

**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 Knarr absent
Damon Hagan, Police Chief
Sol. Norm Lubin, Solicitor
Janice Frank, City Clerk
Todd Heckman, 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.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2020

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 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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2020

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.

Resolution #8975

Resolution for Contract for Services between the City of Williamsport & Muddy River K-9 Academy

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second.

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

Chief Hagan stated this part of our own going effort to create and put into use, this is a resolution for a contract for services between the city of Williamsport and Muddy River K-9 Academy. The owners of this Academy are Mr. and Mrs. Karsnack. We had received multiple recommendations and he is looking forward to becoming our maintenance trainer as well. With regard to the contract, \$5000 per team per year for a maximum of three teams. We don't believe we will need more than three, we do believe we can use three, two dual-purpose dogs and one explosive dog. There was some question in finance whether it would be a prorated amount, and I specifically talked to them about the issue is the minute we deploy a canine from the Academy they want the \$5000 up front. He spoke about the owners credentials. He has already interacted with the men that we chose to be canine officers.

Ms. Miele stated finance did review this and sent to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation pending minor changes of details in the contract. The contract was vetted by both our insurance and the solicitors. Our first dog will enter this beginning January 31, we expect the dogs to be ready for service in two weeks, potentially a month. The chief provided a list of materials tracking where the money was coming from.

Chief Hagan explained how the finances came in, the finances are all locked in for the first dog, another 14,500 can only be used for the second dog, the remaining will be able to use for the second dog unless they say we want this to go to the third dog. Unless we re-approach someone who donates, we have to hold fast to what they request. We believe we will be able to meet our threshold payments by donations.

Mrs. Katz stated you also said you were going to open up the Elm Street substation?

Chief Hagan answered we currently use that as a substation to house some of our vehicles, we are updating and we are putting in new computers and it will become a substation for patrol in the canine units.

Mrs. Katz stated streets and parks has helped get the cars ready for the canine.

Chief Hagan answered that streets and parks has helped with everything, they've helped with the car and get things ready, they helped all fit the front and move the seat. They went to officer Minier's house.

Mr. Banks asked if the car goes home with the officer?

Chief Hagan answered yes it does.

Mr. Banks asked how many officers live in the city of Williamsport?

The answer was zero.

Mr. Banks stated will that commute will cost money and that is something we have to bear in mind.

Chief Hagan stated that we have more vehicles in the fleet, and since he has taken office he has not let officers take cars home except for the ones that have contractual obligations. That is standard practice for canine unit to take the car home.

Mr. Winder stated that canine officer is on call 24/7 like myself, so he will be working.

Ms. Miele asked how are the three cars going to affect our fleet?

Chief Hagan answered our fleet was probably a little too large and we reduce the size of it, we don't believe we need to increase the size again. We will evaluate it again. We have three canines but they will not all be typically gone at the same time.

Ms. Miele asked about when the officer goes on vacation?

Chief Hagan answered the way we have done it is when one guy goes on vacation the dog goes to another canine officers house. There could be extenuating circumstances on for scenes, but I cannot imagine we would not be able to move one of our canines to another home.

Ms. Miele stated we did have some discussion about the particulars of officers time, it is worthy to note that officer Minier will be training for a four-week time and any other time it does take six weeks. There was additional discussion about the officers and the training for officer time. The time will be a direct cost to the department. It is not a reason not to continue the program that it is important for all of us to be aware of the cost of the program.

Mr. Banks asked if there was any increase to liability insurance?

Chief Hagan answered no, and that question was asked.

Mr. Allison asked if there were any other questions.

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.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2020

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:

Friday, January 24	11:00	AM	ERC Committee
Monday, January 27	12:00	PM	Planning Commission
Tuesday, January 28	7:00	PM	Citizen Corp
Tuesday, February 4	11:30	AM	Public Safety Meeting
	1:00	PM	Finance Meeting
	2:30	PM	Public Works Meeting
Thursday, February 6	7:30	PM	City Council meeting

[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.
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 for them are higher someone to 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**