

Council President Adam Yoder brought the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Council members present:

Adam Yoder, President
Bonnie Katz, Vice President
Liz Miele, Councilwoman,
Randy Allison, Councilman,
Vince Pulizzi, Councilman,
Jon Mackey, Councilman,
Eric Beither, Councilman

Absent:

Adam Yoder, by remote
Eric Beiter, absent

Also, Present:

Derek Slaughter, Mayor,
Mr. Joe Gerardi remote
Mr. Joe Pawlak
August Memmi
Mark Killian, Fire Chief, absent
Justin Snyder, Police Chief absent
Solicitor Norman Lubin
Janice Frank, City Clerk
Adam Winder, RVT
Scott Livermore, S&P
Sean, S&P

Approval of the Williamsport City Council minutes for 12/16/21, 01/03/22 & 01/06/22 were approved upon a motion **Mr. Pulizzi and a second from Mr. Mackey All were in favor. The vote was 4 to 0. Mr. Yoder and Ms. Miele were remote and could not vote, Mr. Beiter was absent.**

Limited Courtesy of the Floor

There were no requests

Appointments/Reappointments

Veteran's Memorial Commission

Howard E. Wilt, 1186 Mountain Rd all reappointed to another 5 year term commencing 1/20/22 to 1/20/27

Jess P. Hackenburg, II

Charles Smith

Geroge W. Heiger, Jr.

Mayor Slaughter stated these members have all served on the Veteran's Memorial Commission and he highly recommends them for another 5 year term.

Mr. Yoder thanked them for their service and appreciates all they have done and are doing. He asked for a motion and a second and a vote on the members.

The appointments were carried with four yes roll call votes. The vote was 4 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Ordinance #6424

Ordinance Transfer Ordinance (final reading) Bill#1790

The City Clerk read the ordinance.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

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

Mr. Pawlak stated he had nothing further to add.

Ms. Miele There was very limited discussion, you already voted on at once in front of city Council two weeks ago, I was unable to attend that meeting and so I asked the other few members of the finance committee whether there had been any discussion - was there anything that needed to be flushed out further in subcommittee and they said that there is nothing of particular concern during the first Council meeting - we discussed the only real question, that I think we had and I believe the other members of the committee were with me on this was for the administration. We are effectively creating a position for an IT person for the City and we are waiting for the administration to hire instead of contract out and we were wondering where the administration was at as far as actual hires I do not know if Mayor Slaughter can answer that, but nobody at the finance committee was able to answer the question.

Mayor Slaughter answered: Pending final approval, we will start that process.

Ms. Miele: Great, thank you Mayor. Do we have a timeline at all for the progress? Or do we have any sense of the market? I don't really know what we have looked at so far.

Mayor Slaughter: We do not have a timeline - hopefully sooner rather than later, hopefully it does not take too long.

Ms. Miele : Excellent, sounds good. That was everything Adam and I will send it back to you guys for further discussion.

Mr. Yoder asked for a vote on the motion.

The ordinance was carried in final reading with four yes roll call votes. The vote was 4 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Resolution #9240

Resolution Accepting Donation from the City of Hazelton – Metal Detector

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

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

Mayor Slaughter: What you have before you is a resolution to accept a donation of a metal detector from the city of Hazelton. This is of no cost to the city of Hazelton nor to the City of Williamsport. The mayor (NAME) from the city of

Hazleton received these metal detectors and reached out to our Mayor's group and they had a few extras and we responded and said that we would take one and they graciously agreed to donate it not just to the city of Williamsport but to a few other minister polities as well. We do not have a use for it currently - we do not know definitively where it will go as of yet, it will be stored most likely at public works in the interim, but again this is of no cost to the city and no cost to subdue the city of Hazleton and so we are thinking full to the mayor for this donation. This was reviewed in public works.

Mr. Mackey stated Yes that is correct and the mayor much summed it up, this is a free metal detector and I am glad to see that they are out there making connections and it is clearly paying off. And I think really most of the conversation revolved around where this metal detector would be used and who if anybody would need to staff it while it was in use, but aside from that it was passed on with positive recommendation.

Mr. Yoder: Excellent, thank you Mr. Mackey, are there any comments from members of counsel this evening?

Mr. Allison: I have one question, is this mobile? It can be moved around?

Mayor Slaughter Yes, it can be moved around. Is one that you walk there, but you can move it. That's what chief Snyder and I are discussing, we can have it one place for a little while but if you need it for an event -

Mr. Yoder asked for a vote on the resolution.

The resolution was carried with four yes roll call votes. The vote was 4 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Resolution #9241 Resolution Uncollected Real Estate Taxes

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

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

Mr. Grimes: Good evening, if you are okay with that, I will go over the main overview of the taxes collected in 2021 which is customary to do at the January meeting and then it just present both resolutions and give you both at once since they are companions to each other if that is appropriate. The five certainly.

: Okay, so we talked in depth at the finance meeting about the revenue collections from 2021 so I will just give a very broad overview here. But, it came in a memorandum to all of city Council subject 2021 city revenue collections and there are a few pages to a, and most of it is self-explanatory and a few things that I wanted to point out in regards to the revenue collection comparison report which was the second page and the first page after the memo page - city real estate taxes but that was mainly because of an increase in tax rate, business privilege and marketing taxes were down. And they were down 6.6 percent. Which is not a good thing to be down. But, the business privilege taxes in 2021 is based on business revenue for 2020 which is when the pandemic started and it hit business is the hardest. So, we actually budgeted for about 1.77 million in business privilege taxes for 2021 and we ended at 2.3 million, so we are way ahead of what we expected. And while we did see a decrease, it was much less than anticipated, because of the pandemic. And that is similar with local service taxes, we were down about 3.7 percent local service tax, there is a variety of reasons why service tax can go down, but it is a good pulse on our local economy. Local service taxes specifically workers working in the City of Williamsport. I shared with the finance committee an article from walk where they had a dramatic decrease in rental downtown, it certainly can be part of this, the work from home has helped us in a sense for people that normally work outside the city are now in their home in the city and paying local service tax, but it also can hurt us in the aspect where large offices are closing or reducing the number of employees in that office and it reduces our local service tax. So, it is a little early to tell exactly how that will affect us, but that local service tax and income tax was also down, but not dramatically, 3.7 and 1.7 percent. Aside from that, transfer tax was way up in 2021. And I think that is because in 2020 some sales were held off because of the pandemic and also the housing prices have dramatically increased and some larger business sales have waited until you get rid of the pandemic to see what all utilities are still there, so there is a little bit of a catch-up factor there, but it is just the higher prices of real estate and that is based on a percentage of the sale. And the only other thing that I will point to is on page 4, the second to last page of that report is because that is what we will cover here in just a minute - it shows in 2021, our original duplicate balance, what I was charged to collect in real estate taxes was 15.38 million. For 9020 22 taxable parcels there is an unremitting paying balance of \$947,000 which is just over six percent of the real estate taxes which is actually our lowest percentage uncollected since we started tracking in 1988. So, that is a good segue into the resolution you have in front of you. This does go as two separate resolutions, but the resolutions say that we have \$947,390.97 of uncollected 2021 real estate taxes on these resolutions and it authorizes us to send those tax bills to county tax claim. Where they can then collect those bills and remit those payment to us or if those payments are not paid within a certain amount of years they can actually sell that property to pay those tax bills and the other one exonerates me from being charged with collecting the amount of money. That is a good rate this year, we have had good collections and if this does not mean that we are losing \$950,000 of real estate tax revenue, we collect nearly every penny of this. There is very few times that we do not get the taxes paid and as you can see in the tax summary report that I gave you in 2021 the delinquent tax claim bureau gave us 1.2 million taxes in collections from previous years, so most of that money is collected it is just saying that it was not collected in the current tax year and it goes to claims to be collected.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you Mr. Grimes for the overview of both of those and the summary of tax collections for the city in general. Both of these were reviewed in finance, I know we do not normally send them to finance, I was hoping some of the discussion that might spur would be around just some more intricacies of the tax collections and conjunction with our budgetary situation, so that is why I sent both of them over to finance, Liz I will turn this over to you in case there is anything additional that you wanted to share from that discussion.

Ms. Miele: Hey Adam, really most of our discussion revolved around the LST numbers and the wage numbers. And that really relates to what Nick said, what kind of a curve the city is seeing and we discussed the administration much the same as members of Council, nobody really had a pulse on that. What our office space purveyors are seeing in the near future - are they seeing that we are going to have office space filled or are they going to see new tenants for our leases - it was a discussion of things that we do not know. And I think that actually treasurer Grimes had sent an article around yesterday if I recollect correctly about Wilkes-Barre and loss of business that they are experiencing because Wilkes barre is such a business center, and office center and when the 11,000 people who came into downtown Wilkes barre exclusively to work dwindled to 3000, then they could not report restaurants and other businesses that were

there to service that community. Williamsport is not as heavily dependent on office building so that will not likely be our fate but I still think it behooves us to arrive at a better understanding of potential advantages of the remote work movement versus the disadvantages. And how we can capitalize that without losing our ancillary businesses in town. That was as I said I think Nick, correct me if I'm wrong, basically the majority of the discussion, you did make one point and I'm not sure if you followed up on here, but I was distracted for a moment, Nikki made one, that we made a raise in taxes but we only had a raise in one percent over the net income for 2020?

Mr. Grimes Yes, if you look at the total of the collections that we are reporting we had a one percent total increase in total collections which in the face of a pandemic, a one percent increase in tax revenue is good. However, with a tax increase, a real estate tax increase -

I was just going to say one percent certainly does not cover our increased costs especially when we had a real estate tax increase, one percent does not going to keep up with our cost and the only way to combat that is continual tax increases unless we find ways to raise those so those are good and bad things in the face of a pandemic, a one percent increase in revenue is wonderful and better than a lot of places but again, that will not keep up with our expenses especially when you factor in the increase in real estate.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you Mr. Grimes, if you have anything else Liz, unmute yourself and chime in, are there other questions and comments from members of Council this evening?

Mr. Allison We talked as the unpaid city real estate in prior years - we talked a little bit about that and if the number is really good this year. That is historically the lowest for the years that we have here, but generally we are in that 6 to 8 percent range. But, we did talk about the number of parcels that we have lost and this goes back to ADA - so, 9008 26 we had 2021 we had 9022, so we lost 800 something - that is about eight percent. And when I looked a little bit through this - a little closer, 2004 to 2005 we lost - that was the biggest year that we lost parcels it was 133 I believe. In any case - obviously that is when the hospital began their work and just to reiterate, they are still paying city real estate tax. On those parcels. The level that they were when they were torn down, it was a steady decline, but if you look at the last - 2016 until now - the trend looks like it is leveling off. Which is a good sign. Hopefully - there are empty parcels around town, I pass them all the time in different places and we have an opportunity there. In the future as we generate more economic activity - to make the city attractive for people to move into. And the different ways that we have already covered and talked about and continue to talk about work on. So, I am hopeful - for the most part we have bottomed out and some of these initiatives that we have been talking about back and forth for a while and with ARPA and the ARPA money and so forth that we will be able to turn that part around. And actually beginning to see some increases there. That is a way to bring in more tax revenue.

Mr. Grimes: And if I can make one clarification there, certainly if a nonprofit purchases a property that was previously owned in a tax roll and it does become un-taxable, that does come out of the number, but sometimes that is actually a good thing for economic development when you think we have less parcels, that seems bad, but when in the hotels went up, when polls went up when liberty Rita went up when trading transit went up - they were all multiple parcels went up in the economic of element actually resulted in millions of dollars more infrastructure, sometimes taxable and sometimes not, most of the examples I gave are taxable, but it still produces that number of parcels and city Council sees occasionally when there is a request to combine parcels or sometimes split parcels for a variety of reasons, but usually combining those parcels is for an economic development purpose.

Mr. Allison: Not tonight - I would not ask you to have that figure, but could you at some point give us a general ballpark figure of what percentage of parcels are in that category? Mr. Grimes?

Mr. Grimes: Do you mean of the fewer number of parcels we have today compared to a previous year, how many were combined for development?

Mr. Allison: Yes. And not that you have to do an exhaustive - but you mentioned some of the more recent ones that we could have an idea of.

Mr. Grimes: Certainly, I can try I will have to check with the assessment office of how to track that but I'm sure we can find a number that it is at least semi-UNTRAN1*.

Mr. Gerardi I can get you this report - from 2008 until present, what parcels have been demolished and actually if you look at it can be explained to you, their intended use of those particular parcels. So -

Mr. Allison: Okay, thank you.

Mr. Grimes: And it is not always a demolition either. For example, I forget if it was Jeff Kerry, somewhere over in the hyper Street area where the street was closed off, there were multiple streets closed off that I think were already vacant and I think they were already consolidated into one for sale. So, that would not have been a demolition but a consolidation so if there was more parcels there before down to one, that reduces the parcels by three even though it is the same amount, or if there is development there, more real estate value.

Ms. Miele No, I just wanted to mute myself - the only comment I was going to make is thinking about conceptually the reasons for which you go to the process of consolidation, I would imagine quite a few of them are related in some level of economic development whether or not that comes to fruition or not into what extent it increases the value of the total parcels versus decreases I think is up for discussion and we need to look into that - but, it certainly conceptually is interesting for us. The question I suppose is whether the number of parcels drives value in a city and when it increases and decreases and I think a lot of that relates to whether those parcels are going into nonprofit use or into commercial use. That was all, thank you.

The resolution was carried with four yes roll call votes. The vote was 4 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Resolution #9242

Resolution Real Estate Tax Collection Exoneration

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

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

Mr. Grimes: We wanted to turn those taxes over to County tax claim and this exonerates the treasurer for being responsible to collect those taxes since that is now past the County tax claim and you cannot vote no just to get to people to collect it, that does not work either (CHUCKLE).

Ms. Miele We did threaten to at some point or other exonerate Nick from tax collection after passing it over - but in this particular instance, we forwarded it with positive recommendations. .

The resolution was carried with four yes roll call votes. The vote was 4 to 0. All were in favor. Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes. Mr. Yoder and Ms. Miele were remote and Mr. Beiter was absent

Resolution #9243

Resolution Authorizing Second Amendment to Master Services Agreement Between City & Wood

The City Clerk read the resolution.

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

Mr. Sander What you have before you is a master service agreement between the city of Williamsport and wood engineering. We previously had master severance agreements in 2017 and 2018 and they have since expired, this just restarts the MSA. It is essentially 10 pages of contractual paperwork that wood engineering is legal and contract folks acquire in order for us to do business. This was reviewed by solicitor Austen at ahead of time and it was reviewed in public works on Tuesday given a positive recommendation. This sets us up for three - at least three - two future levee contracts and one -- for the city of Williamsport, let me know if you have any questions.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you Mr. Sander, this was reviewed in public works, Mrs. Katz?

Mrs. Katz Yes, it was, we had a discussion about this contract, we have been dealing with wood for a good many years. One of the statements that was made and I think this came from Councilman Randy Allison that there is only a couple companies in the country that do this kind of work to begin with. The only thing that I wanted to see in the future here I would really like to know how much money we have already spent in the last 9 to 10 years on all of our contracts with our engineers and any of the grants that came through. I think we have spent quite a bit of money and hopefully we are going to be breaking ground shortly with something, some works being done. I see the mayor met with some of the people in Baltimore and we were told that there was not going to be some money and obviously I think you have come up with talking to people that there might be some money available, maybe. And in order to get our levee accredited, we do have to move forward on this. And hopefully our lobbies are going to be working to get more money, the County has put a lot of time and energy and money into our levee and they are the ones who have taken - a major part of the lead I would say in this. Along with Senator Yaw because everybody realizes how important it is to get our levee accredited, I do not have anything else to add, it is important that we do sign the contract like I said, there was only a couple companies that do this kind of work and it is much needed that we have to sign this contract.

The resolution was carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Resolution # 9244

Resolution Authorizing An Agreement Between City of Williamsport & Choice Carpet Cleaners

The City Clerk read the resolution.

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

Mr. Livermore this is to enter into a contract agreement with Choice Carpet cleaning and janitorial service. To service City Hall facilities Trade and Transit I & II and Nichols Place which is our Police Department. This started in July 1, 2021 and will go through February 28, 2022. Voice will provide cleaning services at a day rate of \$90. This was reviewed in finance and passed with positive recommendation.

Ms. Miele Yes,. Anyway, this did come before the finance committee and those of these items were - I inquired and I do not think we have a definitive answer at the time as to how these rates compare to previous rates when we were in City Hall, Mr. Winder thought they were lower but the contract does include some of City Hall as well. So, we are still I think trying to figure out and we currently have a RFP out for a contract that will start 1 March for services that are exclusively for the areas currently occupied. But, I think the only major discussion we had about this because clearly janitorial services are important to regular and sanitary functioning in the city - we made a comment, I made a comment that generally speaking we prefer to see contracts prior to the commencement of the contracts, not six months in and secondarily not when city government, such relationally speaking we are in a state of flux right now we do not know where the department will settle and when that does happen if we find ourselves in multiple different structures as we currently do, it would strike me as a wise idea for us to separate those structures individually and contractually speaking into the same way as we are seeing on tonight's agenda public works is segregated out from the rest of the city departments and that historically is because public works has always occupied a separate structure than the city and in this case, now the city occupies three separate structures. So, it would make sense at some point to tracker cleaning differently and also I would anticipate that some of our departments have greater cleaning needs than other and would be better able to do that with separate contracts, that was anything from the finance committee unless Randy you have recollections of anything else I have forgotten?

Mr. Yoder stated Thank you Ms. Miele. What was the reasoning that we are getting this later or I guess in the middle of the.? Was there an answer or a meeting discussed in that?

Ms.Miele: I think we actually had a bit more discussion about this when the original contract with choice when RVT came to us in December, maybe November - that was also late and I believe the reasoning behind that although Mr. Livermore pardon me if I am misstating is that with all of the things in flux, we continued existing contracts without having actually officially executing them because choice was cleaning City Hall and so they said they could clean all of the various premises occupied by the city and anyway - this sort of I think - nobody knew exactly what we were requesting of them at all, so we did not getting around to executing the contract was my general impression but I will defer -

Mr. Yoder : Thank you. I guess a follow-up question for me and then open it up to other members of Council, are there other potential contracts floating out there that may have fallen under this category that we need to be aware of that we need to get cleaned up? It is a minimal item, I think in the grand scheme of things, I just trying to minimize little things falling through the cracks, that is a good practice and if there are others out there, this is how expenses can create and what have you - so, I don't know if there is or is not, I guess it would be good to understand. And just make sure that we do circle back and make sure that week tidy any of those up I guess just in a general comment. I will open it up -

Ms. Miele : I will put this out there, we are in contract with the cleaning company or companies that come out on top in the RFP prior to the beginning of March 1 commencement date. So, at least we will be on level, but I would agree with

Mr. Yoder there are other items that we are simply scrambling and did not get to, it would be nice to have the services earlier.

Mr. Yoder asked for a vote on the resolution.

The resolution was carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Resolution #9245

Resolution Authorizing an Agreement Between Public Works Dept. & Choice Carpet Cleaners

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

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

Mr. Scott Livermore, What you have before you is an agreement similar as the city, they will provide a cleaning service for the public works department for Monday, Wednesday and Friday at eight \$30 a day rate and it was reviewed and passed with positive recommendation.

Ms. Miele It was and forwarded with a positive recommendation but I do not recollect any specific discussion related to this. We do not ask what they were cleaning up in public works or anything. I think it was all pretty clear.

Mr. Allison: The only difference between the two is one is Monday through Friday and one is Monday, Wednesday, Friday.

Ms. Miele: And significantly less money and my recollection. This is \$30 a day - so, there is some differences, but presumably related to the needs - not much else to worry about over there.

Mr. Yoder: Got you, thank you. Any other questions or comments? Hearing and seeing none, Mrs. Frank on the motion please?

The resolution was carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Resolution #9247

Resolution Authorizing the City of Williamsport/Public Works Dept. to Amend a Street Line Painting Agreement with Mid Atlantic Marking, Inc.

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

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

Mr. Livermore stated: What you have in front of you is authorizing the public works department to amend the street line painting agreement with Midatlantic Incorporated. The original budget was for \$13,000 and we went over \$6228. The reason being is the street resurfacing projects that took place in 2021, we had to place 50,000 feet additional on some of these projects. And the extra \$6000, we will pull out of a liquid fuel account. This was reviewed in public works and passed with a positive recommendation.

Mrs. Katz stated Before yes, this did come to public works and I think Mr. Livermore expanded thoroughly, I don't think there is anything else to add.

Ms. Miele: Just a quick one from me Adam - this is coming from liquid field surplus? Like prior year surplus? Okay, prior year surplus. Got it. Just double checking. And it is not an expense we are anticipating having moving forward?

Mr. Livermore: All of the lines that we do every year, they come in and have to refresh everything so like I said with the surfacing projects that took place, that added all of that additional. So - it ended up being \$6000 over.

Ms. Miele: Okay, I am primarily asking, because I have been pitching to the ministration to consider adding bike lanes in some areas and I'm just curious, this gives us a bit of an idea of what the likely cost would be for something like that.

Mr. Livermore: And the cost from last year is up \$0.21 per foot which helped inflate that increase.

Ms. Miele And I am guessing the cost is not likely to go down. The labor cost and what they are are only going up and the cost of materials. There were a handful of things I came down after the pandemic inflation, but not many. Thank you. That is it.

Mr. Yoder asked if: Any other questions for members of Council?

The resolution was carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Resolution # 9247

Resolution Authorizing RVT To Adopt an Auditing Services Agreement/Engagement

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

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

Mr. Winder stated: This authorizes our KL auditing to perform ripple Valley transit by 21 in the amount of \$35,000 and our KL did perform this last year - or 2019's audit, I apologize, 2019 and 2020 - so, it only made the most sense to bring forward RKL to do 2020 and 2021 audit. This was reviewed before the new transit oversight committee and passed with a positive recommendation. It is in the amount of \$35,000. And there was a new resolution sent earlier today that reflects that \$35,000 amount.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you Mr. Winder this was reviewed by Transit Oversight and forwarded with a positive recommendation. So, to Mr. Winder!, in the discussion, so, 2019 and 2020 audit was \$35,000, the proposed - the original proposed resolution reflected a couple thousand dollars less, in case they ran into anything similar to what they did with the previous year's audit, if everybody recalls, there was a change order because of some items that they ran into that were not accounted for. And the discussion was putting it back to the actual budget price mainly as a way - it is not a lot of money, but in the grand scheme of things it is more of a accountability mechanism given anything that going on in River Valley transit, if there would be something that would come up, that would probably be something that this Council would want to know about. So, that would simply just a trigger this coming back again in a change order, so we have the opportunity to ask questions and get to the bottom of it and that kind of thing. Some of the other discussions surrounding this were - there was some discussion about the time frame of this - the previous audit, we

passed right at the end of the fiscal year and this we are doing eight months into the next fiscal year. Mr. Winder, forgive me, there was a reason for that and I'm struggling to recall what that was, would you be so kind as to relay that to the broader part of counsel?

Mr. Winder The reason being was the extensive amount of work that was performed during the 2019 and 2020 audit. It did cause for a lengthy time until we actually got a final audit that was sent out to everyone I believe about two weeks ago. We could not start the next audit until the 1920 audit was finalized and presented to counsel.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you Mr. Winder, I appreciate you refreshing my memory. Aside from that, this was a lot of discussion and again, it was forwarded with a full positive recommendation and I open the floor for other questions from other members of counsel.

Mr. Allison: I don't have a question - to your point Mr. Yoder about getting communication from them, the \$2000 contingency would be a mechanism to get that - I notice they have a communication statement in their opening letter. Where they said effective two-way communication between the firm and of the Board of Directors and understanding matters related to the audit developing constructive working relationship and the second paragraph down from that, we will timely communicate to you any fraud involving senior management or other known or likely fraud found with noncompliance etc. it talks a lot about that. There is a lot of language in there. So, I feel with those - I think it is a good idea what you propose - with the committee proposed with the contingency and I think they will lean that way in any case according to what they said. So - I feel confident in this. I think they did a really good job first time around because they jumped into something - it was a bit of a ball of things. So - just so that the public has confidence in the process that is underway, I think this confirms that - this auditing firm is going to do their due diligence and we are as well. That is all I have to say.

Mr. Yoder: Certainly Mr. Allison. I appreciate those comments and cannot agree more. Your comments about some of the language that was in the document from the auditors, it triggered - we did not really discuss this in oversight, but I did compare on my own in prep for this this document and the one from the previous audit that we approved and there is very similar language in each of those, a lot of it is boilerplate, so I think just for the public sake, we all know what is going on and has been out there about River Valley transit, I do not necessarily think any of the language included in this is directly reflective of the ongoing investigation of River Valley transit. It may be to a degree, but a number of these items and specifically some that you referenced Mr. Allison were also included in the one prior before a lot of the information before the previous audit came out. But, I would agree. I think this is a good firm and I think we are wise to provide some continuity here at least in the short term - are there any other comments or questions from the members of counsel? Hearing and seeing none, He asked for a vote.

The resolution was carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0. All were in favor. Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes. Mr. Yoder was remote and Mr. Beiter was absent

Resolution #9248

Resolution Authorizing the City of Williamsport to Adopt RVT 2021 System Performance Review Act 44

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

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

Mr. Winder This authorizes city of Williamsport to adopt River Valley transit 2021 act 44 report and the action plan for the act 44 review. In September - I believe this was when city Council received a copy of the act 44 performance review and at that time it was on River Valley transit to basically give a plan of how to report these issues that were found in the act 44 review. That was then sent into PennDOT for the review and they agreed with the terms that we set forth, so now this requires action of the mayor signed the overall plan so we can submit it back to PennDOT. With approval. This was reviewed in the transit oversight committee and I do have Todd Wright and myself to answer any questions you may have pertaining to this.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you Mr. Winder, this was reviewed in Transit Oversight and it was forwarded to the full body with a positive recommendation. Mr. Winder summed up pretty good - one of the items related to this was the process and the timeframe between September and now and as he described, there is a process of formal collaboration required between the city of Williamsport River Valley transit and PennDOT that he outlined which explains why this is coming to us now versus September, October timeframe when it was published and completed. A couple of the other things that were items of discussion were really surrounding a couple of the recommendations that you will see in the beginning part of the resolution and the document, because there is responses that we put together and put in their for submission to PennDOT and one of them was surrounding strategic planning. This has been something that has been ongoing and Mr. Winder was gracious to provide us a little bit of what has happened previously and also what is going on moving forward and kind of clarifying the language surrounding the consultant that is referenced in there. And then there was a lot of discussion as well about intergovernmental support as you notice and I think we have talked about this through budgets and even before then. There is even a recommendation about transitioning away from using RVT for intergovernmental support and there was some discussion really about just quantifying what has been severed already. And what still does need to be severed and the team at River Valley transit is working through putting that together so that we number one make sure that we catch everything and we do not lose a service or a service falls through the cracks and number two just from a compliance perspective making sure that we actually do it. And there was also some discussion about some of the changes in job responsibility, because that was a part of some of the recommendations from cost management and financial management and compliance. And they are working on putting together a couple different charts and documents that kind of outline what they had versus what they have now to help quantify what was versus what is now and so that we can I think better understand what that recommendation looks like and why it makes sense. So, that was a lot of the discussion, again this was forwarded with a positive recommendation and I will yield the floor to other members of counsel for other questions or comments. And Adam, feel free to chime in if I missed anything.

Mr. Yoder asked for a vote on the resolution.

The resolution was carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0. All were in favor. Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes. Mr. Yoder was remote and Mr. Beiter was absent

Certificate of Appropriateness – 454 Pine Street

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

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

Mr. Gerardi stated Good evening, what you have before you is a certificate of appropriateness request for the property located at 454 Pine Street. Attached to the review of the proposed certificate and the owner request the following items, we do not have to discuss all three of them - we can prove them all as one or make changes as we go along. The first one he would like to erect a canopy at the front entrance. I have attached a photo of the canopy and if everybody remembers the canopy that was there, it was brown and it had that as the entrance and they were trying to switch out the canopy not realizing they needed a permit for that, this has been erected, it is black with a little red and it is called the news room grill and spirits. Several years ago, this property was the exterior color of the windows, he got approved by city Council to go in with black, so it does blend in with the black windows, if you have any questions about that, I would be happy to answer any questions, if not I will proceed to the next. The five are there any questions to members of Council?

: It shows the location of these three items, the second one, he wants to erect a 16 by 18 pergola on the front of the structure with a fenced in enclosure, I have attached a photo of what he would like to do. This is a pergola and a fenced in area in another location of the central business district. That was approved probably two or two and half years ago. So, that is what he would like to erect in the front of the structure. And if you have been there, it is the little circle that goes in front of the old City Hall, this would be on the backside of that so it would not be on the front, it would be between that and the building.

I am more than happy to answer any questions.

Mrs. Katz before looking where this is going to be, is this going to detract from the signage and also the aesthetics of the building?

Mr. Gerardi would say this much - the signage as far as the canopy, no, if we look at where the canopy sign is and where this pergola is going to be placed, okay? It is offset from the building, 16 by 18, that is a little bit bigger than a person's detached shed and it is an open structure, it is not enclosed. So, and it does whether, if you think about it, we do have one that was previously approved by city Council four years ago or five years ago that is across from our building, City Hall that there is a open pergola where it says I think some type of sign up above it, but it is an open pergola that is attached to the community arts building. That is an open pergola. And it does whether with years because of the rain and so forth. And I'm pretty sure we have a person here from the newsroom and I did not notice if they called in.

Mrs. Katz: I don't know if we do have anybody, is there anybody from the newsroom? I don't think so -

Mr. Gerardi ,But that is what you have, so again, that is the best I can answer and if I could answer any other questions, I am more than happy to try.

Mrs. Katz: When are they going to start building the structure because it is not there yet.

Mr. Gerardi: It would be based on approval from you and a permit to the city of Williamsport.

Mrs. Katz: Okay, I don't have any other questions.

Mr. Yoder: Mr. Gerardi, is that everything that you had?

Mr. Gerardi: No, one other item on that particular object.

Mr. Yoder: Is there any other questions from members of Council on this project before Mr. Gerardi continues?

Ms. Miele I am staring at the structure and having a hard time putting together the diagram that we have and the location -

Mr. Gerardi: What you have is the picture of exactly what he wants to do with the metal fence around it and another location in the City of Williamsport that we previously approved. It is not showing it in front of the old City Hall.

Ms. Miele Yes, but the photo of the newsroom - that is on the building, right?

Mr. Gerardi: Yes. He switched out canapés not knowing that he needed a permit for that. And again, that is something again - you will pay double the fine on if you do not like the canopy of the option to change if you wish.

Ms. Miele: I guess all that I'm asking and wondering then about the pergola - there really is that much space between the drive in front of the building and the building itself?

Mr. Gerardi: Yes. I walked out there and looked at it and it is. If you look at the site plan that you see -

Ms. Miele: I am looking at it, I just don't remember there being that much space.

Mrs. Katz What is the purpose, why does he want to have a pergola there?

Mr. Gerardi: He is opening - he did apply for a permit to renovate the lower level which is ADA handicap accessible into a restaurant bar, because he does have a license for the above rental properties that he has, so he has always wanted to do a restaurant bar and he decided to finally do it so that is what we have. We have a bar down below with I believe 56 individuals and have a restaurant down below. He also wants to do outdoor seating which is in front of the pergola and the next one which would be the rear dining area.

Ms. Miele: A Tiki bar -

Mr. Gerardi: That is our next one.

Ms. Miele: In the end, the pergola is really only a semi-big structure anyway, it is not something that is going to be it has to be there indefinitely - I am to try to wrap my head around that.

Mr. Gerardi: I understand that, it is hard to put to together, you have a building that was built back in 18 something and you're putting something there that is more modern, like 1978 - I understand -

Ms. Miele: I guess I would encourage perhaps consideration of the structure, it is a little hard for me to make out the detail of the pergola, it looks like there is some level of detail to it, but perhaps I am misreading the image. But yes, that is not so much my concern, it just seemed like it is a little cluttered in front of the structure. But, that is probably us not having a rendering in front of the structure.

Mr. Gerardi: And again, it is not going to be erected today or tomorrow if you wish for him to do a rendering of this in front of the building so you have a better perspective you can do that. You do not have to approve all three, you can approve one of the three. Because it is one of those things that you have to - your putting this in front of an older building anyone to make sure that it fits properly.

Ms. Miele: And you said the pergola and the fence -

I don't see any major issue with it. I think we can certainly trust the judgment of the property owner on this.

Mrs. Katz: Outdoor seating -

Ms. Miele: The outdoor seating makes perfect sense - it is just not having a picture in the foreground - but, that is my fault not having looked into this -

Ms. Katz: I did not either -

Ms. Miele: It has been hard to visualize - anyway - that is water under the bridge, anybody else have any comments? Bonnie and I have done this long enough - the one you covered it.

Mr. Yoder : Mr. Gerardi continue on.

Mr. Gerardi: The very last thing he wishes to do in the rear of the building he wishes - two items, I have attached the photo of the fence you would like to place on back of the building. That is actually the look of the fence, but that is not the color, the color will be black. This fence is another thing that was approved several years act. And also, he would like to place a Tiki hut, it is basically a Amish built shed and it is going to be that material and as you saw, I crossed off the area where there is going to be a tabletop that drops down and people can sit in the fenced in area and people can have cocktails or beverages or dinner and so forth. And again, I am more than happy to answer any questions. The shingles will match the single color of the old City Hall.

Mr. Yoder Are there any questions from anybody on this piece of this? Before I think we like this one. This will look really cool in the back.

Mr. Gerardi This is in the rear of the building and you will not be able to see it from North Street or Pine Street, but facing North Street in the rear of the property. So, that little fenced in area, it will be in there.

Mr. Allison It will be in the fenced in area?

Mr. Gerardi Yes, at the back of the building. It is inside that square. And again, I don't know what scale this drawing is, but it is probably like one inch equals 100 feet or 50 feet so the shed is very minute in the area.

Mr. Yoder: Are there any other questions from members of Council on any of these three?

Great, I would just think this individual for making this investment. I am very much looking forward to getting there and trying this out. I know we had some questions surrounding a number of things on this, but I think the most important thing is that building is continuing to progress and even though this might be a singular investment, it is an investment nonetheless and when we are talking about a nearly \$2 million deficit and we have revenue growth that trails our expenditure growth, even though this is a small investment, it is an investment nonetheless and we need more of this to kind of dig ourselves out of our deficit hole that we are in. So, I would just thank them very much for working with us tonight and investing into the city. We are very much appreciative of it.

Mr. Gerardi: If I could add one thing Mr. Yoder, he has a lot of history inside the building of different things that occurred over the timeframe and it is very nice looking. And it just in case anybody wants to know, the tower, he has been working on for the last probably eight months. Water got in behind some of the concrete in the brickwork and pushed those large concrete trim work so forth out so he had was taken down and he is replacing that so it will look exactly the same as it was before, so just in case anybody is wondering. It takes a little time to get that stuff made up.

The certificate of appropriate was carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0. All were in favor. Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes. Mr. Yoder was remote and Mr. Beiter was absent

Accept for filing::

- Public Safety Minutes 10/19 21
- Blighted Residential Dwellings Jan. 2008/Dec.2021
- New Business & Dwellings Jan. 2008/Dec. 2021
- Monthly Report Bureau of Codes Dec. 2021
- Bureau of Codes Demolitions Jan 2008/Dec. 2021

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion to accept the minutes for filing.

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

The minutes were carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Announcements

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 7:00 PM, Trade & Transit II, 144 West Third St. 3rd Floor, Williamsport, PA

Upcoming Meetings:

	Friday, Jan 21	1:00 PM	ERC
	Tuesday, Feb.1	11:30 AM	Public Safety
		1:00 PM	Finance Committee
		2:30 PM	Public Works
		4:00 PM	Transit Oversight
Thursday, Feb. 3	7:00 PM		City Council Meeting

Mr. Yoder asked if there were comments from members of Council.

I would just like to give a shout out to public works. Our city clerk is in a new location on the first floor of Trade & Transit II, I hope she is much more accessible and in a better location for our constituents. I would just think the public works department. They may do that really seem less and it was fairly easy and very much appreciated, so we thank you for all of your today. And I think you also for your work Monday and Tuesday with our recent weather event that we had. We had a lot of people in my neighborhood at least that were very happy with the timeliness and the level that we were able to get the streets plowed, so thank you very much for that

Mr. Yoder asked if there were comments from the administration.

There were no comments.

Mr. Yoder asked if there were comments from the general public.

Mr. Frank Stucco Hello my name is Frank Stucco I live at 619 first Avenue. I am a committee person for the

Democratic party. I have a couple little things - I went to the toad's office today and I noticed some cracks in the concrete when you come up the steps. I think the building is only 10 years old and it should not be cracked and if it continues the way it is it will be a major expense which everybody is interested in. The biggest crack - the smallest crack could have been dealt with in some time ago would be - it would not be a big crack now. The little one probably would not be there. So I was going to tell Mr. Winder about it, so I thought I'd bring it to counsel. It could save tens of thousands of dollars if they could put a preservative of some sort in there and fix these cracks before they get out of hand. They may not even last the winter. It is a small thing but I think it is an interesting thing that the main entrance to a main building should be neglected by everyone that goes in there like that. I'm not pointing the finger at anybody in particular, I am just saying, it is sort of like when the roof was blowing off the building of the old building and I came in and reported it to Mr. Allison and others. And there was no comment. I think at one point I said that for sure if somebody was hurt and killed there would be criminal prosecution. Andy talk about money and expenses - this is a statewide issue - some politicians at the state level were trying to make names for themselves and using public funds I guess to challenge the last election again after some estates have done it, but I see that in Arizona and out west and some of those, like forgive me for the term, but most people say pick states. I think that is because they are hick state, but when I see it in Pennsylvania it makes me beyond irritable. And I think that the last time I saw public funds wasted for private investment if I'm not mistaken was a good friend of mine I went to school with name Brett Feeese DA for Lycoming County and he was head of the Republican caucus and in the end he did four years in state prison for what I think seems to be the very same exact thing. Public monies that we need for business as Mr. Yoder said for our own investment is used for some stupid backwards challenge that has been disassociated in every court in this country and I want to know why you people are not approaching Wheeler and Yaw (SP?) because they represent this if I'm not mistaken so there's something for you to think about and Republican and Democratic alike. And I would like to know if anybody here agrees with me or if they think it is a good idea I know you usually do not like to comment on anything God forbid anybody once to say something of value, Mr. Yoder, not help us, the President of the United States has a lot to deal with after the last one -

Mr. Yoder Thank you very much sir, I appreciate your well wishes and you have reached your time for this evening, so thank you very much for your comments and we make sure that we look into the steps. Are there any other comments from members of the public?

There were none.

Adjournment

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned upon motion by **Mrs. Katz and a second by Mr. Allison Meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM with unanimous ayes.**

Submitted by:

**Janice M. Frank
City Clerk**