

**Friday, December 27, 2019  
Williamsport, PA**

Council President Randy Allison brought the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Friday, December 27, 2019 at 11:30 AM. in City Hall Council Chambers.

**Council members present:**

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

**Also, Present:**

*Gabriel J. Campana, Mayor absent  
Mr. Joe Gerardi absent  
Mr. William Nichols, Jr. absent  
Mr. Gary Knarr absent  
Damon Hagan, Police Chief  
Sol. Norm Lubin, Solicitor  
Janice Frank, City Clerk  
Adam Winder*

**Special meeting to Override Mayor's Veto of budget for 2020**

Mr. Allison opened the meeting by saying this is a special meeting of the Williamsport city Council of December 27, 2019. We are here to address one item, it is the veto of the 2020 city of Williamsport budget, that was vetoed by Mayor Campana. He read from the administrative code and the optional third class city code. This has to do with all ordinances that the mayor gets from Council. It states ordinances adopted by counsel should be submitted to the mayor, he shall within 10 days after receiving it, either approve the ordinance by affixing his signature to it, or return it to the Council by delivering it to the city clerk, together with the statement setting forth his objections, thereto or to any items a part thereof. To that part he wanted to would address what our city clerk got in a manila folder, and the ordinance was inside, and the only reason that we were given was on the outside of it, it says 2020 city proposed budget was vetoed. Gabe Campana. There were no explanations that are required by the City Code. There were some comments he made to the newspaper, I don't think that does meet the requirement that the State had in mind when they made the Code, and in talking to the newspaper was not an adequate substitute to addressing City Council with his concerns. It goes on to say that no ordinance or any item a part thereof shall take approval unless the mayor fails to return an ordinance to the Council within 10 days after it has been presented to him. Counsel upon reconsideration thereof, on the third day, shall return a vote of two thirds of the members result to override the mayor's veto. That is why we are here today to fulfill all or part of the code. We waited the three days and we are past that now. We are having our meeting to resolve to override the mayor's veto today which has to be a two thirds vote, and with the seven-member Council is five votes.

He asked for motion to override the veto.

**Ms. Miele made the motion to override the veto, and it was seconded by Mr. Henderson.**

Mr. Allison asked if there was any discussion from Council?

Mr. Henderson ask if this is just the budget?

Mr. Allison answered the only thing that the mayor vetoed was the proposed budget, he did not veto the tax increase, it is rather odd. And the 10 day window has passed, and the tax increase is in effect. Apparently he had no problem with the tax increase, but he does with the budget. To me those are things that should have been addressed at our second vote when the administration was asked if they had any comment, and the mayor said no. Be that as it may, this is where we are at and we are voting on the one that he vetoed with the budget ordinance.

Ms. Miele stated if we are overwriting the veto, we vote yes, if we are not we vote no.

Mr. Henderson stated that he normally tries to justify every vote that he makes and tries to consider each question that comes to him on its own merits. It is unfortunate that there is no justification from the Mayor. There is really nothing to discussed, because he gave us no reason or logic.

Ms. Miele stated that she agrees with Joel on that, given there are no objections from the Mayor that are made to the budget, we cannot even define and look at whatever items he looked at to object. So we don't know what his specific reason was for vetoing the budget.

Mrs. Katz asked so did the Mayor did not get in touch with any of us here on Council.?

Mr. Allison answered no, no one here, but he did get in touch with the newspaper.

Mrs. Fausnaught stated she wanted to integrate that it is extremely necessary for communication, clarity, cooperation and collaboration are extremely essential to our government everywhere.

Mr. Allison thanked the mayor for one thing, an opportunity to get together one last time.

Mr. Allison asked for the vote.

**The vote was to override the veto with a 5 to 1 vote. The veto was overridden.**

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

Adjournment

**Meeting adjourned upon motion by Mrs. Katz and a second by Mrs. Fausnaught. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM with unanimous ayes.**

**Submitted by:**

**Janice M. Frank  
City Clerk**