

Thursday, March 17, 2020
Williamsport, PA

Council President Randy Allison brought the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday March 17, 2020 at 1:15 PM at the Trade & Transit II Centre. Chris Cooley did livestream the meeting. No invocation was given and there was the "Pledge of Allegiance".

Council members present:

Randy Allison, President
Elizabeth Miele, Vice President
Bonnie Katz, Councilwoman
Adam Yoder, Councilman
Vince Pulizzi, Councilman
Jon Mackey, Councilman
David Banks, Councilman

Absent:

Also, Present:

Derek Slaughter, Mayor
Mr. Joe Gerardi
Mr. Joe Pawlak
Mr. Gary Knarr
Damon Hagan, Police Chief
Sol. Norm Lubin, Solicitor
Janice Frank, City Clerk
Adam Winder, S&P
Chris Cooley
Mark Maroney – Press
Members of the Center for Independent Living
Laura Templeton- guest speaker
Members from Bia Rock Assn

Limited Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Elliot Weis, 108 Grampian Blvd. stated that he realized this meeting has occurred on short notice and he thanks Council for allowing him to speak.

Withing the next few months or longer, we face significant challenges. We face health and economic crises. The Coronavirus according to some will affect 40 to 60% of our population. The CDC in order to curb the effects, of this virus, suggests limiting groups to gatherings of 10 or less. Some have even suggested smaller groups. Toward the end of April, the Nazis want to meet in Brandon Park. The expected number of those people is supposed to be 50. However, in addition to these people we will have to have law enforcement personnel of considerably more than that to protect our community as well as those expected to gather. Law enforcement personnel are going to face some significant challenges as a result of the Coronovirus. In many areas law enforcement is expected to enforce quarantines, distribute food, maintain laws and order and generally to protect the public. Law enforcement will be under a great deal of stress. This gathering by the Nazis makes their job impossible. I urge you to withdraw the Nazi's permit and not rescheduled or attempt to reschedule this event until the Coronavirus epidemic passes.

Declaration of Disaster for City of Williamsport

Chief Killian stated this is for the City of Williamsport upon the State & Federal Government instituting disaster and this is ours on a local level. The County instituted theirs yesterday, with access to funding and any Codvid-19 expenses, that will give us the ability to purchase any materials and not go through the red tape. There is no end date of this declaration, the end date will be when PEMA closes this declaration. The beginning date is March 6, 2020 and that is the window for funding of that declaration

Resolution #9002

Resolution Authorizing Approval of the Declaration of Disaster for the City of Williamsport

Mr. Lubin stated we need a resolution to approve the declaration.

Ms. Miele stated so this is a resolution approving the Declaration of Disaster for the City of Williamsport, Be it resolved, by the City Council of the City of Williamsport, that a special meeting held on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, the declaration of Disaster for the City of Williamsport is hereby approved.

The appropriate City Officials are hereby authorized to sign this.

Ms. Miele made the motion to accept it. Mr. Yoder seconded it.

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

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

Resolution #9001

Resolution by the City Council to Extend the Mayor's Proclamation

Mr. Allison explained that we will be to extend the Mayor's earlier declaration for social gatherings and dates.

Ms. Miele this resolution is continuing Public Restrictions, whereas in view of the global coronavirus crisis and the threat to health and safety that it poses on a local level, and the Mayor of the City of Williamsport, declared under his emergency powers, on March 13, 2020 that no large gatherings, events or conferences of 250 individuals or more will be allowed with the City of Williamsport. This restriction applies to all property within the City limits, and at all hours, and doesn't apply to schools.

So Now therefore, City Council is declaring that 50 individuals will be allowing in the City of Williamsport and this will be effective immediately until April 2 and can be extended upon notice.

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

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

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

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to suspend the rules.

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

The following resolution was added to the agenda.

Resolution #9003

Resolution to Commit to Funding and/or City Borrowing and to Authorize City Representatives to Act on Behalf of the City of Williamsport for Financing of the Williamsport Flood Control Project

The City Clerk read the resolution.

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

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

Mr. Winder explained this would assist with levee system in Dewey Ave area, and replace the I wall to the T wall. The County submitted last year and were successful in in and another round came up. The grant would be for 4.8 million dollars with matching dollars. This would be a five year project. Shannon is here and she has be heading the County project.

Mrs. Katz stated this was not on our agenda and it is the last piece of the puzzle for the levee. We didn't think there would be money to go after this.

Shannon, representative from the County, stated the first grant was given out to the County, so this is under Disaster Relief fund and also under the Declaration, so it is 80/20 with this opportunity we cn issue additional funding. You do not have to have funding in place and with this there will be some money left in the relief fund. It was not guaranteed by was highly suggested that the City apply for this funding. She will be assisting Adam and Chris with this because they are not expected to do this alone.

Mrs. Katz stated having this money is God-Sent.

Shannon stated this is not a normal opportunity and we have to have this submitted before the end of March. It is not guaranteed buy we think we can get that money.

Mr. Winder stated the resolution is based off information from Mr. Keller.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the resolution.

The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor. Mr. Yoder voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Banks voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, and Mr. Allison voted yes.

Mr. Allison stated we have considered all the different meeting parts of the committee meetings, we are definitely not going to have a Council meeting this Thursday. The next meeting will be April 2, 2020. We have extended the Mayor's original proclamation.

Ms. Miele stated now would be a good time to say the upcoming committee meetings will be canceled and Public Works will still resume today at 2:30 here at Trade & Transit II> For right now, the meetings scheduled for this week will be canceled.

Mr. Allison stated we are in close communications with the administration and City Hall is on as, as needed staff, the administration is working on solutions moving forward and like everyone else we are dealing with local issues.

Announcements

Mr. Allison stated we had an executive session before this meeting on contracts to get legal guidance from our solicitor.

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Thursday April 2, 2020 at 7:30 PM, at the Trade & Transit Centre, 144 W. Third St, 3rd Floor

Mr. Winder stated started tomorrow RVT will run on a limited bus schedule, he announced the time and stated individuals who need help, can call the office. He announced the trips that will be canceled. We are an essential need by the public but we do have to scale back for those reasons.

Mr. Allison asked if there were any questions or comments from City Council.

Mr. Banks stated we are all affected, keep checking in with PA Dept. of Health and be patient with all the hospitals, everyone is in this together so be patient and kind to one another.

Mr. Allison asked for comment from the administration?

There were none.

Mr. Allison asked if there were any questions or comments from members of the public.

There were none.

Adjournment

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned upon motion by **Mr. Yoder and a second by Mr. Pulizzi. Meeting adjourned at 1:46 PM with unanimous ayes.**

Submitted by:

**Janice M. Frank
City Clerk**