

**Thursday August 27, 2020  
Williamsport, PA**

Council President Randy Allison brought the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday August 27, 2020 at 6:30 PM on Zoom. 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, S&P  
Jon Sanders,*

Approval of the Williamsport City Council minutes for the 08/06/20 & 08/11/20 were approved upon a motion **Mrs. Katz and a second from Mr. Yoder. All were in favor. The vote was 7 to 0.**

**Limited Courtesy of the Floor**

There have been no requests.

**Presentation – Chesapeake Bay Pollution Reduction Plan**

Mike Miller & Wendy Walter from the Williamsport Water Authority made the presentation.

We have for you tonight the amended Chesapeake bay pollution reduction plan that is required by the DEP. It'll be submitted September 20, the administration was provide he a copy of it. It is also on your website for review. HRG made us the amended plan. And you are here for the execution of the planning process. This has a list of projects, there is 25 primary and 16 secondary or backup projects. And 10% as re quired by DEP regulations. 10% total suspended reduction. A joint plan for existing MOU to appropriate the costs for creating. The number, which everybody is probably wading for, is it will cost about \$5 million. That's \$4.5 in construction,, engineering and 3.3 million, and 1 million to the city. We wanted to make sure you had the opportunity to review the plan, understand the projects that are in it. Have it before you and have your approval so we may submit it final to DEP. Thank you.

Mr. Allison asked if there were Any discussion from council tonight? It is not an agenda item. But it is definitely an important project and piece of our operations going forward.

Ms. Katz stated We have been working on this for quite some time. Wendy, you have a lot of information on this. Will the Water authority probably have public meetings for the public to understand where we are coming from with other aspects of pollution reduction. It is an MS4 and the city has been working a lot on pollution reduction. We want to move forward with this. We do have five years where we do have to do 10%. of reduction. The other thing is, that we are splitting cost and Loyalsock is paying 3.2 and we are paying 1.7 mill. What I didn't ask when we had this discussion, and this is for Joe Pawlak. We did have money set aside for this, didn't we Joe?

Mr. Pawlak answered We started budgeting money in the 2020 budget. We were planning on phasing it in or allocating funds year by year and building up a blt to support the cost.

Mrs. Katz also asked Mike and Wendy, we will be responsible for the next five years for this for payment?

Ms. Walter stated Once the permit is issued, you will have five years to complete the BMP. >> We have a little bit of time once the permit is issued. That starts the clock to finishing these projects. Bonnie, if I could just add and maybe stress these are preliminary engineering costs at this point. None of the actual engineering for any of the projects have been started. And I think the next step will be to work with Loyalsock so you can time the projects out over the next five years so you have a better idea of what cost we will have in what year.

Mr. Banks asked Ms. Miller and Mr. Walter, can you go over the timetable we would expect things to be approved by DEP? I know it is a little bit after variable.

Ms. Walters answered We will submit this after the public comment period is over and we expect them it take actions sometime thereafter. We are not quite sure. This is a big first step down what will be a long path when we talk infrastructure and all the storm water related things. But it is a path we need to good down.

Mr. Allison stated Okay. There's no vote on this, this is informational. But we do want to, we don't want to just talk about it once or twice and then let it go. We want to keep this public. Keep it before the public. We want people to be as informed as much as possible. It may be prudent for council and the administration to work together as this begins to unfold to have this public meetings where we can coordinate it with the important things that are going to happen along the way and keep people informed and keep them in the loop and answer their questions. As quickly and completely as possible. It is a complex issue but once people understand the language, issues, and everything dealing with our infrastructure, I think that they will get more comfortable with it. it should be easier to convey where we're at along the line. So thanks

Mayor Slaughter stated Very quickly, John Sander will be bringing it in would weeks for an official vote from council. Once the public review and comment period is over. That will be in two weeks.

Ms. Miele stated Wendy and Mike, I'm assuming that this is basically the first step after process that will be ongoing moving forward. The first five-year plan but presumably at end of that five-year period there is

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another five-year plan? That's the look at this? So this is simply a new kind of review item that we will continue to come before us every so often moving forward? Is that accurate?

Ms. Waters stated Ms. Miele, you are correct. This is the first cycle in the five years. There will be another one after it where you are expected to get another 10%. That's quite the goal to achieve. I don't know how to say that tactfully. It is terribly to get this first 10%. We today look for privates to get there. We are looking for another 10% after that is likely prove to be difficult. But I do think we all need to be aware that we need to be clear and explain this well to the public what this process looks like but we also need to be aware to a certain extent that this is a goal set that it will be hard for us to meet in the long run. And to the extent we can figure out how to handle this five years from now, ten years from now. We would be wise. I'm sure that the watering authority is thinking about that on behalf of the city and considering that you know, that the first 10% will be I suppose a drop in the bucket compared to what the next 10% will look like. So I think that's an important thing to be mentioning when we are talking about this promotion reduction plan and Chesapeake bay requirements, period. I think that improving the situation of Chesapeake bay is obviously of utmost importance but also a tough task for us this far up the Susquehanna and this we are asking a lot of our public employees when they are grafting things like this.

Mrs. Katz stated We have been trying to work on our pollution reduction for quite a while at this point. You know, especially when Adam was in charge of streets and parks. We have been getting credit for that or is that nothing that we are credited with up until this point, until the permit is put in place?

Ms. Walters answered You're correct, Bonnie. Some of the things that had been done are taken into account in the plan. So you kind of have taken them off of your initial loading. But yeah, some of the things done with developments are already accounted for and taken off your load in the beginning. So that's actually a good thing. Yeah. It is interesting to note that this isn't the first pollution reduction plan. There was one in the prior permit cycle but it didn't have any requirements for reduction of loading. This is the first one with measurable goals for me. I think the one you were talking about is from the last permit.

Mr. Allison thanked Mr. Miller and Ms. Walters for the presentation.

**Bill # 1761-20 Ordinance #6395**

**An Ordinance Amending Part 1 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Williamsport (final reading)**

The City Clerk read the ordinance.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to approve the ordinance in final reading.

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

Mr. Yoder stated. Thank you, President Allison. We discussed this three weeks ago. It passed in first reading 7-0. During our first reading, there was a number of items discussed as far as potential amendments, changes, what have you. And I have them noted here from our last discussion. One was moving zoning from over to public safety and the bureau of codes, just as it is. One was discussion about recreation. Do we want to break it out and highlight it within the public works department? One was emergency management. I know that that's currently under the Fire Department and it's broken out as its own function within there. A couple of other things and kind of going back over this, over the past few weeks that I at least had noticed that I would bring to the table, as well . The Redevelopment authority is listed in here, but it was removed a few years ago from community economic development. And I think we should do that. And I started this back in January, I hadn't had yet the updated Code of ordinances so that's how that kind of got creeped in there. And the other thing that I, at least, had noticed and thought about was at least in Sections 135, 141 and 142, I throw it out there that, you know, maybe we remove the word "bureau" from the individual functions so that it aligns with our current code and gives the administration more flexibility to manage every individual department as it sees fit, just to make sure that the functions are captured. Aside from that, I'll take any questions, comments, thoughts from the administration other members of council before offering any amendments or what have you.

Mr. Banks asked Mr. Yoder is there anything sent out in regards to what the changes might be?

Mr. Yoder answered no.

Mr. Banks said I'd be interested to hear mostly from the administration just to see who this will affect the most. We got some input from Chief Hagen two weeks ago, I think that was really positive, but I'll wait to hear from the administration.

Mr. Allison asked anyone else from council before we move to the administration? Anyone from the administration tonight care to – address or comment on the changes that Mr. Yoder has talked about? He asked the question about H.R. being under Finance and he understands the intersections that are there. But I wonder if, I mean traditionally, HR reported to the mayor and in a lot of corporate settings, HR interacts with the CEO more than anything because, although I did see in the ordinance that the department, the director of finance in administration oversees the policies and standards, as well, with the employees, it's the HR person who actually oversees across the board all these different departments and subsections, be it transportation, RVT, everything, all things related to hiring, firing, employment, salary, benefits, in a direct way. So I wonder if it makes sense to put that as a separate item under the mayor.

Mr. Yoder answered sure. A couple of things of note. If you look at the current formal organization in the code, Human Resources included, in addition to information technology and a lot of those administrative functions, technically reports to the director of administration. That position has not been filled for a number of years, which creates this, you know, direct relationship which probably existed when there was a director of administration, which is very typical of, you know, other organizations, as well. So and doing that, it aligns with how the formal law, so to speak, is written. It didn't really change anything from that perspective. And a lot of the organizations that I have been a part of and have studied in

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my career, a lot of them usually actually go up through the finance arm, as well. A lot of them will report up through the CFO especially in the larger corporations. It's falling a lot more as a – the finance world in a lot of businesses is really turning into an administrative function as much as a finance function as the markets change and as business adapts. It's not atypical of that either but, you know – so – that's really a question for the administration as far as how they view and what have you. Like I said, in updating it, I simply left the structure as it was and tried to update it a little bit for what it seems like we have been operating under informally for a number of years.

Mr. Allison stated so Perhaps, is there any comments from the administration, is there – a viewpoint that's been developed on that? Or – I know things are generally in flux, because we are still, different parts are still finding their landing places. But, at this point, is there any – Mrs. Katz?

Mrs. Katz stated yes, I think Adam is right when you stop and think about we always say we want to run the city as a business. And that's the way that I think it should go. I think HR should go under the director of finance at this point. You know. When you talk to other business people, other businesses, that's the way it's run. And if we want to bring city council, city hall, the city government, up to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we should start following the way big businesses are run. So, I agree with where Adam has placed this at this point.

Mr. Allison said Ok. I just wondered, well – you know, my former employer was not that way so, you know, I was more familiar with that arrangement. I haven't researched it, so I don't know. If we don't – I mean if the administration does not desire to have a Department of finance and administration, maybe just a finance director, you know that would materially affect I think how that's going to go. So I guess that's what I'm looking at. Is there thoughts toward the future about how that part is going to be organized? I know we have – there's been an advertisement out for someone in that position. But – would you care to address that, Mayor?

Mayor Slaughter answered as I'm sitting here thinking about it, currently the way we have advertised it, that they would be dealing with finance and not overseeing the Human Resource, another question would be if, you know, if Human Resources needs to get rid of that person or have a conversation or some type of discipline, how would that be handled? Of course everything would report to the mayor, obviously, and I could address it clearly. The other piece is, if the person is not qualified to also be director of administration, AKA, Chief of Staff, or not interested, so that's another thought that I was thinking about. They could be very, very good at the finance side of things but in the want to oversee the entire day-to-day operations of the city government. On the administrative side. Which is another thought I was having as I sit here and, over the last few weeks thinking about this. And tonight as well. So that's just some thoughts I was having. Not saying that that person wouldn't be competent. To do that. But could be, would they be interested or do they just want to do finance side of things. And then if they are overseeing currently it would be obviously – Joellen and they aren't equal so to speak, and that person has a – has to handle maybe some type of disciplinary measure or something with Joellen and she has to handle it with them, that's just how, you know, if it's even so to speak, then that would come, you know, could I come – and it still would come to the mayor. But just another thing to think about, that I've been thinking about.

Mr. Banks stated he thought Mr. Allison brought up a good point in terms of independence of HR. They shouldn't have to answer to somebody that they may have to discipline at some point. In terms of of the City being run like a business, we don't run a profit based model so I don't know that, that really stands. We bring revenue in and we spend it, but HR should be independent of Finance.

Ms. Miele stated she would agree so it seems like in addition to the additional amendments that we had discussed three weeks ago, we want to look at creating a Department of Human Resources. So do we need to create that as a Department?

Mr. Yoder answered yes, to keep it in line with an updated ordinance, we would create a Department of Human Resources just like we are doing with Public Works and River Valley Transit. Realistically, there's a real cost impact, frankly to the City, just like with Public Works, all we would be doing is taking it from one department and breaking it out and bringing it right to the Mayor. So it would be a Department of one person.

Ms. Miele stated that she is fine with it one way or another. I just wondered if it was important to make it clear that it is and should remain a completely stand-alone operation. That is to say that a future council, future administration doesn't then try to put other stuff under Human Resources somehow or another. If the desire is to have it continue to be a stand-alone department, do we call it something other than a department? Do we call it an office? Anyway, it's a minor point. That's verbiage and nothing else.

Mr. Yoder stated he understands and that is the benefit of hitting this every year, to make sure that it collaboratively and organically evolves so that it's truly in line with the needs of the administration and the City.

There was some more discussion and Mr. Austin White asked Mr. Yoder to read it into the record for the amendment. After more discussion with the solicitor, Mr. Yoder made an amendment.

**Mr. Yoder made a motion to amend the ordinance as follows....to create Section 143, Article 143 Department , Department of Human Resources with Section 143.01 duties and responsibilities reading as following Section A It is here by established a Human Resources department which shall be responsible for the administration of the city's Human Resources services, not specifically delegated to the jurisdiction of another department. Section B, the Department of Human Resources shall be headed by a director appointed by the mayor and approved by the majority of all members of council solely on the basis of executive administrative qualifications appropriate to the duties of each department.**

**Mr. Allison seconded it.**

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Mr. White also added, just to be clear as part of that motion to amend, Section 135.01 where the bureau of Human Resources is listed, will be stricken from that section.

Mr. Allison asked for the vote on that amendment.

**The amendment to 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.**

Mr. Yoder asked for clarification on Recreation and Emergency Management.

Chief Killian stated I can speak on the emergency management standpoint. The emergency management function typically across other third -class cities of our size is housed pretty much across the board within the Fire Department. We have had emergency management since 2008 and it's a function that realistically goes hand in hand with the functions of fire due to the training processes that our personnel take. As Councilman Yoder said realistically the way it reads doesn't necessarily matter where it's housed but from a perspective standpoint, it's a very common thing for emergency management in a city and Department of our size to be for the fire chief to be both the fire chief and the emergency management coordinator.

Mr. Cooley stated to Mr. Allison that parks department and recreation definitely work hand in hand so, under the current situation with recreation being under streets and parks, it's definitely handy because it allows the recreation director to have more accessibility to the parks department for help. But if I can just touch base on one other thing under public works, I just have a question on that.

Mr. Allison answered Yes. Before we leave that, though, who does, then, the recreation, the head of the recreation? What does that person report to?

Mr. Cooley answered currently to the General Manager of Public Works.

Mr. Allison wanted to be clear on that linkage of responsibility. .

Mr. Cooley asked, my question with the public works side of things is currently the structure is under the union contract we have working foremens. So you have a foreman over each department and an administrative foreman. Being that we are under contract for that for the next two years, how does the new structure affect that? Are we going to eliminate that in the future? I mean basically we would be doubling up on the supervision at that point. The highlight of having it in the union is the working foreman falls in as manpower to successfully accomplish the job.

Mr. Yoder answered so I would simply say I don't know that we are really changing the structure of public works at all. All we are simply doing is just updating it and formally creating a department. One of the amendments I'm going to make is to eliminate the word "bureau" so it functions. So in my mind nothing changes. All we are doing is just administratively updating this. I don't think the organization changes at all aside from

Mr. Cooley asked Another question does that become a management role or does it stay within the union, would be the biggest question.

Mr. Yoder answered I don't think that changes.

Mr. Cooley stated he agrees just wanted clarification.

Mayor Slaughter stated The only other piece I was thinking about is information technology. Kind of similar to what we said about HR. The finance person may or may not have a knowledge of I.T. and may or may not be able to direct that. So that's just another, as I was looking at the organizational chart, thought I was having. You know . With the information technology. Various places have a Department of I.T. and the director – I mean again, it comes down as I'm thinking about it, finance person is really good at finances. I'm not saying they would or would not understand I.T. components within the city, but if there's a direct report from them, to them, from the I.T., and they can't answer, that was just the thought I was having. With I.T.

Mr. Yoder answered, I can only speak from my experience and in working with a lot of information technology departments in my career, bet you 90, 95% of the time, they are within the finance arm. Whether that's public or private. So from my experience, this is the former Department of administration housing the information technology department is very in line so, that's one of two-cents, though.

Ms. Miele stated I would concur with that. I think that to me is a more sensible approach. To have other departments report to the – to have other departments report to the director of administration and finance I think is probably wise. The HR stand alone made since to me from the perspective – made sense to me from the perspective of HR to not be influenced by anyone else in the administration, but I think generally speaking, it would be wise to have someone directing administration and finance by default. Who is overseeing both, you know, HR and or not HR, excuse me, I.T. and financial functions among other things. But I'll defer to other members of council, as well.

Mr. Pulizzi stated I agree with Councilwoman Miele and councilman Yoder. I think that's the right move.

Mr. Allison stated I think if we have that person who is going to be finance and administration in one, but if we have someone who is filling mostly the financial end and not the administrative end, then we lose that oversight in that respect so, I guess we will have to see how that evolves; Mayor.

Mayor Slaughter stated he agrees It was just a thought. Well it's a valid thought. It's going to depend on who's in that position, I suppose. We need to make plans and be flexible, I think.

Chief Hagan stated I still think that at least a couple, if not more of these positions, are going to be added positions to the budget. The department has to be able to take disciplinary action. I don't know that that can be done by a member of the union. If he's a department head answering directly to either a finance administrator or directly to the mayor, that there may be rules against that. I would defer to the solicitor on that issue. But, I also have another concern. Even if they are all able to fill from current employees, which I don't believe they will be and I believe this is going to create stress on the budget,

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also the residency requirement itself is going to be a huge hurdle for this. People who are qualified within these departments live outside the city are not going to be willing in many cases to no of in, which will then require hiring somebody outside. So these are, I mean I applaud the effort to restructure and to again like I said before, fix the – control and all those issues that make more sense. But it seems to me like this is going to cost a lot more and it's going to be a lot harder to find people to take the job with the residency requirement as it is. And I think in doing this, we just need to be realistic about the hurdles. That's all.

Mr. Yoder asked Mr. Winder if he could clarify something for me and somebody chime in, I shouldn't ask this or not. Were you a member of the union when you were managing streets and parks or public works Mr. Winder answered No. When I became assistant general manager, I stepped out of the union.

Mr. Yoder stated So, in my mind, that answers your first question, Chief Hagan, because this role of public works is really the role that Adam Winder was already performing under the Department of administration. A nonunion role managing union individuals.

Chief Hagan stated he understood that, that's why he brought it up, the guy who is running Streets and Parks under the supervision of Adam is in the union. I believe right now, the members of that union, if they step out of it, they can't go back into it and they certainly can't go back into it at the same level of seniority. And then many of the qualified people or at least a few of them, may in the be willing to move into the city. So, I mean – again, some of these changes may require – I don't think it's an automatic promotion. The person, the head person in streets and parks right now is a union member. It's not A Adam, anymore, because he's running River Valley Transit.

Mr. Banks wanted to ask the solicitor if we can't get clarification, should we think of tabling this if this is going to cost us money in hiring people just to fill the positions in an administrative code that we changed. Mr. White answered for legal advice on this one, I would highly suggest that we table it and we look at it. Because there's a lot of moving parts.

**Mr. Banks made a motion to table this ordinance.**

Mr. Yoder stated yeah. If somebody wants to motion it and second it, that's their prerogative. I feel very confident in in saying that I don't see us increasing costs or we aren't even creating new positions. All we are doing is moving current informal departments and positions around so that they align with how we are currently operating.

Mr. Banks said right. I don't want to get into a legal situation where we do have to hire people based on the changes we made and then we cost ourselves an undue burden on our finances.

Mrs. Katz stated I don't think this is saying that we have it hire people. This is a guideline of where we want to go. Adam Winder, when I look back, who was the head of streets and parks before you? Tom Cillo went back into the union, didn't he?

Mr. Winder replied That was a one-time deal. He had to sign an agreement with the union as well as the previous mayor, agreeing that there was one time, because there was an opening at that time that allowed Tom to go back in. He went back in with no seniority and lost everything. He had to start at the bottom and work his way back up. It Scares unionized employees from stepping out because there's no guarantee you can get back in. The union won't just allow you back in unless there's a position open because they do not want you bumping the lowest guy out because our budget only allows for 25 employees and you make that choice to go into management and leave what they consider their bargaining unit, so therefore, they don't hold a spot for you. It's just a game of chance.

Mrs. Katz stated well under the circumstances, think anybody that wants to get into management, you are taking a chance anyhow, if you want to get up on, climb the ladder, Adam, you are a perfect one to look at that. As far as the residency goes, yeah, we want to see who we can hire in the city. But it doesn't state there is a clause in it that states if we can't find anybody else, you know, apples to apples, of course we can go out of the city. As far as looking and trying to fill all these positions, I just don't see where we have to look at filling all those. We haven't filled these positions, some of these positions in several years. So it's – I don't see where that's going to be a detriment. It doesn't say Adam Yoder, does this definitely say we have to? This is a – if we vote on this this is where it has to go? When I read this, that didn't come – that wasn't what I read.

Mr. Yoder answered department heads, yes it does. It modifies the language to say that they shall be. It does. Yes. So ->> It says shall be. Shall be, yes. Meaning it's required. You got to fill those positions. Now I would remind everybody as I have reiterated a couple of times over the past three weeks and eight months, these are all positions that already exist in city government. Director of public works was Adam Winder's former job. That was budgeted that existed a nonunion member managing union employees. Union foremen. Director of RVT, director of transportation, was a position that already existed. Mr. Nichols under the previous administration had that role, as well. So – these are not new positions. They are already budgeted for. Frankly, I think, what's not budgeted for, Chief Hagan?

Director of public safety is a zero. The director of finance is a zero. Under the Director of public safety is you. We approved you and you aren't taking additional salary and thank you for that, by the way, Chief Hagan.

Chief Hagan answered All I meant by that, sir, was if you wanted like for instance your new draft here allows someone to be both, like I am, with the approval of council and the mayor. However, in the case of finance, I believe you had two finance positions listed below the director position so that, I believe, if it was funded, would be an additional funded position above what we had in last year's budget.

Mr. Yoder stated yes and what I am going to propose and plan to amend is eliminating bureaus so that they are functions so that gives that department to shift and manage accordingly. You know. Realistically, I feel very confident in thinking that if we have a director of finance, that person probably will be doing some of the functions of some of those positions and I'm assuming and thinking we will be able to do all of that at a minimal to no increase to the taxpayer.

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Chief Hagan stated I appreciate you explaining it, sir. I didn't mean anything by it. I just have a lot of experience working in the city and it's been a conversation among all of the department heads recently or the bureau heads. We have been talking about this quite a bit. And the concern was that there might – I didn't know – we didn't know if you were aware of some of the limitations. For instance, we can't force somebody in streets and parks to take the director role so if none of them were willing to do it, then you would have to hire from outside. The same thing with finance. If we had an additional position. Those are just things we were talking about. So I thought I would bring 'em up.

Mr. Yoder answered yes. And I appreciate that. Don't let my passion sway you. In the future. So – it's easy to get passionate with this stuff.

Chief Hagan stated just trying to help, sir. Just trying to help.

Mr. Yoder answered Vice versa and I appreciate that.

Mrs. Katz asked did we not just post for director of streets and parks, Mayor?

Mayor Slaughter answered yes, General manager of streets and parks, right.

Mrs. Katz stated So that's posted. So therefore, you are going out, out of the city to go look for somebody to apply for that job.

Mayor Slaughter answered people can apply, People can apply from within streets and parks for that matter. Yeah.

Mrs. Katz stated So that's a position that hasn't been filled because Adam Winder went over to RVT which is no problem there. Director of finance, yes, -- that hasn't been filled. And we are looking into that. I don't see where the extra expenses would be. I really don't.

Chief Hagan stated Not to belabor it, ma'am, but if the position is not funded now, then it would be extra money. It would be an additional position. RVT, the general manager becomes the director, as Mr. Yoder said. That's a simple change. If you promote somebody from streets and parks to the director, you have to backfill the position they left but if nobody will take it because of the limitations on if they get removed they can't go back, if that happens, then have you to hire from outside and I believe based on the number of positions in finance under the director of finance administration, if you were to fill all of them, the actual director of finance administration would be an added position from what was budgeted last year. So, at least in finance and streets and parks, you would be looking at additional people.

Ms. Miele stated I haven't asked permission previously but – I know that at least when council initially had proposed trying to amend the codified ordinances to change the structure, part of what we were looking at was what we saw as a bit of a leadership vacuum and perhaps this pertained a little bit more to the previous administration than the current one. But the idea was that we didn't have a director of administration for six or seven years under – Campana and it was a serious lack to the city. That is a position that performs a lot of basic day-to-day functions and oversees a lot of decision making in the city. The decision making that shouldn't need to rise to the level of the mayor's attention. When we began discussing this, what I was thinking particularly and I believe that I speak for other members of council at the time, was that we really did need that position to be filled. Yes, it was not a budgeted position. And maybe there is a workaround that we can figure out. At least moving, you know, into next year. But you know the idea was that we can't, as Adam's little mock-up of the way the city is currently operating illustrates, we can't really rely on the mayor to run day -to-day functions of, you know, an entire arm of city government, which is what happens when we don't have a director of administration. So it was an added position and I believe that I always sort of understood that, because I think that that responsibility needs to be taken on by someone. You know. With same with the director of streets and parks, we have always had someone who headed streets and parks. And we are advertising for that position right now. And that person would not, to my understanding, be a member of the union. I think that that – whether or not it's difficult for us to find someone within the union who is willing to serve in that capacity, isn't questioned. But I don't think that means that we don't want a director for that huge arm of city government. I think that precisely we do need someone who is overseeing that large element of the city's day-to-day functions. So for my two cents, I believe those are both needs that we saw when we initiated this amendment and we wanted to make certain that those positions were staffed, that those positions couldn't be, say, taken over by the mayor. You know, who then would take on, and Derek, this is not aimed at you, but couldn't be taken over by any particular pair of the city and leave us a little shorthanded. None of this as I said is about current functioning of city government, but there was a bit of a leadership vacuum in the past and I think part of the idea of this ordinance is to try to make certain that wasn't a possibility in the future.

Mayor Slaughter stated and to be clear, have I no plans to take over any of these positions.

Mr. Yoder stated and To bring this back to full circle when I introduced this three weeks ago, the whole reason for looking at this, it's not really about all of us here. It's about when we aren't here anymore that we don't see the sins of the past come back and repeat themselves. So, it's about starting that process to make sure that that doesn't happen again so that's really at the core. I love the debate, appreciate the collaboration here. I think it's all really good debate but at the core, that's what this is really about here.

Mr. Banks stated he agrees and is not trying to gum up the works for Mr. Yoder.

Mr. Yoder stated he knows that, but We talk a lot about our responsibility to the taxpayer. I want to make sure that we had our eyes wide open when we are talking about what this might do to our budget if we are forced to hire for positions that we need. It's a part of the conversation.

Mr. Allison stated that Mr. Pawlak has a concern,

Mr. Pawlak had a concern on the numbering issues....some things got shifted around

Mr. White stated at the end of the year when we codify all of the ordinances, we will take their of any numbering issues.

Mr. Allison stated I think all of us are in favor of that, as well as being organized efficiently and accurately as we can be. So there's always a balance there. But obviously none of us wants to break the bank or add

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burden that we already have. So if we have missed something and it comes up, we can always address that.

**Mr. Yoder stated. I make a motion to amend the ordinance moving zoning from community economic development section 140.01B1B to public safety section 139.01A3 bureau of codes and zoning.**

**Mr. Pulizzi seconded it..**

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the amendment.

**The amendment to the ordinance was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The voter 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. Yoder stated I'll make a motion for, to amend section 141.01A to add the function of recreation to the public works department.**

**Mrs. Katz seconded it.**

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the amendment.

**The amendment to the ordinance was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The voter 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. Yoder stated I will make a motion to amend the ordinance sections 135.01B, 1 through 4, 141.01A, 1 through 4. 142.01A1 through 4, remove bureau from each.**

**Mr. Pulizzi seconded it..**

Mr. Allison asked for the vote.

**The amendment to the ordinance was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The voter 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. Yoder stated I made A motion to amend the ordinance eliminating the redevelopment authority from community economic development section 140.01B1D.**

**Mrs. Katz seconded it.**

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the ordinance

**The amendment to the ordinance was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The voter 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 stated what is left is the ordinance itself in final reading, he asked for a motion and a second.

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

**The ordinance was carried in final reading with seven yes roll call votes. The voter 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 thanked Mr. Yoder for his work on the ordinance and thanked everyone else for the discussion.

Bill# 1762-20

**An Ordinance Creating an Accessibility Advisory Commission of the City of Williamsport and Authorizing Said Accessibility Advisory Commission to Develop a Recommended Plan for the City of Williamsport's Accessibility Compliance, Efforts and Outreach (first reading) ~~remove from table~~**

The City Clerk read the ordinance.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and second to remove this from the table.

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

Mr. Mackey thanked Mr. Allison and stated he invited Koert Wehberg He is from the people with disabilities from the city of Philadelphia. We've been corresponding through e-mail and phone. He is kind enough to share Philadelphia's ordinance with me, which is very insightful, especially as I was trying to form our own commission. Which actually led to several of the amendments off the post tonight. I thought it would be helpful for him to speak a little bit about his commission he is here it answer any questions. With that, I will turn it over to you and thank you again for being here.

Mr. Wehberg stated . Thanks for having me, everyone. Good evening. My name is Koert Wehberg. I'm from the people with disabilities of Philadelphia. I'm an attorney by trade. I've done over a decade of disability rights, litigation, advocacy before I took this job. So I decided that I would try to change things from within. In government. So I will talk a little bit about Philadelphia and how we, you know, are commissioned. I know Williamsport is a lot different. I don't want this to come off like I'm telling y'all what to do. I'm just telling you how we have it structured in Philadelphia, then I'm happy to answer any questions that you might have. So the mayor's commission on people with disabilities, it is from the office of inclusion that change was made a few years ago by our current mayor, mayor Kenny. There are a few ports to this office. So we have, I supervise a few things, our constituent servicees. So we have constituents with disabilities that call looking for resources, whether it's housing or education or transportation, we send them to either the right city department or city councilmember or just outside organizations. We also have an office of ADA compliance. We have a director of ADA compliance who supervises our accessibility requirements under title 2 of the ADA. We are actually in the end of our self evaluation and transition of land which is several decades behind schedule but no other administration decided to work on it so we are better late than never there. We do have 537 facilities. So it is quite a project. And we hired a consultant to work on that. So that is the office. As far as our commission goes, we have 11 commissioners. They serve voluntarily and they are cross sectional disability community, the majority of them are people with disabilities but we do have, you know, we have family members of people with disabilities. We have folks who work for disability organizations within the city. And we

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have several, you know, mandated committees. Right now big ones are education, employment, housing. And those are constantly in focus in Philadelphia where funding is always tight for these things. So one thing that we do, which helps leverage our numbers, is that these committees can have any member from the public, who is vetted, as long as the chair of the committee is on the commission. So if we want to seek outside experts or if people want to help out, that's fine as long as I know who they are and the committee is chaired by somebody on our commission. So that helps us leverage the 11 people that we have. Some of the activities that we worked on and obviously COVID is hot right now, but so our education committee has been working on ensuring that the school district of Philadelphia provides required special Ed virtually and we have actually had, we have a townhall meeting, public meeting that happened virtually, and we have over 110 meetings for that which is actually a big number in our government here in Philly. Usually you get about 40 if you're lucky. And let's see. An employment, we have been working on trying to increase the number of employees with disabilities and city of Philadelphia. Since most of our employment is based on civil service, there are very strict regulations that were from many, many, many years ago that are barriers for people with disabilities. For example, certain testing requirements. As far as having to be on piece else of paper instead of p allowing for work tryouts for example. If someone has an intellectual disability, it is a lot easier sometimes to show people what they can do on the job instead of doing a written exam. So they are working with our civil service and HR people to amend those regulations and hopefully get that done over the next year. Obviously hiring -- well, stopped, frozen, because of the pandemic. But it is a good time to draft the regulations and get stuff done and hopefully by next year we can start hiring within the civil service pool again. So and again, we have housing and transportation, housing focuses on increasing the number of affordable accessible housing units, and which is always a challenge. And we work a lot with our housing in community development office. They actually have a program that is called the adapted modifications program which actually goes to people's homes and makes them accessible. They use grants to hire contractors to make homes accessible. A great program because it is for homeowners as well as tenants. So what we are always trying to increase that because with funding cuts, I think we are only able to help 100 to 200 folks this fiscal year and there is a six-month to one-year waiting list to get on. The other list to get projects done. There are always physical challenges. With transportation we focus on ensuring that we -- we focus on paratransit. Residents are always complaining about paratransit is not reliable. That is certainly true. We are trying to increase reliability and, you know, efficiency so that we can help, for example, a lot of residents don't get to their jobs on time. And it is hard enough for people can disabilities to get there so it is ironic of losing them because they can't get there. DA getting everybody on the same page is difficult, but what I try to do is I advocate within government, you know, sell zealously, but my job is to tell people what it feasible and legal. You know So just try to keep people focused on what we can do. Sometimes there's short-term stuff like doing a Town Hall or, you know, speaking at, you know for example I gave testimony for COVID and things we've done f for our city council. I should mention one more short-term project. We worked with several nonprofits to put together a food delivery program within the city for people with disabilities because of COVID, a lot of them are afraid to go to food distribution centers and a lot of them chronic health conditions. It's not safe for them so we were able to leverage the nonprofit, you know, some nonprofits, our center for independent living and our office for children and families within the city to put that together. I'll stop talking and am happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote to remove this from the table.

**The ordinance was removed from the table 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. Banks thanked him for being here tonight and stated our commission will be coming out of the gate and will be ADA compliance. He feels that will take a couple of months and asked our guest what item takes the most time, Housing?

Mr. Wehberg answered The post COVID answer is education just because the school district not being, you know, frankly good at providing special education. I think that's taken up a lot of the post COVID time. Houseing, as well. Housing is always, I think, a top issue. There's just not enough afford able accessible housing. And then it's also complex because there are people with disabilities. All they need is for it to be affordable. For example, if somebody has autism or intellectual disability or mental health, there's that. But then there's, you know, if you use a wheelchair or have another mobility issue, then it needs to be accessible. And Philadelphia is a very old city. So, there's very few units to go around. So there's always, you know, always trying to get city council to increase funding for it to get, you know, federal funds, you know, through HUD for different types of housing. So I would say that, you know, those are the, you know, some of the top issues.

Mr. Allison asked is there much out there in the way of State & Federal funding that is available to assist in some of the initiatives?

Mr. Wehberg answered Unfortunately in the current landscape, there hasn't been much. In the be right funding, there was some distributed through HUD to local housing authorities to help, you know, there was some designated for people with disabilities. There are obviously programs that the state has tried to put together with that rental assistance program, some programs that have a disproportionate impact on people with disabilities. It's a hard landscape. A lot of it comes down to unfortunately our local spending, you know, and, we do a lot of, we do speak with, you legislators and city council members. City council members in Philadelphia have some discretionary funds to spend but really it is tight, the funding, which is why we work with the city agency or nonprofit partners to, you know and federal and state agencies as best we can. I know that A.D. A. compliance is a big issue for you all so I think it will be important to, certainly will be one of the first things that are tackled. I find that it would be good, think it

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would be good to have somebody from -- people from the administration and, you know, members of the commission in one room together because I think there's a lot of, you know, people hear something in the news or they hear rumors about things that may or may not be true. So I think it's always good to start with everyone on the same page and have transparency as far as, you know, what facilities are, you know, what are the real barriers to accessibility and are they architecturally feasible? For example, our director of compliance is an architect with a master's in city planning. So, you know, she's trustworthy, I think. I'm not an architect. I'm a lawyer. So I want to know, you know, one of the issues is always -- what can we really, physically do? You know. Can we move that ramp over here? Can we, you know, make other adaptations? So I think with compliance, it's good to do, I think it would be good to do a sort of a review of existing facilities. I know that there was a 504 transition plan done a while ago. Pre-ADA. So my knowledge. So, I think it's good to, you know, see what, you know, if anything has changed. And also, you know, there are some solutions that are not very expensive. And there's also program access, and I know that you've done some of that already as far as moving things around to different places. You know, there are, you know, existing, if there are newer facilities that things can be moved to or moving offices to the first floor or different places, there are usually workarounds so that, you know, so that you can wait a few fiscal years to sort of phase in something that might be more costly. So I do think that there's room, you know, when you all get this going, to start from scratch and, you know, do a review and say ok, you know, here's what is out there. We are being transparent, and, as I said, running a commission is messy. I am sure there will be people who disagree and have -- there might be a lack of trust initially, but, I think that, you know, I think once people see that, you know, you are taking this seriously, that, you know, my -- what I always do is I give it to people straight and if you don't like what I have to say, you know, you have the right to disagree with me. But I think being transparent about everything is key.

Mr. Allison asked for any other comments

Mrs. Katz stated Yes. Coming from Philadelphia, Mr. Wehberg, you probably had to deal with a lot of buildings that are as old as some of our buildings here. How are you able to transform them to be ADA compatible? Was there a long process? How did you start? Where did you go?

Mr. Wehberg answered So it is currently a long process. We are at the end of putting this man together and the plan is going to be over the next, well, fiscal years 22 to 25 and Frankly probably longer than that, because our budget took a \$749 million hit and is probably going to increase unless there's additional funding, you know, coming from Congress which frankly who knows. But we have, you know, we've dimension some, as I said, program access. We have tried to move programs from other facilities. Sometimes, obviously we would want to have ramps or -- at every single entrance, but, you know, we maybe right now we have one ramp at one particular entrance and then the next fiscal year we add another. Our largest issues are parks and libraries. They have been underfunded for a long time. So we have tried to, you know, I guess one funding source which has, you know, been controversial, but the beverage tax in Philadelphia, some of that was earmarked for renovating rec centers, libraries, playgrounds. And that certainly whatever you think of the funding source, is a good start. Because most, you know, a lot of residents come into contact with, you know, they go to playgrounds, they go to the library, those are places that can offer solutions to multiple issues for people. So we have taken some of that money and put it there and then over the next several fiscal years, it's going to be using our capital funding. There are projects that were perhaps already in the works or on the drawing board in departments that we can add in ADA changes, it saves money on the project. We have a Department of Public property which is basically our maintenance department. So some of the work can be done in house and sometimes it is as simple as adding the right doorknob. The things we don't have to hire for, we can use our own staff. But depending on the building, it could take a long time.

Depending on the building, it could take a long time.

Mrs. Katz thanked him and Mr. Allison moved on to the ordinance.

Mr. Mackey thanked our guest and stated how much he appreciated all the help that has been given to him.

There was a discussion with the solicitor as to how to make the changes and they will vote on them all.

Mr. Mackey said the first is section 2, letter D, after projects and services citywide, we also added and aid in the development of programs for services to people with disabilities in cooperation with the public and private sectors. We added a Section 3 which is the definition of the disability. Ok. So, Section 3 definition of disability, a person has a disability within the meaning of these rules if that person has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more activities included but not limited to functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working, has a record of such impairment or is regarded as having such an impairment. Section 4 now states a written or electronic notice, tentative agenda, and minutes of the previous meetings shall be prepared and distributed to each member and the city clerk for publication at least three days prior to the meeting for which notice is given. And then Section 6, this is actually the make-up of the commission and again I think this is where we can maybe have a little bit of a discussion as it stands right now, the accessibility commission shall be comprised of nine members. Four non-voting members which would be one city council, one representative of codes, one person with knowledge of ADA law, and compliance, and the city engineer, and then five voting members, which can and should include persons with disabilities, a parent or family member of a child or children family member with a disability or individuals who work for an organization that serve people with disabilities. That last part there, you know, could maybe be folded into the person with knowledge of ADA law and compliance taking the commission back down to 8 people. So I'm obviously up for discussion on that. And then the last one, Section 7, this was to councilwoman Miele's question two weeks ago and we simplified the removal of any -- of the commission member. So any member of the accessibility commission may be removed, a member may be removed at the will of the mayor with the approval of council.

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Mr. Allison stated this was reviewed in Public Works.

Mrs. Katz stated yes it was reviewed in Public Works and we sent it to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. It was a discussion we had. All of us did not have the updates at the time. Of what some of the changes -- and going through what Jon e-mailed us, we all have it at this point. And I think most of us really didn't really have that many questions at that point.

Mr. Yoder commented about maybe amending item number 6 between 8 or 9 members. Would it be redundant to have a City Council person be a nonvoting member when City Council approves this?

Mr. Banks stated I think it's beneficial to have a ninth member as a member of council just to have one of us in the room engaged with the process. You know. So the members of the public are aware that we are engaged, you know. That we are tactily involved with this.

Ms. Miele stated like it or not, most members serve as sort of guides to the political process elements of any changes, any items that might appear before the commission. So it might be helpful to have a member of city council to explain how the process works in a way that I don't think the administration would necessarily have a view to .

Mr. Yoder stated that is a good observation and he will be in favor of a ninth member

Mr. Mackey asked the solicitor if we would have to schedule their meeting, meaning time and place.

Mr. White stated there's no requirement that the meeting schedule be placed in the ordinance itself. If it isn't, it would be up to the commission once it begins to adopt the type of meeting schedule that worked for those commission members.

Ms. Miele commented that this is a substantially better draft. I think this will make a big difference. I suspect we may still have to revisit the ordinance at some point in the next little bit just to fine tune some stuff, but I think this is certainly, gives us a good place to start with the creation of the commission and gives the commission itself a good set of goals where to begin. So I applaud Mr. Mackey's work and I look forward to moving forward with this within the next 60 days here, huh, or I guess the next 90 or so.

Mr. Allison thanked Mr. Mackey for his time and Mr. Wehberg for sharing his time and knowledge.

Mr. Wehberg stated. I think the commission can put together some by-laws that once they are formed, the commission is going to push out meeting times, committees, you know, any an ancillary tales could be in by-laws.

There was additional discussion about putting this in the ordinance but Mr. Yoder noted that it does state that the commission will follow Robert's Rules of Order, that is stated in the ordinance.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and second to amend this ordinance.

**Mrs. Katz made the motion to make the amendments that were brought forward tonight.**

**Mr. Banks seconded it..**

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the amendments.

**The amendment to 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.**

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

**The ordinance was carried in first reading 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 #9062**

**Resolution MOU between the County of Lycoming & City of Williamsport – Edward Byrne Memorial Grant**

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to approve the resolution.

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

Mr. Pawlak stated . The resolution before you is to approve a memorandum of understanding between the county and the city regarding grant funds awarded under the Edward Byrne Memorial justice assistant grant program. The county and the city are at disperate jurisdiction and are entitled to divide awarded sums between them as they may see fit. With the funds available, currently, of \$11,483, the county's proposing to use it for training rechargeable flashlights, camcorders and stop the bleed kits for county law enforcement departments. We have done this grant in the past and it varies from year to year as to how the funds are allocated. At this point with the timing to expend the funds, we feel that the county's equipped to do that and provide the necessary requirements that the grant may require. So with that, we are asking for approval of this memorandum and it was reviewed by finance on Tuesday.

Ms. Miele stated this item was reviewed in finance and forwarded with positive recommendation. It was pretty cut and dry. Pretty clearly with \$11,000 in play it seems wisest for one entity to use it on something of need many so, finance forwarded this to the full body of council with positive recommendation.

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 to Approve & Renew the Partnership with City & STEP AmeriCorps for full time AmeriCorps Member in the Recreation Dept.**

The City Clerk read the resolution.

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Mr. Allison asked for a motion to approve the resolution.

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

Mr. Allison stated this was reviewed in Finance.

Ms. Miele stated We had a robust discussion about this item in finance. It centered really around, you know, this, the city as made a bunch of sort of -- it has made and will be making a bunch of difficult personnel decisions over the next couple of months. As we look at the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and I think a good chunk of the discussion sort of related to the necessity of adding this position to the recreation department now. The fiscal year of staff is August to August. However, this particular individual wouldn't really have any functions to perform within the recreation department, which has been mostly shuttered this year due to the pandemic. Wouldn't really have a lot of functionality in the department until January. So the finance department had a bit of discussion, or the finance committee had a bit of discussion surrounding that and we forwarded it to the full body of council with a number of stipulations and questions of the administration with the positive recommendation. The vote was 2-1. I was the nay vote. And I think that our request from the administration, which would perhaps bear reiteration, I don't know that they are questions that the administration will be able to answer tonight. Related to how we plan to pursue recreation in a post-pandemic world, how we are planning for recreation for 2021 period, how we are budgeting recreation full expenses. I'll refer to Mr. Yoder who was writing those points down. I don't have those notes that I took here with me today. But we had a number of items that we wanted to see clarified a little further and I believe that the administration indicated its willingness to defer this item until January. And I think that it was in part because that was in part because the administration understood that those were things that we should address collectively as a council and administration together before we move forward with the hire in the department. But I will

Mr. Allison stated to your point about the administration, I did have -- I did receive a call from the mayor on Wednesday offering to pull this from the agenda. I did leave it on. Because of the lateness and we don't want to be in the habit of once the agenda's published unless there's a compelling reason to pull it. Although we would be totally in our right to pull it from the agenda. I left it on because I think as you have referenced, Ms Miele, I think there's questions that there has to be some research to get some answers on. So yes, comments from council tonight?

Mr. Yoder stated I actually left that piece of paper at the office. So -- Liz hit a lot of the points and I would just say, if the administration has had a -- as reflected and had a change of direction, I would just say, you know, thanks for the collaboration to finance and thanks for listening. It's not a bad thing for the administration to change direction and change their mind, I mean that's what the committee processes and procedures are for. This is just how it works. So I would just say thank you for listening and, you know, we will act accordingly, I suspect.

Mrs. Katz stated Ok. When we discussed this at finance, I think we were all -- our statement has been we don't know what to expect next year with the budget. Number one. Number two, we have always found this a difficult contract since it always starts in August and you have four to five months of somebody really literally doing nothing. And I find, you know, and I think we have always found that a challenge. I know that, you know, they have tried to find work for the person that they have hired, but for me, it's -- their contract just does not suit what our needs are for the city. Even though it's, you know, not that expensive, it's still -- we are still paying somebody for something that I don't think we are getting the use out of. Maybe that sounds very hard but we have to be careful where we go financially even though it isn't a lot of money. Second of all, I think we don't know what's going to happen next year as far as how far COVID is going to go. Hopefully by the end of the year, normalcy might come back into play. But we don't know. I'm sure the mayor is sitting there, his thoughts have to be all over the place also as far as where do we go? We don't know exactly. So I -- you know I have to agree that I think to pull this and revisit it next year is something that I think all of us would like to see. I think the thing that I don't remember, and Liz, we have been doing this for several years. I don't remember whether the August contract is their way of running their business or can we state how we want this done? I don't know how that is.

Mayor Slaughter stated that he spoke with Step Americorp about it. They are August to August which is why we had to bring it this week as was discussed earlier and they needed to know this week because this particular individual, there's only one other placement site open right now. One other position. And so if we were not able to do it here, that individual needed to start there on Monday. So, as to not lose that spot. And so, it is a catch-22 because since they are August to August, and I am in complete agreement that obviously we do not know, which is why after, you know, we brought it to the committee and had that discussion, and, you know, we won't know what January holds. And so, that's why I was speaking with council President Allison. Obviously we are in agreement to revisit it in January. However, you know, if we were to, you know, -- if all events are on, we may or may not get Americore, but since they aren't able to adjust their participants, their August to August, it would be, you know, nearly midway through their calendar year. So they may have a person they may not. It is a Catch-22 which is why we brought it forward. And I did speak with the coordinator about that.

Mrs. Katz stated it's a shame. It's a terrific organization and we do get good bang for the buck. We really do. It's just a shame they don't coincide with what our needs are. I mean we need somebody that starts in this February and March to go on for the season. And, you know, again, that's how many months of trying to find work for somebody that there is no work. So, you know -- I am, for me I'm just -- my suggestion is to just drop it until next year and address it then. You know, I will throw something else out, there. We can try and go for interns to help. I know Kayla is going to have her hands full if we do get back into running everything between the special events, the parks programs, the pool and everything else that goes on. She is going to need help. And, you know, and if things are, you know, go back to some sort of normalcy, maybe we can try and find some interns to help her. And go in that direction.

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Mayor Slaughter stated Yes, Councilwoman Katz, we had an intern in the mayor's office this year. Obviously we lost them, Julia. She was phenomenal. But absolutely that's an avenue we can explore. I was made aware over the summer that there are potentials to receive grant funding for paid internship possibilities. But yes, I have been in contact with the college program which is where we got her from for potential interns in the future.

**Mr. Banks made a motion to table this. Ms. Miele seconded it.**

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the motion to table this.

**The resolution was table with 6 yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 1.**

**Mr. Yoder voted no, 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 #9063**

**Resolution for Williamsport Bureau of Fire to Purchase 2021 Chevrolet Silverado**

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to approve the resolution.

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

Chief Killian stated The resolution before you is to authorize an agreement with Bob Fisher Chevroltet to purchase a 2021 Chevrolet silverado. This vehicle will be replacing a 2005 Ford -- that we receive second-hand from the police -- vehicle last approximately five or six years and is no longer in road -worthy condition. We had planned on replacing the vehicle this year and that, you know, we held off for a few months until inspection time but once the vehicle was inspected by streets and parks, it was deemed unroad-worthy. So as the memo that I provided to council outlines in discussion with the finance committee the other day, I should note that we actually did not budget the amount of \$55,000 this year to replace the vehicle. We had planned on making the purchase which would have cost about \$55 ,000 and requested financing for that amount. So, in the process, obviously of understanding the current financial situation, we were able it cut that figure down by approximately \$20,000. And through some creative work with in-housework and changing the type of vehicle, et cetera, and the next resolution that we bring up will be for the financing of this vehicle so, this was reviewed in the finance committee on Tuesday.

Ms. Miele stated This and the next item were both reviewed in finance and if it's ok, I think I'll discuss both simultaneously. The one item is the purchase of the vehicle. Other item is the lease agreement for the vehicle. Finance did forward both items to the full body of council with a positive recommendation. The need obviously in the Fire Department is real. We have a vehicle that will not pass inspection and we will be needing to replace it. That said, we have looked at a lot of lease agreements in my time on council and I -- I know that I personally generally regard them as unwise because with the \$20-some million budget, it would seem wisest whenever possible to purchase outright and save ourselves the cost of financing. In this case, the cost of financing \$26,000 is going to add about 10% to the overall cost of the item. And that's something to bear in mind. Now in this case, that's only \$2400 in total. But I think the discussion in the finance committee centered around the idea of getting a more comprehensive idea from the Fire Department of our equipment needs moving forward and trying to make certain that our budgeting lines up with our needs in such a way that we spend as little money on financing of items as possible. We all know of course that the fire trucks themselves are going to need to be financed and probably several other big -ticket items in the department. But moving forward, think it would be nice not to see our financing a vehicle, total purchase price for which is \$31,000. That's a bit of a situation to be in. That said, obviously we really appreciate the Fire Department's efforts to economize. The chief did manage to bring the total cost of the vehicle and outfitting the vehicle down by \$20,000. That's better than a third of the budgeted amount and, you know, he says and I don't think he's simply being nice about things, that it's possible that the vehicle that they selected now will actually suit the department better than the one they originally budgeted for. That, too, is exciting and hopefully we can find ways to economize elsewhere that actually suit us, as well, or better as the, you know, as the prior procedure we would have gone with. But -- finance forwarded both to the full body of council with a positive recommendation.

Mr. Allison asked for comments or 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.**

**Resolution for Williamsport Bureau of Fire to Approve a Lease Agreement with M&T Bank**

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to approve the resolution.

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

Chief Killian stated It was reviewed in finance also with a very good discussion with the finance committee. I'll echo that I am in complete agreeance with the finance committee in the sense that our utility vehicles per se are smaller vehicle expenditures which generally range in the \$30,000 to \$40,000 range. Absolutely should be budgeted and planned for ahead, not have to be financed. We are currently undergoing some strategic planning efforts and looking at our apparatus fleet, running some cost analysis and getting in a position where we can plan for those few years in advance. The unfortunate part is historically, those types of vehicles in our department have been hand me downs or used vehicles from other city departments. To try to save money and in the long run, we have ended up with vehicles that are just unroad worthy as this current situation. So our goal moving forward is to absolutely do a better job planning for these types of purchases. But on the lease specifically, I work with the finance department with Mr. Pawlak on his thoughts regarding the leasing. We did lease our previous command vehicle that was purchased last year through M and T bank but I also did reach out to a couple of other

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banks who did specific municipal leasing programs and M and T bank had the lowest interest rates of municipal leases and the ones that we had found. So -- you know, as outlined in your packets, the lease agreement includes a \$5,000 down payment from our supportive equipment and lease payment per year for the next three years of no more than \$9749. 41. And as you stated, this was reviewed in finance committee.

Ms. Miele stated this came to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation.

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.**

**Certificates of Appropriateness - HARB**

**All Listed Items recommended for approval**

item 2. Shelley Irrevocable Trust

C/O BCS Property Solutions

629 West Fourth Street

A. Repair damaged wood and trim in fascia, soffit, eaves and boxed gutters with exterior grade wood, to same as original appearance. Repair leaking boxed-in gutter troughs and install liner.

B. Replace existing damaged hung gutter with ½ round galvanized and round downspouts, as needed.

C. Repair any leaking or damaged flashing

D. Remove all remaining slate roofing. Install underlayment. Install weather guard and slate gray architectural shingles with dark drip edge. Reinstall roof finials

E. Remove failing asphalt shingles. Replace with above architectural shingles.

F. Remove failing flat roof coverings. Replace with black rubber roofing, mechanically fastened.

G. Repair damage to masonry on dormers and chimneys using a high lime mortar that is color matched to the old. Use properly sized diamond tip power or hand tools to clean joints so they will not be overcut or enlarged. Match existing joint profile. See NPS Preservation Brief # 2 for more information on pointing.

H. Prep wood surfaces. Repair or replace rotted wood with wood to same as original appearance. Wash building, if necessary, with low-pressure water/detergent. Do not power wash. Paint same as existing colors

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to approve the HARB Certificates.

Accept for Filing:

Veterans Memorial Park 07/06/20

Public Works 06/23/20

AD HOC Committee City Hall 06/09/20

HARB Minutes 08/18/20

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and second to accept these for filing.

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

**The minutes were accept 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, September 10, 2020 a 6:30 PM, **TBA**

**Upcoming Meetings:**

|                    |          |                      |
|--------------------|----------|----------------------|
| Friday, August 28  | 11:00 AM | ERC                  |
|                    | 12:00 PM | Housing Needs        |
| Tuesday, Sept. 8   | 11:30 AM | Public Safety        |
|                    | 1:00 PM  | Finance Meeting      |
|                    | 2:30 PM  | Public Works Meeting |
| Wednesday, Sept. 9 | 3:30 PM  | O&E Pension          |
| Thursday, Sept 10  | 6:30 PM  | City Council meeting |

**[Meetings Held in Trade & Transit, Unless Otherwise Noted – [scr] = William Sechler Community Room]**

Mr. Allison asked for questions or comments from members of Council.

Any comments tonight from council members?

Mr. Yoder stated Yes. I don't know if anybody else here saw, but there was a video floating around the other night of an incident over at Firetree Place. I would like to thank the mayor for his comments. Those actions are unacceptable. We have had a lot going on in the community that's very reflective of the nation and, you know, what's happened has been reflective of the community we have. We have had a lot of peaceful protests and a lot of people getting hurt and what have you. Everybody seems to have been respectful of one another. These actions don't reflect that. And I am hopeful that whoever did these are found and that the individual that was hurt was -- is ok and that everything is made right. So again, I agree with the mayor's comment today and thank you for making that comment.

Mrs. Katz stated On a positive note, it's great to see that the playground is going up in memorial park. Think we will all be anxious to see the finished product and this is going to be handicap accessible.

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So, I'm really excited about that. I wish we would have known about it before when it started because we have been waiting a long time for this.

Mr. Allison stated Yes. It has been a long, a long journey. Painful at times.

Mr. Mackey stated Just a friendly reminder to my fellow council members of our transit training tomorrow. The time is 1:00 PM

Mr. Allison thanked him for the reminder.

Mr. Pulizzi stated I want to let Mr. Mackey know that I totally didn't forget at all. But for everyone else that may have, I appreciate him saying that.

Mr. Allison asked for comments from the administration.

There were none.

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

Mr. White replied there were none.

Adjournment

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Mrs. Katz made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Mackey. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM with unanimous ayes.**

**Respectfully submitted by**

**Janice M. Frank  
City Clerk**