

**Thursday, August 29, 2019
Williamsport, PA**

Council President Randy Allison brought the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday, August 29, 2019 at 7:30 PM in City Hall Council Chambers. Chris Cooley did televise the meeting. The invocation was given by Councilperson Gerry Fausnaught and was immediately followed by the "Pledge of Allegiance".

Council members present:

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

Absent:

Also, Present:

Gabriel J. Campana, Mayor absent
Mr. Joe Gerardi
Mr. William Nichols, Jr. absent
Mr. Gary Knarr absent
Damon Hagan, Chief
Sol. Norman Lubin
Janice Frank, City Clerk,
Todd Heckman, Fire Chief
Mark Benner EIT absent
Mr. Joe Pawlak
Adam Winder

Approval of the Williamsport City Council minutes dated August 2, 2019 were approved upon a motion from **Mrs. Katz and a second from Mrs. Fausnaught. All were in favor. The vote was 7 to 0. Mrs. Fausnaught voted yes. Mr. Noviello voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, and Mr. Allison voted yes.**

Limited Courtesy of the Floor

Hugh McGee, 159 Washington Blvd. he was checking the Council agenda and saw something that bothered him, especially the demolition at 145 Washington Blvd. those buildings have been there for quite a while and usually he takes the time to rights his thoughts on paper and give them to city Council before then. So he did not have time to put his thoughts on paper, and in regards to the demolitions to those locations, I'd ask that Council tabled the approval of that until I have had time to respond on paper.

Mr. Allison changed the order of the agenda for the people that were waiting for their items.

Sub-division Lot Addition – Betty Bloomer

Mr. Gerardi stated this is a lot consolidation 41455 Scott St. It is in the R2 zoning district. The proposed plan is to consolidate two parcels into one the total square footage of the lot would be 4950 ft.². Right now it is used as a single-family dwelling and there were no current plans for the add-on. It was reviewed by Lycoming County planning commission and the city's planning commission and was recommended for approval.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second.

Mr. Slaughter made the motion and it was seconded by Ms. Miele.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the lot addition.

The sub division was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor Mrs. Fausnaught voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes and Mr. Allison voted yes.

Sub-division Lot Addition – James & Kim Douty

Mr. Gerardi stated this is another want consolidation for the property located at 215-217 Brandon Pl. It is currently in our residential district, it is a single family dwelling on the one lot and he will consolidate them, approximately 5400 ft.² of land. If you remember correctly there was a demolition permit that came in there on that lot, he wishes to consolidate that and then build a garage on that lot for his residence.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second.

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

Mr. Allison asked if there were any questions.

Ms. Miele stated there are a couple of questions in this from the Planning Commission, relatively minor stuff.

Mr. Gerardi stated these are things that they usually request on the drawings when they are submitted, but the house and the square footage was not submitted on the drawing, we can have them revise this and put it on.

Ms. Miele asked if the other building has been demolished yet?

Mr. Gerardi stated that Mr. Knarr did review this.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the motion.

The sub division was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor Mrs. Fausnaught voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes and Mr. Allison voted yes.

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Demolition – 34 Washington Blvd

Mr. Gerardi stated this is for Calvary Baptist church, that which is in the institutional it was a family dwelling and they are asking that it be torn down for a parking lot. He has attached a picture of the building and the drawing showing the church property and where the building is. It would take the whole corner, they are looking for parking for handicap facility.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second.

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

Mrs. Fausnaught asked if there were any handicap parking spaces currently?

The gentleman answered from the seats and his voice was inaudible.

Mrs. Fausnaught asked how many spaces would it create?

Mr. Gerardi stated it will come back to Council or an approval, and we don't have a design sketch, but right now there is intent is for parking and to create some green, and create some space for children.

Ms. Miele stated to follow up, I hate to see that were approving a number of demolitions for parking, but she is delighted to hear that a lot of this will be used for play space for children. There is a highway traffic issue, traffic moves pretty quickly on Washington Boulevard, but she is not sure that adding a method of entrance of egress would be a wise idea.

Mr. Gerardi stated as long as they don't change what they are putting their it wouldn't have to go through anything from the State, they have an existing driveway that can be reused.

Ms. Miele stated when the land development comes through, we can't necessarily require anything, maybe a recommendation to not use that as an entrance and exit.

Mr. Gerardi stated and you will have that ability as a Council to require that.

The representative stated we did talk about how we could make that a one way either in or out, the driveway is already there for the current parsonage. It would give people visibility, and we can figure that out later. We had a class at Penn College that use this.

Ms. Miele stated it's a better discussion to have when you present the land development, but I am please to see some green space and play space for the children.

Mr. Henderson stated as a pastor it is important that we do encourage our churches to give space for the children so he is excited to see that and is very grateful to encourage the church.

Someone spoke from the audience who did not identify herself and made statements that were in audible.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the demolition

The demolition was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor

Mrs. Fausnaught voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes and Mr. Allison voted yes.

Demolition – 145 Washington Blvd.

Mr. Gerardi stated this is another request for demolition the structure was used in a single dwelling and it is currently vacant, they don't have any future plans at this point and will plant grass there are drawings attached. Lycoming College owns them. This building was compromised during the flooding last year and in this year.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and second.

Ms. Miele made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Noviello.

Mrs. Katz asked if the water in the basement had anything to do with Grafius Run?

Mr. Gerardi answered yes it was probably caused by some damage.

Mrs. Katz stated we could use this is another example of why we should get the funding from DEP. I don't know that anybody else realized we had problems in that area.

Mr. Gerardi stated we also have some problems in downtown Williamsport, but everyone needs to realize it doesn't start at Cochran school and end at Oakland Avenue. When the water builds up it's going to create problems from here down to the river.

Ms. Miele stated that there are June Berry trees that we can save. Urban orchards are the rage in Philadelphia right now.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the demolition.

The demolition was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor

Mrs. Fausnaught voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes and Mr. Allison voted yes.

Demolition – 402 – 404 Washington Blvd.

Mr. Gerardi stated this is a request of one partial ground and two structures. This is in the commercial district. The structure was used as a single family dwelling and has been vacant for several years, and the restaurant has been vacant for at least two. The owner intends to use this for a parking lot, and they will seed it and the future parking lots will come back to Council for approval. Steinbachers would like to use this lot as an overflow for their parking. The building on the corner, one time about six years ago we had to condemn the building and shut it down. The back of the building is now falling down. These buildings are not feasible to reconstruct.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second.

Mrs. Katz made the motion and it was seconded by Ms. Miele.

Mrs. Katz stated she is happy that something's going to be done with these buildings because they have really been an eyesore.

There was a discussion about the billboard, and that billboard will also come down.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the demolition.

The demolition was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor

Mrs. Fausnaught voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes and Mr. Allison voted yes.

Penn Strategies, quarterly report

Mr. Jason Fitzgerald stated this is our quarterly report and we update Council on. One of the items is the levy and we have focused on their replacing of relief wells through an RCAP grant with the match coming from Lycoming County of \$1.2 million. This project is currently out to bid. We are working to secure funding for phase 2 which consists of cross pipe repairs through to Commonwealth financial authorities grants totaling 847,681 and the total cost to make these repairs is estimated to be around 939, 722.50, including

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engineering which has already occurred bid paid for we met with Sen. Gene Yaw recently and he assured us that these grants are a top priority. He stated that all the information in the media, people were concerned that we were going to get the funding and we had. The CFA will consider recommended program guidelines for the H 20 PA program. As soon as these guidelines are approved, we will submit a request for \$4 million to match a federal grant being pursued by Lycoming County, which will fully fund the levy project. At this point there is refocus in Washington. That grant was submitted two months ago.

Mr. First wanted to comment on the levee, and watching the progress of it, he sees the result of it and collective work from the city and the county and focusing on these issues which can potentially have a cost savings effect on all parties.

Grafius Run, today we received word that Doug Hill, DEP Chief of Project Development, will be requesting \$300,000 to be added to the DEP capital budget to hire a consultant to complete the feasibility study, which is needed to request release of additional funds for construction. The city is the first of 13 communities to return damage assessment form since 2011. We had an incident on August 15 which remind us of the Grafius Run damage. He reviewed the time line since it was submitted to DEP. As you may remember there is a tedious review process by DEP in order to arrive at their decision to take on study and the cost of construction and repair. Since that time there's been a lot of dialogue, and in that conversation since March we have continued to feed him the information. He thanked Mr. Adam Winder for supplying them with all the information they needed, as far as the damage results. We also got the engineering studies submitted to.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated the important thing to note is through this DEP option, the last example we brought to you was in the borough of Ashley. Since 2011 there have been 13 municipalities that reached out to them. Only one of them to date has provided them what they have requested, and that is the city of Williamsport, thanks to Mr. Adam Winder and also to Councilwoman Katz for staying on top of this. It's a very positive thing. Ultimately what the goal would be, they will come up with they think a viable solution is which will probably involve Loyalsock Township and the City of Williamsport. They will come up with their engineers, and DEP will pay them, and they will make a determination that it will be more cost-effective to do the project and then they will schedule it. The fact that this initial phase is funded and put into the capital budget by DEP is a good thing. Gov. Wolf is placing this in the budget.

Mr. First, stated it will be very important for the city to assess and accumulate the total amount of damage done to the city, we want the largest number and the most real number. Because that goes into the calculation they have to do on a cost benefit. I think August 15 we did get a better handle on it.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated there was a newspaper article, that we were done and there was no possibility of funding through DEP, and the press office of DEP confirmed that that is not the case and Mr. Hill is excited to come to Williamsport. I really one of thank everybody for the hard work on that.

In March of this year, we submitted a \$311,000 grant to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection through their recycling development and implementation grant program. Announcements on this grant are expected in mid-October. We thank Mr. Winder for making us aware of this.

In May we submitted a \$250,000 grant to the Commonwealth financing Authority through the greenways, trails, and recreation program to fund construction of a newly fully assessable playground and Memorial Park. We will be meeting with Sen. Yaw on September 10 to discuss his application. Announcements are expected this fall.

In January of this year we were directed by the economic revitalization committee and Mayor Campana to submit a DCED a RACP grant on behalf of the pajama factory. City Council will have to make a determination as to what they are going to do with that. The city will be the formal applicant and there are costs associated with that that we can get into more the finance committee. The city would have to through a word process make determination of how you want to move forward with this. Once way is to do a reimbursement of the building, etc.

Mrs. Katz stated she was thrilled to pieces about the funding that's coming through from DEP, and we have engineers coming up here and evaluating what we need. It has been a long haul here, it really has an especially Mrs. Fausnaught who has lived this horror for many years. We continue to investigate all the damages, and we are finding out more tonight they were on Washington Boulevard. Mr. Benner will continue to gather this information and move forward.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated they would have come out sooner, but they have the entire State to cover, and it is important that we get the updated information to them as soon as possible.

Mrs. Fausnaught stated there was a study that was done before about 10 years ago, and my neighbors never found anything from it, we never had any feedback from it. Secondly, the neighbors are extremely upset at this point in time, and if someone could come and speak to the neighborhood that would be very helpful. If someone would come and share with us what your plans are and what you are planning to do.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated for example if your property was damaged and there was cleanup, that will be part of the process, and you can list that. There was a report done from Gannett Fleming that was done in 2015, and you are right the neighbors are not very happy. In the early stages we knocked on a couple of doors and people were very nice until he figured what they were asking about.

Mrs. Fausnaught asked was in their study done for 2015? Because there were people that came in and we talked to them and she doesn't know what happened with that.

Ms. Miele stated RETTEW engineering did a small study and they were only looking at some elements of the problem, but they weren't looking at the big part of the problem. So whatever the process was with DEP and the study is going to take a little bit more time, and so the study we do have will have to of service in the meantime.

Mrs. Fausnaught stated her greatest concern was that someone's going to be hurt. The water comes so quick and so swift, and there are elderly people that cannot move in that. You can do a cleanup, but you can't replace a person.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated we did get a phone call from a tenant, and there was a close call with her and it infant, so there is a public safety issue. So the negative scenario would be so they do the study and it comes back it's not far enough on the demand curve for DEP to do it, if Council in the future administration still wanted to fix it, you could do it through another grant program or match it with city funds. Either way have a study that is manageable that will dress the study, not just in Williamsport but also in Loyalsock where it originates. He stated he will be happy to come and speak to the neighbors, and someone from the city should be there.

Mr. Allison stated for full disclosure, he also lives on Elmira St, so he is very familiar with the whole process. I think it's good that we are going after this DEP grant, we need to have a more comprehensive plan, and we've never gotten that, in 2011 that was a significant water event, and we walked the streets

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outdoors, and people were promised that there would be solutions found. That type of commitment, I don't think we have ever had a focus total confidence of commitment to do that. That said, and going forward, and maybe we should get together a be under the umbrella of the county with Loyalsock Township and talk about the entirety of the project. It can be done to mitigate the debris and everything that comes down and clogs the drains. In the most recent event, he spent a few hours writing around with Mr. Winder through the neighborhoods, and in seeing the entire scope of it, there was 4 inches of rain within close to ½ an hour that amount of water even without debris would be hard to control. I don't know the reason why, but we are having more regular significant rainfall events like this. When it hits up there, north of the city, people are very adversely affected by it. We need to have a larger discussion, we need to have everybody at the table and come up with some plans.

Mr. Fitzgerald agreed that there is a large amount of rain and the problems continue to go up, and there are issues all over. We are talking to the county about how do we address this issue, obviously the levy has been number one, but hopefully as this levy issue is progressing quicker, we can focus on these other flooding issues.

Mr. Allison thanked everyone that came out, it was a total citywide effort from our employees, Mr. Winder organize people to go door-to-door to begin collecting and get those stories from people in the neighborhood and also provided dumpsters for people in those neighborhoods to deposit things that have been ruined in the water. It was very appropriate that something like that was done to help the people who have been hit so many different times with the same problem. He is a good leader to have in place. He has a lot of thoughts and knowledge about that whole area. He is an employee and does as he is directed, but if he gets an opportunity to be part of a bigger process, the city will be well served as well as the people that live near the area.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that he called him very early the next morning and asked for an update, and the survey had already been done, so they have been proactive, the streets and parks department have been so proactive and that's where we are the place we are at.

There was a discussion about the \$300,000 that is in the capital budget for this. It is the smallest amount that the state can put in.

Mr. Allison thanked Mr. Fitzgerald for his presentation and stated it was a nice presentation.

Bill #1737-19

Ordinance Creating an Ethics Commission of the City of Williamsport (first reading)

The City Clerk read the ordinance.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to adopt the ordinance in first reading.

Mr. Henderson made the motion and it was seconded by Ms. Miele.

Mr. Henderson stated as everyone is aware from comments that he is made in the past, and especially this past January, it is been his desire to see an ethics code here in the city. It is the desire and it is necessary for our citizens to have confidence in our government and this could be another tool which would enable citizens to hold their government accountable. This came before a special ad hoc committee, and we discussed this twice extensively. The committee voted to recommend this to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. Whereas the City of Williamsport believes that the proper operation of democratic government requires the public officials and employees be independent, impartial, and responsible to the people; that government decisions a policy be made in the proper channels of governmental structure, that public office not be used for personal gain, and that the public have confidence in the integrity of its government and whereas the city of Williamsport believes that a code of ethics would serve to accomplish the goals outlined herein and whereas the city of Williamsport believes that an ethics commission should be formed to be tasked, researching, writing, and recommending a code of ethics for the city of Williamsport to presented to city Council for its consideration. He wanted to mention that this is not in response to anything that has happened in the city specific, occasional or whatever. I suppose people would be inclined to wonder about the politics involved in creating an ethics commission. He wanted to assure the public that there are no politics involved, in fact the very method that we've gone through to establish this, speaks to the fact that there are no political gains going on here. This ethics commission will as this ordinance states have the power to research, write and recommend a code of ethics that would apply to the entire government of Williamsport. It would include recommending enforcement, and penalties, and this commission would be tasked with the responsibility of enforcing the code of ethics that it would bring to the city for approval. They will give quarterly reports as to their progress, as far as creating or researching the code and then after that point they would not need to have quarterly reports because their responsibility would be narrowed to just a code of ethics. The commission will be five members, these members will be residents of the city, and will hold no other appointed elected or appointed position in the city. Three of them will be appointed by Council in two of them will be appointed by the mayor. The terms will be three years and they will be staggered. So there will be two appointments from Council, two from the mayor and one from Council. And it would continue on in that order. There is no consent from one branch of government, the mayor would appoint his appointees and council would not have to consent to those appointments, council would also appoint others and would not have to consent to the other. This commission be responsible in holding us all responsible to obey the code of ethics. The commission will not have any power or authority for expenditures, the can make recommendations to counsel for expenditures, they will also record and maintain audio records of all the public meetings because of the desire to be open and transparent with everything that we do. I think this would serve the city well and serve the citizens and enable them to have one more tool to hold their own government accountable. I think it's important whether they are elected, appointed, or an employee of the city to be held to a higher standard because they are using the money of the taxpayers. I believe that this ordinance can do that. It can step it up for all of us here in city government.

Mr. Allison asked if there were any comments or questions.

Mr. Allison stated we have discussed this before in our meetings, so it's not new territory and were going to look forward to this process. He asked for a vote on the ordinance and first reading.

The ordinance was carried in first reading with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor

Mrs. Fausnaught voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes and Mr. Allison voted yes.

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Resolution to Approve an Easement Agreement Between the City & McCormick Assoc~~(remove from table)~~

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to remove this resolution from the table.
There was no motion to remove this. It stays on the table.

Resolution # 8916

Resolution to Ratify Settlement Agreement

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 Ms. Miele.

Mr. Pawlak stated this resolution ratifies the settlement agreement between the City of Williamsport and former city employee. The terms of the settlement were negotiated by the city's insurance carrier and have been previously reviewed by city Council. This resolution went before the finance committee on Tuesday.

Ms. Miele stated this resolution came to Finance and not much was said about it, but we did forward it to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the resolution.

Resolution #8917

Resolution Authorizing the Execution of Municipal Winter Traffic Services Agreement

The City Clerk read the resolution.

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

Ms. Miele made the motion and it was seconded by Mrs. Katz.

Mr. Winder stated this is the third year renewal for winter maintenance. It pertains to PennDOT routes of the city, and two years ago we found out that we can get a reimbursement for it. So this is a renewal of this year's allocation it would be \$9998.10. It is a five year agreement overall, and it came before Public Works.

Mrs. Katz stated this came to Public Works and it speaks for itself and we did not know we had this for how many years, and we wanted to know if we could go back and get it retroactive, and we were told we couldn't do that. It was sent to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation.

Mr. Allison asked if there were questions or comments

Mr. Allison asked about the years and what was included. He stated that the fifth year it will go up to \$21,000.

Mr. Winder stated it is all regulated by the miles, and it is increased every year and they have a formula that they use.

The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor

Mrs. Fausnaught voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes and Mr. Allison voted yes.

Resolution 8918

Resolution to Approve Joint Funding Agreement between U.S. Geological Survey, Water Science Center, US Dept. of the Interior & the City of Williamsport

The City Clerk read the resolution.

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

Ms. Miele made the motion and it was seconded by Mrs. Fausnaught.

Mr. Winder stated essentially it's a \$1700 bill that we paid for multiple years for whatever reason it didn't come to council before this. After the solicitor reviewed this it was determined that all contracts should come to council so you're aware of where the money is being spent. It is a key element in the levee system, it actually gives you information of the river levels at any given point if you go online for example like WNEP river level. My flood control can call into a number and once you call in it will automatically give you the river levels, and they can get the levels hour by hour, and minute by minute. This was reviewed by finance committee.

Ms. Miele stated this was reviewed by finance and going back over the last five years our share of this has not increased at all. This is useful to all of us. We pass this to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation.

Mr. Allison asked if there were other local municipalities in on this?

Mr. Winder answered yes, South Williamsport, Jersey Shore, Muncy....

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. All were in favor

Mrs. Fausnaught voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes and Mr. Allison voted yes.

Resolution #8920

Resolution Real Estate Reduction - 2204 W. Third St

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. Slaughter.

Mr. Grimes said this resolution is for real estate reduction for 2204 W. 3rd St., this was purchased from the depository list and it is mandatory by state law that we recess it down to the value that it was purchased at. 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. All were in favor

Mrs. Fausnaught voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes and Mr. Allison voted yes.

Resolution #8919

Resolution Real Estate Refund – 627 Third Ave.

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The City Clerk read the resolution.

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

Ms. Miele made the motion and it was seconded by Mrs. Fausnaught.

Mr. Grimes stated this is for real estate fund, and these taxes were paid in April, and then the property was destroyed by fire in the property was reassessed, so the taxes were changed.

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. All were in favor Mrs. Fausnaught voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes and Mr. Allison voted yes.

Resolution #8921

Resolution Agreement with Business Information Group - Software Lease Agreement

The City Clerk read the resolution.

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

Mrs. Fausnaught made the motion and it was seconded by Mrs. Katz.

Mr. Grimes stated there's a lot of information here but it's something that we been talking with council for quite a few years now and we have looked in our office at the feasibility of collecting business privilege and local, it is now outsourced Berkheimer. There are some reasons why we'd like to collect in-house, we would have our sources here for audit and discovery and for actual collections, but also have somebody local that is attentive to this and can respond to the taxpayers locally and correctly. A big push to get this in our office, is the Senate has had some strong feelings on who can and can't collect business privilege taxes and in the last three years they passed some laws on that would mandate who can and cannot collect this tax. For the first two bills that were put out by Sen. Brown in the Senate, it would only allow the countywide earned income tax collector to collect business privilege local service tax. Which in our case which would be the school district, in other cases it would be Berkheimer. Pennsylvania municipal league and a lot of them and this polities that collect the business tax, caution the Senate and said that this tax is very different from earned income tax, and local service tax. There is a huge benefit to having this internal and in-house and local. The bill did not pass in the previous session, but it was introduced again this year, it would mandate concession, but it would allow municipalities to opt out of the business privilege taxes. So our option would be to collect our own taxes. We feel that there is a good chance that this legislation will pass the next year or two, so this gives us a little bit of a jump to being sure that all of our ducks are in a row and we are prepared for that. That is why our contract is in front of you now, so if the legislation would be able to pass. We have seen a lot of software and talk to a lot of municipalities who do have this, we have found this software to be the best with most municipalities. Many other software's that were purchased a couple years ago are almost obsolete because they did not keep up with today. The money is still budgeted in our equipment line item and we have not spent this money in the last three years. There are some changes, with our legal services have gone down, and the recodifications has helped as well . There is a revised changes and they are pretty minor. We change the authorized signers to controller and Mayor. We change the representative of the city from my name to just treasurer, and we specified a few things cleared up a few things. This did go before finance committee.

Ms. Miele, stated the finance committee did review this and did forward it to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. The software itself re-thousand dollars a year and it updates it moving through the years, and the initial training and installation of the software will not have to be added. It is pretty much accepted to pay for software annually, so we don't end up with out-of-date software. It's we did review the state of the hardware and basically we have a couple of years to play with this and refine the plan.

Mr. Grimes stated financially there is a benefit of collaborating with the Williamsport area school district. He is also able to go down to York and not go to training for \$170.00 an hour. We've also been able to work with this group at no charge on how the data needs to be converted.

Mrs. Katz stated that she is very pleased with this, and this will also save us money with the employees that are in the treasurer's office. Nick did a fantastic job with this.

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. All were in favor Mrs. Fausnaught voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes and Mr. Allison voted yes.

Resolution #8922

Resolution Agreement with Business Information Group – Master Services Agreement

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 Ms. Miele.

Mr. Grimes stated this is a companion resolution, we covered most everything in our first discussion. I would just note that the reason why there are two contracts is that the software works different than most other software for the city. The other software has a very large cost to purchase the software and then large fees are certain fees after that for maintenance. How this works is we purchased the software, and we paid the company as consultants on an hourly basis. If there's issues with the software we pay on an hourly basis, and will be a little more cost at the beginning.

Ms. Miele stated this was reviewed by the finance and we forwarded to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. It is apparent that Mr. Grimes has been a great deal of time of working out all the details. He really has all of his l's dotted and t's crossed. This is an ongoing maintenance agreement.

Mr. Allison asked if there were any comments or questions.

The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor Mrs. Fausnaught voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes and Mr. Allison voted yes.

Resolution #8923

Resolution to Approve Property Access Agreements with Comcast Cable Communications Mgt.

The City Clerk read the resolution.

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

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

Mr. Cooley, stated this is a property Access agreement with Comcast, and allows them to run fiber facilities in City Hall and fire headquarters. All of the costs is being borne by Windstream who holds our current contract, and they lease from Verizon, they are trying to get off of copper lines which Verizon currently has. This was reviewed by the solicitor, and had to be reviewed because they are doing some trenching.

Mrs. Katz stated it did come to Public Works and it is nice to have something done that isn't going to cost us money. She feels the fire company is going to be very pleased with this. It has been a nightmare with them. We did forward this to the full body of Council with positive recommendation.

Mrs. Fausnaught asked if we were to leave this building, is that something that we should probably wait to see what we are going to do?

Mr. Cooley answered we should probably look at how long that process is going to take, building currently has copper wiring in it, and Comcast has done this a number of years ago when we started broadcasting live, so it already exists in this facility. They're going to extend it to our server room. It already exists in this building and it is not a large expense for them.

Mr. Allison asked if there were any other questions or comments.

The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor Mrs. Fausnaught voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes and Mr. Allison voted yes.

Certificates of Appropriateness – HARB

Item 2. McCormick Law Firm
835 West Fourth Street

Materials to be used in previously approved construction of an addition and update to existing addition:

- A. Roofing: GAF Woodland Timberline HD Architectural shingles- Charcoal
Alternative – GAF Slateline Architectural shingles – Antique Slate
- B. Siding: Everlast Fiber cement composite solid siding and trims/ Colors: Misty Taupe and Chestnut
- C. Shake Style accent shingles: Diamond Kote – Terra Bronze or similar. Alternate-Cinnabar
- D. Azek trims- Chestnut
- E. Paint other exterior trims, door, bilco door- Chestnut Brown.
- F. Update finishes on the older addition as noted above.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second.

Mr. Slaughter made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Allison asked if there were comments or questions.

The certificates of appropriateness were carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor

Mrs. Fausnaught voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes and Mr. Allison voted yes.

Accept for Filing:

Public Works Minutes 05/21/19
Finance Committee 05/21/19, 06/18/19 & 06/04/19
Financial Statement July 2019
Controllers Report June 2019
ERC Minutes 05/28/19

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

Ms. Miele made the motion and it was seconded by Mrs. Katz.

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

Mrs. Fausnaught voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter 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 12, 2019 at 7:30 PM, in City Hall Council Chambers. (Enter through the police department at rear of building for meetings after 5:00 PM.)

Upcoming Meetings:

Tuesday, Sept 3	12:00 PM Planning Commission
	3:30 PM ERC
Monday, Sept 9	4:00 PM Recreation Commission
	4:00 PM Fair Housing (sec)
Tuesday, Sept 10	1:00 PM Finance Committee
	2:30 PM Public Works
	3:30 PM Public Safety
Thursday, Sept 12	7:30 PM City Council Meeting

[Meetings Held in Council Chambers Unless Otherwise Noted – [scr] = William Sechler Community

Room]

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

Mrs. Fausnaught wanted us to note that the will be 10,000 people coming to Williamsport on Friday Saturday and Sunday. There will be 5000 physicians and 5000 others, it will be good for the community and it is very exciting, and I am told the police and codes work very closely with those people. It's been a lot of planning and a lot of hard work and I really appreciate people for doing it.

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Mr. Allison asked for comments from members of the Administration.
There were none.

Mr. Allison asked for comments from the general public.

Ms. Karen Koch, from the Center of Independence Living of north-central Pennsylvania. We provide services to people with disabilities in 11 different counties. I am here, I have wrote a very lengthy eloquent statement, the whole 9 yards, and in listening to a statement earlier that was made by Councilman Henderson, he was discussing the need for an ethics commission. While having that conversation, Mr. Henderson made the comment about confidence in their government. That the public needs to be able to have that. While that conversation continued, councilmen Allison made the comment that he agreed and his exact words were transparency and good government. They were the words he chose to describe what people need to be able to see in an administration. Keeping all that in mind, I would like to take a few minutes and do a little trip down memory lane, I know it's late, and everyone wants to go home, bear with me please. I started my job with the center of independent being of February of last year, my second day there, I was tasked to go to city Council, go to Public Works, find out what the status is of the accessibility of City Hall. I came here on the 13th, a brief conversation was discussed with assess ability and that was the end of that. August 24, 2018, conversation was brought up by city Council about the work needed done on the ramp, at that time I was given this design dated August 28 20 18th of the architect design for the accessible ramp here at City Hall done by Gannett Fleming. I said that was last year. Move forward to March of this year, I was told in March of this year on March 6 that the bids for the assess ability would be going out to advertise for the assess ability of the ramp. On April 25, on the city Council agenda, item number 12, it was discussed at the meeting that the funds were there, and this program was going to be ago. I attempted to get some answers, I was told at that time it was not a question and answer forum. After the meeting, Mr. Nichols met with me and assured me this was ago. On May 24 of this year, I exchanged emails with the city clerk and asked her if she had any idea what is going on with the status of the ramp, I was told that she really didn't know and she would differ me to city Council. May 29, I exchanged an email with Councilwoman, on that date Councilwoman Katz informed me that the bids were going out. So we had the bids going on out on March 30, the bids then again when out on 29 May. On June 12, I contacted Councilwoman Katz and ask her anything had been reviewed, she was not sure she could not give me any information. It was at that time that I began my attempt to reach out to the mayor of Williamsport, left multiple messages there, spoke to Dee, and had no response back from the mayor about what the status was. On July 2, I attended a Public Works meeting, at that Public Works meeting, members of this administration, I was assured that this project will happen. There was a little bit of sidebar conversation whether the money was really in the budget, some councilmembers made reference to that. On August 8 of this year, I was told by a codes employee that the bids would be going out on 17 August. Then they would be returned and it would be in the mayor's office on 10 September. The mayor also had confirmed that, he indicated on 12 August also, that yes this was going to happen. Again I defer you back to confidence in your government. I was told by a member of council that I do not understand the process it takes for government to accomplish a task. That is not correct. I do understand that when you have it transparent government that is able to communicate honestly, yes things can be accomplished. What we are seeing this time does not appear to be very transparent, does not appear to be very effective by any means, his constant will of spinning and nothing is accomplished. That being said, again I is when out, and I ask members of the administration how with the bids let, I was told it would be in the Williamsport Sun Gazette. Well I don't know maybe you guys are to drum up business for the Sun Gazette, to encourage me to purchase a few copies, I would imagine it would be under legal notices, yet day and day after day, I was unable to locate anything yet. And if a person was meant to bid on these, that they would need to contact Reynolds construction company. Again you talk about transparency, were the bids ever let out? I'm not asking a question, I'm just reviewing this. I ask you all to think about that and I will leave you with this. A little thing called the American disabilities act. Americans with disabilities act became law in 1990. The ADA and the civil rights incrimination against individuals in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation and all public and private places. The purpose of this law is to ensure that people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else. The ADA is divided into five titles that relate to different areas in public life. Title number two, public service, state and local government, prohibits the discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities which are programs, services, activities operated by state and local governments. A public entity must make sure it services an individual with disabilities. This was a law that was enacted 29 years ago. Yet again we talk about transparency and confidence in the administration. I'm not sure how that's going to be accomplished. I thank you all for listening.

Kelly Travis, 1315 Elmira St , I live in the infamous area of Grafius Run and I was one of those neighbors who was a little upset. After the most recent flooding in our area on the 15th, I felt compelled to come speak to Council. I have lived at my current address for 14 years. I property has suffered significant damage during the 2011 flood, 2016 flash flood and the most recent flash flood. My shed which houses my outdoor equipment and my children's toys was knocked off its foundation during the 2016. While these are all natural disasters, and yes it is hard to stop 4 inches of rain and ½ hour, but as long as I lived on the street we have suffered damages that have been exasperated by man-made failures. I have been a multiple time victim of the flooding, and I feel that there are practices that have been in place that we don't seem to be executing and using effectively. I know you can answer questions, but I would forward you to ask the people who can answer these questions. Who are the people that watch the cameras that monitor the area? Whose responsibility is it to notify the residence of the imminent flooding? There is a siren on the school right at Cochran, that used to be tested every Monday, wouldn't that be handy? Whose responsibility is it to maintain and repair the cameras as I've been told that some of them were down during the summer so it's probably a good thing that I stopped and noticed flooding and called the mayor's office to notify them of imminent flooding myself. Is there more than one key or more than one employee to operate the backhoe at St. Luke's Church? Why do we continue to wait for someone with the key to show up and operate the machinery that is permanently placed there for that very purpose? Is there a storm preparedness protocol in place? In order to help in a delay in response after the flooding, should it not occur during the weekly work hours, which is streets and parks time on the clock. When we have radars and weather alerts, and other things at our fingertips I can understand why we don't know the storms are coming. And all the other work towards a solution is

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a moot point if our city government doesn't work in coordination with the Loyalsock supervisor Township. I can't tell you how excited I was to hear that Loyalsock is mentioned in the Grafius Run problem! The debris which blocks the grades dust creating a backup washes from Loyalsock Township properties. We all know this who live in the area. Rather than city representatives advising individuals taxpayers to attend Loyalsock Township's meetings, as to city representatives advise my mother and I to do. I propose the city Council members and administration attend those meetings and represent our interests as you were elected to do. In closing, I would like to thank Councilman Allison and Councilman Slaughter for their presence in person the day of the flooding, walking around the neighborhoods and talking. I would like to thank Mr. Winder in the Streets & Parks Dept. for their response, the firemen. And like to thank you also again Mr. Allison for keeping this issue present and forefront on Council's agenda.

Mr. Jerry.....820 High St, stated he has heard about things being done to accommodate people with special needs, parking lots with assess ability into the building. We talk about City Hall as an example, you have to come from the back of a ramp there, voice was inaudible. The only thing we hear about is we plan on moving and so it's like is this an authority to stop doing some stuff, if something was to happen to someone and they can't get out into the building, especially out, if a fire comes up that's a tragedy. Something needs to be done about this. I've heard people say that you are not sure whether were going to stay here or whether you're going to move. We need some answers we need some things done. One of things that we have to understand is it's easier said than done, I heard someone say is going to cost a little more but is going to benefit us all in the long run. It will benefit us all in the long run if it would help to save a life. Voice was inaudible he was asking questions on how someone would get out because we have to let someone get out from the Police Dept. We need some answers and we need it done soon. We have listened to things that were supposed to be done, and we've had bids, and we are like we don't know what were going to do. We need some answers.

Mr. Allison stated we need to have an executive session to discuss personnel and negotiations.

Adjournment

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned upon motion by **Mrs. Katz and seconded by Ms. Miele.**
Motion was carried by a **unanimous at 9:36 PM** "ayes".

Submitted by:

Janice M. Frank
City Clerk