ms. Haladay stated we also replaced gates and she is working on signage.

Ms. Miele stated so we are taking care of some of the issues and some of the minor things. What do we anticipate having to spend on further studies? She stated that a lot of money is spent on studies and providing reports.

Ms. Haladay, stated sometimes it takes money to get money and at this point, if we are over \$600,000 were going have to talk about another hundred \$50,000, that is still not even \$1 million and we are searching for \$10 million. She stated she wants to start looking into completing the rest of the designs to complete the levee, and then we can take that to the Army Corps and say we've already done this much work, this is essentially why you should give us funding. Once we receive the funding, we can begin construction immediately.

Ms. Miele wanted to establish that we have to spend ½ billion bucks to get us 10 million bucks.

Gaz answered, there is some value in desktop analysis because it helps to get a broad perspective of what is happening, both from FEMA and the Army Corp and in things that we would see only by the begin. In the long term it is hard to say what exactly what we would need in the future and that's why there is an open-ended contract.

Ms. Miele asked all this data and all the work, can we hang onto that and will that prove useful to us once the work has been done? She does not want to wind up in a position that we are a doubt, the fact that we have ignored the levee for 50 or 60 years, so she wanted to make sure that everything we find out is valuable.

Ms. Haladay answered it seems like all the data compiled was not good enough, but we went back to look at that, after the construction has begun, I want to start looking for more funding, and more plans to maintain the system that we have. And that is a potential that maybe we don't get the funding, and we can utilize more grants.

Mr. Slaughter asked about a feasibility study, and so once we review this, are we going to be feasible study?

Gaz answered said the reason why this is not enough to actually decide if you can go ahead in making these repairs is because we don't have boots on the ground, and we don't have a current assessment that we can rely on in order to make that decision. So we cannot say that it is feasible to increase capacity here, or if the power is conducive to that, that is something that does need to be looked at but in the time frame we were given it does not seem feasible to look at that.

Mr. Slaughter stated so worst case scenario, because you don't have boots on the ground, would not be feasible at all?

Gaz answered the data that we are using, we have information on each of the pump motors and what they require, so we are trying to get as close as we can to establish a feasible cost that is not outlandish. But at the same time you walk into a pump station and you see that the walls are all cracking, and maybe the pump needs to be rebuilt. So there would possibly be more involved with rehabilitating a pump station. There was discussion about a rough estimate, and it was then said that it would be more of a case-by-case basis. The preferred approach was to just do boots on the ground, but because of the schedule it did not seem possible.

Mr. Slaughter asked why are we so rushed?

Ms. Haladay answered we needed information to go into DC and we need more of a conceptual cost estimate rather than line item by line item, and she has noted of the deadline but she did not know for this study, until we ultimately got into our workshop.

Mrs. Katz stated she feels she has to clarify, that most of our money that has been spent, has been spent on studies, and with all of the work that the government is needed, is why we have to do all the studies. And even know you are going to Washington, that does not mean that we will get a grant. She wanted to ask if anyone in our own Streets & Parks Dept have knowledge.

Gaz stated yes, we have talked to your departments and they have been very helpful, we have talked with your electrician, flood control and Steve Mondray and we also have a contact with Leece Electric, so we're trying to use all of your resources that you can give also.

Mr. Henderson asked Mr. Pawlak how much of our bank funds have we used? \$20,000? Mr. Pawlak answered that is a safe assumption. Since speed is the issue here, and we are given the tools necessary to our lobbyists in order to secure more funding for us. It takes a lot of faith to do this. That's why we have to really dig deep and tried to justify borrowing, and that is what we are doing. We have authorized the borrowing for this and if we didn't use it now, we would have the option to use it for something else. Mr. Henderson stated this is a necessary evil.

Ms. Miele stated we went into debt to satisfy our levee obligations. Regardless, every time we make a decision on the levee we are responsible for our fiscal responsibility.

Mr. Slaughter asked for more information on the open-ended contract.

Ms. Haladay answered the reason why we have this it is only open-ended until Feb. 2019 because the Swift plan is due at that time. For example we could start sooner with this contract.

Mr. Allison stated he believes it is an act of faith and we desperately need to do this and he thanked them for All the hard work and stated again this is something we have to do. We haven't have the levee checked for over 40 years and sometime down the line, it may happen again and we need to make sure that we are ready for the next time it happens.

Ms. Haladay continued to explain about the conversions to meet FEMA standards and she is going to talk to them about that mandate and how that works with the findings. So shouldn't they be responsible, and the same issue with the Army Corp. We are trying to eliminate as many costs as we can.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the resolution.

The resolution was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson was absent.

Appointment

Brandon Park/Shade Tree Commission

Lee Freedman, 710 Market St, Williamsport is appointed to 5-year term commencing 2/15/18 & ending 2/15/19

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Mayor Campana stated this is a gentleman who was interviewed by the Public Works committee this past week. His appointment is for the Brandon Park commission and the Shade Tree commission. He is a resident of the city and lives on Market Street and has been involved in forestry for over 40 years and also landscaping. I'm sure he's going to do a nice job.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion on the appointment.

Mrs. Katz made the motion and it was seconded by Ms. Miele.

Mr. Noviello stated in Public Works, we had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Friedman. He presented his credentials which were substantial enough and his decision-making will serve the commission very well. We did pass this to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the appointment.

The appointment was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson was absent

Resolution #8745

Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of a 2018 John Deere 5075E Utility Tractor

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to approve the resolution.

Mr. Henderson made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Noviello.

Mr. Adam Winder stated this resolution is to authorize the purchase of a new tractor for the flood control Department. It would be a dual rear wheel tractor, currently our tractor is 2001 and mowing the incline is very difficult. In the past two years, we have put \$10,000 into the old one for repair. In 2001 we paid \$40,000 for the current tractor and we are getting almost half of our money back. It is a definite needed asset and used for multiple purposes. It was reviewed by the Public Works committee.

Mr. Noviello stated equipment tends to run its course after so much time. This equipment is pretty old and it necessary and we use it a lot. So Public Works sent this to the full body Council with a positive recommendation.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the resolution.

The resolution was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson was absent

Resolution #8746

Resolution Authorizing a 2017 State Fire Grant

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to approve the resolution

Mr. Henderson made the motion and it was seconded by Mrs. Katz.

Chief Heckman stated this is the 2017/18 grant. We go after this every year and we utilize it to the full extent of \$15,000. We are looking at supply line, and if we need to order extra, we will have the money. This did go before Public Safety.

Mr. Noviello stated we sent this to the full body of Council with positive recommendation. This is something that keeps our service providers with the best possible equipment and we know that the chief has been on top of this for some time now. It also is a keep our residents safe.

Mr. Henderson stated we are thankful for this State grant every year and this is easy to pass something like this.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the resolution.

The resolution was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson was absent

Accept for filing

Veterans Memorial Park Commission Jan 2018

Public Works 12/12/17

Public Safety 9/5/17

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to approve the minutes for filing.

Mrs. Katz made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

The minutes were carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson was absent

Announcements

There will be an executive session in the matter of personnel and legal issues following this meeting. The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 7:30 PM, in City Hall Council Chambers. (Enter through the police department at rear of building for meetings after 5:00 PM.)

Upcoming Meetings:

Monday, Feb. 19

Tuesday, Feb. 20

Wednesday, Feb. 21

Tuesday, Feb. 27

Monday, Feb. 26

Wednesday, Feb. 28

Thursday, March 1

CITY HALL CLOSED

12:00 PM Planning Commission

3:30 PM ERC Meeting

6:30 PM HARB

4:00 PM Charter Commission

10:00 AM Health Screening

1:00 PM Finance Committee

2:30 PM Public Works

3:30 PM Public Safety

3:15 PM AD HOC/Residency

11:30 AM Redevelopment Authority

7:30 PM City Council Meeting

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[Meetings Held in Council Chambers Unless Otherwise Noted – [scr] = William Sechler Community

Room]

Adjournment

Mr. Allison asked for comments or questions from Council.
There were none.

Mr. Allison asked for comments from the administration.
There were none.

Mr. Allison asked for comments from the general public.

Scott Miller, 822 Tucker St., said Two weeks ago I came in addressing some of the costs associated with the MS4, ironically, that Sunday in the editorial in the Williamsport Sun Gazette, a supervisor had something in the paper and had more correct numbers. In the next five years, Williamsport has to come up with 20,619,000, or each year \$4,123,900 to meet the mandate. I know you all passed it on to the sewer and the water authority, but I think too many people forget that there is quite a number of elderly and disabled people in this town that are on a fixed income and don't have that ability. There a lot of poor people borderline poor people that it is a huge inconvenience. I think we also forget it times a few years ago, our sewer system had to be upgraded to meet the Chesapeake Bay mandate, and that cost a lot of money. I know my water and sewer bill has doubled if not more than doubled from that. It is not that one thing is that that or another thing that is that bad, but it is the accumulation of things. It is a straw that broke the camel's back kind of the thing. And I just worry that people forget that some of us are on fixed incomes and we don't get a raise. I remember a few years ago Social Security at 1.7 increase in the governor of Pennsylvania got 2.2. How much of the city employees getting each year? Are they getting the same kind of increase that people on fixed incomes are getting? After so many years of these constant cuts and hits, it is the death of 1000 cuts and I just worry that too many people are forgotten about this. There a lot of people in this town that it is going to devastate. We can say we are going to make this affordable as we can, but I remember helping out on some lady that gone \$700 a month to live on, pretty soon people won't be able to stay in their houses. He stated his family is from Maryland and pretty soon they were out of their houses because of taxes. And how much tax increase would you have if you had to come up with \$4 million per year. Do you think any of you will be reelected if you had to raise taxes? And that's not just for the levee, or anything extra, but just that one thing. But I hope you all keep this in mind when you get the water and sewer authority that be privileged to levee onto people. Because it is going to devastate our community and I know there's a lot of people that have moved out, are moving out because they are going to pay it. Then there's a lot of people like me, I am stuck I can't afford to move out.

Ralph Keller, 203 Hughes St. Stated he is glad the fire chief is here because he wanted to say a few words about the fire Department. Most of you probably saw there was a fire Monday night, behind Bishop Neumann. I was not at my house at the time of the fire and I was growing up Washington Boulevard, and then I saw how awful foggy it seemed, and it hit me it wasn't followed, it was smoke. I was shaking in my shoes when I realized where was, it was coming right from the area of my rental property. When I got closer I could see the flames and realized that is definitely my house were the one next door that was burning. When I got to my street, I realized it wasn't mine, it was the one next door. It was a homestead that burned, my grandfather built that house in 1911, and he explained how much that house meant to him. It was difficult watching the flames, so that her because it was a homestead. To make matters worse, my uncle planted a pine tree in the yard that has grown so much it was touching both properties, and I was pretty worried that the fire would spread to my house. So I was so relieved when Chief Heckman and this crew showed up and put the fire out in an amazing amount of time. They saved the tree, and he saved my house when I went to look at the damage the next morning I was amazed. There was almost no damage to the house, only with the fire did, even the attic windows were still intact. So I would like to thank Chief Heckman in public for everything and his great crew. I also wanted to make a statement when it comes time to budget time, to remember we have a fantastic fire department and they have done a fantastic job. One of the reasons why I live in the city is because I like having paid police, paid fire, and I like that fire hydrant 30 feet from my house. You'll never hear me complain about paying taxes for those services. So thank you Chief Heckman.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned upon motion by **Mrs. Katz and seconded by Mr. Henderson.**

Motion was carried by a **unanimous at 8:38 PM** "ayes".

Submitted by:

Janice M. Frank, City Clerk