Thursday, January 23, 2020  
Williamsport, PA

Council President Randy Allison brought the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday January 23, 2020 at 7:30 PM in City Hall Council Chambers. Chris Cooley did televise the meeting. The invocation was given by Councilman Jon Mackey and was immediately followed by the “Pledge of Allegiance”.  * (see below)

Council members present: 
Randy Allison, President  
Elizabeth Miele, Vice President  
Bonnie Katz, Councilwoman  
Adam Yoder, Councilman  
Vince Pulizzi, Councilman  
Jon Mackey, Councilman  
David Banks, Councilman  
Absent: 

Also, Present: 
Derek Slaughter, Mayor  
Mr. Joe Gerardi  
Mr. Joe Pawlak  
Mr. Gary Knaur absent  
Damon Hagen, Police Chief  
Sol. Norm Lubin, Solicitor  
Janice Frank, City Clerk  
Todd Hickman, Fire Chief  
Adam Winder S&P  
Mark Maroney – Press  
Members of the Center for Independent Living

“This meeting was moved from Council Chambers to the William Sechler Room due to a disruption and continuous outbursts from protestors from the Center of Independent Living. The District Attorney and the Williamsport Bureau of Police were both called and advised City Council to move the meeting to another room. Legal grounds to move the meeting were given. The meeting could not be televised.

Approval of the Williamsport City Council minutes for the 01/09/20 were approved upon a motion Mr. Banks and a second from Mr. Yoder.  All were in favor.  The vote was 6 to 0.  
Ms. Miele had not yet arrived.

Limited courtesy of the floor
There were no request.

Mr. Allison changed the order of the agenda. This was to accommodate the certificate of appropriateness.

Certificate of Appropriateness – 201 West Fourth St.

Mr. Allison asked for motion and a second.

Mr. Yoder made the motion and it was second by Mrs. Katz.  

Mr. Gerardi stated this is for 201 W. 4th St., first community foundation, the request is related to the existing front window.  He had attached photos to show what it looked like before and what it looks like now.

Mr. Banks ask about design standards.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the certificate.  
The certificate of appropriateness was approved with six yes it will call votes.  The vote was 6 to 0.

Mr. Yoder voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Banks voted yes, and Mr. Allison voted yes.  Ms. Miele had not yet arrived.

Reappointment
Veterans Memorial Park Commission

John Markley, 739 First St. is reappointment to a five-year term commencing 01/21/20 and ending 01/21/25.

Mr. Allison read about the reappointment and asked for motion 

Mrs. Katz made the motion and it was second by Mr. Yoder.

Mrs. Katz stated that John Markley has given so much to the city and what he is done with the Veterans Memorial Park is absolutely incredible. He has put his blood sweat and tears into this and if you haven’t gone up and looked at this park, it is incredible. They still are selling bricks. What John has accomplished is he has gotten Penn College to do some of the work, and instead of going through the water authority, he had a well drilled. A lot of this is been done with mostly all donations. He has done an incredible job.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the certificate.

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

Mr. Yoder voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Banks voted yes, and Mr. Allison voted yes.  Ms. Miele had not yet arrived

Discussion of 2019 City Revenue Collections

Mr. Grimes stated this is something we do annually, it is not an actionable item, is just a breakdown about our selections from two years ago to the previous year. He did a quick walk-through for some of the new Council members. His report was very informative. He talked about real estate taxes and the collections and how he ended the year with collections stating we get the most of the taxes in at the end of the discount. It showed the exonerations and the payments compared to what we collected. The last page shows the history of the collections.

Mr. Allison talked about some of the parcels that we have lost.

Mr. Grimes talked about the pilot agreement with the colleges and the hospital and how they have consolidated.
Mr. Allison stated we’ve had a lot of single homes being on down that were next to a church or club or something like that. There was a discussion about some of the findings that have gone down.

**Resolution #8970**

Resolution – Real Estate Refund – KNS Apartments Canal St

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second.

Mr. Yoder made the motion and it was second by Mr. Pulizzi.

Mr. Grimes stated that we do not have a lot of choice in this matter, they did appeal this and 2019 and their taxes were lowered, and they appealed again and won the appeal. It was not a huge change but it was a change that help lower their taxes.

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.

Mr. Yoder voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Banks voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes and Mr. Allison voted yes.

**Resolution #8971**

Resolution – Real Estate Refund – KNS Apartments- Academy St.

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second.

Mr. Yoder made the motion and it was second by Mr. Banks.

Mr. Grimes stated this is the same thing as the last one, except this is for Academy Street.

There was no discussion on this.

The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

Mr. Yoder voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Banks voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes and Mr. Allison voted yes.

**Resolution #8972**

Resolution Uncollected City Real Estate Taxes for 2019

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second.

Mr. Yoder made the motion and it was second by Mrs. Katz.

Mr. Grimes stated this was a resolution that he would do every year, it is for real estate taxes that are uncollected at the time of closing our books for the tax year. When taxes are uncollected they get turned over to the county office and there is a fee that we send over. As you can see the delinquent tax claim was $1,123,735. We really get almost all of our real estate taxes collected. There are a few scenarios,,. It is pretty similar to our average collection rate. He explained some scenarios.

Mr. Yoder asked what is the main for not paying taxes.

Mr. Grimes answered, there are number of reasons, sometimes there are widows that can’t pay their taxes, sometimes people just leave town, and there are some landlords that there taxes get turned over every year. They usually set up a payment plan to continue. But they never get paid up. He stated the main reason is probably forgetfulness or they just don’t have good business management.

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.

Mr. Yoder voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Banks voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes and Mr. Allison voted yes.

**Resolution #8973**

Resolution Exonerating the City Treasurer from Collection of 2019 Real Estate Taxes

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. Pulizzi.

Mr. Grimes stated this is important to him personally because it affects him and it exonerates him and closes out everything he was expected to collect for 2019.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the motion.

The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

Mr. Yoder voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Banks voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes and Mr. Allison voted yes.

**Resolution #8974**

Resolution for an Agreement Between the City of Williamsport & PowerDMS

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second.

Mr. Pulizzi made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Yoder.

Chief Hagan stated this resolution was brought before the Finance committee and there was some discussion on the initial presentation about the amount of the contract, and how much the contract would go up. They agreed to no more than 3% a year. The amount will be $6568.42. This is to pursue the most efficient accreditation for the police for the PA Chiefs, and it establishes a credible framework and reduces some liability issues. He continued on to explain the reasons why we should get this. We have wanted to do this for many years and we got stalled out last year so we found out in order to do it in the most efficient way. There will be assessments and comparison to the hundred and 35 standards. There’s also a formal assessment in and inspect your agency. This was sent to the finance committee.

Ms. Miele stated we did send this to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. The chief did mention in finance that the software helps us to run an efficient department regardless of who is in charge. This will provide us an easier transition. The system does not interact with the record system we currently have, we do retain the information and records generated through the system and they can all be used.
should we ever decide to use another software. The 3% is $200 a year and they would’ve given us the same price for every year.

Mr. Banks asked if there were any other police department using this?

Chief answered there are 117 agencies but none of them are in our area. State College is accredited, but there is none in Lycoming County.

Mrs. Katz stated for some reason if we didn’t want to use the software anymore, we would still have access. This will also be a savings and liability.

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.

Mr. Yoder voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Banks voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes and Mr. Allison voted yes.

Accept for Filing:

Codes Report August 2019
Controller’s Report Nov 2019
Veteran’s Memorial Park Commission Nov. 2019

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

Mr. Yoder made the motion and it was second by Mr. Pulizzi.

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

Mr. Yoder voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Banks voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes and Mr. Allison voted yes.
Announcements

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Thursday February 6, 2020 at 7:30 PM, in City Hall Council Chambers. There will be a Police Pension Meeting Following this City Council meeting. There will be a brief executive session in the matter of litigation. (Enter through the police department at rear of building for meetings after 5:00 PM.)

Upcoming Meetings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, January 24</td>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>AM ERC Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, January 27</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>PM Planning Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 28</td>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>PM Citizen Corp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, February 4</td>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>AM Public Safety Meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>PM Finance Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:30</td>
<td>PM Public Works Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, February 6</td>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>PM City Council meeting</td>
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Mr. Allison asked if there were any comments from members of City Council. There were none.

Mr. Allison asked if there were any comments from members of the administration. Mr. Gerardi spoke of the up-and-coming snowstorm, and stated the fines for not clearing sidewalks will be $200. Mr. Yoder asked for residents that are on vacation, is there any way for them to approach that? Mr. Gerardi stated they should have a friend or relative to come over and remove that snow.

Mr. Allison asked if there were any comments from the general public. There were none.

Adjournment

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Yoder and a second by Mr. Pulizzi. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM with unanimous ayes.

Submitted by:

Janice M. Frank
City Clerk