

**Thursday, October 24, 2019  
Williamsport, PA**

Council President Randy Allison brought the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday, October 24, 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, President  
Elizabeth Miele, Vice President  
Bonnie Katz, Councilwoman absent  
Derek Slaughter, Councilman  
Don Noviello, Councilman  
Joel Henderson, Councilman  
Gerry Fausnaught, Councilwoman*

**Absent:**

**Bonnie Katz**

**Also, Present:**

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

Approval of the Williamsport City Council minutes dated October 10, 2019 were approved upon a motion from **Mrs. Fausnaught** and a second from **Mr. Slaughter**. **All were in favor. The vote was 6 to 0. Mrs. Fausnaught voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, and Mr. Allison voted yes. Mrs. Katz was absent.**

Limited Courtesy of the Floor  
There was none.

**Ordinance #6376**

**Ordinance – Issuance of General Obligation Note (final reading) Bill # 1742-19**

The City Clerk read the ordinance in final reading.

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

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

Mr. Nichols stated this ordinance approves the proposal for two year line of credit and with a very desirable credit rate of 2.978%. This is required by the city's RCAP grants because we have grants in place E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Gateway project, Bowman Field and most recently the Memorial Park project that is proposed. On Tuesday the Finance Committee recommended adding language to section 6, which is highlighted on the revised ordinance, the words that were added were **the use of reimbursed funds**. That is in addition to other notifications of provisions, with that I hope we satisfied the legislative intent of Council. And we have provided safeguards during the line of credit. And when the drawdown period ends, Council will make this decisions on Grafius Run and the levy project.

Ms. Miele stated we appreciate the administration's willingness to work with Council and we want to make a certain as we can that we don't incur further debt. This loan is intended to be totally reimbursed from this grant. Finance committee changed a couple of the wording in attempt to make certain that the finance committee is absolutely aware if the city wants to move forward with the spending of these funds. We did send it to the full-bodied counsel with a positive recommendation. This is the cost of doing business, and we need to be able to utilize the money for the federal funds. She stated she will be keeping a close eye on the way we utilize this to make sure we are not incurring debt without a good reason.

Mr. Nichols stated it doesn't necessarily mean were going to need to hold \$2 million, it depends on the cost flow, but in two years, he presumes at some point were going to get grants for the levy project and Grafius Run, so by being able to lock in a low interest rate, and have the money in place, and safeguard it so decisions can be made.

Mrs. Fausnaught stated if we accept RCAP money, then we need to have this money in place, because if we don't take the RCAP money, someone else will. It is that simple. This line that we put in on section 6 will open more communication, and that is important.

Mr. Henderson stated usually every year we also have a tax anticipation note of about the same amount. These are things that are in our situation we need to do to function, but it would be great if we could actually have 2 million in the bank, or have this line of credit this way, it would be great out of the \$25 million budget, 2 million in the bank should be reasonable. Just a thought on that. I know it's difficult, we are in tough times but I don't think we should lose sight of that goal.

Mr. Allison stated he thinks all of the finance committee and the administration and Mr. Nichols for putting all that additional language in there. He asked for a vote on the ordinance in final reading.

**The ordinance was carried in final reading with the 5 to 1 vote.**

**Mrs. Fausnaught voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes and Mr. Allison voted yes. Mr. Slaughter voted no, and Mrs. Katz was absent.**

**Ordinance #6377**

**Ordinance Accepting a Portion of Franklin St Located in the 8<sup>th</sup> Ward in the City of Williamsport (final reading) Bill #1743-19**

The City Clerk read the ordinance in final reading.

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

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

Mr. Benner stated this is the final reading of the acceptance ordinance for the relocation of Franklin Street. This relocation is necessary for the new grand entrance of Lycoming College, their multipurpose building. The portion of land which the new section of Franklin Street was previously owned by Lycoming College and the city now owns it. There is been no changes since the first reading.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the ordinance in final reading.

**The ordinance was carried in final reading six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.**

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

Ordinance #6378

Ordinance Renaming College Place to Warrior Way (final reading) Bill #1744-19

The City Clerk read the ordinance in final reading.

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

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

Mr. Winder stated this is the final reading for the ordinance, it is a privately owned or owned by Lycoming College.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the ordinance.

**The ordinance was carried in final reading six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.**

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

Ordinance #6379

Ordinance Designating College Place (final reading) Bill #1745-19

The City Clerk read the ordinance in final reading.

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

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

Mr. Winder stated this is a private roadway and it is a portion of Lycoming College, and it is for their mailing purposes.

**The ordinance was carried in final reading six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.**

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

Resolution #8938

Resolution Approving the Purchase of Playground Equip. Rubberbond Surfacing & Related Installation Cost

The City Clerk read the resolution.

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

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

Mr. Pawlak this resolution is to accept three costars quotes related to the Memorial Park playground equipment. The first quote is for playground equipment all-inclusive, this quote was separated in order to achieve a manufacturer's price of \$65,000, as long as we make a purchase by next week. This the second quote is for the installation of equipment and also the rubber bond surface for the park along with the installation. The third quote, we have decided to go with the rubber bond surface in the existing play areas. This was talked about because of conversations for maintaining it. Taking money out of the contingency this will allow us to use rubber bond. This was reviewed by the finance committee.

Ms. Miele stated this was reviewed by Finance Committee and forwarded to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. She thought it was exceptionally exceptional the way the administration turn this around and we are able to capitalize on a good price for playground equipment. We are saving about \$30,000 because streets and parks will be doing the excavation on the site. We are still hopeful to be able to secure private donations. Jessie Novinger when she was still here, was seeking private donations.

Mr. Henderson asked if there was a plan for private donations, is there real plan right now?

Mr. Pawlak stated now that the project is approved, I think we can officially start looking for donors, now we know project is moving forward and give donors a full plan.

Ms. Miele stated there has been talk about private donations, and we do have funding secured and this will be good timing.

Mr. Shawn Washington stated he wanted to say that this is an incredible time for this playground to be coming to the city. The previous one had some real safety concerns and this is a very positive thing for the children of Williamsport to have a safe playground.

Mayor Campana stated this will be another positive asset for children and he appreciates the support of city Council and let's get moving on it.

Mr. Slaughter stated Ms. Novinger put a lot of time and effort into this before her departure and I know we mentioned her but I'd like to thank her as well.

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. All were in favor.**

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

Certificate of Appropriateness 36 W. Fourth St

Mr. Gerardi stated this is just to attach a new side entrance on this building at 36 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St. He had pictures to show everyone and is can have white doors and black railing. There is a representative here. There is an agreement with the parking authority and the owner for an agreement. I cannot allow them to work, and till I get that document in hand which they are in the process of doing.

There is nothing unusual about this.

Mr. Allison asked for motion and a second.

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

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the certificate.

**The certificate of appropriateness was approved with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.**

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

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**Certificates of Appropriateness - HARB**

**All items recommended for approval unless otherwise noted**

Item 2. Shelley Irrevocable Trust

C/O BCS Property Solutions

619 West Fourth Street

A. Remove deteriorating slate from one side of the east gable over to the front east corner. Install Tamko Heritage architectural shingles, Virginia Slate color.

B. Retain and repair slate on east dormer wall.

C. Point chimney on east side as needed, using a mortar with high lime content. Match original color and joint profile. Do not enlarge joints.

Item 3. Herdicville Properties LLC

CO Fish Property Management

1006 West Fourth Street

A. Repair the east, porch stair rail. Replace top / bottom handrail with new wood railing of similar size and appearance. Replace rotted posts with same as existing. Repair and reinstall post caps and reinstall the original balusters. Paint to match existing.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion on the certificates.

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

**The certificates of appropriateness were approved with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.**

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

Accept for Filing:

AD HOC Ethics Committee 08/06/19

ERC Minutes 10/01/19

HARB 10/15/19

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

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

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on accepting the minutes.

**The minutes were accepted for filing with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.**

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

Announcements

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Thursday, November 7, 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, October 28  
Tuesday, October 29  
Thursday, October 31  
Tuesday, November 5

12:00 PM Planning Commission  
3:30 PM ERC  
HAPPY HALLOWEEN  
1:00 PM Finance Committee  
2:30 PM Public Works  
3:30 PM Public Safety  
GET OUT & VOTE  
6:00 PM Pension Board Meeting  
7:30 PM City Council Meeting

Thursday, November 7

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

**Room]**

Mr. Allison asked if there were any comments from members of City Council.

Chief Hagan stated Halloween hours are from 6 to 8 and we encourage everyone to be safe.

Mrs. Fausnaught stated that the JV Brown Library had their gala tonight and it is important to note that we have a great library and it's open to all the people.

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

Mayor Campana stated he had a comment.

Mr. Allison stated before you speak, could we talk?

Mayor Campana answered no, I will speak to you out of respect, but I do have public comments that I'm going to make tonight. Somebody has to lead with this.

Mr. Allison stated this is Council's meeting, and we worked hard over the years to keep political commentary out of it, especially during the election.

Mayor Campana replied this is not political commentary, somebody needs to speak up, someone needs to show courage

Mr. Allison replied this is our City Council meeting it is not the venue for speaking on a political issue.

Mayor Campana stated so you are defending inappropriate, misleading comments?

Mr. Allison answered no, I am defending policy of City Council over the years in an effort to keep out politicizing, bringing a political campaign into our meetings. We have been very diligent to not allow people to campaign, when they address the public, he stated he tried to get a hold of the mayor today and he left messages, this is not appropriate.

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Mayor Campana answered yes and I gave you a heads up, you are the chair, you are the president of City Council, that your prerogative, but I'm going to be on record right now, and you should know this, and I'm not lecturing you, but my father told me this several times, there is only several times in your life that you should speak up about things that are very very important and stand up for what is right. When my employees are attacked, verbally attacked, and consultants are attacked misleading comments, someone should be called out on it in a public forum. And if you're not allowing me to speak up, to me, shame on you Mr. President.

Mr. Allison replied, well, Mayor perhaps I wasn't clear, I am not stopping you from speaking up publicly about any issues, what I am saying is we are still in the Council meeting and the policy has been to not allow public discussion of political things. What you are referencing is a political ad, the one in the paper, that is part of a campaign. Coincidentally it is for an office that you yourself are running for. So to allow you to criticize an official running for that office, or another person running for that office would be entirely inappropriate regardless of what your father has said. There are times and places, yes it is time to speak up, but the time has to fit the place. Your timing does not fit the place.

Mayor Campana stated I will finish by saying, I believe it is spineless, when elected officials will call out other officials when you're being verbally attacked, and my staff is being verbally attacked and someone can get away with it, I think it is totally inappropriate and I think it is a bad measure to show for our children and our grandchildren. You are showing that elected officials will not do the right thing, and call somebody out by making cheap shots at this gentleman, (pointing) and this gentleman, (pointing) and I am done!

Mr. Allison exclaimed, That is enough Mayor! And I think it is the right thing to do, and we are very proud to do it, I watched Marlene Whaley in the seat for years and Bill Hall, they protected the rights of Council, they protected the rights of our meetings, and they protected the rights of our process. And I am not going to be bullied by you, or Cow tailed by you into giving in on those principles. It's a time and a place to stand up for those. You have plenty of opportunity, you are going to have a debate coming up with two people that are running for this office, that is your opportunity to get political and to politicize whatever you want to. That is what that place is for, the City Council meeting is not for that.

Mr. Allison asked if there were comments or questions from the general public

Mr. Robert Kibbler, when it comes to government, pertaining to elected officials and public servants on certain levels, the citizens of the community expect a certain standard conduct that is of the highest standards of the integrity, of good loyal character and obedience to all laws that govern citizens and even in their private lives. This speculation by the public apply to all government employees and all departments of municipalities, state, federal levels of government. One of the things that has come to my attention recently concerns Williamsport city zoning officer Gary Knarr. Apparently on the evening of February 22, 2019, Mr. Knarr had been drinking at the new K bar at 523 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. in Williamsport. When he left the establishment, he had struck a parked vehicle that was occupied an individual and fled the scene. This is commonly known as a hit-and-run and since the vehicle was occupied it constitutes a misdemeanor in the vehicle code. In addition when the investing officer made contact with him at his residence, it was noted almost immediately that Mr. Knarr was under the influence of alcohol and according to the affidavit of probable calls, he went rate back in the house and close the door. After being initially confronted by the investigating Williamsport police officer, it took his wife to re-answer the door at which time Mr. Knarr was taken into custody of suspicious of driving under the influence. He did provide of blood-alcohol sample which resulted in a .22 VAC. Such an alcohol level is almost 3 times the legal limit. Witnesses at the scene indicated that Mr. Knarr was operating of a hit-and-run vehicle..... According to the affidavit of criminal complaint, Mr. Knarr was charged with driving under the influence, and hit-and-run in an attended vehicle. Both charges or misdemeanors. The case is still pending, he has not been convicted, and he is perceived innocent until proven guilty. I believe it is the incumbents of Williamsport city Council, that appropriate disciplinary action be taken against Mr. Knarr for violating the standards that is expected of the Williamsport city employee. He is also has past knowledge as such off duty conduct by myself, that he should be subject to disciplinary action. I would request that you would take this into consideration and take appropriate action when it comes to city employees. Citizens of the community expect it. I have also seen in the Williamsport Sun Gazette, legal columns in the past that no such disciplinary action taken are made by public and could be attended by members of the public. Thank you.

**Mr. Allison announced that we are having an executive session following this meeting in the case of legal matters.**

Adjournment

**Meeting adjourned** upon motion by **Mr. Slaughter** and a second by **Mrs. Fausnaught**.  
Motion was carried by a **unanimous at 8:14 PM** "ayes".

**Submitted by:**

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