

Thursday, December 3, 2020
Williamsport, PA

Council President Randy Allison brought the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday December 3, 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 absent
Mr. Joe Pawlak
Gary Knarr,
Mark Killian, Fire Chief,
Damon Hagan, Police Chief
Austin White, Sol.
Janice Frank, City Clerk
Adam Winder, RVT
Jon Sander, Engineer,

Mr. Allison stated that City Council will have an executive session in the matter of personnel following this meeting.

Approval of the Williamsport City Council minutes for the 11/19/20 were approved upon a motion **Mr. Yoder and a second from Mrs. Katz. All were in favor. The vote was 6 to 0. Mr. Pulizzi was absent.**

Limited Courtesy of the Floor

There were no requests.

Ordinance – Forty Seventh Year (2021) Community Development Budget(Final reading) Bill # 1764-

The City Clerk read the ordinance.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second on the ordinance.

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

Mr. Allison said We have gone through this budget -- is there anything to add tonight?

Ms. Miele asked This is a question for the mayor. What is the status for the all business loan that we passed in late August or early September. I think we were supposed to get one around October and I don't recall seeing one. Is there any quick synopsis on how that is going and maybe we can have that followed up in the near future. More detail on what's going on and what's happening next.

Mr. Memmi answered Initially we had to apply unqualified and one did not that one is progressing through the process. We just have one that is being worked on. Right now we had another apply, and that is being worked through the processes well. I know they have been in contact and I believe he is going to be sitting down with them relatively in the future if I'm correct because we did discuss that. We've had three total applicants and businesses still can apply. We still have plenty of funding for it. The one not mollified that business was not in the city. So that is why they did not qualify. So we have one that I believe is working it way through.

Mayor Slaughter I believe the initial funds have not been disbursed but they will be in the near future.

We just received one in October ;, I'm sitting down with the applicant next week to figure out the uses of the fund and make sure they qualify. the same cumbersome -- we need to make sure we did not scare anyone away. : We tried just trim as much fat away as we could, but some of it had to be in their given the nature of the funding, but hopefully it did not scare them away. If they need any help with the application. They can reach out to skip or myself. Do that again.

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

Mrs. Katz made the motion and Mr. Yoder seconded it.

The ordinance was carried in final reading with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Ordinance Amending Article 327 : Cable Television Systems of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Williamsport Setting the Franchise Fee at 5% (first reading)

Mr. Cooley stated At the request of Pres. Allison, this amendment has been in effect, this replaces the 3% in three places with 5% other language and that subsection has remained the same. Should this ordinance be approved on the second reading it will be submitted to Comcast to notify subscribers and it should take affect 2021. . If this does pass tonight on the first reading I also suggest the income statement line 4250 be increased to 320,000 based on the map that I have done the state. With that I yield to Pres. Allison.

Mr. Lubin stated This obviously came up last minute and this is for my educational purposes. This is Norm. I am assuming this was advertised with enough time. The last thing anyone wants with this passing if it was not advertised in the right time. What is the advertising timeline for all of the stuff. Just as a refresher for me.

Mr. Cooley stated I will submit it tomorrow, but it will run until Monday.

Mr. Allison thanked Mr. Cooley for jumping on this right away if we could go further with this and I'm sure he would check on the equipment and things like that. Just moved really quickly. I want to thank you.

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He asked for a vote on the ordinance.

Mrs. Katz made the motion and Mr. Yoder seconded it.

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

The ordinance was carried in final reading with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Ordinance Adopting Various Operating Budgets for City of Williamsport, including General Fund, Utility Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Liquid Fuels Fund, City Hall Operating Fund, Unemployment Compensation Fund, Debt Service Fund, Act 13, Fund, & Pool Repairs Capital Fund (first reading)

The City Clerk read the ordinance.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second on the ordinance.

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

Mr. Allison stated That was the abbreviated version and we went through Monday and went day, every single page in the budget. And tonight working to discuss what we spent our time. The last several days going over now. We will deliberate. Is there anybody who wants to discussion?

Mr. Yoder stated Before we start any deliberation I just want to share some observations and reflections that I have had since I have been able to go through my first formal budget session. It's unfortunate. This is on the budget after Thanksgiving. I think realistically we should do this in October. Potential tax increase proposal. we need to do a better job of long-term planning, and I would challenge the administration to put together budget that has more detail and more line item that have more detail. I think this process would go much smoother and it would be more transparent to the taxpayer. I took some time and look for other budget and there are a lot of models out there. There is a lot of good detail. It is my hope and expectation that we work to accomplish that for next year's review of the budget. We kind of talked about this first couple of sessions, but we cannot keep deficit spending. Using this as a starting point for the following year budget. This has enabled our legacy cost. I know this is very difficult and may be even unrealistic, but we need to figure it out. Need to figure out how to live within our means, rather than repeating this continuous cycle of raising taxes. I feel like this budget is unfortunate. Realistic or not. I think the people spoke when they elected the mayor to get the fiscal house in order and what that means is they are acting a different approach, aligning with the campaign proposals. We are not seeing in this year's budget for the process how the budget was put together. Now the seven of us are faced with a monumental task of minimizing what looks to be the largest tax increase in the last 15 years. In addition to one of the worst times we have seen in decades. I will leave you with this final thought. Last night strict coolie made a comment that stuck with me. It takes a mandate by Council to follow through in a particular effort that we were debating it was the digitization of technology. I would mandate the administration follow through on the mandate from voters what that might look like immediately -- I would like to hear some feedback from the mayor on how he could minimize or eliminate the tax increase were areas that you would like to cut before we begin any deletions or dive in from the Council perspective.

Mr. Banks I don't have a segue from that. So I would just get us started from amending the budget. I propose we eliminate the GIS software from the IT budget. Line item 235064012. Eliminate the \$40,000 in its entirety.

Mrs. Katz I would really like to ask the mayor how he thought a \$2.5 million tax increase would be okay with Council or any taxpayer in the city. I think we all got the budget were in a state of shock mayor when you were on Council for the past two years would not even pass 1/4 mill dollar increase and then you come to us with a \$2.5 mill increase. I don't understand the justification in this specially all year. We have talked about how about 21 for everybody. I cannot approve a tax increase for anything at this point because I know how many are suffering here and how much they will suffer next year it will take a couple of years for people to recover after this pandemic so I cannot find out how you can justify this kind of I would like to know what you plan on doing away with this. Why did you even bring us to like this? /so many different things. With the budget coming up. There could be layoffs cannot afford what would happen is a lot everybody to digest. This should have been done before it was brought to us. I am finished on my soapbox.

Ms. Miele To a large extent I agree with Bonnie and Adam. We had a lot of discussion get the budget out earlier. But it did not actually happen. I would encourage all of us to appreciate this is a very abnormal year. We do not get enough information. Appreciate this is better than what it was two years ago, but I would agree with you budget should be looking to understand how the city operates. Think if you want to work on that with Mr. Pawlak the transparency would be incredible. Discuss the budget have had of time and make the budget easier to penetrate. It's a little bit water under the bridge at this point. What we have is a budget all the apartments considered and submitted what they need. Now it's a two point million dollar increase. We all know that cannot happen. We all know that we need to work to make that better. Sir Banks just made a motion to cut \$40,000. That is a nice start. We have another \$829,000 to go. We need to get started. I agree the administration is to have a part in. I don't think we have had that opportunity to look at its own budget. See the areas you can make cuts. I would certainly welcome that input. We have heard from the chief last night. He is willing to sacrifice to his three cop cars. We need to find more of those things. This is not ideally a year that is typical moving forward. We know we will see decreased income. In addition to increasing cost that hopefully will not increase in 2022. This is a year where we have to pull the gloves off. I propose cutting all general funding Street funds. I don't think this is a year we can afford to do streets. But I think we do need to talk nuts and bolts. We need a discussion of what we are taking out. I would love your input. What do you think we should take out. We missed our opportunity to do it but we

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need to do it and we need to do it now.

Mr. Yoder stated I appreciate all of that. The reason I made the comment I made as I want to ensure we do not continue to go down the road. We have gone down for decades. It is tough love for a new mayor and a new Council We cannot continue to repeat the mistakes that we have made for decades, and we must do better. I have a lot of ideas as well. Part of our job is accountability and unfortunately tough love is what accountability looks like. This is what we are all about. Meaning as a way for you to stay on course while you are sitting where you are at. You're ready to get to work.

Mrs. Katz stated I think everybody understands we are putting the taxpayers in front right now, my Heart bleeds for those hurting think we need to be as painless as we possibly can. None of us expected any of this to happen and it will not end quickly. Being in business I can state this for every day you lose money you never make that day up. There are so many people unemployed businesses that are hanging on by their fingernails and they cannot afford for us to even say anything about a tax increase. Everyone else around us has held it to no tax increase that we have to trim this budget. It's not fair to anyone in the city. Another thing that scares me is we don't know what the census is going to come up with. We are close to having 30,000 people in the city. The census comes back and we lose more numbers we will be screwed out of funding that scares me. I'm holding my breath on that one that we need to be so careful with what we're doing this year. Everybody has to tighten their belt for next year and hopefully things will loosen up. Right now there is no such animal. Let's go through this and cut and slash. It will survive. Just tighten the belt buckle and get on with what we need to do.

Mr. Allison stated that he does agree with a lot of the points that were made. I think we should get to work on the budget. We cannot be uncomfortable about being open and honest. This situation is dire. There is no doubt about that. We need to do some things we have never done before. Having said that. You made a motion, Mr. Banks -- is there a motion?

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

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the motion.

Mrs. Katz made the motion and Mr. Yoder seconded it.

The motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Mr. Banks continued on. Page 39. 235061010. I propose cutting \$13,500 out of that line.

Yes. This was supposed to bring about iPads and digitization for counsel. We had conversations last night about possibly getting linked into a VPN. Would be nice to have an agenda based software but this year if we can just get onto a centralized server and use another system on the city server. I think that would get us where we need to be without purchasing anything major.

Mr. Cooley stated I am suggesting the line should be dropped by 13,000 but that is just my general supplies brought by cables I think the line is in the city Council budget.

I am looking at 64010 then. That is the equipment line item for city Council.

Mr. Allison asked Do you want to amend your motion? Which one?

Mr. Cooley You made the motion for my supply item and that one I would like to reduce that by 13,500. The description longs on page 9, but we agreed with the reduction.

Ms. Miele asked what are we changing.

Mr. Cooley answered Page 39 , 235061010 from 15,000 to 1500.

There was a discussion as to what that line item was and it was to go digital for City Council

Mr. Allison stated let's complete the first motion and asked for a motion.

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

Mr. Allison asked for a vote.

The motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Ms. Miele stated On line item 1-106-410-1010. On page 14 down to \$2500 from 14,000

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

Mr. Allison asked for a vote.

The motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Mr. Mackey stated I have a few. Turn to Page 27. The Department of Public Works 22 7070 -- I suggest we eliminate that

Mr. Allison asked for a motion.

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

Mr. Mackey I agree with this one, we can push this all from liquid fuels 20, 21, I don't know if we can lobby the county for little bit. Is there any type of modification in the liquid fuel

Mr. Allison asked for a vote.

The motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Mr. Mackey I have a couple more. 20 77603 brick Street resurfacing. I suggest we eliminate that. I would also add that I don't think it's not enough to eliminate that 50,000 when we get back we need to get rid of the brick streets. They are costing us way more than \$50,000 each year and that's coming directly from Mr. Winder and that's not an option into 2021

Mr. Yoder seconded the motion.

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Mr. Allison asked for a vote.

The motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Mr. Mackey continued turn to page 44 line item 242-04010 -- support equipment for the fire department. I first asked the vehicle rescue ram. What is that and do we absolutely need one With some additional grant funding coming from the state. It is an E drawer to update our old rams that don't work. New vehicle technology. It is not 100% necessary, but we could move that purchase down the road for potentially look for use tools -- the \$20,000. It looks like grant funding will be available so we have the ability to remove \$27,000 from that or equipment line item in total.

Chief Killian stated That is part of the CARES Act. We can take out that 20,000 then we can take out the one for fitness equipment and no firefighters need to be in good shape but I feel like there are any avoid Ms. Miele Can make a suggestion? with the new reduction on the unit and the elimination of the ram -- can I suggest we reduce that line item. Overall, \$35,000 which would leave us a little bit of extra room in that fitness category so we can get our treadmills

Ms. Miele My motion is to reduce \$63,000 by \$35,000 making it now \$28,000.

Mr. Yoder seconded it.

Mr. Yoder. Give me just a second and I will track it down, here. On Page 50 under the police section -- I would **make a motion to reduce that to zero.** I know that she was very adamant about zero but I respect that. But we are in a bit of a different situation this year, I think the fact we have added back into the rotation. Since our chief is not taking home vehicles and wall offset this to zero.

Mr. Mackey seconded it.

Ms. Miele stated Adam I was going to make a motion by two but if you want to drop it by 3 I can go with that. I was thinking it by dropping it by two. If something really happens. I think we can readdress it, then. We are trying to take as much as we possibly can. You understand where we are coming from?

Mr. Allison asked for a vote.

The motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Mr. Allison We are up to 465,500 in cuts. Any other motions?

Mr. Banks I have a couple of motions to make. I do not know how to make them. Page 60 the Act 13 budget -- while we are busy cutting streets -- **I would like to cut hundred \$30,000 out of the street funding. There are no line numbers -- street resurfacing funding. I would like to reduce street servicing rehabilitation by 130,000 dollars.**

Mr. Yoder seconded it.

Mr. Banks Can I go into a little bit of detail -- my hope is to keep the funding we have MS-4 , but that is something we can find out of the ACT-13 fund. To make this a one-time cut and then to remove \$175,000. I welcome discussion on any of those elements.

There will be one motion to remove \$175,00 and then another motion 175,00 to move another line item?

That is simply an amount setting aside for future amounts --

Mr. Pawlak In the 2020 budget we set aside \$200,000 to build up funds for future projects

Ms. Miele Which I think is an excellent idea, don't get me wrong, but do we expect to expand that amount of money.

Ms. Miele The other idea is to what extent do we find it necessary to fund stormwater. Use of act 13 funds is broad -- both of those things fall under -- we can't necessarily the money to fund salaries or anything like that. What is your feeling? it seems to me we do need to start preparing. If our pollution reduction plan gets accepted. We want to do mitigation as early as possible to move to meet the needs of our MS-4 plan. But we don't know when that will happen. Thoughts?

If we are talking about 175,000 for stormwater . I don't know why we can't take it completely out of the budget this year. I know Adam has been working on it for however many years It is already passed.

We have \$200,000 set aside from last year

Mr. Sander There may have been some small dollars somewhere -- it's a question of how much we need to build up in five years. So we have that available

Mr. Sanders I don't have my computer in front of me.

Ms. Miele We should move 175,000 into Act-13 money. that would drop 200,000 to the bottom line. It would save 175,000 for the PRP. Depending on what our needs in 2021 be in funding.

Ms. Miele They are responsible for 65 and if we move this into act 13 money we needed for streets. We could maneuver it out of there.

Mr. Banks seconded it,

Mr. Allison I have a motion on the floor to reduce street resurfacing and rehabilitation from \$130,000 to zero. I have a second for that. Comments?

- Mr. Allison asked for a vote.

The motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Ms. Miele next motion is to remove \$45,000 making that line also zero.

Mr. Yoder seconded it.

There was a discussion on Grafius Run the goal in the long run if we are able to get a grant involving Grafius Run, it would be for contracting work for infrastructure workout. The goal in the long run is to establish and funds in this line to assign funds to have design money ready if and when we have

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infrastructure money that we can play with. The infrastructure is likely to be beyond us cost wise.

Mayor Slaughter stated the governor announced yesterday. He said the federal government was not stepping up enough to help litigation and he has indicated that he is going to start on helping disabilities on the state level respond to these issues. I know we are very cautious on what we spend with lobbyist maybe this is something we compare, but it sounds like it would be the planning with what the governor is putting together [inaudible]. It not only saves us millions of dollars in the long run, but if that funding comes down pretty quickly. Then we get to put money back into the streets. I've also heard the federal government is starting to get more money. Including these plans so is something we need to stay on top of. Good chance that right now and get a few million dollars out of this.

Mr. Allison stated That is really good news. That needs to be priority one that we all need to get to work on. Liz, did you make the motion on 45?

The balance is 156 for ACT-13 funds.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the motion.

The motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Ms. Miele stated Bottom line hasn't changed with my motions because it's affecting ACT-13. But, the next motion **Ms. Miele made the motion on page 60 is to add a line to the ACT-13 budge for MR-4 for Chesapeake. Mr. Yoder seconded it.**

The motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Ms. Miele stated next motion would take us ass to Page 28. Streets and Parks MS-4 . I want to reduce that from \$200,000 to Zero, Mr. Banks seconded it.

The motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Ms. Miele asked Mr. Pawlak where we were at.

Mr. Pawlak answered Right now. The bottom line is 789 496 that includes all of the changes were made tonight, plus the balance that was originally there.

Ms. Miele **So about 600,000 to the good. On page 8 line 025242150 the TV cable franchise -- should we increase it? Increase it by 120,000.**

Mr. Banks seconded it..

The motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Mr. Yoder stated Can I jump in? While we are on the revenue side. I don't have a motion here, but I would like to go to line item 44910 on page 9. The indirect costs of transportation. With the amount of time that city government spends over there \$75,000 revenue is extremely short to me. I would like to see as time as early as next week to see what the actual true revenue, cost of that would be. It may not be anything but it seems that could be intentionally increased.

Mr. Winder I can produce no problem, but the city side from City Hall are complicated piece as I don't think that is being done there. If we get something to start with that would be helpful.

Ms. Miele would decrease the demolition line in the codes to department on page 47

>> 46

>> Thank you, Joe. To see we can economize there. I was hoping for five or 10,000. Especially hoping if there is anything in back years in development. I am not sure that is a reality. I guess I will make a motion to reduce line 225079550 button thousand dollars and with a second we can discuss.

>> Second.

If we get to tier 1 building down. We use sometimes every once in a while it happens. There is an emergency comes up where a building needs to be taken down because the owner is not around and that night you have to make a decision to tear it down. You can't eliminate it, but I may have to come back to kill: say I need X amount of money -- that is why it is there.

I understand that and it is a real possibility. I hope that doesn't happen, but in the event that we need that emergency funding you could access it and come before us as a transfer. Is that accurate?

I would move that money up to clean and seal. Hopefully there would be enough left in that balance accommodate that, and then ask for additional funds. Is that a compromise?

In a specific circumstance wouldn't there be fire escrow funds?

I am talking about me having to chair the building down. I like to have the funds there to do it --

I understand that -- then we can use it as non revenue and fire escrow to reimburse -- does that make sense?

There are times where I have no fire escrow because there is no insruance. It is in case of an emergency

If we combine the two less. The reduction -- we could ask for a transfer. I am just trying to find a way to meet in the middle.

I like the way Joe was saying this.

I am open to discussion in removing the motion is everybody wants. Whatever you think.

Ms. Miele I make a motion that we move 5000 more into clean and seal. Mr. Yoder seconded it.

How does that sound?

. The motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.

Mr. Yoder voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted voted yes, Mr Banks voted yes, Ms.

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Miele voted yes and Mr. Allison voted yes. Mr. Pulizzi was absent.

Ms. Miele I make a motion to put 5,000 into clean and seal. Mr. Yoder seconded it.

The motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Ms. Miele stated I am going to suggest that while we aim to reduce the tax increase -- we also remember that we need to leave a certain amount of honey in the bottom line. In case there is an emergency. Such as a pandemic. So we have a little bit of wiggle room. With that said, that means we have cut more than 700,000 from this budget so far and I think that is good news. We are approaching the point where we could intentionally have a tax increase of 1 1/4 million dollars. I am hoping there is a couple of other loose items can shake loose for easy items. This is the point to talk about more complex -- I raise the question last night on whether we could do without our records clerks and that the police department. That may be an additional \$50,000. We could remove if that is something we could consider. Norm? Can I ask you a question. Talk to me about the controller office. The controller can take a week or two off and you have someone present to sign checks for the city, etc. etc. deputize someone else?

Mr. Lubin answered It would have to be someone appointed by the controller. And if the controller consent to that.

Ms. Miele answered Consent to the appointment or an assistant controller.

Mr. Lubin stated For a limited authority to sign checks. The problem we run into somebody would be asked to sign a contract -- they may not understand it.

Ms. Miele stated We would need someone within City Hall to act as a assistant controller -- understood. I don't want to propose anything tonight. We do have another week and vote on the budget. It would be a small savings. Does anyone else have anything they would like to discuss?

Chief Hagan I gave a pretty detailed description for a lot of the trainings and why we need to keep it at 60. I have gone through this again today in light of these extraordinary times and circumstances, and I believe as hard as it would be and I would not advocate for future years, but I think we could slice our training budget by \$20,000. It's 244071530, we could bring up from 60 down to 40 that still allows us to go through all the schools that are absolutely necessary. In a year like this in an effort to work together as a team here they \$20,000 we can do without for another year. That is on page 49. For those who are following.

Mr. Mackey asked What are the specific schools you will miss out on?

Chief Hagan answered The new assistant chief and cap police executive training. I can train them here. We were planning on sending seven supervisors to a school called response to suicidal subjects and we can put that off. We are planning on sending to officers to an explosive breaching course for \$4000. We were going to send three agents to advance practical homicide investigation at a cost of \$3500. Reid technique of interviewing \$3500. Proactive troll tax X 2850. New criminal investigator \$1400 and dark web investigations for \$1200 that comes out to right under \$19,000.

Mr. Mackey I would propose an amendment to subtract \$20,000 from that budget.

Mr. Banks seconded it.

Mr. Banks stated By reducing this. Is there any chance that minimizes the overtime that will be spent next year by the force?

Chief Hagan Yes. Inevitably, depending on the date. The less people go to school the last overtime we have.

Mr. Mackey Is there any way we can get some other community organizations to sponsor some of the stuff, like maybe the DA office for the County. I know we do a lot of the work hand-in-hand.

Chief Hagan Yes sir. We already do and we continue to reach out. The district attorney's office assists. And we will continue to do this.

Take a page from Chief Hagan. Our training budget is very important aspect facility maintenance -- let me find that. 2420 -- page 44.

Mr. Allison Let me interrupt -- we haven't voted. Would there be any other comments?

Mr Mackey Could you go back to the suicidal suspect training --

Chief Hagan That is one of the proposed trainings we are going to send officers to.

Mr. Mackey How much was that training? I think that would be once we do not want to cut. Is there something else we could plug in there? There is one we could plug in constitutional use of force. I hesitate to cut that because it is ever evolving and we need to stay on top of that, but that's \$1500. We have a couple of more in there that we could put off -- we do have a couple more we could hold off. It is an important training. I feel like if there is something else we could plug in or two smaller ones. We could plug in. I personally feel like that is an important training and I don't feel comfortable taking that one out.

. Chief Hagan I am glad you brought it up. Policing is changing so much, especially in the last six months. I would be frightened if we pulled that out. I agree with the two of you. Thank you, John. Do we want to take a harder look and come back with this in two weeks?

The motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Chief Hagan stated On page 44. Line item 242060 Facility maintenance. I do think we could take \$20,000 out and that leaving us with \$40,000 in their and still allow room for our repairs. I can work with them on some of the roof repair options on some of the roof repair leaks.

Mr. Mackey made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Banks..

. The motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2020

Chief Hagan On page 43. Subscription and dues. It's a relatively small amount but we can reduce that and have down to \$3000. That will provide us with the absolute necessary subscription support an FPA and will make due with that.

Thank you, Chief. Does someone want to make that motion?

Mr. Banks made a motion and it was seconded by Mr. Mackey.

The motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Mrs. Katz stated I just would like to open the floor for some discussion. Most of our expenses as we know our payroll, benefits and legacy. What if we look at taking some of our departments and outsourcing them. We did outsource HR for a couple of years. It was then did is it saved us for and legacy and we were not responsible. Nick, you outsource IT.

Mr. Grimes We do for specific software. Yes we do use an IT firm for our software.

Mrs. Katz What if we looked into outsourcing IT for City Hall. I am just throwing this out to the members of Council to see what your thoughts are. How long do we use outsourcing for HR

Ms. Miele I think it was 3 years. And we outsource recreation for one year. We definitely have done in the past. I think we looked at that as a transition at one time because the previous occupant had to retire unexpectedly. Eventually we got to that. But, yes.

Mr. Pawlak The only discussion I would bring up is sometimes it's a good idea with some departments but on the HR side some things you need to have some longevity for someone trying to command you don't get long term individuals like you do. They are on staff. I note there was a period where finance was assisting with that. Then there were two other individuals during that period they came through.

Mr. Allison Totally agree. I don't think you were referring to HR directly.

Mrs. Katz Oh I know. Different areas you want to have longevity. Just be careful what categories you are looking for. I am trying to think outside the box at this point. I don't want to take anything away from City Hall, but we also have to be cognizant of what's going on with our taxpayers and what we can do to think outside the box and be creative. I am just throwing it out for discussion.

Mr. Yoder I agree. I think that would be valuable. We talked about contracting it out. Hiring independent contractors. That happens as well. Independent contractors are middle ground or they are dedicated to you. Most of the time but you don't have the legacy cost burden than you typically have with regular employees. Concerning IT -- that is a big move. When we consider the administration getting back to us on that. We still have another week.

Mr. Allison . Thank you, Bonnie so we can think outside all of the boxes. depending on where we want to get and how we get there. There are some other areas we can cut. We talked about special events and recreation. I know it is designed to bring in revenue but that is under the best of times. It's hard to bring in revenue when we are under constrictions of this virus. It might be something we look at in this area. I am not saying we don't have a pool for swimming this year. But, that is why outside the box but it is a scenario Ms. Miele I just kind of second that -- I was going to bring up the swimming pool. No one has a crystal ball. There was still a leak in the deep end. If there was even maybe a year we don't open the pool and just try and fix it and fix it for good.

Mr. Winder I think there are multiple line items. The concrete is definitely cracked. We chased a leak in the concrete year ago. The goal is going to be . Uncover the piping -- unfortunately we never made it to the point to open the pool. I believe that is a great idea. If we go with another year of the pool closed what kind of pushback will you guys get?

Mr. Allison Well we will get pushback regardless.

Ms. Miele Do you have any idea if anything was done as far as a cost estimate?

Mr. Winder I think we spent 10,000 chasing the leak. Having a welder weld small leaks and plumbers pressurize pipes exposed. In my opinion it is between the pumphouse and the deep end. When it was upgraded the exterior was not done. Ideally it would be 20,000.

If ever there was a year to do it -- this would be that year. It would save us money if water was not leaking out where it is not supposed to. We could explore that possibility.

The previous year it was not open on time because of problems with the pool. We do have the fund for the pool that was donated, right?

Mr. Pawlak Yes. There is the capital fund. I think we set it up for down the road. We didn't do a full on restoration. We just did the shell -- do you want to use that today or in the future on the slide or when it deteriorates.

Mr. Winder The shallow end was all redone and tested. The old drain wasn't replaced in the deep end. I did the shallow end inspection. Just the scum gutter itself on the east end. What is our water bill? We lost over 1 million gallons last year.

Ms. Miele That's a lot of money. We don't know how long things will stay this way. Life will not be as normal as it was. People will be upset but we should fix it instead of wasting money on it leaking.

We opened this box and could I suggest we have the admin come up with some numbers and talk about this and we move on it next week with more concrete numbers. It is a big step.

Mr. Allison We should be able to get some water bills to see the impact of the leak and when we can see the leak and when it originated.

Ms. Miele I think it would be a good thing to explore. I would like to understand the summary and how much that would drop to the bottom line. I don't know what that looks like. But, I think we had some negative impacts of recreation and we should offer some other program if we do not offer the pool. But it depends on what the numbers say.

Mrs. Katz I agree with you, Liz. I want to see other parks added to the program. Even though it is close to

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2020

the memorial we do need to increase our parks program. If we don't open the pool we need something to benefit the kids. You already have the leak and eventually it will drop all together until it collapses. If you don't do something about it -- That is my biggest fear.

Mr. Allison I think we have a good way forward on this discussion. Let's let admin come back to us with these numbers. We are back to other ideas from this morning. I think we are up to without the balance 778,500 dollars. Is that right?

Ms. Miele stated> I think this is a good start and we need to do more. But I find it to quit while I am ahead.

Mr. Allison I am kind of sensing that as well. We need to look at the outsourcing issue on IT and whether there is any other program we may do better without next year. I think it may be best to rest ourself and work on this next week.

Mr. Allison stated One thing is to increase the city clerks salary. That is on page 15. I believe the difference between 1251510 line item the difference between 38496 and 38056 is 3800 dollars. We need to find that. Originally I thought we had more in our training line account. i don't think we will use that this year. I think that is good. We could take that 150 but we need to find another 300 dollars would do it. I was looking in our budget for city clerk there is 500 on page 15 for cc training. That is recert for her notary. I had a conversation and it is not needed until 2022. There is paperwork that has to be filed.

Ms. Miele I say we should take that if it is not needed until 2022.

Mr. Allison stated Or can we take funding from other service and document it. I see we only used 600 --

Mr. Pawlak The lease ran out so it would be not replacing the machine there.

Mr. Allisos asked We would be due to get a new machine?

Mr. Pawlak Or we just keep the machine there. We own the machine now.

Mr. Allison What condition is it in?

Mr. Pawlak We would have to talk to the city clerk.

Mrs. Frank, City Clerk said it is doable.

Ms. Miele make a motion to move 450 and reduce that but 450 dollars.

Mr. Yoder seconded it.

Mrs. Katz I would like to have a discussion. She is our emplyee and does so much for everybody. For her to have lost that kind of money is not right. If i have a problem, I always call Janice.

Mr. Allison The workload has exploded for a number of reasons. There is a lot that goes through that office that is not council related. Can we have the vote, please?

The motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Mr. Allison We can go with it passes 6-0. I will make a motion that we increase line item] salaries by 450 dollars and relate it by increase.

Mr. Yoder seconde dit..

The motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Mr. Allison Motion passes 6-0. Thank you. Okay is it councils desire to let this go and come back and let the admin check on those couple items? Thank you for letting us work some more on our end. We do need to vote on this tonight. So we can have our second reading next week,

The motion was carried with four yes roll call votes. The vote was 4 to 2.

Mr. Yoder voted no, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted voted no Mr Banks voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes and Mr. Allison voted yes. Mr. Pulizzi was absent.

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Ordinance of the City of Williamsport, County of Lycoming & the Commonwealth of PA fixing the tax rate for all City purposes for the year 2021 (first reading)

The City Clerk read the ordinance.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second on the ordinance

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

I will make the second. we need to move this along or we will schedule another meeting. This has already changed and we made a movement. Do we need to address this tonight?

Mr. Pawlak If you don't change the rate and it stays with a high end balance of -- I don't have that number.

Ms. Miele But if we change the rate it will drop down to the position -- I would be open to either. We could reduce it and then find other next week. We have incorporated enough savings the recude the tax by three quarters of a mil. Put it at 17.22 I think it gets approved on the second meeting then you have your final reading. I may not be right but I believe that is correct.

>> We need a motion to ammend.

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

Ms. Miele stated To be very clear to who might be watching that does not mean it is the final resting place we have eliminated and hope to eliminate further amounts

We do have several ideas. We are not staying stagnant.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote.

The motion was carried with four yes roll call votes. The vote was 4 to 2. .

Mr. Yoder voted no, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted voted no, Mr Banks voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes and Mr. Allison voted yes. Mr. Pulizzi was absent.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2020
Resolution of the City Council of the City of Williamsport Pennsylvania to Renew Trash Services
Contract for City Facilities and Properties

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second on the ordinance

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

Mr. Winder This resolution is to extend our trash one more year. Essentially they reached out to me and expressed. She will current pricing from 2020 to 2021. . After debating it sounds like the best solution. Due to COVID being here rather, we have a recreation program extending into 2021 would be the best option. It was reviewed by finance we did at the not to exceed \$44,900. The big question was did we only pay for trash to be removed and the answer is yes, we don't pay for empty containers just definitely a blessing for the budget. This is passed down with a positive recommendation.

Ms. Miele It went to finance it was passed with a positive recommendation. We really fluctuated between two trash companies over the past two years in terms of trash pickup. We were likely to have a ton of bidders. This time it is probably wiser to go with a company that is familiar with our situation because they have dealt with it. Hopefully things get back to normal and we will expect in 2022 to issue an RFP. The one conversation we did have was the possibility of a single stream recycling, saving us money. We have tried offering cycling events throughout the city and generally speaking, there seems to be a large amount of public education that has to happen before we can successfully recycle at city events, we do recycle city buildings, but people are not kept to the concept of cans. With that said, is potentially something for us to work on in the future, but not an option for cost-saving at this time. I believe that is everything.

Mr. Allison, Any members of Council wish to comment? I have one question -- the way you raised last year. Since we did not have trash in a way that was almost problematic because of the concept. We are not obligated in any way to pay certain flat minimum fee.

Mr. Winder We're not necessarily obligated to pay a minimum fee they bid on the amount they think they will haul. Her biggest moneymakerr holidays. They bid on hauling a lot more trash at those events versus what they haul out from streets and parks. The price we pay to have the trash cans emptied is significantly cheaper than what you would pay at your home.

. Mr. Allison asked for a vote.

The motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Certificates of Appropriateness HARB

Item 2. Stonehurst Group
C/O One Focus Property Management
942 West Third Street

- A. Demolish multi bay block & wood garage at the rear of property
- B. Prep and pave for use as parking space

Item 3 Christ Apostolic Temple Church
436 West Fourth Street

- A. Install 6' high Black aluminum fencing, Franklin Style, along the east property line from rear to front approx. 130'. Include a small section of fence across the front, on West 4th.

Item 4. Mirabito Brothers Properties
312 Park Street

- A. Remove damaged clapboard.
- B. Install insulation and wall sheeting.
- C. Return with colors and specific replacement material for review. .

Item 5. Mirabito Brothers Properties
910-912 West Third Street

- A. Remove rotted or damaged materials from the two story front porches.
- B. Prepare first & second floor front and side balustrades for repair.
- C. Repair both porch decks using tongue & groove decking to replace any damaged boards. Back prime new boards. Paint deck, gray, similar to existing color.
- D. Remove broken lattice material and Masonite from the apron area and railings. Install tight weave wood lattice properly framed and secured to the porch.
- E. Prepare trim including windows for painting.
- F. Repair stucco with flexible stucco.
- G. Replace any missing gutter and downspouts with ½ round gutter and round downspouts.
- H. Return to verify railing/spindle style and confirm paint colors.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to accept the certificates of appropriateness.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote.

The certificates were carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Accept for Filing:

Veteran's Memorial Park Minutes 10/5/20
Finance Meeting Minutes 11/17/20
Controller's Report 9/30/20
HARB minutes 11/17/20

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

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

The minutes were accepted for filing with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.

Mr. Yoder voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted voted yes, Mr Banks voted yes, Ms.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2020

Miele voted yes and Mr. Allison voted yes. Mr. Pulizzi was absent.

Announcements

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 6:30 PM, **per remote**.

Upcoming Meetings:

Friday, Dec. 4	11:00 AM	ERC
Tuesday, Dec. 8	11:30 AM	Public Safety
	1:00 PM	Finance Meeting
	2:30 PM	Public Works Meeting
Wednesday, Dec.9	11:30 AM	Redevelopment Authority
	3:30 PM	O& E Pension
Thursday, Dec. 10	6:30 PM	City Council Meeting

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

Mr. Allison asked for comments from council.
There were none

Mr. Allison asked for comments from the administration.
There were none.

Mr. Allison asked for comments from the general public
There were none.

Adjournment

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to adjourn. **Mrs. Katz made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Pulizzi.** Meeting was adjourned with at **9:04 PM** with unanimous ayes.

Respectfully Submitted by

Janice M. Frank
City Clerk