

**Thursday, July 18, 2019  
Williamsport, PA**

Council Vice President Randy Allison brought the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday, July 18, 2019 at 7:30 PM in City Hall Council Chambers. Chris Cooley did televise the meeting. The invocation was given by Councilman Derek Slaughter and was immediately followed by the "Pledge of Allegiance".

**Council members present:**

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

**Absent:**

**Don Noviello**

**Also, Present:**

*Gabriel J. Campana, Mayor absent  
Mr. Joe Gerardi absent  
Mr. William Nichols, Jr.  
Mr. Gary Knarr  
Damon Hagan, Chief  
Sol. Norman Lubin  
Janice Frank, City Clerk,  
Todd Heckman, Fire Chief  
Mark Benner EIT  
Mr. Joe Pawlak  
Adam Winder*

Approval of the Williamsport City Council minutes dated June 20, 2019 were approved upon a motion from **Mrs. Katz** and a second from **Mr. Slaughter**. **All were in favor. The vote was 5 to 0. Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, and Mr. Allison voted yes. Mr. Noviello was absent.**  
**Dr. Williamson is officially no longer on City Council bringing a total to six members until August 2019.**

Limited Courtesy of the Floor  
There was no limited courtesy.

**Election of Council President & Vice President**

**Mr. Allison opened the nominations for Council President.**

**Ms. Miele nominated Randy Allison.**

Mr. Allison asked if there were any other nominations.

There were no other nominations made.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the nominations.

**The vote on the nominations for Randy Allison to become President of City Council were 5 to 0. All were in favor.**

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

Mr. Allison stated so we do need a vice president. He asked for nominations.

**Mr. Slaughter nominated Liz Miele for Vice President.**

There were no other nominations so the nominations were closed.

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The vote on the nominations for Liz Miele to become Vice President of City Council were 5 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Mr. Allison stated this re-organization is just for the remainder of this year. In 2020 will be another reorganization because we will have a new Council and we will move forward with that. This is just to finish out the year.

Ms. Miele stated just to point out the reason why we have to have a reorganization is towards the end of July, Dr. Williamson step down after last Council meeting and we are currently accepting resumes and letters of interest this vacant position on city Council. We will be interviewing at the end of July and appointing someone to fill the seventh seat on Council for August 1. Any interested parties can reach out to the city clerk for more information.

Mr. Allison stated it is not a long-term appointment it is just for the end of the year. Mr. Allison read a note left by Dr. Williamson to his colleagues, stating we miss his expertise and leadership but we wish him well. Mr. Allison thanked his colleagues for all the confidence, and in general, obviously we are in transition through election year, there is a mayor space, and four Council seats are up, and only one seat is an incumbent, so we will have at least three new people on Council next year, and we are certain that we are going to have a new Mayor next year. That is a lot of transition to take in but I can assure you that we talk together and he and his colleagues are committed to not just ride this year out. We have too many big issues, we have the budget of course and a lot of other things that are going on, there are a lot of business things to be taking care of, and not so that we can tread water. We have some things in mind, some issues, innovations and different things that we are thinking about and moving things forward. We will have more to say about that at our next meeting to give details on that. We are committed to seeing the city progress the rest of this year and we are going to be working hard on the budget long before November. We are looking into doing that as well. We are looking forward to the challenges, and if we work together as a team we can get a lot accomplished. We want to set up 2022 be a year of more progress. We want to put some things in place for the next mayor and the next Council that will help everybody be successful.

Ms. Miele thanked everyone and hopes that she can fulfill the role as vice president. And as city Council moves forward in the next six months, we hope for good things, and we are excited to see good things.

Mr. Allison stated we really do have leadership as a team, we work together and we work by consensus and not as a top down.

**Mr. Allison changed the order of the agenda.**

Subdivision Lot Addition Weymer

Mr. Knarr he is presenting a subdivision\Lot addition for 111 Eldred St. the proposal is to divide a lot containing 1200 ft.<sup>2</sup> and it will be added to the property next to it which is currently owned by Charles Spaunhouse. This was subdivided back in 1993, and at the County's request to update, this is more or less a cleaning up of an error so that they can record a deed properly. It did go to the county planning commission with a positive recommendation.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and second.

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

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the subdivision.

**The subdivision lot addition was carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0. All were in favor.**

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

Appointments/Reappointments

Blighted Property Board

Phil Preziosi is reappointed to a term commencing 7/3/19 & ending 07/03/20. (Terms are 3 years)

Mr. Allison stated we had a meeting with Mr. Preziosi at ERC, we interviewed him and we know that he has been of valuable volunteer on different committees throughout the city. He is on the redevelopment committee and he shared with us different ideas that we can move ahead going forward. We don't recommendation on that that is just information we provide the Council.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion.

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

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the appointment.

**The appointment was carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0. All were in favor.**

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

**TABLED**

An Ordinance – Vacation of a Portion of Dubois Street (first reading)

The City Clerk read the ordinance.

Mr. Allison asked for motion in a second.

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

Mr. Benner stated this is an ordinance to vacate a portion of Dubois Street which was requested by Mr. Jeff Carey. The vacation was requested so that he could do some development in that block. The public utilities have been notified and it did go before Public Works.

Mrs. Katz said it did come to Public Works and we tabled it, and I guess we are not supposed to do that at a committee level.

Mr. Lubin stated to send it to Council with no recommendation.

Mrs. Katz stated the reason why we did it is there's a touchy thing with the deed, and the deed went back to and Affy Dunn who owned that piece of property. There was no record of this changing hands to the city at any point in time and they could not find it. So this is an iffy thing of who really owns this and could any other family come back to the city and say that they own this property. The other problem is there is really

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no plans for this. He wanted us to vacate the street, but we don't vacate the street and less there is direct plans on what is going to be done with it. The third thing is it is a brick Street so there are a lot of different moving parts here of why we didn't want to bring this forward with any recommendation. The big problem is with the deed itself. We follow a process here, we have been adamant that we follow process of how we go through the things and this is not been followed as to where and how this is going to be done. We tabled this, and I guess we should is said we passes on to the full body of Council with no recommendation at all.

**Mrs. Katz made a motion to table this. Mr. Henderson seconded it.**

Ms. Miele asked if the item is tabled, is it sent by to Public Works?

Mr. Lubin's answer was inaudible.

Ms. Miele stated this Street being a street that continues from one side of his properties to the other side of his properties. Did we give notification to either properties?

Mr. Lubin stated if anyone else through deeds has a right to use the street, you are not affecting any private rights to vacate it. The real issue is by closing it off, is it going to affect for example fire, or police?

Ms. Miele asked if it affects the surrounding properties?

Mr. Lubin stated if you are a block away do you use that street to get to and from your property?

Ms. Miele stated from that perspective do we have a process, most of the streets dead ended in somebody's property, we never vacated a street that was used.

Mr. Knarr stated even if the city vacates that, we still have to go through a process, that is not something that you just vacated.... Voice was inaudible

Mr. Benner stated he does have a meeting in the works with the Mr. White, Mr. Carey and the Mayor coming up for early next week. He also asked Gary Knarr to attend it and try and iron out the ownership part of it.

Ms. Miele, asked to we have a habit of vacating the street?....

Mr. Lubin stated in his estimation, most of the streets that have been vacated are the ones that did in this into a property and all the property owners have gotten together that border that dead-end street, and say yes we like to have this vacated. They make sure there is no utilities . A portion of Walnut Street was vacated when the hospital did an expansion. The hospital had indicated they were going to make arrangements with public services regarding the the use of the street. That was the only major one he could think of.

Ms. Miele was concerned that our process for vacating the street was not followed.

Mr. Lubin talked about the public's right to use it.

Ms. Miele stated she was just concerned about the process and whether we should have more contingent process.

There was discussion about another Street that was vacated and Mr. Knarr's voice was inaudible.

Mr. Benner stated the Fire reviewed this but he is not sure if the police did.

Chief Hagan stated he did not see this at all.

Ms. Miele stated she was concerned if we would be able to give Mr. Carey enough information, and we need to make sure that the administration and Council are on the same page of this so it could be explained to Mr. Carey.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the motion to table.

**The motion to table was carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0. All were in favor.**

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

**TABLED**

**An Ordinance Amending the City Map to remove the following Street from Protected Brick Street List**

The City Clerk read the ordinance.

Mr. Allison asked for motion and a second.

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

Mr. Benner stated this is a companion to the other one.

**Mrs. Katz made a motion to table this and it was seconded by Mr. Slaughter.**

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the motion to table.

**The motion to table was carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0. All were in favor.**

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

**Resolution #8908**

**Resolution for a Consulting Agreement Between WBP & Pa. Chiefs of Police Association**

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second.

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

Chief Hagan stated this resolution, as you know we've already taken action on it, it is for a consulting agreement. In the past we've had an agreement with the PA Chiefs and they provide expertise in a three person panel, this was already done and it was done effectively, we did have oral boards after the test. It worked out very well, PA Chiefs is a highly professional service and we intend on doing business with them in the future. Our agency had gotten away with doing business with them, but we are now back doing business with the professionals that they are.

Ms. Miele stated the upshot of this was while we had 13 candidates, they interviewed only six, and we didn't have to spend a whole lot of time on this and it was relatively inexpensive to do this and very assertive.

The finance committee did forward this to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation.

Mrs. Katz stated just because they pass the test does not mean that they are hired into this position.

Chief Hagan said correct, it is a civil service contract, and it is based on service, we have Cpl., Sgt., agent, and Lieut.

Mrs. Katz stated since this was done before we found out that some of the old things that were done before are more beneficial than what has happened before.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the resolution.

**The resolution was carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0. All were in favor.**

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

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Resolution #8911

Resolution MOU between the City of Williamsport & Lycoming County for the Levee

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second on the resolution.

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

Mr. Andrew Creasmzer, is resolution is to adopt the MOU between the city of Williamsport and Lycoming County. This is for the joint cooperation of funding for the levy project.

Ms. Miele stated this came before the finance committee and sent to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. This is a new MOU with the County, and there will be several working with them, and also they will be working with other municipalities to try to find and implement funds to work on the levy system. The exciting thing is that we have been so far successful. The County has been instrumental in helping us to organize this effort and we continue certification of the levy, with all the municipalities. It is crucial to the well-being of this levy. This MOU recognizes the commitment from both of the parties, the county is committing a certain amount of funds as well as the city that already has. The county is spearheading the organization of our efforts. We past this to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation.

Mrs. Katz thanked them all for all the work that they have been doing, and it is also the chamber as well as the County working together to accomplish, what seven years ago, we thought we were on our own with. The bill has Escalating, and thanks to the County and Chamber, it has helped tremendously to take the burden off and realizing that we are the County seat. If anything happens to the levy, it will be disastrous to the whole county.

Ms. Blair wanted to note that over the last year and ½ it's been all parties, working together and thanked all the municipality partners within the great Williamsport area. It is affecting five municipalities and all five municipalities have stepped in, it is one of the first partnerships in the nation for this type of work. It is being recognized down in DC for that. So moving forward DC and the Army Corps of Engineers is start to realize that and they are starting to feel the heat and we are pushing it forward.

Mr. Henderson stated this obviously is on a time schedule so obviously it got to us later than normal for us. The last he understood, has this been looked at by our solicitor? The answer was yes. He knew there was a question about that and never received an answer.

Ms. Blair apologized for the quick turnaround for this, and the grant needs to be filed by July 31. It is for the cross pipework. We will be moving it to action next week.

Mr. Henderson stated we understand that there are things because of time constraints that we are pushed to go over our normal limits, and we understand that. But there are a few things on our agenda tonight that perhaps came maybe just a little too soon and we could wait to make sure we get everything in place. It is a hard balance to know if something is crucial for right now or is it something that we can wait and make sure we get it all together. Obviously this is something we need to do now and he feels confident that the team has done well in making sure that everything is examine here and we are doing it the right way.

It shouldn't be normal for us to go outside of our proper procedures, but sometimes we have to.

Mr. Allison stated he has had the opportunity to talk to Chelsea and Andrew on the way in, and he had some interesting conversations about possibilities in the future. There is a lot of momentum in this area that carries beyond the levy, and in the next couple years we will see a lot of good things come out of it. But thanks to cooperative efforts we can accomplish a lot. He asked for a vote on the resolution.

**The resolution was carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0. All were in favor.**

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

Resolution #8909

Resolution to Ratify Settlement Agreements for Certain Employee Claims

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Allison asked for motion and a second.

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

Mr. Pawlak stated the resolution before you ratifies and settles the agreements with various employees who has made claims against the city. The city has insurance coverage which has defended the city in these claims, and the insurance carriers have determined that settling with the appropriate employees . Currently they came to agreements of settlements for two employees and the proposal is being worked upon for third one. The city, with these settlements does not make any admissions to any wrongdoing or any other basis for the claims and the amounts approved in the settlements will be covered under the insurance carrier. This was reviewed at the finance committee.

Ms. Miele stated the Finance committee send this to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. We just note that the insurance carrier is handling these three settlements.

Mr. Allison stated that this is actually are former insurance carrier, and we held an RFP and changed our insurance. He asked for a vote on the resolution.

**The resolution was carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0. All were in favor.**

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

Resolution # 8910

Resolution to Amend the list of Historically Significant Buildings & Sites in the City of Williamsport

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Allison asked for motion and a second.

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

Ms. Rucinski stated this resolution is to amend and maintain the original 2005 historic sites and survey list. The original list was a combination of studies done in 1971 and 1973, and also in 2005 a subcommittee got together and added quite a few properties to that list. There have been no changes or updates to that 2005 list, in 2018 the Council committee reappointed a subcommittee to review the existing list and to consider any properties that should be added to it. The committee did its job and the copies of the original list and the suggested new list are attached to your packet. It should be noted that this list is just a recognition of its historic importance, either architecturally or history wise. Like something unique or something that could be

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eligible for the national register. It does not entail any restrictions on the use of the property. This was reviewed by finance committee.

Ms. Miele stated this was reviewed previously by the historic preservation committee which meets monthly. There are not any financial implications necessary to add to this list. The whole process started as part of an agreement with the state historic office, the city was required to include a list of Williamsport's historic structures a part of our demolition ordinance. The history does not factor into whether or not it could be demolished. So we initiated a review of that list and came up with the new list. The goal with the new list is to maintain it on a more regular basis. Finance did forward this to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. The one other thing that should be mentioned is that the city currently has \$225,000 in PHARE funds that are available for residential remodeling related to the historic structures related to this list. There are some restrictions on this list, but there are some grant funds available.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the resolution.

**The resolution was carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0. All were in favor.**

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

Resolution #8912

Resolution to Reject Bids for the City Hall Renovation

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Allison asked for motion and a second.

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

Mr. Cooley stated this resolution is to reject the City Hall bids and authorized rebid of the project. The project team has decided that the best strategy due to some language in the bid documents, is to rebid and clarify those documents so we get accurate and concise bids. The bids were reviewed by the solicitor, Jill Nagy and she concurs with this. Tentatively, we are going to advertise on August 2 and third and the bids will be available then, and we will receive bids on September 3 and bring a recommendation for Ward on September 12 to Council. Our on-site construction manager from Reynolds is with us tonight if you have any other questions. This was reviewed by the finance committee.

Ms. Miele stated this was reviewed by finance and forwarded to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. It is an unfortunate hold up moving forward with the City Hall renovation project, but at this point is something that needs to be done. There are no financial implications to the rebidding process, because it can be a costly project, so that is a good thing. It does set us back another month and ½.

Mr. Henderson stated obviously we want to move ahead with some decisions on making the needed upgrades to the building, but we just don't have the information that we need yet to be able to move ahead. So we were hopeful, so this does delay it but it doesn't stop it. I think that is important to understand, there are big decisions that Council has to make with reference to what specifically we can afford and what is necessary. There are a lot of big decisions to make and we can't make those decisions without the right information. So we have to do this. We are compelled to do this and I just wanted to point that out. There's no desire on the part of Council to drag our feet and delay some needed upgrades to this building. We have a responsibility to the taxpayers to use the money wisely and it should be noted that all of the money that is available for these projects is borrowed money. It is not likely have anything sitting in the bank somewhere. So we are compelled even more to make sure that we are wisely spending these borrowed dollars. Thank you for bringing this to us, it is unfortunate but it is necessary, but we anticipate having some information to make some accurate decisions in the future.

Mrs. Katz stated to add onto that, we have a group of people that are sitting here tonight that have been coming to our meetings and they are concerned about assess ability for all taxpayers. Due to human error, the bidding process was not done correctly. Because of that we cannot move forward with this. I hope you all understand that this was a human error and we are trying to correct it so we have that information. I don't want you to think that we weren't transparent with this, because I know Karen comes to all my committee meetings, and at times she doesn't understand where we are coming from. But we can't give answers if we don't have the information, and that's what it boils down to. So please understand that we are working on this process.

Mr. Allison wanted to make a comment in general about City Hall. He has been on Council for about 10 years now and doing something in City Hall has been studied more than once or twice. It was studied before the period that I was here. There has never been a plan, a strategic plan and it has to come from the highest individual at least authorizing it or asking for it in the city. Regarding City Hall, it has been study different times, dollar amount each time, it's hard to make an informed decision when the process is so dysfunctional. That is how I'm going to characterize it. It's like having an idea of what we want to do with the building, do we want to do anything long term, should we be here? Council began a long term discussion at least about four years ago about possibly looking in a whole new management, and rearrangement of our facilities, not just the administrative side but also for the Public Safety side. We need to be forward thinking, we can't make a decision now because we are changing administrations next year. That kind of big decision has to be made then. But we have to make smaller decisions now in light of the possibility of big changes in the future and what that would mean and how it would be done and how we can make it cost-effective. He feels there are possibilities there. We do have this decision before us tonight but there's a larger context about it and I think all of Council would like to assure the public that we are not content with patchwork solutions. We are looking for long-term plans and will address all the needs of the community as well as the best needs for city government in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the resolution.

**The resolution was carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0. All were in favor.**

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

**TABLED**

Resolution to Approve an Easement Agreement with McCormick Assoc.

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second.

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

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Mr. Winder stated this resolution is between the city of Williamsport and McCormick law firm to expand the parking lot at McCormick law firm to Ways Garden property. This would create 19 more parking stalls, one which would be assessable, and we would have the ability for a van to park there. It is part of the grant for the pavilion in a sense, in order for the grant to be closed out at the end of the project we have to have an assessable parking stall. So the Ways Garden Commission, the administration and the McCormick Law firm has come together to discuss a larger parking lot creating an access to the alley south of Ways Garden. This was reviewed by Jill Nagy, our solicitor for insurance. It was sent to Public Works with no recommendation.

Mrs. Katz stated that we had a long discussion about this, and one of the problems that we had goes to what is the responsibility of the city, as far as who is going to take care of snow removal, etc. McCormick law would be responsible during the week but there was no responsibility was going to take care of snow removal in the parking lot on the weekends. The language was stating it was going to fall back on the city and we did not like that at all. Mr. Winder did say that he would have no problem finding an assessable spot on the property itself, but he is still looking into how many feet is needed for the assessable spot. Mr. Winder stated we have to do something or the city is stuck paying the bill. So his final answer is we are going to have to pave something in there. He felt that the parking lot and McCormick is a better solution, and it helps for the events, but in the end he has to come up with a backup plan in case this doesn't approved.

Mrs. Katz stated we are responsible for the alley, because it is city property, and we do maintain that. So it's that part and the language that we had a problem with. So we sent this to the full body of Council with no recommendation.

Mr. Henderson stated we had a lot of questions and at that time, McCormick had yet to approve this agreement as of that meeting. He asked if we had any idea if they looked at it.

Mr. Pawlak stated he has been passing information Mike Wiley at McCormick Law and to the best of his knowledge, the partners have all approve the language, but he can't confirm.

Mr. Henderson stated his personal concern was we just didn't have enough information again, it seemed as though our streets and parks director was completely uncomfortable with this agreement and we didn't even have insurance that McCormick was on board. So we felt perhaps may be something might come up in the interim that would solve these questions. This was also an agreement that we didn't receive until the morning of our committees. So we were unable to read through it, before it even got to a committee. Again, there was a rush on this and I was uncomfortable given approval because we did not have enough time or enough information. So he ask if we were to delay this in some way, whether table it, we could still bring this back and may be amended if we came to some better agreements, would we have enough time? I would assume we have enough time over the next couple of weeks to make some more decisions and make sure we have an agreement that everybody is on board with.

Mr. Witmer, Reynolds, stated we are near completion of the pavilion, and we do have to have one handicap parking stall. I know that there's other things in the work as far as the parking lot, such as lighting and some walkways and things. But the parking lot is going to hold the final payment of from the grant to the city. So there is a concern there.

Mr. Henderson said from what he understood in the committee meeting, our responsibility was to put the subbase down for that parking lot and then McCormick was going to pave it. So we have plans already to lay out the parking lot, is it just the paving that's in question? The answer was yes. Theoretically, if we were able to find money, to pave one handicap parking stall, could we do that? Could we do that and still be able to close out and get the grant funding?

Mr. Winder answered theoretically yes.

Mr. Henderson stated in his opinion been we don't need to rush through this if we could still get that grant funding without it. Ideally we want this, but we want to make sure that we have agreement on all parts. I am just not sure that we have that right now.

Ms. Miele asked by how much are we holding of the grant funding we give ourselves two weeks to work on this?

Mr. Witmore answered that we will be fine. The roof in the flooring will be completed by the end of the month.

Ms. Miele stated our next meeting is August 1, and certainly we can work out an agreement before August 1, and we need to figure some things out, so if we could table it and work on it at the next committee meeting, and shoot for an August 1, it seems to me it might be wiser. She also noticed that in a couple of things in the agreement, we call out how the Ways Garden Commission does work, and she stated that she does not think that the Ways Garden Commission has not had an opportunity to look at this. She be happy to take it to the commission if that would be useful. If they are mentioned in the agreement than they should have the opportunity to review the agreement.

Mr. Nichols stated he can speak for the team that is working on this project that we would agree to tabling this, he doesn't think there's a problem-solving the issues by the next meeting. He will reach out to the committee and make sure that we address all the concerns.

Ms. Miele asked if we often issue perpetual easements?

Mr. Winder stated that's a question he doesn't have an answer for it.

Ms. Miele stated it is not addressed about the law when it has to be repaved. She doesn't think the language really calls it out.

**Ms. Miele made a motion to table this agreement and it was seconded by Mr. Henderson.**

Mr. Allison stated it is Council's preference that we get this agreement sooner than later, he asked for a vote on the motion.

**The resolution was tabled with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0. All were in favor.**

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

**Certificate of Appropriateness – 120 West 4<sup>th</sup> St. – Parcel #63-003-610**

Mr. Knarr stated this is a certificate of appropriateness requests at 120 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St. The owner is Williamsport property Inc., the tenant is clean slate. They are requesting to mount a business sign with 8 inch thick, and off green coloring on the side of the building. Clean Slate was located in the executive Plaza and it just didn't have the green coloring on it so we brought it back to Council. It was the same size and same material that Council had approved previously several years ago.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second on the certificate.

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**Mr. Slaughter made the motion seconded by Mr. Henderson.**

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the certificate.

**The certificate of appropriateness was carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0. All were in favor.**

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

Certificates of Appropriateness - HARB

Item 2. Ourse Group  
305 Campbell Street

- A. Remove existing asphalt roofing from the entire building.
- B. Install sheeting, ice and water barrier and brown aluminum drip edge. Install a Landmark or similar architectural asphalt shingle with shingled ridge caps. Color Moiré Black. Apply red architectural shingle in a pattern similar to the existing (triangle) on the primary gables only. (Maximum cost for accents \$1,000)  
Reinstall ½ round gutters.

Item 3. West End Rentals LLC (Jeffery Dincher)  
508 West Fourth Street

- A. Prep surfaces. Repair or replace rotted wood with wood to same as original appearance. Wash building, if necessary, with low-pressure water and detergent.  
Do not power wash.
- B. Paint all previously painted exterior surfaces. Benjamin Moore  
Body – Amber Waves 2159-40  
Accents some trims- Anchor Gray 2126-30  
Spindles – Cream 2159-60  
Brackets, doors, small accents – Cottage Red #22

Item 4. Williamsport College Housing (Alpha Student Housing)  
1036 Vine Avenue

- A. Remove existing asphalt roofing from the entire building.
- B. Install sheeting, ice and water barrier and brown aluminum drip edge. Install a Landmark architectural asphalt shingle. Color: George Town Gray
- C. Reinstall ½ round gutters and round downspouts

Item 5. Mia Ben Luna Family Trust  
C/O Real Estate Excel  
719-721 Grace Street

- A. Remove 13 existing windows from the rear south end of the building.
- B. Replace with Anderson V1 Series, double hung vinyl replacement windows measured to fit the existing openings. Match 2 over 2 pane configuration with grills.  
Color: Beige HC-93  
All other windows will be repaired in kind and retained. Install salvaged storm windows and one new storm on the sides and front.
- C. Repair any rotted or damaged wood in-kind, to same as original appearance.  
Paint colors selected later.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second to approve the certificates.

**Ms. Miele made the motion and second by Mr. Henderson.**

**The certificates of appropriateness for HARB were carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0. All were in favor.**

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

Ms. Miele commented on the important and somewhat difficult work and thankless job that HARB does in reviewing city properties and paying attention to the historic district and not just maintain the history but improve it so we then can improve the property values in the history and make them more valuable to the community. There is a lot of hard work being done in these particular items are result of it. We are fortunate to have a number of property owners either living in the property or go above and beyond in their improvement in our historic district. Those people need to be applauded.

Accept for Filing:

Public Works Minutes 04/23/19  
AD HOC Council Committee – WMWA – 06/18/19  
AD HOC Council Committee - WMWA – 06/19/19  
Public Safety Minutes 04/23/19  
Controllers Report May 2019  
Finance Committee 04/09/19 & 04/23/19  
Historic Preservation Minutes 03/26/19  
Veterans Memorial Park Commission 05/06/19

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

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

Mr. Allison asked questions or comments.

Mrs. Katz wanted to comments on the veterans Memorial Park commission, they are an incredible group of people, if you either minutes and what they do, these people are really on track with everything they are doing. And just for the public's knowledge, they are still selling bricks. If you haven't been up to the veterans Memorial Park it is just incredible, it is very impressive and I want the public to be aware of that.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the minutes.

**The minutes were carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0. All were in favor.**

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

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 18, 2019**

Announcements

There will be a Police Pension Board Meeting immediately following this Council meeting. The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Thursday, August 1, 2019 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, July 22	12:00 PM Planning Commission 4:00 PM Recreation Commission
Tuesday, July 23	11:00 AM Historical Preservation Meeting 3:30 PM ERC
Wednesday, July 24	11:30 AM Redevelopment Authority
Tuesday, July 30	1:00 PM Finance Committee 2:30 PM Public Works 3:30 PM Public Safety 6:30 PM Special City Council meeting
Thursday August 1	7:00 PM Citizen's Corp (sec) 7:30 PM City Council Meeting

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

**Room]**

Ms. Miele stated there is no information for the Historical Preservation, therefore she is canceling the meeting.

Mrs. Katz asked are acting mayor, Bill Nichols to introduce our new recreation director

Mr. Nichols stated his name is Shawn Washington and he has joined the team over the last few days and he is getting his feet wet in the pool..... Laughter. So we are doing all he needs to do to get him acclimated on the job. He asked Mr. Washington if he would like to say anything on his background.

Mr. Washington declined to say anything.

Mr. Allison asked if there was any more comments from Council.

Mr. Allison asked if there were any comments from the administration.

Mr. Nichols stated as you all know we are having a heat wave coming, that will be pretty impressive, in the next two or three days upper 90's or so, and I appreciate Councilman Slaughter reaching out and suggesting the administration being proactive about this. We discussed this and what we are going to do is at the Trade & Transit II, which is open from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Sunday from noon to three, we will be offering free bottles of water to anyone who needs to be refreshed because of the heat. And also we are the working with the police department, they're going to have water in all cars that are out during the day. We are making sure everyone will be hydrated, during this heat wave. So if anyone comes down town and need water we will provide it to them.

Mr. Allison stated that's a good example of citizens taking the initiative in that.

Mr. Allison asked if there were any comments from the public.

Misty Deon from the Center of Independent Living, I just want to make a public comment in reference to the discussion of updating the City Hall. I appreciate counsel's comments about your fiduciary responsibility that you have. I would always like you to encourage to understand that it is not a lack of understanding from where you are coming from. We are passionate. It has been 29 years after the ADA has been passed, and yet we still have people that are unable to access City Hall. We have people who are parking in unsafe parking spots, and I heard a reference to having a parking spot, can you imagine if you only had one parking spot at a place. If you are familiar or have ever used a wheelchair, to enter this facility it's just impossible. You drive and park out back at the police station, slope is not ADA assessable, unsafe, and I don't know how some of the people that are doing it, most of the people who want to be here tonight are not here because they can't. Once you get in, you have to be buzzed into the police department, it is locked you have no access to the general public's aspects. We have just had enough, at this point we been having this discussion for 16 months. We hear things like the administration is changing, there is a human error, we get that, but how long is that going to stall the process? I will leave it at this, the big you to take us seriously. We want access just like you all have, and when the bids come back next month, please take it seriously and give us a timeline that can help us have access in City Hall. After that, help us make Williamsport accessible. Have any of you taken a stroll around here in a wheelchair? It would be eye-opening. I would encourage you to do it and I asked that you listen to your constituents with disabilities and give us what you will have, access, 29 years later.

Mr. Allison asked Mr. Winder the bids came back in the time frame that was mentioned, is there a timeframe we can generally estimate now for completion of the ramp?

Mr. Witmer answered, the lead time is about six months, for the ramp, three months.... He would say three months is a good guess. The contracts need to be signed.

Mr. Allison stated that his as much information as we can provide tonight.

Mr. Nichols stated after we discussed the project, we can give them a timeline that they must meet, so I think that is something that is done in the bidding environment, that they must completed by a certain date, we will look at that. So you will have a definitive end date of the completion. I think that's a good idea.

Mr. Allison asked if there were any other comments from the public.

Mr. Joe Webb, stated he is of veteran and a purple heart recipient. He has some people in his family with disabilities. His statement was if we had people on Council or in City Hall, if they be wheelchair-bound, and there was an emergency in City Hall, where would they be, it would be a major disaster. Lives would be at stake, even with assess ability that you have now, it would be a problem. So we need

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 18, 2019

something done now and I understand budgets and all those things, but we are talking about lives. We are here with the people with disabilities, too many times take things for granted. It is the way of discrimination, people say I don't use it, I don't need it, and nobody that I know really use it. We walk by people with disabilities on the streets, and my opinion is if it doesn't affect you, then it's not necessary. So I'm asking you to take that into consideration, if half the people in this building was handicap, and there was an emergency how would they get out?

Mr. Richard Penfield, 725 Woodland Ave. My concern seems a bit trifling but I had pursued all the other outlets to get a correction to the situation at the rear of our property. The situation in question involves an alleyway. That alley is named Fluck Place, it runs from Penn Street on the west to Almond Street in the East. It is three blocks long, our block is the center of those three. The alley is an deplorable condition, borderline not passable to sedans, SUVs seem to be able to manage it. History, I contacted streets and parks about 16 months ago regarding this, and Mr. Winder after I made a call and I did visit the headquarters, he did meet with me behind my home. We discussed the condition of the alley. He told me something would be done and in conversation, he told me they would mill the alley, smooth it, greater, and his impression at that time that it was going to be top coated with some permanent durable material, perhaps even a tar and chip surface. They did come in and mill the alley, and it was assessable and usable for a period of time. But since they fragment ties all the aggregate that was there, most of it has gone down the city's sewer, with all the rain. I didn't bring pictures, but I would encourage city Council to just drive by, it is impossible. This year in the spring, about 6 to 8 weeks ago, I started calling again in regards to this, I probably left three or four messages on the phone, and I visited the headquarters once try and get a meeting, and left it a message with the administrative there, just to get a called back. But I'm sorry to be here, but I never received any call back from anybody at that department. I would just like to see something get done. This is grassroots government, and I would like it addressed. I would like at least a call from somebody in authority to give me some information about what can be done to make it assessable. There are about 12 residents that rely on this alley for ingress and egress, to their driveways and their garages. Some residents have even taken a step last year to bring trailer load of gravel in, so they don't scrape the bottom of their cars to get out to work. It is also a right-of-way for PP and L, the cable company, and telephone, so it needs to be assessable. At this point in telling it is borderline non-accessible. Again I appreciate the time, just to be able to speak, and I would like to see somebody contact me and hopefully make some progress on this.

Mr. Allison answered this is may be something we can talk about afterwards. Are you talking about the whole surface?

Mr. Penfield filled answered it is the entire surface, again I would offer the opportunity for someone to try to drive through it. Just a comment in general, we are going to have a new administration here and we will have several new members of Council as he is well in the near future, I think it would be a good thing to impress upon the department heads, to be a little responsive to citizens and their concerns. It is just annoying not to even get a call back. In my business for many years, I talked people all the time, it was my lifeline. Some calls are little harder to make than others, but they have to be made.

Mr. Allison asked if there were any other comments.

Mr. Frank Stucco, Democratic committee for the 12 ward. To that gentleman's comment, I could be mistaken but from my memory after owning properties from different city streets, I think it is illegal for people to go out and fix their own potholes as ridiculous is that it sounds, it's better to leave it to Council, if you hit a pothole in the tire blowout like happened to me one time, that's an important issue, I think Council should take into consideration when people can go out and put some gravel in it, rather than for budget reasons. To me it seems safety first. The logic is the person can't fix their own, I'm sure if it's Fourth Street they should not be doing it themselves, but anyway anything's better than nothing. I had a discussion with Mr. Allison before this meeting, about people taking the time to come in here and at least getting an answer from Council, like this gentleman just said, he got at least a conversation. If somebody says something I feel Council has the absolute responsibility to tell that person to come back next week if we don't have an answer, or direct the answer towards the person. But that is showing respect to the public. We are your boss. I think that has been forgotten, your former president of Council had that misconception. When I was younger I would come in, Mr. Bailey, Dr. Hippel, if you asked the question to got a response. I hope that changes now. If it doesn't I could see some legal action down the road. I am not really familiar the wheelchair issue, but I'm surprised they don't have some kind of mechanical lift out front if that's a possibility, I don't know, it has to be cheaper than a ramp, I'm sure it will blend in and everything but. The last thing I want to question is this issue with the roof, and I was in here over six months ago, there were two pieces of metal on that roof, and one is gone, and nobody seems to know where it is, and it was 2 foot wide and 10 feet long, and I'm sure it ways close to 100 pounds. So maybe it hit the street and someone took it for scrap, I don't know. There's another one that is flopping around in the wind, the city has an absolute obligation to correct that before somebody is killed. I've been here twice, and nobody has answered. But I think personally you should ask Mr. Lubin right here and see if will get an answer. If that would kill somebody after you have been warned and told, maybe that some kind of criminal negligence, like criminal homicide or something. If Mr. Lubin doesn't know, maybe the chief knows. Maybe I should reported to the chief. If my neighbor had something hanging off his building I think the police should come in and intervene. Maybe that's what I will have to do, I don't want to put him on the spot. Maybe we should ask the commissioners or the State. This is Ridiculous. Now I hope you have something to say about this, anything would be better than nothing, on record I suppose.

Mr. Allison stated he has never seen it himself so he can't comment on it.

Mr. Stucco stated let me fill you in, the highest on this building has four corners on it and it's late, each corner has a metal On it because you can't make a cap on slate. There are two of them, one of them is gone and to this day I have question everybody and nobody knows where it is. The other one underneath it is flopping around. A friend of mine was driving to Woodlands Bank, a piece through off and hit his car, it may \$2000 damage, if it hits a vehicle, it's not good to go through the vehicle, it's going to make more than a dent, is it me and my not attached to reality? Why don't people see it, sometimes you have to address the issue.

Mr. Allison stated the issues been raised and we will address it tonight.

Adjournment

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 18, 2019

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Meeting adjourned** upon motion by **Mrs. Katz and seconded by Ms. Miele.**  
Motion was carried by a **unanimous at 9:22 PM** "ayes".

**Submitted by:**

**Janice M. Frank**  
**City Clerk**