

**Thursday, August 1, 2019
Williamsport, PA**

Council President Randy Allison brought the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday, August 1, 2019 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:

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

Absent:

Also, Present:

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

Approval of the Williamsport City Council minutes dated July 18, 2019 were approved upon a motion from **Mrs. Katz and a second from Mr. Slaughter. All were in favor. The vote was 6 to 0. Mr. Noviello voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, and Mr. Allison voted yes.**

Limited Courtesy of the Floor
There was no limited courtesy.

Election of new Council member & Oath

Mr. Allison asked for a nomination for new Council membership.

Ms. Miele nominated Gerry Fausnaught for City Council.

Mr. Noviello nominated James Gardner.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to close the nominations.

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

Mr. Allison asked for a vote to close the nominations.

The nominations were closed with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Mr. Allison asked for a discussion about both candidates.

Ms. Katz stated that they interviewed both candidates, one in person and one through a phone call. I think we all were impressed with who applied for this. It was kind of interesting, you have youth on one hand and experience on the other hand. Both people were very incredible candidates for this. Gerry, we know, because she has been on Council before, and did a good job, and at this point in time I think that Gerry would be a great candidate for filling the seat of Dr. Williamson. She has the experience and especially since the next five months that we are going into will be our busiest months of the year, when you take into consideration that we will be doing the budget, and everything else that we have to take in consideration. So for her, she felt Gerry Fausnaught would be our best candidate. Even though Mr. Gardner, who was 22 years old, had an incredible resume, was full of enthusiasm to get into politics, one of the things we did ask him if he would be willing to serve in other capacities and other committees with the city, he said yes. We are hoping that he will get involved somewhere in the city, be it a commission or something to that effect. We don't want to lose his enthusiasm because he was really a good candidate. My vote, I think would go to Gerry.

Ms. Miele stated we were exceptionally fortunate to have two good candidates. Both candidates were exceptional and I would be proud to serve with either of them on city Council. Having had served with Mrs. Fausnaught, both candidates are excellent. The issue here in this particular case is the shortness of the term and the learning curve involved. I will vote in favor of Ms. Fausnaught because she has the experience needed to get through the next five months.

Mr. Slaughter stated that he will agree with both sentiments as well. He feels Mr. Gardner has a promising future ahead of him. It was enlightening to hear from him as well, and given the relatively short time. He will be supporting Ms. Fausnaught as well giving her experience.

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Mr. Noviello stated he will support Mr. Gardner this evening, but that in no way suggests any lack of respect for Mrs. Fausnaught's knowledge and her capacity, or her past experience or desire to serve. She is quite well known and will certainly be deserving. As a matter of fact I took heed in her own words when she said we need people to learn about government, we need people to serve. It is sad that only two individuals wanted to be interviewed. As she and I are both educators, I'm sure that she will understand that I might encourage a youthful potential up-and-coming who in fact has earned some impressive credentials worthy of consideration. I cast my vote to reflect a measure of respect for Mr. Gardner, in hopes he might also serve on committees for this community and boards. He would also gain some insight and experience as he presents himself. In his opinion, he hopes he will pursue his endeavor and he thanked both candidates for offering their service. He also hopes others will heed Mrs. Fausnaught's comments as well.

Mr. Henderson stated he appreciates everybody's comments, and he was unable to be at the special meeting, he was attending a funeral, so he was unable to be at the special meeting where both candidates were interviewed. Looking over the resumes, it is hard to make a choice like that, because they are both very qualified. I would have to say in this case, while I want to be an encouragement, I think we can be a help to Mr. Gardner, really our vote has to be cast for the good of the city, and it is short-term. I think the city would benefit more if Mrs. Fausnaught was the other member of council. So I will be casting my vote for her.

Mr. Allison stated he approached the interviews with not knowing how many we were going to have at first, with the perspective of the individual will fill the seat before and who we are filling his seat tonight. The leadership, his expertise combined with his intelligence, but also his ability to break things down, and operate in a lot of different areas as well, including finance across the board. We lost a strong individual and I tried to take that into account because his concern was not that Mr. Gardner wasn't qualified at all, but to finish out the last five months of the year, I feel the Council needs to be as strong as we possibly can. We have a lot of issues going on right now, internally and externally, and I feel that city Council needs to be a source of stability our city government and for our city. In order to do that, everyone needs to be up to speed. That's not to say that we are having an election, will have new people on Council, there is never a time when inexperience isn't brought on to Council. Councilwoman Miele and he were brought on at the same time with the same learning curve in front of us. So going to that experience, we will be needing to help people through that next year. But right now since it is a short-term we need to look at it in a different way. That's why I am supporting Gerry Fausnaught tonight. But we had an excellent conversation with Mr. Gardner, and he knows where he is going and he knows what he wants to do. I am sure he is going to achieve the goals that he has.

Mr. White, the solicitor said when you're ready to take a vote, I would do it by last name. So each Council member will say the last name of the person they are voting.

Mr. Allison called for the vote.

Mr. Noviello voted for Gardner, Mr. Henderson voted for Fausnaught, Mrs. Katz voted for Fausnaught, Mr. Slaughter voted for Fausnaught, Ms. Miele voted for Fausnaught, and Mr. Allison voted for Fausnaught. The vote was 5 to 1 in favor of Mrs. Fausnaught. Mrs. Fausnaught was elected to serve a temporary five month term on City Council replacing Dr. Jonathan Williamson. Mrs. Fausnaught then took the oath of office from the City Clerk and took a seat on Council.

Newberry Committee Partnership Presentation

Alannah Gabriel, 2336 West Fourth St, stated we are members of the Newberry Community Partnership. As an organization we have worked with the city and other agencies to help solve problems before or and we like to do it again on this issue. With the W. 4th St. improvements, over 50 trees were removed and Newberry and in our efforts to have them replaced, we have had to work through misinformation and passable opposition from PennDOT. For the record we want to present the problem and our perspective on the solution and we ask you to take action with us to revise PennDOT's blueprint its leaves West 4th Street treeless.

Mr. Bob Woodley, 823 Popular St. I am also a member of the Newberry partnership and I am the owner of the publication in Newberry. I am very familiar with this issue because I moderated a public meeting hosted by the West End Christian community center about the trees that were to be removed and the issue of replacing them. In brief, PennDOT plans 5 foot sidewalks that leave the tree lawn the space between sidewalk and curb, too narrow for any replanting of the trees. During the public meeting we were told that there was a conflict between the city's ordinance and Americans With Disabilities Act and the amount of space available between property and Street. The ADA requires a minimum width of the sidewalk, while the city requires a minimum width for a strip of land where trees can be planted. Specifically, the PennDOT representative at the meeting told us that the paved area of the sidewalk needed to be 5 feet wide, while the city ordinance requires a strip of land to be 30 inches wide to plant trees. This leaves much of the fourth streets tree lawns 6 inches too narrow to replant any types of trees. However, after some research, we discovered that the ADA actually requires a minimum width of three paved feet, not five, as long as there are 5 feet wide passing lanes every 200 feet of sidewalk. Thinking that PennDOT have perhaps missed this ADA detail, we met with them to show them how this problem could be resolved through a little redesigning. They were polite but have not changed their plans. We can accomplish the wishes of the majority of Newberry residents who want the trees replaced, and we could do so without being in violation of city ordinances, state laws, or federal regulations. With proper planning, all the trees can be replaced. But PennDOT is not currently inclined to respect the wishes of our neighborhood, the public good of the tree-lined street or the city's replanting ordinance.

Mrs. Margaret Tupper, 810 Arch ST. according to City ordinance, which was approved October 3, 1991, trees removed due to city projects such as PennDOT is doing in the West End and town, shall be replaced. In replacing city sidewalks, the American disabilities act requirements are supposed to be met creating an older Streetscape a conflict in the use of the public space in the property lines. We have looked at that and there are streetscape designs that allow both trees in a tree lawns and the requirements of the ADA act. It seems to us reasonable and right course of action to replace the over 50 trees along 7/10 of a mile where they were removed on W. 4th St. Bernie and Bernice Dincher have volunteered, and they have offered to pay for trees and supply trees that meet city requirements and would fit in those spaces. And we have also had other volunteers, they've also volunteered the labor needed to plant the trees. If the tree shall be

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replaced according to the city without additional funds to the city budget, why would PennDOT refused to redesign the 7/10 mile, for the good of the neighborhood and the Newberry community.

Mr. Robbie Cross, 800 Diamond St. he passed out information the reason why trees are good to have. When he first started looking into it, he was merely looking at the aesthetic of it, but looking around beautiful trees look pleasant, and they reduce crime, and to help health issues, there are a lot of reasons to have trees. They protect the children who travel W. 4th St. to elementary, middle, and high schools there.

Michele Frey, 2510 West Fourth St. as you heard, the Newberry partnership group is one developed from the neighborhood focus initiative, which was almost 20 years ago. We are doing our best to keep Newberry a growing valuable part of Williamsport. With our many schools, the storied baseball field, establish businesses and are growing businesses, we can all agree that Newberry is a special place and it should be preserved. We have met with PennDOT, we have canvassed the neighborhood and we have familiarized ourselves with the applicable laws and regulations. Taking all of these things into account and in consideration, we have presented an appropriate and achievable solution. But her voice, thus far, has not been heard by PennDOT. We are here today, therefore to asked city Council to protect our neighborhood and act now. Please instruct PennDOT to replace all 51 trees that removed from the W. 4th St. lawn in the Newberry section of Williamsport. Further, we ask that the petition that we have presented to Council tonight be distributed to Gov. Wolf, to state transportation Sec. Leslie Richards, and to the director of PennDOT District 3. We take this opportunity to thank all the city employees and officials who have already joined us in our goal and on behalf of the Newberry community partnership I think you for allowing us to speak tonight. We have 229 signatures.

Mr. Allison asked if there were comments from Council.

Ms. Miele stated she liked to say and speak for most of city Council, that she appreciates the efforts of the Newberry partnership, many Williamsport citizens may not know, PennDOT is also responsible for paving a number of roads in the city. What that means is beginning the debate about how PennDOT ask when it rebuild streets in the city, in beginning negotiations with PennDOT, we look at the development of West, E. 3rd St. in a couple years, and we need to make sure we preserve those neighborhoods. As the city we do work and plant trees every year. We do work to maintain our urban forest. If projects like this are properly handled, this could turn into a loss, and would have the potential to be an issue. So the folks that have been working so hard to Newberry are simply working not just to better their own neighborhood but help us to prepare a plan of action moving forward. I applaud the work that you've done so far and I am pleased that we have a bit more time to work on most of that. She looks forward to continue to talk about trees for a while.

Mrs. Katz stated one of the things that she thought was interesting was that the Newberry partnership told them to go to the top of for Street and looked down, to see it with no trees now is kind of appalling. It takes away from the neighborhood and the beauty of the neighborhood. So I can understand fully in grasps why we are so desperate to get those trees put back in there. She stated she is thankful that all these people are not given up. As far as Adam, from streets and parks I know that he has worked hard with all of you and he has contacted PennDOT and they have ignored him as well. But if you keep up the whole momentum what you are doing, maybe we can crash through those doors and accomplish what we want to do. It is not fair for Dincher & Dincher to donate those trees if they're going to take them down, it is very expensive to do that and to me it's up to PennDOT for what they have taken away from us. Thank you very much. And we are all behind you.

Mrs. Tupper, stated we cannot work for the streets to be done before we can replace trees, because they can't dig up the trees.

Mr. Noviello stated that he could fully understand the idea of wanting to replace certain utilities on the sidewalk areas as opposed to the driving lines, but he didn't support the idea of taking of the trees out without replacing them. There will never be enough space available to do that. He also agrees with Mrs. Katz of having one entity to pay for all the effort, and he does appreciate those kind of efforts such as the knocking on doors and get the petitions out. From his point of view they will find his body to do is much as they can do, and approach PennDOT to reconsider their design. The trees are so much needed in that area as they are around the rest of the city. If we let this go, this will be a bald spot in the city. I also look at this as an interest way into the city, and to have that nice row of trees there makes a pretty stately view. I would like to see that return. You certainly have my support and thank you for the presentation.

Mr. Henderson stated he will plod the Newberry partnership as well and he appreciates a neighborhood community that takes initiative and works through solutions and does that without running to the government and say hey you have to figure this out. You have done your work as a community because it is your streets there. I appreciate that. That is an example to all of us and all of our neighborhoods. We can all see how we ought to be functioning, and my personal philosophy is that goods neighbors make a strong community which in turn makes a great nation. I think you are showing it and I applaud that. I was interested to hear the reference you made to our Williamsport law that requires that we would place the trees that we removed. I find it interesting that PennDOT wants to respect our laws with regards to space between the sidewalk and the street, but they aren't wanting to respect and honor the law to replace the tree. I think that is something interesting that we should certainly pursue. It may give us some more help as we continue to pursue on this path. I would agree with my colleagues that you will I support we will do everything we can to help you in this battle with PennDOT. Hopefully we will be triumphant.

Mr. Slaughter stated obviously he echoes everybody sentiments as well and will do everything he can to nudge PennDOT and others. I think we do just need to remain mindful of deadlines as PennDot moves forward, and he didn't know the deadlines for the plans and implementation, but we need to keep that in mind that we are all in support of it and we should make sure that we have PennDOT's ear prior to them breaking ground so that way we can hopefully restructure or reorganize the plan before they start work and it's too late. Obviously I support Newberry's quite a bit, I am very close to Newberry and I am sensitive to their concerns and needs. I am behind it obviously 100%.

Mrs. Fausnaught stated she was trying to remember when this organization began together a long time ago, those trees are important. I read the response that Mr. Allison wrote to you, Ms.Miele wrote to you... It is so important, Dr. Cooper would be so proud of you. He was the tree man in town and he insisted that we become a tree city and every tree that came down, he insisted we put a new tree in its place. Not only good luck to you, but we will stand behind you in your efforts.

Mr. Allison stated so I think you have a unanimous consensus to back you and we do have a letter in its final draft to be sent to PennDOT. And we look at this is not a one and done, we want to partner with you, it

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is important, we found out the hard way. Once the engineering is done some organizations will not go back and redo the engineering. It is important that we have a conversation with them about where they are at as far as they are concerned so we know where they're at. It looks very straightforward and we thank you for your presentation tonight. It was very concise and chocked full of organization, that each one dovetailed together nicely. So you have your act together and we know that and we want a partnership with you, and the city does as well. We will work as a team because we do want to see this kind of effort duplicated throughout the city. Thank you all for your effort. You have a unanimous vote of support. Thank you for all your effort and your passion. It is deeply appreciated.

Resolution #8913

Resolution to Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the PA Historical & Museum Commission & the City of Williamsport

The City Clerk read the resolution.

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

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

Ms. Young stated this resolution is from the state historic office for the city to continue with the certified local government. The city has been with them since 1995 and the guidelines for the program have been recently revised and we have been asked to sign a new certification agreement. As a CLG, the city has access to a dedicated grant program, pro bono and guiding assistance and priority consideration for certain DCED funds for preservation grants. Once this grant is executed, the city's current preservation program will be evaluated. This assessment will include a list of recommendations that may require the city to review and possibly amend its ordinances or revise some policies. These recommendations would be for the city's designated historic district, properties on the National Register of Historic Places in any city owned historic resources. It is possible that we may be doing many of the items that would be recommended, but if not the city will have the next four years to implement the recommendations. This agreement also offers the city the option to terminate participation in the CLG program at any time. This was reviewed by the finance committee.

Ms. Miele stated this was reviewed by the Finance Committee and forwarded to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. Effectively as I understand it we have a relatively limited opportunity to opt in to continue as a certified local government, but and unlimited opportunity to opt out. There are certain regulations that are changing and we are not clear at this point on the extent to which we already have most of the... To which we will already have the ordinances and policies and procedures already in place. It is entirely likely that ever requirements need to meet over the next four years will be in the best interest of the city and our historic district as well. This simply allows us to move forward with the process of funding out what a certified local government is going to look like four years from now and if that is something we can participate in. This program has been the source of a small grant that we receive annually that supports the work done by our historic architectural review board. It will also put us in a higher priority with any historic preservation grants. That will be a good step as well as the requirements.

Mr. Allison asked if there were any comments or questions.

The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor.

Mrs. Fausnaught voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes.

Mr. Allison changed the order of the agenda.

Certificate of Appropriateness – 321 Pine Street

Mr. Gerardi stated this is a certificate of appropriateness requests for 321 Pine St. to remove the existing all mounted sign and replace it with a 4 foot tall by 14 foot long LED channel letter signed internally illuminated. He presented a picture of what the sign looks like and compared the old sign with the new sign. Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second to approve the certificate of appropriateness.

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

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the certificate.

The certificate of appropriateness was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor.

Mrs. Fausnaught voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes.

Resolution #8914

Resolution Authorizing the Signature of the Agreement for the Treevitalize Grant

The City Clerk read the resolution.

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

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

Mr. Winder stated this is for the 2020 revitalize grant it would cover the cost of 80 trees, it is the same that we apply for every year, it would be a total of \$9548. The grant requires 100% match which is in-kind services such as labor and volunteer efforts. We will be planting trees on Baldwin Street to Huffman Ave., Campbell Street from High Street to Memorial Avenue, and replacing trees in Brandon Park that came down due to storms. We will be planting trees on Little League Blvd. also.

Ms. Miele stated Finance did review this and forwarded to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. It is desirable to all, and has served us fairly well and we were on average able to replace about 75 trees every year. The only requirement for the grant is an in-kind match from the city, so that is volunteer or city labor. It is small but every little bit counts. Our partnership with the state has benefited in a couple of different ways.

There was a discussion with Chris Keiser about the grants and PennDot policies for trees.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the resolution.

The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor.

Mrs. Fausnaught voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes.

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Resolution #8915

Resolution to Approve a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Agreement for Basin St & Franklin St Reconstruction Project

The City Clerk read the resolution.

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

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

Mr. Andrew Kreamser stated this resolution is to authorize the city of Williamsport to execute a reimbursement agreement for the PennDOT multi-modal transportation on grant. This will be going towards the Franklin Street realignment as well as the street reconstruction project. That will be the realignment with Franklin and basin with new curving and new basins as well as turning basin Street into two way traffic, medium and rain garden as well as new sidewalks and pedestrian lighting. This was reviewed by the finance committee.

Ms. Miele stated Finance did review this and forward it to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. We applied for the grant and we accepted the grant funds, this is merely a reimbursement agreement to sign in order to receive those funds. The work on Basin and Franklin is underway and we understood that early November is the expected completion date.

Mrs. Katz stated the most incredible thing with this is this is only one of 10 funding sources. When you stop and think about it that's a lot of funding sources to accomplish. We are all looking forward to having the street open.

Mr. Allison stated we appreciate the \$1.2 million grant.

Mr. Henderson stated this is another resolution, and we have gotten a couple of these recently for various reasons, we haven't gotten it in our Friday packet. It wasn't placed on the original agenda and there is some flexibility for different reasons. But this came up a little bit later, and while we were all working through it, weeding get this until Tuesday the day of our committee meeting. So that kinda stretched us all a little bit. After seeing it, obviously it is very simple, we are approving what we already sought for, and for that reason it is a simple vote tonight. He asked for more information as to why it couldn't be, or shouldn't be delayed until our next Council meeting.

Mr. Kreamser answered first he thanked everyone for accepting this beyond the deadline, and secondly with the push Council meeting, there's also a six week lead time with PennDOT, once this is submitted to them to go forward, we are receiving payment requests to Haubaker and this money will be going towards that.

Mr. Henderson thanked him for explaining that and said this was very helpful. As he said before there are many times on we have to push it a little bit, and this is one of those, and thank you for bringing that forward.

Mr. Allison stated thank you Mr. Henderson, we are working on getting things in a timely manner, and department heads are working as hard as they can to do those things. There are certain circumstances that make it more difficult for them, but we appreciate what they do and fully support them, while we are still working towards that end. Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the resolution.

The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor.

Mrs. Fausnaught voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes

Accept for Filing:

Public Works Minutes 05/21/19

Finance Committee 05/21/19

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second to accept these minutes for filing.

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

Mr. Allison asked for comments or questions.

The minutes were accepted for filing with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor.

Mrs. Fausnaught voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes

Announcements

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Thursday, August 29, 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, August 5	12:00 PM Planning Commission
Monday, August 12	4:00 PM Recreation Commission
Tuesday, August 13	Joel Garrison Day
Wednesday, August 14	5:30 PM Grand Slam Parade
Thursday, August 15	10:30 AM Zoning Hearing Board
	4:00 PM Board of Health
Monday, August 19	12:00 PM Planning Commission
Tuesday, August 20	10:00 AM Blighted Property
	3:30 PM ERC
	6:30 PM HARB
Friday, August 23	5:00 PM Williamsport Welcomes the World
Monday, August 26	12:00 PM Planning Commission
Tuesday, August 27	11:00 AM Historic Preservation
	1:00 PM Finance Committee
	2:30 PM Public Works
	3:30 PM Public Safety
Wednesday, August 28	11:30 AM Redevelopment Authority
Thursday August 29	7:30 PM City Council Meeting

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

Room]

Mr. Allison asked for comments or questions from members of City Council.

Mrs. Katz wanted to remind everybody that this is first Friday and it is kids day also. Everybody bring their kids downtown, and as usual there's a lot of entertainment and a lot of vendors. Come down and enjoy.

Mr. Allison stated he wanted to comment about something that we have discussed for a long time among ourselves, and that is about having a Williamsport city government ethics commission in place. It will be a group that will deal with those things that come up with city government and a lot of different areas. We will talk about that more later, and we will have an ordinance that were going to vote on to establish that commission and we will have the details on that. Tonight I am appointing an ad hoc committee of all of Council that will be chaired by Joel Henderson. Joel has already done the research in this area, and has looked at other cities that have that and looked at what they do. This ad hoc committee will hear the research that the commission brings back and the ordinance that were going to pass will form that commission. I can give you these details, there will be a five member commission, three members appointed by Council, two members appointed by the mayor and they will be on a rotating basis, staggered basis. The members will be on a rotating basis, so there is an orderly replacement. This is a serious thing, it is not meant to be and nitpicking commission that is going to be looking for things to deal with, but rather from gathering what other cities have, it is there to be a check and balance for things that are not done. We had a couple of those kind of issues during our time on Council, and it is a milky area, it is hard for Council to get involved in different things without looking political, and sometimes it's hard for the administration to get involved without looking political. This will be made up of citizens, that will have a charge given to them when they will be seated on this to carry out the duties of the commission with due diligence and fairness and everything that would go with it. I am going to leave it at that for tonight and will have more in-depth discussion later. We have four weeks to our next meeting and will have more information available at that time. So we do have the ad hoc committee in place and we will have more actions come forward sooner rather than later. There are some other things that we are looking at, possible areas for council to take some initiatives that we have talked about just to get the ball rolling in that area. We think it's time to proceed with that. Nothing is going to interfere with anything that the next administration or next year's Council, it will be more actions that may be elaborate on the legal parameters the Council has to do certain things. We need a solid functioning government, and we are going to be moving in that direction so that in January whoever the new administration is, whoever the new Council members are can now hit the ground running and have some tools that are available to them to use and to explore. It will be a busy year. It's going to go fast and there are a lot of things that are going to be happening.

Mr. Allison asked for comments from members of the Administration.

Mr. Gerardi stated he passed out a copy of a tree ordinance, there is an area highlighted, the reason why I'm saying that is I think council is sending out a letter to PennDOT, and I believe council has the ability to do more than just request, the only reason I am bringing that up now is PennDOT doing another large project in the city, 2022 to 2022, and is probably about 58 trees going down and now's the time to do something about it. I talked to Adam about it, and I just want to make sure you know what the ordinance says because you be able to force the envelope if you wish.

Mr. Allison thanked him stating we need every tool available.

Ms. Miele stated she thought the particular issue on this case is that PennDOT has established standard procedure of laying all sidewalks at a 5 foot width, so we have to request that they deviate from their standard procedure, and there's no reason why they have to abide by that standard procedure, and we can definitely find a middle ground.

Mr. Gerardi answered, saying what they're basically saying is it can be deviated by the discretion of our ordinance, you can still force him to put a tree in, maybe a smaller tree. Maybe we should talk to one of our attorneys to make sure we can do that.

Mr. Pawlak stated on behalf of the administration I'd like to introduce Jo Ellen Chappelle, she is the new City HR director. JoEllen joined the city early July and has been with us for about a month now digging into the contracts and related items. He asked JoEllen to introduce themselves to Council.

Ms. Chappelle stated it was nice to meet everybody and she is very excited and proud with this team. Thank you for the opportunity.

Mr. Allison stated he wanted to salute Chief Hagan and the force for all the efforts and the challenges that are before him right now and we thank you for being there when the city needs you, it is not an easy task, but we know you are well capable and we support you entirely.

Mr. Allison asked for comments from the general public.

Mr. Timma..... Independent living center, ask if the Council has heard any information on the bids for the possible ramp at City Hall or any part of the accessibility?

Mr. Allison stated we hadn't gotten a definite notification, one bid is going out that he could give him, and one thing we have talked about, I'm going to mention it now is sooner rather than later, depending on the time frame, we could move our Council meetings to Trade & Transit II. and that way it would mitigate the ramp issue as far as the compacted time with the bids and all of that. We had that discussion underway and we're going to pursue that. We will have more definite information as far as the bid on the ramp exactly when is going out, he will let him know.

Mr. Allison announced that we are going to have a brief executive session on the matter of litigation.
Adjournment

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to adjourn.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 1, 2019

Meeting adjourned upon motion by **Ms. Miele and seconded by Mr. Slaughter.**
Motion was carried by a **unanimous at 8:50 PM** "ayes".

Submitted by:

Janice M. Frank
City Clerk