

**Thursday, September 10, 2020
Williamsport, PA**

Council President Randy Allison brought the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday September 10, 2020 at 6:30 PM on Zoom. Chris Cooley did livestream the meeting.

Council members present:

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

Absent:

Also, Present:

*Derek Slaughter, Mayor
Mr. Joe Gerardi
Mr. Joe Pawlak
Gary Knarr
Mark Killian, Fire Chief,
Damon Hagan, Police Chief
Norman Lubin, Sol.
Janice Frank, City Clerk
Adam Winder, S&P
Jon Sanders,*

Approval of the Williamsport City Council minutes for the 08/27/20 were approved upon a motion **Mrs. Katz and a second from Mr. Mackey. All were in favor. The vote was 7 to 0.**

Limited Courtesy of the Floor

There have been no requests.

Mr. Allison stated there were two announcements This Friday on August 28, 2020, we had a transit training session that six members of council attended. It was essential. At the close of this meeting, we will be having an executive session in the matter of personnel.

Mr. Allison changed the order of the agenda to accommodate the public.

Lot Consolidation/land Development for Parking Lot

Mr. Knarr stated that is a lot consolidation and land development they'll be combining parcels which is located on park avenue. the consolidation will consolidate all three parcel into one for the purpose of land development plan which is actually to create a parking lot for the proposed use at that facility. it was reviewed by both the Lycoming County and City Planning Commission. You do have the county's comment. it does meet storm water recommendation and we both recommend approvals. we did a site visit as well as we did speak with the engineer and they do have adequate spacing for the growth of trees in those parking lot requirements, so it does meet that requirement. in addition, normally what will happen is whether the building permit comes through for the parking lot, obviously i'll oversee every step of the process to make it meets all building and zoning codes. It was reviewed by lycoming county and planning and i do have a representative if you have any questions.

Ms. Miele wanted to clarify that even though the county said there wasn't adequate space for trees within their landscaping plan, there is?

Mr. Knarr answered the county did -- he doesn't have the specified distance. we did do a site visit and it meets the requirements based on site. it will meet the actual requirement when it comes to the parking lot. it's something i'll oversee to make sure it adheres to the landscape ordinance and storm water ordinance as well.

Ms. Miele asked what the proposed use will be ?

Mr. Knarr answered it's a medical office. medical office space,

Mrs. Katz asked where they are going to have 31 stalls and two handicapped stalls. is that enough for two handicapped stalls?

Mr. Knarr answered basically, what happens is they provided me with a blueprint of the lot -- of the building lay out based off of what their using the office space for. it does meet and actually exceeds the requirement for both parking areas.

Mrs. Katz stated so it's one for every 25 stalls required. if you have 35 stalls -- gary, what does he have?

Mr. Knarr answered 31 and two is adequate for the handicap but i have blueprints within the facility as far as floorplans. based off the square footage and zoning requirements he meets it and actually exceeds it by a couple spaces.

Ms. Miele stated , there's going to be some demolition going on first. is there any -- >> the building is actually down.

Mr. Knarr answered it's just a vacant lot. They are going to consolidate those parcels. the building has been down for several years.

Ms. Miele stated if this is the parking lot in that office complex there's a building next to it that is coming down. by doing this you are agreeing to tear that building down.

Mr. Knarr answered are you talking about the small space and one parcel?

Ms. Miele answered yes that house, yes. that is coming down for a parking lot.

Mr. Knarr answered yes there is and do they have to come to Council. If basically when you are approving this particular land development, you are approving the demolition of that structure.

Ms. Miele asked Mr. Gerardi they don't need a separate permit, Joe?

Mr. Gerardi answered they need a permit to tear the building down. this is part of land development. you are agreeing to tear the building down so you can construct a parking lot.

Mr. Knarr stated you can't build over an existing structure so they would be required to tear it down for the

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parking for the ccu.

Ms. Miele stated i guess i'm asking about the process here. it seems as though generally speaking we require a demolition permit. we see the permit, structure, et cetera, et

Mr. Gerardi answered and you are correct but if there's a demolition part of the land development it all goes as one. that's how we've done it.

Ms. Miele stated we don't have a demolition permit, do we?

Mr. Gerardi answered not at this time but when he starts he will file for that demo permit. i'm going to issue it because you are agreeing with this land development that the only way you can do the parking lot is to tear the building down.

Ms. Miele asked we've never done that before in my experience?

Mr. Gerardi answered i believe we've done it in two or three other incidents. i would have to think to be very honest. where the u-haul is that building. demolition we did on that. if you want me to bring it in front of you, i can.

Ms. Miele stated answered it doesn't really matter in this incident, but at some point if we were looking at a larger scale demolition, what should be the process. we should see perrmit with the land development
Mr. Geradi stated Dave Smith is the attorney. if he thinks it needs to go through, we can do that you can't do one without the other.

Ms. Miele stated , i understand the whole idea. *i guess it simply seems like there should be a disclosure element as part of the process. if we're permitting a demolition sort of by -- you know, as an understood part of the process.*

Mr. J. David Smith stated i'm honestly okay with it either way. so as long as the demolition process comes in front of you at some point in time and obviously the applicant knows that that is part of the process, i'm okay with that.

Ms. Miele stated it sounds as though the demolition permit won't come in front of us.

Mr. Gerardi stated here is what happened, he submitted a land development drawing. in order to do the drawing approved by the county and would be approved tonight by city council, he has to tear the building down. yes, i could submit the paperwork but then you can't really approve this land development unless you are approving the demolition of the house. understand what i'm saying?

Mr. Smith answered oh yes ok.

Mr. Gerardi stated if you are approving the land development, you are approving the demolition of the structure.

Mr. Smith stated i get that and that makes sense to me. now that i understand the demolition is part of what you are approving unless there are elements of the land development process including the tearing down of the building that council needs to see the demolition applicant -- demolition application approved. i don't know that it's necessary as a separate item under these circumstances.

Ms. Miele stated i'm just -- in future i might be more comfortable with the whole idea if we had pictures of the existing site layout if it involved demolition so everyone was on the same page and knew what was coming down. in this instance i'm not inclined to hold it back. you know, when the building comes down everything is

Ms. Miele stated hopefully we wouldn't be that stupid,

Mr. Knarr stated, what i can do in the future is when i present the land development plans, i'll basically state in there we're requesting a demo that we can do as part of land development plan and i could say that during the presentation.

Ms. Miele answered i think that's awesome, that's all we're after, a complete understanding.

Mrs. Katz asked who is the representative here tonight, ?

Mr. Knarr answered Vassello engineering who actually did the drawings.

Mr. Allison asked if there were: any other questions? okay. i'll entertain a motion and second.

Mr. Banks stated that he was looking at the listed address on the plan set. 307-308 park ave. but i'm bringing it up and it's not addresses. so i'm wondering -- probably 307-309 or 308

Mr. Knarr answered the address is 307 and 308 park ave.

Mr. Banks stated yes but right but what -- i'm looking it up right now and that's not where that is located. it would be 438 and 428 park ave. i'm sorry, the 307 and the 308 is the partials.

Mr. Knarr stated. that is all that does. that was my mistake. 332 is one parcel and 307 and 308 are the three parcels.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second

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

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the land development

The land development was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

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

Certificate of Appropriateness – 320 E. Third St

Mr. Gerardi stated he had attached photos for the size, location, style and color. the first picture you come to is a picture of building. It used to be the former American Red Cross – there are things that are boxed out and the double windows on the side. if you have questions of me, i'm happy to answer them. i believe we have a member, someone from the sign company.

Mr. Allison asked if there were questions.

Ms. Miele asked about the nature of the business, i'm not quite certain if it's a business or non-profit. can you give me guidance on that.

Mr. Gerardi answered Mr. Knarr can probably could help me out on this.

Mr. Knarr stated it's a business that is a veterinarian that takes care of aanimals. there's no overnight stay

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unless it's an emergency. it's not like where someone can drop off an animal. it's an office without the ability to have overnight stays and it's a permitted use.

Ms. Miele asked and the cat cafe is it also a cat cafe? How does it work ?

Mr. Knarr stated Kerry is on and she can better answer that.

Terry, it's a part of a spin off from SPCA, people can stop in and visitinaudible. it is paid but also adoptions. it's cats from the spca for adoption. people can visit if they are not looking for cats and if they are looking to adopt one, they can stop in as well. we're a non-profit, too. we can spay neuter clinic for cats. They can't just bring cats in and dump them off She stated that they have been around for 6 and ½ years now and people are aware of that.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and second.

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

The certificate of appropriateness was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

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

Certificate of Appropriateness - 468 William St.

Mr. Gerardi stated this is a request to paint and change the color of the building. The windows and door trims are white and the door trims are grey. We did go check the painting and it does follow our designs standards.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and second.

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

Mr. Allison asked for a vote.

The certificate of appropriateness was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

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

Certificate of appropriateness – 210 Basin st

Mr. Gerardi stated this building was recently purchased by a new owner. The owner chaged the name of the building to River Valley Plaza. It used to be Basin St. Plaza. He did erect a sign, it doesn't take too long to put it up especially if you are replacing it. The sign is 22 inches tall and 22 feet long. It's a sign and doesn't exceed any zoning requirements.

Ms. Miele stated just to go back over this again for the sake of whoever in the public might be watching, this there's a double fee for certificate of appropriateness application, correct?

Mr. Gerardi answered what happens is at this point he has to apply for a permit for this. the fee is doubled. also city council at any time has the right even though he erected the sign. you have the right to change the color and size if it doesn't meet the design standards. it was an error on his part. we send out letters concerning this problem and it just happens. yes, it's a double fee, and if there's something you don't like about it, you wish to correct it, it's your right to do that. what we've been doing within the central business district once a year i draft a letter of the tax partials and we send a letter explaining to them they need to see us. this individual had obviously taken ownership in the last four or five months and obviously didn't get the letter.

Ms. Miele answered got it. yeah, that's just fine. so the parcel has changed hands. that's -- that's an interesting change to the facility. have we had any new tenants in the facility since it changed hands?

Mr. Knarr stated is pretty much filled and we don't have many open spaces.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second.

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

Mr. Allison asked for the vote.

The certificate of appropriateness was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

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

Certificate of appropriateness – 25 W. Third St.

Mr. Gerardi stated this is the last request, it's a business identification sign. I have attached photos for size, location, style and colors for additional information. If you look at the picture of the building on the corner where you can see the do not enter sign. There's two signs presently. This is mounted directly above it. It is the same exact size. We have a representative here and we will be happy to answer any question.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion.

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

The certificate of appropriateness was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

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

Bill#1761 – Ordinance #6395

An Ordinance Amending Part 1 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Williamsport (Mayor's veto)

Mr. Allison stated tonight we need to vote on this as to whether or not to override the mayor's veto. He vetoed this on September 4, 2020.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second.

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

Mr. Allison asked if there was further discussion.

Ms. Miele stated just so i have a sense, i feel as though we have been doing a little bit of maybe not quite

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catching up with one another to discuss things adequately prior to votes and that falls on both the administration and on council. but i understand the logic behind the mayor's veto. i understand the logic behind council's vote. it seems to me that there needs to be further discussion. i am wondering what we need to do to further that discussion. Mr. Yoder, any suggestions?

Mr. Yoder answered in my mind this updates everything as its currently in line. more importantly as we've all talked about and before my time was even talked about, this is really closing a loophole that is in the administrative code that is not allow for proper checks and balances of city government and so it's fresh on our minds and it needs to be addressed. you know, i personally think that this addresses that. we're going review this every year as a part of the capital budget which i think was a great idea by you, Liz to thank you for that you know, this is the beginning of, i think that process. i think this is an ongoing process that we need to do and will do as a part of an updated administrative code. so i mean -- frankly it is something of importance that needs to be done in my opinion in some kind of a public forum that can be accessed by the constituents in the city. This is something that directly impacts them day to day. so i personally think that this addresses that and it lays out a frame work of how we do that.

Ms. Miele answered okay. i 100% agree. i'm simply trying to think if we feel that there's a need for further discussion if there's a way we can do that without either overriding the veto or failing to override the veto. that is to say if there's a tabling procedure or anything like that we can take to enable the discussion that the administration seems to feel is necessary.

Mrs. Katz stated Liz, how much more discussion do we have to do? We have gone through two readings with this. we've explored every aspect on this. if we look back on past administrations, we've all complained about the way things were being run and not clear. When the government study was done both the Home Rule and Charter Commission asked for an organizational chart as to how the City runs. They wanted to see where this was and we didn't have it in place. Adam has worked on this, he has put it in place and it clarifies so much. but as far as how much more discussion do we have to have? We've had five weeks to go through this. we've had two readings. Adam sent an email explaining exactly the financial end of this. so i don't see where we would need do anything further than vote yes.

Ms. Miele stated i mean as we've said, i was -- a good chunk of the conversation for this revision in the beginning and i see the need for it. i want to get us all on the same page before we wind up

Mrs. Katz stated we don't all have to be on the same page. just because there's 7 of us doesn't mean there has to be a yes for everything for all seven of us. Therefore, if there's objections from a couple of people fine. i'm giving my statement here as far as i think this is needed. when you look back at even the past administration, how much we all complained about what was not done correctly or processed correctly, that was one of the things that we complained about all the time. When you look at what was one with the previous mayor he is the one that put himself in place as Public Safety director. He fired Bill Nichols in the middle of a council meeting and made him director of finance. We sat there and said how could you possibly do this? this gives a definition of how things should be done and how we can also put a stop to nonsense.

Mr. Allison stated if i could address a couple of those issues. -- i don't think i've heard anybody disagree that we need this. i think we all agree that we need this. but, what we need something that we know is going to work. and i think to that point, i would agree with council woman Miele that, yes, we have a structure -- we didn't have a structure before. now we have a structure. but i don't think the conversation is over about the details of that structure. i've tried to be clear from my point of view on that yes, we have talked about this for a while. but the reason i say that is because this administration is still in fluid place. everything hasn't been decided. everything hasn't been -- and most of that -- a good portion of that, i attribute to the covid crisis. it changed the playing field drastically and kind of put everything back that we couldn't go through all the regular procedures. resumés and everything that was needed. for instance, there's a director of finance here. the wording says that shall be filled. to find somebody who can do both of those -- fill those -- both of those positions adequately in one person, i think it's a difficult task given the budget that we have to work with. that's a question in my mind. it's not that it -- we can't still work on it. i don't think we can wait a year to revisit it and see if i needs change because i think the administration is still developing and may have some things that don't particularly line up with this structure. we can always go back in and amend and change because i really believe it's still -- and this is no assigning anything negative to the work that Adam Yoder did on this. i mean it was a very complex effort, and as we were talking a little bit before, it's not necessarily all ready to be read ing and exciting things. it's digging down into the weeds and i think he did do a great job of that. but although council has the legislative and by ordinance in order to regulate this, i really think it works best when this kind of thing works best when there's collaboration between council -- between the executive and legislative branches. we didn't have that opportunity at all over the past several years that all of us have been on council. there was no opportunity to develop for a number of reasons which are frankly very evident to all of us and probably a lot of people. There just was not that kind of relationship. but i feel we have that now. so i always think it's better to collaborate and make sure that, you know, we have all the is dotted and the t's crossed. i know we spent some weeks on it, but there are things i don't know yet as far as having a chance to talk to the administration about certain things that they see or maybe still in the process of figuring out because, again, it hasn't been -- they've had their plates full due to a number of things that we all know about. so i don't think we're talking about changing the intent of this effort at all. i just believe -- and i really do believe we are all on the same page. i think we all want that. we all want to make sure we put out the best product there is. those are just the -- that's just where i'm coming from on it.

Mrs. Katz said Randy, i would like to address some of the things you just said. number one, i don't take covid as an excuse. we've all been on the phone with one another trying to get things accomplished. sometimes it's been easier doing that without being together at times. we've also, you know, had several meetings on this. i do know that Adam approached the mayor back in the end of January,

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beginning of February with this. so it's not something that was thrown at the administration just blindly in the last five weeks. this is something that has been tried to be discussed with the administration. the other thing i would like to address is this would help the administration. totally. i mean when you have -- you are talking about the cooperation. this is what this is. this is cooperation between legislative and administration. and that's what we're looking for. we're looking for the clarification at both ends.

Mr. Allison answered: okay. i didn't mean to put it all on covid but we know there's been, you know, if you want the nuts and bolts of it, there's been a lot going on at RVT that has change a lot of dynamics -- changed a lot of dynamics within the administration. so i don't think that that is done yet or over yet or has been totally digested by anyone yet. and i see that as something that is a continuing issue. but i understand what you are saying. i just think there's still more to the picture. i think it -- i'm not saying this -- it's going to make anything fail or anything like that

Mr. Yoder stated , i agree with that. like i said earlier this is the start. you know, this is the start of what should be and should have been since the 1970s when we became a Third-Class Optional city a consistent review of how we're providing services to the city, what that structure looks like, how the checks and balances of city government work and to your point with a lot of the changes at RVT, Randy, you know, they present a great example of why checks and balances in city government are very prudent and very much needed. this provides that. and i would kindly remind everybody on council that it's very -- there's a long storied record of things falling through the cracks that visited. they don't go through but they are important. They don't get brought back up. They fall to the wayside. it's been happening since the 70s on various legislative projects. i'll even reference the Ethics commission from last year that council had passed. we passed the Ethics commission which was extremely important for a number of the reasons we're discussing here and it sits unfilled. that's on everybody here. that's on me. that's on the administration. that's on everybody here, you know? At some point we've got to start somewhere. and that's exactly what this is. this is a starting point. This sets us up to have more collaboration with the administration to ensure that they have what they need that it makes sense, that proper checks and balances are in place. we've had three to four weeks of collaboration. we amended this based on some feedback from the administration and other members of council which is great. that's how this process is supposed to work.

Mr. Allison said I would agree with that, i don't mean to imply that this can't go forward and we can't be successful. i just -- i just wanted to make sure that we're not saying we can pass this tonight -- i mean override the veto tonight but then say we'll will visit it somewhere down the road. i think prudently we may have to re visit it sooner rather than later. and i don't see that as being a negative it all. We're in fluid times and we need to be able to quickly react and i think that is probably my main concern is that we just prepare ourselves for that.

Mr. Yoder stated Just because this is written that it's an annual process doesn't mean it can't happen more often and in sooner increments, absolutely. frankly, this sets a minimum, if you think about it that way of when and where we do a review together of all of our departments and how we're functioning and what might be missing and what we could be doing better. i think it's a great starting point. this closes a lot of loop holes that have been open way too long. i think this is a very good thing and to the mayor's point i would thank him for addressing the fiscal concerns. i agree with him. but in my opinion there really are no other budgetary impacts because of this ordinance. this simply really aligns with what has been going down and been enacted by the administration very much so. this simply aligns the code and aligns the accountability mechanisms of city government with how the administration is currently working to structure his administration. i think that's a good thing.

Mr. Allison stated I do too, before we leave that point. i did ask the administration to do a financial look at what this ordinance passed. and give us an assessment from the finance department's point of view and the administrative point of view just to make sure we're close on the same page with the financial assessments that we have now on what we're passing. and it never hurts to have another look at something from a different viewpoint which is the executive branch that is most affected by this. i think that's a prudent thing to do.

Mr. Banks stated in pursuit in finding common ground on this, is there is a procedural move we can make to get a financial analysis before we override the veto ? I don't want to kick the can down the road, but in pursuit of making the most financially prudent decision because we haven't heard from the administration as to the specifics. That may be because we don't have that analysis yet, so is there a procedure move tonight that might help us find some common ground ?

Mr. Allison asked the solicitor for some guidance on that.

Mrs. Katz asked Before you go, Randy, did Joe Pawlak do the Financials?

Mr. Allison answered that Adam Yoder did.

Mrs. Katz stated no, you said the administration did.

Mr. Allison stated that he requested that the Administration.

Mrs. Katz asked if we got anything from the administration ?

Mr Allison, answered before we voted on our last second Reading, i asked the mayor if they Could give us their assessment of it so they are working it out.

Mrs Katz stated I think Adam Yoder did all that, didn't you Adam ?

Mr. Allison stated he didn't get the administrations side. Do you understand what i'm saying Bonnie ? They may look at things differently or have a different goal in mind that they haven't acted on yet and would be able to assess dollars and cents in a little different way.

Mrs. Katz replied yes but we're the ones who are in charge of the finances.

Mr. Allison answered absolutely but i think you make the best decision when you have the most formation to make it on.

Mr. Yoder stated well, so, here is kind of a question that stems from before this was even on the agenda. i

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mean the -- it seems that the item in question is the director of finance and administration. the director of finance was a position that was unfilled for a number of years. i shouldn't say unfilled, unbudgeted for a number of years. i know it's been posted since the end of July. with it being unbudgeted i'm thinking that the administration probably did some kind of a financial analysis before posting that what was uncovered potentially in that? That would, i think, help kind of steer this conversation. He asked if Joe Pawlak is there ?

Mayor Slaughter answered Joe is working on all of that information and as far as other ones. say tomorrow Chief Hagan says i just want to be chief, it's another area that is not budgeted that we would potentially need. And the same with emergency management and Chief Killian. That's another area where possibly someone would say we want some money. There are some areas where , you know, Joe, and i know Joellen from HR is working on as well as developing the financial analysis.

Ms. Miele stated i think perhaps that the discussion we're having is a little bit circular. the model we're currently using for city government bears no resemblance to the model outlined in the administrative code. We established that. This brings it more into concurrence with what is outlined in the administrative code. it may be when the administration has time to run the financials on what this ordinance requires they would come back and propose amendments predicated on the financials of this ordinance. that seems the appropriate step. i guess what i'm saying is i don't know -- unless Norm has some middle ground procedural option like Dave was suggesting, i think would rather see this ordinance go into effect so our governmental structure mirrors what we're committed to on paper more closely. and if the administration finds that the financial burden is too great under the current circumstances for them to completely act on the ordinance as written , they can come to council and ask for a revision.

Mr. Allison stated he agrees with that.

Ms. Miele stated that is my suggestion on a path forward pending some [inaudible] does that sound reasonable?

Mr. Allison stated i agree 100%. i think that's exactly the process i envisioned.

Ms. Miele stated Randy, I think that is what you were trying to say. i think that makes sense. i think the issue is we do need some back and forth but i for one am disinclined to delay on at least take the first step in this process because we don't have it perfectly in place. we know we'll have to revise this ordinance. We know we should be revising fit not annual by every five or ten years. the last provision was under Mary Wolf so better than 12 years ago. i think we should move this with and if and when it becomes incumbent upon us to change it again, we should just be ready to do that as quickly as possible. That's my two cents. Adam, i am sorry i walked over you.

Mr. Pulizzi said i've been sitting back and listening and absorbing everybody's comments and concerns on both sides. Council woman Miele, I am really glad that you spoke up and said what you did. i agree with you 100%. i was going to speak up earlier and figured i would let everybody get out their thoughts and what they had on their mind. i completely agree with Adam & Bonnie that this is the direction we need to go. Liz put it together much better than i think i ever could with her recommendation. i want to say i completely agree. we need to get this moving. We need to get this more in line with where we should be and as Liz stated if there's changes that need to be made we can come back and make those revisions but we need to get moving forward. That's all i have to say, thank you.

Mr. Allison said well said.

Mrs. Katz stated i do have to agree. Liz, we all realize we've gone through ordinances, resolutions, whatever and we've had to come back when we found that things needed to be changed, updated. when we found that there were things that didn't work. i think that's -- you know, i think we all understand that. and i think something like this we're going to realize we find things that are not functioning correctly but this gives us a start. Liz, thank you for saying what you said because this is vitally important but we realize there could be a lot of changes. but let's start somewhere.

Mr. Yoder wanted to clarify, that a yes vote overrides the veto, a no vote maintains the veto, correct?

Mr. Lubin answered yes.

Mr. Allison called for the vote to override the Mayor's veto.

The Mayor's veto on the ordinance was overridden 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.

Bill#1762 – Ordinance #6396

An Ordinance Creating an Accessibility Advisory Commission of the City of Williamsport and Authorizing Said Accessibility Advisory Commission to Develop a Recommended Plan for the City of Williamsport's Accessibility Compliance, Efforts and Outreach (final reading) Bill #1762-20

The City Clerk read the ordinance.

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

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

Mr. Allison asked Mr. Mackey if he had anymore to add.

Mr. Mackey replied that he spoke to councilman Yoder and i don't know if he wants to address the things we spoke about in terms of clarifying on the private and city aspects of this. and i would also just like to ask maybe Mr. Lubin if it would be necessary to put in this ordinance that the commission shall not only maintain audio records of their meetings but also be responsible for their minutes?

Mr. Lubin answered actually, i think it's covered by the sunshine law that they have an obligation to provide -- or have minutes. i think in the past it's really been Mrs. Frank is the one who is handling the minutes for the various city boards and commissions. so if she's the one that is taking it and keeping the audio portion, at least that way we have the record maintained anyway.

Mr. Mackey stated i would just propose that Mrs. Frank is extremely busy as it is.

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Mr. Yoder stated he would second that. He said going back through this between readings the only thing that stuck out to me that i wanted to throw out to the group did we want to clarify or hone in on the term "city wide"? it's a position geared toward accessibility issues related to city government. it's clear we want this available to the private sector as a resource, but you don't believe we should be -- i don't think it's the intent. at least it wasn't my intent to have this be a resource or be looking at city government non-pro activity. i am not sure if the erm city wide leaves it too open. i don't know if want to change it to city of williamsport. Or specifically city government related.

Mr. Banks stated well, the way i look at it is this commission wouldn't have teeth in any respect to do anything private but could they not, you know, take on initiatives to try to improve. like the sidewalk issue, for example, sidewalks are privately owned. if they wanted to propose or apply for some sort of grant, should they not have leeway to do that to help out with private individuals making their sidewalks more accessible? Something like that. would we want to take a step to limit their ability to do that even if they don't have the authority to do it? is that clear?

Mr. Gerardi stated i would just like to add if there's a problem with the sidewalk on somebody's property it doesn't mean code, we would have to require the owner to fix the sidewalks. There's something in place already for that.

Mr. Banks stated right, that was just an example. if there's something beyond what goes on in the city that the government government that commission would want to take on in terms of projects. if there's something we want to improve they wouldn't have power but it might be nice for them to have the leeway to help out in those respects because -- i mean hopefully, we come into compliance across the board in the city and it's nice for the commission to have the ability to take on new projects.

Mr. Allison stated thank you. something to consider.

Mr. Mackey stated i'm reading section 2 A it reads exactly assist in evaluating the accessibility of the City of Williamsport, facilities, programs, activities and services city wide. i think it's pretty clear it's just the City of Williamsport in that passage and I do think that this commission could be an asset to the [inaudible] on how to move forward with any type of project or activity.-

Ms. Miele stated so just to be clear, Jon, the intent is they serve basically as an asset for city government currently not so much the private sector or --

Mr. Mackey answered i think both. but i think initially that was initially their time will be spent addressing, you know, City of Williamsport facilities, programs and activities but as time goes on and those issues are handled, yeah, i see this being a great asset to the entire city. both city government and private business.

Ms. Miele stated that was my hope, frankly think it would be help a commission like this reviewed plans as well. just in case we see projects under the ADA that would make a business project more accessible. reading.

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

The ordinance was carried in final reading with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

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

Bill#1763

An Ordinance Approving the Editing & Inclusion of Certain Ordinances as Parts of the Various Component Codes of the Codified Ordinances of Williamsport, Pennsylvania (first reading)

The City Clerk read the ordinance.

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

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

Mr. Lubin stated this is an annual ordinance. usually it's been done in the spring time but with the way things are pushed back. the purpose of this ordinance is to codify the ordinances adopted in 2019 and what it does is sets forth where in the codified ordinance book the sections appear. Where you see it blank, generally community development, block grant ordinances and budgetary ordinances s are not included within the codified ordinances. but everywhere else it's where it's placed in the ordinance book when a new addition comes out. i don't think this has been to any other city ordinance committee.

Mr. Allison stated we don't review it in committee. it's a matter of housekeeping and keeping this current. any questions from council people tonight?

Mr. Pulizzi had a question, just to explain it further just because it's named on this list doesn't mean it passed or failed. it was just presented, correct?

Mr. Lubin answered these were the ones adopted by council. that's why they have ordinance numbers.

Mr. Pulizzi stated there is an ordinance renaming College Place to Warrior Way, i thought that failed?

Ms. Miele stated the changing of the name of College Place to Warrior Way definitely passed last year. i don't entirely remember the fallout around the whole changing. it seemed me we did not rename a stretch of Franklin St. to Colledge Place but there was a proposal to do that. After this got turned into a quagmire but the name change to Warrior Way was approved.

Mr. Pulizzi stated you are absolutely correct, Ms. Miele . I just jumpstarted my memory.

Mr. Allison asked if there were any more questions.

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

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

Resolution #9065

Resolution Agreement with McCarty & Company, P.C. Certified Public Accountants

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion on the resolution.

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

Mr. Grimes stated members of council. this resolution is an agreement with Mccarthy company and company for auditing and business purposes for merchantile tax. we wanted to see how the budget would play out in the first year of collecting the business privilege and mercantile taxes. We can move forward now with this but as we get to delinquent collections and complex taxpayers we feel we need to move forward. good auditing services pay for them We collect more than we'll use in them. we've used services in the past but mainly for discovery of new items. This is for current taxpayers or issues within the tax office or specific reasons why a company may be out of compliance. Mccarthy and company they are one of the best with these services. i have known them and their auditor since my first organization i joined. They come highly recommended from the tax collectors who use them. The closest one is the Keystone Central School district. They do all the business privilege and collections for Clinton county. they use Gary Williams who would be our auditor as well. this did go in front of finance and was reviewed by Austin White.

Mr. Allison said thank you, Mr. Grimes.

Ms. Miele stated this was reviewed by the finance committee and forwarded to the full body of council with a positive recommendation. There's not a lot to observe here as Nick pointed out in the memo we received the finances of this are basically -- we assumed it would take us several years to recoop our initial investment and get to a break even point with not laying out any more funding than what we were paying. Thanks probably in large part to the intense work they do, the cost for these two agreements will be off set by the savings that we're realizing from doing our tax collection in house on this. and consequently we can move forward this year. The financial impact is relatively minor but i think the more important thing to note is we'll be taking in more than we would have if we were outsourcing this collection work. and the only thing that we did in finance in this, i think, was Mrs. Katz's suggestion is to insert the cost for the agreements into the resolution. That's kind of a pet peeve of mine. i think we should make it as easy as possible for members of the public to understand the financial impact and court ofs associated with city government. putting it in the resolution makes thing s easier and for us lazy council people like me it helps to have it up front there. that, as i said was forwarded to the full body of council with a positive recommendation.

Mr. Pulizzi asked typically in the past, how long do these audits generally take?

Mr. Grimes answered it depends on the business. some of them are as quick as sending out a letter and we'll get payment within 30 days or so. Every business has the right to have an audit scheduled and they have every right to push that schedule off to a time that fits their need and then they also have time to appeal any findings or any audits. We've had some that have taken up to a year or more to complete. Generally with businesses out of compliance, it takes a few months, some things are complex like a manufacturer. it is complex and we may need an auditor to walk through a manufacturing facility to decide exactly what products are being manufactured from raw toast to a new product and what parts of their services may be taxable and not exempt under the manufacturing exemption. that may produce results immediately moving forward in filing and it varies depending on business.

Mr. Pulizzi stated- when i read through this initially i had seen where the contract price was where the contractor receives an hourly rate of 190 an hour plus travel and postage costs. i was trying to get an idea of how long something like this might take, what kind of overall cost is that going to have to the taxpayers?

Mr. Grimes answered we'll have some results immediately. and if not immediately but within 30-60 days. i already have a list compiled of a few audits and they are sort of, if you will, i don't want to call it low-hanging fruit because we're not trying to take money from anybody but the easier audits i need the auditor to say it's correct or not correct. if the auditor signs off on a finding that says this is not correct because a, b and c are passed through income but b and c go through a separate business entity that needs to file its own tax. the company's account will say yes the auditor is crekd and file an amended return immediately.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the resolution.

The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

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

Resolution #9066

Resolution Agreement with York Adams Tax Bureau (YATB)

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion on the resolution.

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

Mr. Grimes stated thank you, again. this resolution is with the York Adams Tax Bureau. This is an agreement that allows local service taxes to be paid online. it's been a belief of mine, i think i said it in my council interview before i took my position that we've received more tax money when every touchpoint is easier for a taxpayer to be in compliance and pay us. this is a step in that direction. it's something, again we planned on for a while and our finances and collections allowed it to happen now. this agreement is for \$7500 annually plus some maintenance costs. those maintenance costs have been around \$50 a quarter even a little less tos is negligible compared to the contract. The reason for this is York Adams Tax Bureau is a different arrangement. The software we use for the tax collection was developed by the York Adams Tax Bureau. They have two members of the software company on staff in their offices and they continually develop and up grade the software we use that benefits us tremendously. this is hosted by the York Adams Tax Bureau since they developed it. he agreement need it's be with them and it works directly with our software and it's actually the same system that the school district uses for the online filings of earned income tax from the county. This helps the efficiency and results in cost savings with staff, with paper. i probably won't offset the entire cost of it. more compliance and customer service. not only is it

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easier they don't have to cut paper checks and don't have to send sensitive information through the mail like they have to now for us to review for the local service tax filings. as you said this was reviewed by finance and i'll be happy to answer any questions.

Ms. Miele stated yes, This was reviewed by finance and forwarded with a positive recommendation. same thing applies here. the anticipated annual cost in the neighborhood of \$75050 that will be more -- \$7500 that will be more than recouped by the savings by bringing this back in-house and thanks to the very well thought out efforts of Mr. Grimes

Mr. Allison asked if there were other comments or questions from the council tonight? Mr. Grimes, thanks, again for your continued efforts to improve the treasurer's office and increase the revenue for the city that is out there and you've done a wonderful effort all the way around.

Mr. Grimes thanked him.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the motion.

The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

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

Resolution #9067

Resolution Authorizing the Execution of the Municipal Winter Traffic Services Agreement between the Commonwealth, Dept. of Transportation and the City of Williamsport

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion on the resolution.

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

Mr. Winder stated this is an annual agreement. This is our fourth year of a five-year agreement with PennDOT for the winter maintenance agreement. The purpose of this winter maintenance agreement is that there's multiple routes through the City of Williamsport that are PennDOT routes. We covered those lawful roads for quite a few years with no reimbursement so the city. this agreement this year would give us \$10,126.08 in reimbursement for the 2020-2021 winter season. the routes we would cover would be the intersection of Fourth street and Campbell street, heading south on Campbell to Third Street, heading east on Third street to the east city line. Then Fourth St. and Via Bella, heading north to Grimesville Road and the entire treatment of via bella and the short stretch of Basin street from via bella to east -- east Fourth street. this was reviewed by finance and passed on with a positive recommendation.

Ms. Miele stated we did forward this with a positive recommendation. it's hard to picture how we might have done anything otherwise given it's a reimbursement to the city for work we have to perform one way or the other. the only interesting part of the discussion, i guess, was a follow up question i asked Adam related to our relationship with PennDOT the streets PennDOT owns and to what extent their control of those streets is useful to us and to what extent it's onerous. he made good observations. you think this is something we should continue to discuss as a municipality. on those streets that are PennDOT roads they maintain the black top basically on street but doesn't deal with any of the items underneath dictates a lot about what happens on that street from the city perspective. i think everything from speed limit, road closure, lighting requirements, et cetera et cetera,

Mrs. Katz thanked Adam for what he has done with this because before we were not getting money for this work, he went and researched it

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the resolution.

The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

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

Resolution #9068

Resolution Authorizing the City of Williamsport to Award a Contract for the Purchase of 2 Compressed Natural Gas BRTPlus Low Floor Transit Buses

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion on the resolution.

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

Mr. Winder stated he will have Chris Clark the fleet manager present this.

Mr. Clark stated Thank you, good evening , the recommendation was forwarded with a positive rating From the finance committee for the Meeting. This is to purchase two Buses and approved in [inaudible] and it was previously approved. The amount of \$635,006 each which is fully state funded. These buses will not replace recent Buses but replace previous end Life 30 foot buses that were not replaced about the same size during The 2014-2016 when we removed the Vehicles from service. Its ability For us to have the small length Allows connector and access service To enter smaller areas throughout the city with daily bus service. We had four previous 30 foot buses that we use daily and we would like to get back to that capacity.

Ms. Miele stated in finance we didn't have much to add to this discussion But we forwarded this to the full Body of council with a positive recommendation. I think most of our discussion unless other members want to remind me of something else, most of our discussion revolved around the nature of the around the state funding involved in this and natural gas vehicles. I specifically was interested to know whether natural gas was the savings to the city not only with the State rebates in place currently But if those rebates were to go away If we still be saving money and if The vehicles were as -- had as long a life with natural gas as with Diesel. The answer to both of those was yes. That is to say Natural gas conversion has generally been a wise move for us regardless of State incentives and we're having a good experience in terms of maintenance.

Mr. Allison stated i think all of council would like to thank you for all the effort and time and expertise you've put into this whole transition. It is a rather massive undertaking and it's been very well done and nice to see your face and know who you are.

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Mr. Allison asked for a motion to approve.

The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

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

Accept for Filing:

Water Authority AD HOC 05/13/20
Controller's Report Feb. & March 2020
Codes Report July 2020
Fire Stats Jan.-March 2020
Fire Stats April – June 2020

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to amend and accept minutes for filing.

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

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

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

Announcements

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Thursday, September 24, 2020 a 6:30 PM, **TBA**

Upcoming Meetings:

Friday, Sept 11	11:00 AM ERC
	12:00 PM Housing Needs
Tuesday, Sept 15	10:00 AM Blighted Property
	6:30 PM HARB
Thursday, Sept 17	10:30 AM Zoning Hearing Board
	4:00 PM Board of Health
Tuesday, Sept. 22	11:30 AM Public Safety
	1:00 PM Finance Meeting
	2:30 PM Public Works Meeting
Wednesday, Sept. 23	11:30 AM Redevelopment Authority
Thursday, Sept 24	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 members of City Council.

Mr. Mackey stated for the people who are watching at home if you are Interested in serving on the accessibility commission you just want to Submit a letter of interest to Janice Frank, the city clerk, and again There will be two positions Appointed by the mayor and three by city Council. And we look to get this Commission up and running as soon As possible. So i've already had A few people reach out to me which is pretty exciting. So that's just what you want to do if you are Interested in joining the commission.

Mrs. Frank gave her email cityclerk@cityofwilliamsport.org.

Mr. Banks stated just to piggy back on that if they could include a resumé in there so we have an idea with the letter of interest. I don't think it's required but it's nice to have it.

Mr Pulizzi stated just as a side note between now and the next meeting i'll be hitting up the rest of Council to take up the collection and get councilman Yoder a microphone for his computer.

There was a brief discussion about maybe changing the ERC and Housing Needs meetings to the Friday before Council rather than after. The consensus was that we should keep the meetings as they are.

Mr. Allison asked for comments from members of the administration.

There were none.

Mr. Allison asked for comments from members of the public.

President Council,

Really a resume for a disability committee if that isn't discrimination I'm not sure what is!!!!!!

Jodie Baney

Respectfully,

Jodie Baney

President Allison and Members of City Council;

As a Member of the Leadership Network and Advisory Board for the Mid Atlantic ADA Center, I have extensive knowledge and experience with the development and implementation of 504 Accessibility Plans. In my experience, the most successful plans involve people with disabilities who have life long experiences. I'd like to recommend the Williamsport's Disability Advisory Commission be compromised, by majority, of people with disabilities.

In addition, it makes sense that experience and knowledge should qualify a member rather than who they know... if members need to be hand selected by the Administration or City Council it certainly appears conflicting given the history and lack of accessibility. How will you assure all members with disabilities have equal access to serve on this Commission?

City Hall for All.

Misty Dion

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

CEO, Roads to Freedom Center for Independent Living
24 E. 3rd St., Williamsport

President Council,

When I say CITY HALL FOR ALL that is a statement that I truly hope you will follow. How will members of council guarantee they will not continue to discriminate against members of the city who are disabled who want to be apart of the Disability Advisory Commission? What will the application process be and who will be determining who is disqualified to be apart of this commission? Allowing people such as the mayor to make those decisions is not appropriate. Allow members of the community who are disabled to speak for themselves. If you don't have a disability you can not SPEAK for that community. CITY HALL FOR ALL.

Jodie Baney
48 W 3rd St,
Williamsport, PA 17701

President of Council; the lack of effort on behalf of Mayor Slaughter and City Council, to prioritize access for all members of the community, raises this question. How will Council and the Mayor ASSURE that nondiscriminatory practices are used in the development of the Disability Advisory Commission? Allowing the Mayor to appointment members in addition to a stacked deck comprised of council and Administrative staff does not represent the disability community. Let the Disability Community speak for themselves! City Hall for All.

Karen Koch
24 E. 3rd St.
City

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 **8:19 PM** with unanimous ayes.

Janice M. Frank
City Clerk