

Council President Randy Allison brought the meeting of the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 7:00 PM per remote. Chris Cooley did livestream the meeting.

**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  
Gary Knarr,  
Mark Killian, Fire Chief,  
Damon Hagan, Police Chief  
Austin White, Sol.  
Janice Frank, City Clerk  
Adam Winder, RVT

Approval of the Williamsport City Council minutes for the 01/21/21 were approved upon a motion **Mr. Yoder and a second from Mrs. Katz. All were in favor. The vote was 7 to 0.**

Mr. Allison announced that there was an executive session at 6 :30 PM just before this City Council meeting.

There was no requests for courtesy of the floor.

**Appointment to Accessibility Committee.**

Tim West of 2500 Federal Avenue will be appointed to the Accessibility Committee commencing February 4, 2021 tonight and ending February 2, 2024 per ordinance of three-year term.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and second on this?

**Mr. Yoder made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Mackey..**

Mr. Mackey stated I would just like to introduce Timothy West. Tim is a Williamsport resident. He works for North Central Site services. He also hosts a podcast called my blurred opinion. And sounds like he also does some motivational speaking. I've had the opportunity to talk to Tim on the phone several different times now. I have all of the information I need so Tim, if you want to just tell the rest of council a little bit about yourself and then open the floor for anybody to ask questions.

Mr. Tim West stated Okay. My name is Timothy West. I was originally born here, but I had a disease that nearly killed me when I was four. I was lifeflighted to Philadelphia where I spent most of my life. Now I'm here for a job. I'm legally blind. Which means I cannot drive. But I can see. I have my own place. I work. And yeah, a podcast.

Mr. Mackey stated he is so glad you have come forward to serve on this committee, Tim. We look forward to this. It's a brand-new committee but we are looking forward to great things out of it and a heightened sense of the needs of inner city for accessibility issues. And we appreciate your input on that.

Mrs. Katz thanked him for stepping up to help the community and Mr. Banks also thanked him saying this commission is a good opportunity to get ahead on accessibility issues. We are happy to have Tim aboard.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the motion to appoint Mr. West.

**The appointment 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.**

**Mr. Allison changed the order of the agenda.**

**Resolution # 9100**

**Resolution Authorizing Execution of the amendment to lease agreement between Cutting Edge Cross Cutters City of Williamsport and Major League Baseball Inc.**

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second.

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

Mayor Slaughter Yes, before you, is a resolution, to lease an agreement. Now that the Cross Cutters know their season, it does provide an option for the MLB classic through 2023. How many games can be played on the field. Complying with COVID-19 guidelines and other just general changes to the agreement. Over all, it is standard. Nothing much has changed from the original agreement, just updating some of the language and terms now that Cross Cutters have a season.

Ms. Miele stated this was reviewed in Finance and sent to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation with no major issues. This really changes very little about the initial contract we have with MLB aside from tending the contract from a council further dates and changing a couple of things about the game play. The Cutters were present in finance committee. Cutters, excuse me. Dave and Doug from the Cutters team were present at the finance meeting and said that actually with their new game schedule this year, this will be, I think, even easier for them to incorporate into their season as it has been in the past. And of course we all recognize that this game occurring in Williamsport has been a nice thing for the city. We do put quite a bit of effort into it. So as I mentioned before, --

Mr. Mackey asked If this was already discussed in finance committee, Liz, you did say cross cutters were present.

Mayor, did I see in the agreement that they are only allowed to play 30 games? Is that correct?

Mayor Slaughter yes, in the agreement it is -- I have it right in front of me. Up to, so it is agreed city/cross cutters j for up to 30 games to be played on the field in 2021 prior to cross cutters first use of playing field.

Mr. Mackey And I'm going to assume that that will fit into this new league that they have joined?

Mayor Slaughter answered up to 30 But they are starting a few weeks earlier. And it does allow for some A games, play off games in there. And which may be scheduled on consecutive dates et cetera.

But overall, the Cross Cutters were okay with it. It does, on the back end of it, with their season starting earlier, ends earlier. As Councilwoman Miele said, it is more logistically feasible for them on the back end with MLB game because that was a little tight there in previous years. Yeah, up to 30 games. Doug might know this better than myself. I don't know typically if previous years if they played that many games or not. I don't remember there being that many games played on the field, but maybe.

Mr. Doug Estates would say that they would try to schedule 26 to 30, and then obviously depending on weather and when a first date was, usually in March, sometimes those dates don't happen just because the field is not available at this time. But 30 is consistent with the previous agreement as well.

What we have been telling folks is to have a backup plan at this point just to be safe. And in the event that field is not available, so we are taking requests but also asking them to have a backup plan just to be safe.

Mrs. Katz asked if the grounds keepers will still be taking care of everything on the ground. He answered yes.

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.**

#### Ordinance #

**Ordinance an amendment to City of Williamsport Zoning ordinance text to revise certain requirements within primarily business zoning districts regarding land uses to revise certain dimensional requirements within all the zoning district to add tree planting requirements, to add definition of space building and design standard in proportion of the CS district.**

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second.

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

Mr. Knarr stated What we did with guidance from county in previous as well as current city engineers, is looked at revising the commercial zone districts to allow more development. One of the main things we looked that year is obviously pedestrian accessibility to give them more pedestrian accessibility as well as dimensional, your setback requirements to keep within harmony with the region. Again, this is upon second reading. I have not had any public comment or questions or concerns at this time.

Mr. Allison, , Mr. Knarr. We did have a public hearing on the first reading. Any other comments tonight from councilmembers?

**The Ordinance 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 #9001

**Resolution of the city of Williamsport authorizing the submission of an application for funding to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant in the amount of \$500,000 for the college music facility construction project.**

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second.

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

Mr. Pawlak stated . As in the title, the resolution is to submit on behalf of Lycoming College for the music facility construction project. They have received notice they got an award for \$500,000 but can't be a direct recipient so they asked the city as we've done in the past to be the recipient of the grant or the grantee and work with them on the project. The resolution allows us to submit the grant and tape of with it a cooperation agreement outlining responsibilities for both the city and the college. It is a similar process that we went through successfully when the college did their gateway building most recently. With that being said, the work being done with the grant will be site work for their project and as you indicated, chip Edmonds is here if you have any questions specifically related to the college itself.

Ms. Miele said Yes, this was reviewed in finance and was forward to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. . Given our past history of accepting or being pass through of grants on behalf of the college, this item is really a no-brainer. We had a very good experience with the initial project that with the beginning third street project we worked on with the college over the past few years. And of course extremely exciting they will have their entrance with a new music building and the university funding from the state to assist in that. You know, I think the openly real questions I might have that can be addressed by Mr. Edmond, are what is the drop dates of the building? What are we looking at in terms of scope and time line for the project?

Representative from Lycoming College (Chip) Thanks for that question. I will just start off with a thanks to President Allison, Vice President Miele, and council. And thank you for serving in this way. Our time line, it is about a 5 to \$6 million project we have secured resources including this grant of just over \$5 million. We anticipate a likely ground breaking this summer with the completion and open in for the fall of 2022. And generally the way these work is that the reimbursement will come at some point after completion of construction and the expenditure of all funds and as Mr. Pawlak noted, this is for site work in and around the area. It will strengthen the whole look and view of that part of the city. Your partnership has meant a great deal. We are grateful for your support.

Ms. Miele said Thank you, Chip, for addressing that. Randy, I think really this has very little financial impact on the city. I think we act merely as pass through organization. Joe Pawlak will take care of the administration for the grant. They are securing the amount of funding against their endowment I believe. And so both our financial risk and financial obligation is practically nil.

That said, it comes through with a positive recommendation.

Mr. Allison asked if Are there comments or questions from other members of finance committee? Anybody on council? I hear and see none. I think is a great project, obviously, and Chip, from our side, we greatly appreciate the partnership. It's been instrumental in moving the whole gateway project and it's a win-win situation for the city and college I believe which is the best of both worlds and we are pleased to be in that situation with the college.

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**

**Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historical Architectural Review Board.**

Item 2 is American rescue workers saving grace at 324kengal street. They are doing roofing and also going along with the roof, gutters and all that.

And item 3 is YWCA North Central PA installing new directional art and design sheathing and perforated windows. I think we have had chance to see those. Is there a motion and second on those two items for the appropriateness?

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

Comments or questions tonight from any council members?

**The certificates were 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:

HARB Minutes of 2021

Finance Committee Minutes 12/01/20 & 1/19/21

AD HOC committee meeting minutes of 01/19/21

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

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

**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**

Announcements:

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 7:00 PM, Remote

Upcoming Meetings:

Friday, January 22	11:00 AM	ERC
	12:00 PM	Housing Needs
Tuesday, Feb 2	11:30 AM	Public Safety
	1:00 PM	Finance Meeting
	2:30 PM	Public Works Meeting
Thursday, Feb 4	7:00 PM	City Council meeting

**All meetings are held remotely unless indicated with an \* asterisk, whereas will be held at Trade & Transit, II, 144 West Third St, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Williamsport, PA.**

Mr. Allison asked if there were any comments from City Council. There were none.

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

Mr. Gerardi said. There will not be a board of health meeting this month.

And also I just want to make sure residents know we've had two big snowstorms. Snow removal is required 24 hours after the last snow fall. We are out looking at sidewalks, making sure they are cleared. I just want the residents to understand, too, that intersections are the responsibility of the owner of the property so they should be open both ways. So anyone who wants it cross the street should do that without going over the top of a snow pile.

Mr. Allison said Thank with you be for that, With the weather was so nice today, I got out for a walk.

And I did, a lot of residents are very compliant with that particular law. However, there are some that haven't been touched and a lot of the intersections that you mentioned have been, they are impassable.

So there is still work to be done on the citizens' side of the equation

Mr. Gerardi said Right. Like I said, we are working with the residents, fact of the matter is, it's been a heavy snow and a lot of snow, so we are trying to give them time to clear sidewalks and intersections.

Chief Killian said just to add on to what Mr. Gerardi said, our firefighters have been out last several days clearing fire hydrants. If you have a fire hydrant in front of your house, make sure it is clear about three feet around and out to the street. It is important to be able to hook up to a water supply if there is a fire in your neighborhood. We have many activities going on in the day. So between that, we are doing the best we can to dig hydrants out.

But your citizen help is gratefully appreciated.

Mr. Gerardi said to add on to Chief Killian's comment, actually under the ordinance, it is the responsibility of the owner of the property to clean out that fire hydrant. I've seen our fire department out doing it. And that's great. Also inlets for the water is also another responsibility for the owner to do that. To the inlet.

Mr. Allison Yes. And it is self preservation, really. The house you save might be your own house.

I also try to clear out, and this is just a personal preference, but people might want to think about this, but if you have a water valve shut off or gas valve shut off at your curb, it is good to clear that off. If it is an emergency and you need to get to those quickly. So things to think about.

Anything else from the administration tonight?

Okay. I don't see anything.

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

Mr. White Yes, sir. There is one from the Tyler and it is, now I will butcher his last name. M-o-g-m -- a-v.

His question is, has anyone intended to ride along with the police?

Mr. Allison answered We have talked about that. I can say that there are intentions there.

Mr. Banks to answer the question, I did last year and I know John, you have quite a bit.

So I would like to do the third shift.

Mr. Yoder stated I'll answer the question, also. I actually have not had the chance yet. I wanted to before the pandemic hit. Then it hit. And have not since then. But it is my intention to hopefully later this year.

Adjournment

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to adjourn

**Meeting adjourned** upon motion by **Mrs. Katz and a second by Mr. Pulizzi. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM with unanimous ayes.**

**Submitted by:**

**Janice M. Frank**

**City Clerk**

