

Council President Adam Yoder brought the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday, August 11, 2022 at 7:00 PM. at Trade & Transit Center II, 144 West Third St, Williamsport, PA.. This meeting was duly advertised in the Williamsport Sun-Gazette.

Council members present:

Adam Yoder, President
Bonnie Katz, Vice President
Liz Miele, Councilwoman
Randy Allison, Councilman,
Vince Pulizzi, Councilman., absent
Jon Mackey, Councilman,
Eric Beiter Councilman
Absent:

Also, Present:

Derek Slaughter, Mayor,
August Memmi
Sam Aungst, Fire Chief, absent
Justin Snyder, Police Chief
Solicitor Norman Lubin
Janice Frank, City Clerk
Scott Livermore, S&P absent
Kris Black

Approval of the Williamsport City Council minutes for 07/07/22 were approved upon a motion **by Mr. Beiter and a second from Mr. Allison All were in favor. The vote was 5 to 0. Mr. Pulizzi was absent. Ms. Miele had not yet arrived.**

Limited Courtesy of the Floor

There were none.

Appointment

Veteran's Memorial Park Commission

Rachael Potter, 2330 Newberry St is appointed to a 3 year term commencing 08/11/22 & ending 05/14/25

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second

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

Mayor Slaughter What you have before you for your consideration is appointment to the Veteran's Memorial Park Commission, Rachael Potter to a three-year term. Ms. Potter was unable to join the meeting today due to her work schedule. It's the same for this evening. But she is available as I discussed in the committee meeting via email or phone or Mr. Markley is happy to facilitate that as well. If there are any questions for her. As I mentioned in committee, again, as with all of our volunteers, we thank her for her willingness to step up and join the Veterans Park Commission and the time that she will serve on that commission and look forward to all the good work that they've done for a long time and will continue to do at the park. Thank you.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Mayor Slaughter. I think all three of these were on the agenda for public safety but I don't know if there was any discussion on any of them. Jon, do you mind speaking to that?

Mr. Mackey: Yeah, there was no major discussion. We're just happy to have Rachael onboard and appreciate her service for sure.

Mr. Yoder: Certainly. Any other comments or questions related to Ms. Potter's appointment?

Mrs. Katz The Veteran's Memorial Park Commission is a commission that has done tremendous work. Everything that they have done and accomplished in the last ten years has been absolutely unbelievable. And I'm sure Rachael will put some more energy into this. We know what the commission has done so far. And I hope people go up and appreciate what is done at the Veterans Memorial Park. It's an incredible place.

Mr. Yoder: I'll second those sentiments, Bonnie. Completely agreed. Any other comments or questions related to Ms. Potter?

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

Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr..Beiter voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, and Mr. Yoder voted yes. Mr. Pulizzi was absent Ms. Miele had not yet arrived.

Williamsport Civil Service Commission

Jeff Reeder, 56 Brandon Pl. is reappointed to a term commencing 08/11/22 & ending 8/11/26.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

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

Mayor Slaughter Yes, this was discussed in finance briefly as well. Mr. Reeder's reappointment to the Civil Service Commission. He's been a longstanding member of that commission and has done a great job there for us. And I'm happy that he has offered to continue serving on that commission for this reappointment for another term, and it was reviewed in public safety. Thank you.

Mr. Mackey No, we all know Jeff. He does an amazing job. It's a very important thing he does and the group does. We're happy to have him back.

Mrs. Katz I would like to reiterate that also. Jeff does an incredible job. He's been with the city and this commission for a long time, and as we all say, thank you very much, Jeff, for all that you do.

Mr. Yoder: I would agree. Jeff is huge asset, has been for a number of years on this commission and we're lucky to have him. Any other comments or questions related to Mr. Reeder? Hearing and seeing none, motion for Mr. Reeder.

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

Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr..Beiter voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, and Mr. Yoder voted yes. Mr. Pulizzi was absent. Ms. Miele had not yet arrived.

Ms. Renee Smith to be appointed as alternate on Civil Service Board

Mr. Yoder asked for motion and second.

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

Mayor Slaughter What you have before you is Renee Smith, appointed as an alternate for the Williamsport Civil Service Commission. Everyone, most people there are probably aware she served in the fire department for many, many years. So as office manager over there. So she's very familiar with the procedures and processes, and we're in need of an alternate in this capacity, and Renee put her name forward. Again, as I said earlier, with all of our volunteers, we thank them for their willingness. And I will turn it back over to you. Thank you.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Mayor Slaughter. Jon, I presume nothing from public safety. Are there any comments or questions from members of council on Ms. Smith's appointment or proposed appointment?

Mrs. Katz I have a question, Adam.

: I have a question. I know how much Renee has done with the fire department over the years, and I know her love of the fire department also. The only question I have, and this is for the mayor, would there be a conflict of interest being that Renee works with RBT at this point?

Mayor: From my understanding, no, since they transitioned to authority, I don't believe there's any conflict. But Norm, are you able to answer that definitively? There's no conflict I'm aware of because she works for a separate legal entity now.

Mrs. Katz I just wanted to clarify that everything comes out clean.

Mr. Yoder No, good point, Bonnie. I remember, I think it was Ways Garden, was it earlier this year, we appointed a city employee to that, and I think that came up in the discussion as well. I recall talking about trying to look at developing or implementing some type of a policy or procedure just to outline if we have situations where we have city employees on city boards commissions in voluntary capacities, what that looks like, so that we predominantly from the discussion was to make sure we don't put them in a position to compromise themselves or their job or any of that kind of thing. Between Mayor Slaughter, Molly, you're here. Have we made any progress or did we start to look at what that procedure might look like, what that --

Mayor: No, we have not started that yet. But to be clear, Renee is not a city employee any longer, just to be clear on that. As Norm mentioned, more likely than not there's not going to be any conflict between the transit authority. In the unlikely event there would be a conflict, one, she's only an alternate, but if she's serving in and filling in for that meeting, I'm sure if a conflict arises, I'm sure she would abstain. But as a non-city employee currently, we don't foresee any conflict, but we have not developed that policy as of yet.

Mr. Yoder: Okay. I appreciate that. In the future, if we do run into where we have a volunteer that is a city employee that comes forward and the administration does want to nominate, I would kindly ask that we are able to see what that policy looks like so we can make sure that any future employees, if they're appropriate to serve, are positioned for success and we can ease that potential concern. So thank you. Any other comments or questions from members of council on Ms. Smith? All right. Hearing and seeing none, motion, please.

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

Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, and Mr. Yoder voted yes. Mr. Pulizzi was absent Ms. Miele had not yet arrived.

Public Hearing – Street Vacation – Spring Garden St

Mr. Yoder opened the Public hearing and asked if there were any one who wanted to speak in favor of this, there were none. He asked if any one who would like to speak against this. There were none.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second to close the public hearing.

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

The Public hearing was closed.

Bill #1805-22

Ordinance Street Vacation – Vacating Spring Garden St in the 8th Ward (first reading)

The solicitor read the ordinance.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

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

Mr. Knarr, What the city is requesting to do is to vacate the city's interest between East Forest Street. We do have a sketch plan. As part of the old city redevelopment area and everything like that, we do have the east of the property and Lycoming College to the west of the property. We're vacating our interest. I do have a letter from the college saying they have no issue and do support the vacation. And the reason for doing so is obviously Desalva is looking at being part of the old city redevelopment area. At this time I can answer any questions.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Mr. Knarr. This was discussed and reviewed in the economic revitalization committee, Mr. Beiter.

Mr. Beiter What we talked about is the positive impact the development is continuing to have in that neighborhood, and I had brought up the fact that DiSalvo's restaurant went through an expansion about ten years prior to that with what they call their outdoor terrace and oyster bar area. This is just going to add to that, allow them to add more seating. We have a rendering here we didn't have at the ERC meeting where it looks like they have rooftop seating as well. Again, what Lycoming College has done in that area and what Pine Ridge is starting to do is starting to reverberate even more, so we welcome this kind of development from a private development like DiSalvos..

Mr. Yoder. Any other comments or questions from members of council related to the street vacation? All right. Hearing and seeing none, the motion for first reading.

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

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

Mr. Yoder changed the order of the agenda.

Certificate of Appropriateness – 175 Pine Street Signage

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

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

Mr. Knarr What we present to you tonight is a request from UPMC, the property location is 170 Pine Street, they're looking at locating a sign which states UPMC on the building itself. We do have images of that. It is of white lettering and will be self-illuminating. And at this point in time it went through planning commission, planning made a positive

recommendation, and I can answer any questions at this time.

Mr. Yoder Thank you, Mr. Knarr. Are there any comments or questions from members of council on the certificate of appropriateness? Okay. Hearing and seeing none, the motion, please.

The certificate of appropriateness 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. Beiter voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, and Mr. Yoder voted yes. Mr. Pulizzi was absent Ms. Miele had not yet arrived.

Resolution #9337

Resolution Accepting Sponsorship from the United States Air Force

The solicitor read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second.

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

Mayor, what you have before you is a resolution accepting sponsorship from the United States Air Force whereas the Air Force would like to sponsor hoops in three of our city parks. \$9500 sponsorship and the three parks will be Memorial, Young, and Shaw. I believe we have Master Sergeant Leo knight Inglesby there with us tonight. I've had a great relationship with Master Sergeant Knight Inglesby. We're very appreciative of the United States Air Force, their generous sponsorship in this regard, and all the work of course that they do to keep us safe and just thank Master Sergeant for the connections that he's made and what he's brought to Williamsport to benefit our community, both in his capacity as a recruiter, but also as a member of our community to make sure that our community is growing and has a positive impact such as this one via sponsorship from the United States Air Force. So very, very fortunate, very appreciative, and if Master Sergeant is there, I'll defer back to you, and Master Sergeant Knight Inglesby if you have additional information to provide.

Master Sergeant stated thank you so much for having me. A lot of familiar faces from what I saw on the Zoom call earlier this week. It's an honor to be able to be in this position to do this for the city. My wife and I have called home for the last two years. Our time, we've got less time ahead of us than we do before us here in Williamsport, and when the mayor and I were collaborating with ideas that I can use my position to give back to the city, I think investing in our youth is a mutually beneficial partnership between the United States Air Force and the City of Williamsport. And I'd be happy to answer any questions if you guys had any about that partnership to the best of my ability.

Mayor: If I could just chime in real quick. There's no strings attached to this money other than on the backboards we need to have the United States Air Force emblem and airforce.com, which of course we will do. Thank you. I'll give you the floor back.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Mayor Slaughter. This was reviewed in Public Safety. I'm not sure if there's anything to add. I'll turn it over to Public Safety chair Mr. Mackey.

Mr. Mackey: I'll be the first to add, thank you so much for this donation. It's amazing. So yeah, that's all. How can you say no to this, right?

Mr. Yoder: I would second that. We're grateful to have the donation and the partnership. We're fortunate to have you in the city. It sounds like I don't think this is a permanent – are you transferring somewhere else?

Sgt. Eventually, yes. This is a 48-month assignment. I'm about almost 30 months into it.

Mr. Yoder: Gotcha. We certainly hate to see you go, but we're thankful that you were here or are here and we'll be here as long as you're here. And thank you for your service. You do a lot for all of us and we're very grateful.

Sgt. Thank you very much. Thanks for having me. And thanks for being such a welcoming community to a couple southerners from the Mason Dixon Line. It's been a pleasure living here. Thank you, members of council. Appreciate it.

Mr. Yoder Thank you. Are there any other comments or questions for members of council on the resolution? Hearing and seeing none, motion, please.

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

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

Resolution #9338

Resolution Agreement between City of Williamsport & Dept. of Army for accelerated Levee System Evaluation

The solicitor read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second.

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

Mayor Slaughter. What you have is an agreement between the United States army and City of Williamsport, this is for the expedited levee assessment or evaluation. As everyone knows, we've been working on the levee for a number of years now and we're now at a point where we are finally ready to move forward with an agreement between the Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Williamsport and this is a risk assessment that we have to do. A lot of questions of why are we doing a risk assessment if we already know some of the deficiencies related to a levee, and we've talked about this a little bit in the past. But just to recap it briefly here, we are aware of the deficiencies, and we started working on some of those, for example, the electrical at the pump station, and then what the colonels and Army Corps of Engineers said, they'll complete the risk assessment simultaneously to us, starting to work on the deficiencies. And then at the end we will reconvene to see if there's any further work that's needed to be done or is that enough, the deficiencies we've already identified in order for the levee to be recertified and accredited. This has obviously been worked on from the federal level to the state, county, and up to the local levels, Army Corps of Engineers and agencies involved along the way. This is a 50/50 cost share between the Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Williamsport. It will be somewhere in the vicinity of \$480,000 for each of us. I've worked with the chamber and they have a \$500,000 commitment a few years ago that they made at that time to the county for the levee, but Jason from the chamber shared that those funds have not been used as of yet for the levee project. They've been identified for the levee. And he's willing to work with the city to see if we can use that money to help with our match for the project since it is directly associated with the levee and obviously from the chamber's perspective, it will assist the businesses that are covered and protected by the levee. And so there is a caveat as well as far as for ARPA funds. For example, if we don't move forward with the chamber funding, you can't go federal to federal, but I've worked with our federal delegation and they

are aware of this agreement and the Army Corps of Engineers, ready to move forward. We would just need to get an exception from the feds to be able to use ARPA money if ultimately that's the route we need to go. And to be clear, the money requirement would not be needed in the immediate future, so we do have some time here to work with the chamber and other folks towards our 50/50 cost share. It was just that the Army Corps wants to get started work on this and expedite it so our businesses and residents of flood insurance does not go through the roof as we are all well aware of the issues with the levee. I believe John Sander is with us tonight too if you have any technical questions related to the risk assessment. And with that, I'll turn it back over. Thank you.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Mayor Slaughter. This was reviewed in Economic Revitalization. I'll turn it over to Mr. Beiter.

Mr. Beiter It was reviewed in ERC, the question I would present to the mayor is, you touched on it briefly that they do not need the money right away. But what kind of an indication are we getting from the chamber as far as length of time until we get an answer from them? So if we do get a no, we can start to pivot to our federal delegation and get that exempt. And how long will that exemption take if we have to get it? Is there a set process for that? Is it six months? Is it six weeks?

Mayor So working with Jason, it sounds – obviously I can't speak for Jason, but they are committed – he did say they're committed to the levee. So I don't foresee that taking very long at all, to be quite honest with you. And so he said they already have that \$500,000 allocated to the levee. And so I think we can move that along fairly quickly pending approval from council, then goes back to the colonel for her signature and then we can move this along. As far as the federal exemption and the length of time, I did not ask that specific question. If we need to go that route. However, I can find out what that timeframe may be if we need to look into that option and get back to council with that answer.

Mr. Beiter I would certainly hope we don't have to go that route, considering the chamber has that money set aside already and they plan to expend it through the county. Just going to be done through the city at this point. I would also like to add that initially when this came up, probably about two months ago now, maybe even three, I was a little upset that we had to do yet another study on the levee. But knowing we can do work that coincides with this study so we don't have to worry about losing any more time, it's very good to hear. So I do appreciate knowing that. If there's any other questions from other members of council, I'll give you the floor.

Ms. Miele Pardon me if you covered this in committee. No later than 15 calendar days after the effective date of this agreement, providing the share of costs. That's not binding?

Mayor I can't speak for them but they know the situation we're in, and they said the main thing is we get the agreement signed and then we can work on the monetary side. So speaking with them, I don't believe it is binding. They know that obviously we're municipality and they're the federal government, so it will get paid. They were just more so – and John Sander, Tom Keller and myself had a meeting with the Army Corps Friday afternoon. They were unaware of that we only one meeting in August, which is why – I should've thanked Councilman Yoder for adding this to the agenda after the deadline. I appreciate that. But they weren't aware of only one meeting. So they wanted to get this work started, and so they said they really at this point wanted an agreement first and foremost, and then we can look into the payment after that. So they made it sound like, again, I can't speak with Army Corps, but they made it sound as though, first and foremost, John Sander, add in if there's anything I'm missing, they just wanted to sign an agreement so they can start to work first.

Ms. Miele I'm assuming the record from tonight will indicate we're aware we're agreeing to the agreement, but the source of the fund is not entirely clear yet so the 15-day maybe is something we can't meet.

From what the mayor is saying, it sounds like if the deadline – that deadline is not minority.

Mr. Slaughter Yeah, I'm just saying. If we're signing an agreement that agrees to that deadline. I'm hoping it demonstrates we're aware of that conflict and trying to resolve it. Okay. That was all. Thanks.

Mr. Allison Just one comment. To Mr. Beiter's point about continuing – being able to continue work while this evaluation is going on, that point has been made clear many times as our city engineer knows, we've sat in meetings where they've told us regardless of studies or things that are in the works or being negotiated, keep doing things to the levee to improve it. Don't let work stop because there are details to work out with paperwork or things like that. They've stressed that it's all going to be in our favor if we continue to fix the things that we already know need fixed and are going to be part of the solution. So it's good just to keep that in front of our target. As our target.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Mr. Allison. Any other comments or questions from other members? Go ahead, Derek.

Mayor: Sorry, if I may add one more thing. The colonel is planning to come up back to the Williamsport area sometime this month. She has other meetings and want to stop by Williamsport to take another glance at the levee as well. But just wanted to say she is planning to come back out. This is top of mind for them. And we are first in the queue. So they're ready to go. We're number one on their list, which is good news. Sorry, Councilman.

Mr. Yoder: No problem at all. One other quick question for you, Mayor Slaughter. Is there an actual resolution for this? I just see the contracts on my end.

Mayor: Yes, I did forward the resolution. I can re-forward it. Reviewed it over the weekend, very simple resolution just to approve the agreement between the Army Corps of Engineers and the city but I can forward that back out to everyone if it was not received. I forwarded it to the city clerk.

Mr. Yoder: That's fine. It should be pretty straightforward. I'm more concerned about the contract we have in front of us. If we needed to make one here quickly, we could do that. So if you have one, that's perfectly fine for me. Any other comments or questions from members of council? All right. Hearing and seeing none, motion, please.

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

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

Resolution #9339

Resolution Authorizing A Consultant Agreement between the City of Williamsport & Government Finance Solutions

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second

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

Mayor I appreciate you lining my items up Mr. President. What you have before you is a resolution for services

between Government Finance Solutions and the City of Williamsport, this will provide finance services and finance office. And I'll let Councilwoman Miele -- there was some questions on finance on Tuesday that I do have some answers for. I believe Ms Rash is there as well. It was reviewed during finance, and I'll turn it back over to Council President Yoder and then we can answer questions that I'm sure there will be moving forward.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Mayor Slaughter. I'll turn it over to Ms. Miele from finance.

Ms. Miele: Sure. Derek, did you or Tracy want to address the answers to questions to the finance committee out of the gate or?

Mayor, Sure. So a few of the questions were -- and I'll let Ms. Rash talk about what she's been working on and what she's been doing. I think she did a good summary of that during the finance committee on Tuesday. I believe it was Councilman Beiter that asked what she'll be working on for the next 30 days, 60 days, et cetera, and that will be -- and again, I'll let her speak for herself. I'll give a brief overview and she can discuss it more in depth. But the reconciliation is first and foremost. We have to get our accounts reconciled with accurate information and accurate numbers. And a part of that also is the fact that RVT transitioned to authority, working to reconcile their accounts so that we know as we do the separation, or we've already done the separation, but as we continue the separation of the finances, that the money that we're giving to the authority, that is theirs, is accurate. And we get that reconciled. She's been working closely with them on that front. So the reconciliation without a doubt, first and foremost, are number one for her to work on. And one of the other questions is what is the end point look like up until now, and so as of right now, \$1332. Third, what are we using and that will be the salary line item for that position. Salary and benefits for that position. And again, I'll let Ms Rash talk about some of the money, the unclaimed funds out there that could be put potentially toward her salary as well. And also as she does the reconciliation, as she completes them and we get an accurate picture, that undoubtedly will then give us or show us, provide us information of where we could if needed move some accounts or transfer any money that may need to be transferred to cover any of the remaining salary if and when that would be needed. I think those were the three that I have written down. If there are more, I'd be happy too. I'd turn to Ms. Rash has to elaborate further on anything I touched on.

Ms. Miele: So obviously the finance committee had several questions about this contract, which is for one thing, retroactive, which is one of our concerns. But also the one thing I think Derek maybe didn't cover, and perhaps you can help me with, Tracy, how much is left in the salary line item for the former employee in the finance department?

Ms. Rash I think the mayor had looked at that number. I have not personally looked at that number and it was around \$30,000.

Ms. Miele: Okay. So the current proposal is to take the outstanding invoices thus far, the \$13,000, and take that from the salary line item in that office however the expectation of course moving forward over the next several months toward the end of the year is we will dramatically exceed what remains in that salary line item. The Finance Committee requested at our meeting on August 29th, prior to the September 1st meeting, that the mayor and Ms. Ras come to the Finance Committee with a handful of items but one of them was a propose for where we were going to find the remaining funds for funding Ms. Rash's services and then, of course, we'll need to look at how we're going to work it into next year's budget if that's a proposal by the administration. I guess I should back up. I'm not very good at being polite. The first thing to say is Tracy, it's nice to finally meet you face-to-face. And that I'm sorry this is kind of an awkward exchange without you having a secondary representative from the city up there. We did have some discussions, sort of spurred by Mr. Beiter related to what Tracy has been working on thus far in the office, given that she's been working within the city for about 30 days. It was a lengthy list. Would you like to go over it again?

Ms. Rash I'd be happy to. Good evening, council members. So during the finance Committee, we talked about some things not only that I've been working on but that still remain to be worked on. So we'll start with the fire department. With respect to fire, there are several federal grants that are over a year behind in reporting. So I was working with the chief to get the information together to be able to report on those federal grants. In regards to that, I spoke with FEMA, who is one of your grantors, about grant reporting. When I was on the phone with her, she told me you had been chosen for a monitoring. So remotely, FEMA checks your records, sort of like an audit. That was sent in December and there was no response from the city. Those things are still outstanding. I'll be meeting with the chief. I'll be meeting with him tomorrow morning to do your state grant reporting. And if -- I have provided both chiefs with information in order to do their budget for next year. However, there are no bank reconciliations done. Well, there are limited bank reconciliations done since December 31st, 2019, so the information in your system is not accurate. So I gave them historical data, but it's only as good as what's in the system right now. So we'll be working toward getting budgets together. And I've also attended the pension board meeting for the fire department. Then generally with respect to finance, I filed the quarterly taxes for the second quarter. In digging through piles of paper that were left in the finance department, I found an IRS notice for the fourth quarter of 2021. In contacting the IRS, I was told you actually had three issues outstanding. The largest one being that you have a notice from 2017 that you did not file certain documents with the IRS. And that they had sent you multiple notices, none of which were responded to, and that you're now in civil penalty phase, which means that the likelihood of getting those penalties abated is next to nothing. I did ask for them to send me a transcript of the documentation so that I can write an abatement letter and try on your behalf to get that penalty abated. The other two issues were resolved with the IRS on those calls. As I said, I've been working on completing the reconciliations. I also found that you had money in what's called Pennsylvania Unclaimed Funds, so I went on to the unclaimed funds website. I drew down your money from those entities that had deposited money there. They don't tell you, they just tell you the names of the entities, they don't tell you how much. So earlier this week, we received \$15,000 on your behalf. I also received two letters saying there's about \$40,000, \$41,000 available to you, so I completed the paperwork to draw down those funds as well. I've been coordinating documents for litigation. I've been answering questions for department heads and vendors, digging through multiple piles of envelopes that are opened and unopened and invoices that are sitting around. I filed your annual peCory filing. I've met with RVTA regarding their cash reconciliations. Met with human resources and multiple individuals regarding pension, military buyback, and draw up calculations. I responded to a state inquiry regarding your 2017 audit where the audit was not complete. I was able to give them the information they needed in order to approve your audit. I met with several individuals remotely regarding cash management, and I've been working with M&T to get all of your accounts transitioned into the appropriate names. I've also been working on putting together a procurement policy, formal procurement policy for the city. And I've met with software vendors for your accounting system because it is significantly outdated and there are

multiple reports that are unavailable to us in the current system, so I've been providing some feedback on those accounting systems. Yet to be done are the pension calculations and the military buyback calculations and the drop calculations. The 2019 audit has not been started yet. And I looked at some information on earlier this week and was unable to tie your 2018 trial bounces to your audit so that's going to be a challenge. Once all the reconciliations are done, then we have to go into your records, find all the documents, and record all those transactions. I need to complete the budget worksheets for the non-general fund funds, and then continue to dig through the piles of paper that remain in finance.

Ms. Miele: You can tell there's a fair amount left to do in the finance department. But that said, I guess just a recap what we did at the finance committee after she summarized what she had been working on. I did ask her if she thought the finance department was to a employee department and she said no. So part of the game plan is, correct me if I'm wrong, but I have the impression you are with us more or less to cure effectively about a decade of short staffing in the finance department and us mismanaging documents there. And then at some point, like any other superhero, you will move along. And so the job I think of the mayor in all this is to figure out, and of council, is to figure out how we put the finance department together, what it looks like, what we can afford, and how we make certain that we meet our obligations in the finance department in ways we haven't necessarily been meeting them in the past. And what that looks like expense-wise. In terms of this agreement, that we are contemplating this evening, it is ideally for a short term. I don't think there's an exit strategy currently, but I encourage the mayor, we all encourage the mayor to obviously look as quickly as possible at a new hire in the finance department, because the last thing I think we want to do is let Ms. Rash clean up all our messes and have no one aware of what she's done and how to keep everything in place. Obviously we need a plan for moving forward and we need a financial idea of how we're going to do that. I get the impression that the administration's hope might be we'll discover funds we didn't anticipate being there that we'll use to cover this contract. It is not clear to me that that will be what will happen. But I think we can at least hope that whatever comes of reconciling all of our finances will be neither a net loss nor net gain, that we remain approximately where we think we currently are. But I don't know if you have any better guidance you can give us on that. I'm assuming not at this point.

Ms. Rash Not right now. We're in triage right now.

Ms. Miele: Yeah. Finance of course didn't forward this with any recommendation because we don't do that anymore. (Laughter) But we did have a long discussion and I felt a fruitful one, and I'm certain other members of council have further questions on this agreement, so I'll leave you the floor.

: Do other members of council have any initial questions? I have a couple but I'll give the floor to others first. I ask the ones.

Mr. Yoder stated I was able to go back and watch most I think of that conversation. It was a good conversation. If this was answered, or discussed, I missed it when going back and watching that. So to Ms. Miele's point, we need a long-term plan because based on what I see in this contract, you're great. Don't get me wrong. But we can't afford you by any means. So I think the mayor said I think we're at what, 13,000 for the first month, 13,5. Somewhere in there.

If we do that for a year, that's \$150,000 to \$160,000. So I guess my question is what kind of timeline are we looking to either come up with a plan of getting a full-time staff member or multiple staff members, if we can find the funding for that. And getting out of triage, I guess what does that look like? Mayor Slaughter. Tracy? Either, both of you?

Mayor: Probably a combination of both of us. The length of time, fortunately Tracy has the competency, skill set, experience, and to your point, most importantly maybe, the efficiency to do this relatively quickly. However, given the large amount of issues in front of us, it's going to take someone with that same exact experience, competency, skill set, et cetera to do this regardless of if Tracy's in that position or not. We're not realistically going to find someone with the level of expertise needed to get us out of this position for some type of inexpensive amount, unfortunately. So I know we'll work through this as quickly as we can and get the reconciliations done, so then at that point I'll be able to accurately bring forward recommendations related to a new hire in that department, and Tracy actually works on that with us as well, makes recommendations, will assist with a plan to make sure it is a smooth transition between her and the next individual that fills that role. I think there was a little discussion on Tuesday, if I remember correctly, related to director of finance. Currently obviously we do not have a director of finance. And I've been researching other first class cities and I mentioned it on Tuesday. We're in the process, myself and Molly, I've spoken with her a little bit about that, to come up with what we feel would be an accurate recommendation for council related to director of finance. I will say at this point, and I've talked to just about every city for the most part. The average is somewhere around, I don't have it in front of me right now, around \$102,000 for that position over the various third class cities so I think we do have to be mindful moving forward of what that realistic cost will be, particularly in this labor market as we identify an individual moving forward. So we'll bring that recommendation forward, but I think first and foremost we have to get the accounts reconciled so that we know accurately what money we have and then we can make recommendations based off of those numbers at that point. So it's a chicken and egg scenario. I guess we have Tracy here and her cost is her cost, but I don't think we can believe we can get someone right now to do all the things that were just listed. You're not going to get an intern in college or someone fresh out of college to do that work. That's going to have the capacity and skillset to do that. So Tracy is going to lead us in that direction and help us make that transition once we're back on solid footing to be able to fill that role, but it's still going to be obviously some level of experience that's going to be needed, and then also she'll help -- as you just noted, say that it's more than a two person department. She'll be able to make additional recommendations. She didn't elaborate but as we really are diving into this and getting everything reconciled, we'll be able to make additional recommendations as we intern and what full-time employees we should have, part-time, et cetera. So our goal is to do that as soon as possible. To put a timeframe on that I think is difficult at this point. I don't know if Tracy wants to discuss any of that. But I know she's done this before. She's done this in other municipalities and she's currently doing it in a few others right now. I think we're just -- should be fortunate, she came highly recommended and folks said this is who you need to lead you out of your current situation. So I'm appreciative that she has taken this on and can move us forward into a new era so to speak.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Mayor Slaughter. I would second that. I appreciate her being here. I mean clearly in, what, four weeks, there's a lot that's been uncovered. There's been a lot of progress we've made. There's a long way to go for sure. I would agree with that. Yeah. Mr. Allison. Then Mr. Beiter.

Mr. Allison: It's kind of a subjective question to answer, but where do we fit on a seriousness scale of the scope of this

compared to other environments you've been in or what you've seen?

Ms. Rash stated t's a challenge. You're in a very challenging position. Because you're trying to make decisions to go forward without having accurate information to look at historically. And that's why that's my number one goal, to get you to a place where you know at least as accurately as possible what you've had and then you can move forward.

Mr. Allison Thank you. Yeah, the amount of time you've been here, of course you're not here every day of the week. It's amazing how far you've gone so quickly. Really can't move forward to even cover everything, and that's going to take a while. You can't rush the process at all. There's just no way to do it. I do agree with Councilwoman Miele that we should have somebody as soon as possible by your side learning these things. But on the other hand, this situation mirrors a lot of other things we've seen over the past few years that have been uncovered. Since Mayor Slaughter has taken office. The depth and scope of these has been overwhelming. But one of the things we've seen all along is as we've transitioned from long-time employees, and most of whom did a very good job while they were here and didn't leave uncovered problems. We got used to unrealistic financial circumstances. We talked about this a little bit in finance in that the amount of money we were paying, the salaries, the level of them was not realistic as far as it didn't keep up with the times. And people out of the goodness of their heart served the city and worked here to keep things moving ahead. We really got behind financially and lost sight of what it was going to take to replace professionals with skills that no one else has. And I think we're really going to have to come to grips with that alongside this that we're going to need people in that department that Councilman Yoder, you mentioned \$150,000 a year at this rate. Well, with two people, we may be paying something close to that regardless. Because we don't want this to happen again. We've said that about all these situations. And the only way to assure that is to have every base covered competently. I don't think we're going to get out of this really quickly. We're going to have goals to hit. It's just a reality, harsh reality, another one that we're going to have to work through. Thank you.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Councilman Allison. Mr. Beiter, you had some comments.

Mr. Beiter: Yes. Appreciate everything you're doing thus far and the age of the issues you're finding, it's unfortunate that the city has been put in that position. What I would like to propose is an amendment to the resolution. Looking at the contract, I don't see any end date in there, not that I want to see you out by any means, but what I'd like to do is put a 90-day provision for a -- or a \$75,000 amount, whichever comes first, for us to bring this contract back up for renewal. So that way we as a city do not get in a situation where costs have run rampant and we're unaware. I also hope that that will spur the administration to start looking a little bit more vigorously for somebody to act as a director of finance. So that way we can make use of your time as well as educate them as best as possible. Because I can't even begin to imagine how that position would function given what you're uncovering right now.

Mr. Yoder: Personally, I can get onboard with that. I mean, just doing some quick math, Tracy, you found essentially about \$50,000, \$55,000 in unclaimed property, right, that's hanging out there, ish?

Ms. Rash That's what I believe. We received 15, applied for the other 41.

Mr. Yoder: Understood. Between that and I think the remaining line item with salary, that's right there in that 75, 85 range. We can use that to account for this contract at that time. That gives us time to, if we need to find more money down the road, it gives us some time to put a plan in place. But it also I think gives us a little bit of a check and balance here because clearly that's needed. Not of you, but of the financial situation I think we're in. I think that's frankly a pretty wise suggestion. So want to make an amendment?

Mr. Beiter Yes.

Mr. Allison: Are you talking 90 days from when she started, or 90 days starting now?

Mr. Yoder: 90 days from today. That will put us squarely in the middle of budget and things like that.

: What about this, what about rather than a timeframe, why don't we put a cap on the contract. Because this is essentially a time and material contract. So why don't we put a not to exceed in it, based on what we're doing so far, that should get us through the end of the year, assuming the \$13,000, \$14,000 a month would get us to the -- you know.

Ms. Miele: I'm just trying to avoid -- I don't know. That's up to you guys. I'm fine with whatever. It's going to add an extra layer of complication to what's already complicated.

Mr. Yoder: Understood. Understood. I'd be okay with that.

Ms. Miele: I should also mention I don't think Tracy put a dollar amount on the IRS penalty but it's 160 grand.

Mr. Yoder: Regardless, we've got to figure out what it's coming to.

Mr. Beiter **I'd make the motion to amend. I'd say 120 days and if you're going to put a dollar figure on that as well, come to an agreement with that.**

Mr. Yoder: I'd be okay with 85 based on the conversation here.

Ms. Rash, Am I allowed to ask a clarifying question? 120 days from today and 85 from today? I just want to make sure. Or is it 85 in total? From my last bill?

Mr. Beiter: That's correct.

Ms. Rash Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Yoder stated **I'll second that.**: Any other comments or questions related to the motion to amend? Okay. Hearing and seeing none, Mr. Norm, motion to amend.

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

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

Mr. Yoder stated this is something we'll be dealing with through the rest of the year, probably the next couple of years. Tracy, thank you very much for the work you've done so far, and we're here to support in whatever way is needed. .

: All right. Hearing and seeing no other comments or questions on the contracts, the main motion, please.

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

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

Bill #1806-22

Ordinance Amending Part I of the Codified Ordinances for the City of Williamsport (first reading)

The solicitor read the ordinance in first reading.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

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

Mr. Yoder stated This was not reviewed in committee. My apologies. It's been a week on my end. So this is just amending City Council's -- the way City Council can meet. So we've recently uncovered some previously unidentified -- I don't know what the proper word is, caveats, procedural issues with meeting remotely within committee. And in looking at that challenge, it came to mind. So we amended doing meetings remotely, but we never did that with committee meetings. So all this does is literally adds a center under rule 11, under Article 111.01, meetings and proceedings, the last sentence is added and it just says committee shall be able to meet electronically through video conferencing at the chair's discretion. This was reviewed by Austin White and that was his verbiage and guidance. That's literally all this is. Are there questions or comments from members of council on this? Again, my apologies for not sending this to a committee but it's pretty straightforward as well. Hearing and seeing none, Mr. Lubin on the motion, please.

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

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

Resolution #9340

Resolution Authorizing a MOU between Williamsport Bureau of Police & Commonwealth Charter Academy

The Solicitor read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second

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

Chief Snyder: Good evening. The resolution I bring before you is a memorandum of understanding between the Williamsport Bureau of Police and Commonwealth Charter Academy located in the city on Commerce Drive. It's pertaining to a cooperation with the mutual support to maintain school safety relative to procedural MOU between us and the school for a police presence and response. So it's about as simple as that. It was reviewed by Austin White, city solicitor, and approved. I'll open the floor for any questions on this particular resolution.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Chief Snyder. This was reviewed in Public Safety.

Mr. Mackey It was. This is no cost to the city. This is us creating another good relationship with an institution of learning we have here in the city. Commonwealth Charter Academy by Planet Fitness, and Chief, correct me if I'm wrong, this is primarily an online school with the office presence there?

Chief answered Yeah.

Mr. Mackey> Again, there was not a whole lot of discussion because this is really just a good thing for us and it's a good thing for them.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Mr. Mackey. Are there any comments or questions on this from other members of council? Hearing and seeing none, Mr. Lubin on the motion please.

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

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

Resolution #9341

Resolution Authorizing a MOU between Williamsport Bureau of Police & Lycoming College

The Solicitor read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second

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

Chief Snyder This is another resolution I bring before you. A memorandum of understanding between the City of Williamsport and Lycoming College pertaining to conducting a collaborative community survey project in which Lycoming College will administer and analyze a survey of residents regarding the Williamsport's community perception. So with the help of Lycoming College to help do a survey of the community, and then we can compile the stats and information, learn what the perception is overall of police, and identify what we need to work on, educate on, and open conversations between us and the community. So it'll allow us to provide a better service to the community. This also was reviewed by Austin White, our city solicitor, and I'll open up the floor for any questions you may have.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Chief Snyder. This was also reviewed in Public Safety.

Mr. Mackey: It was. Councilman Beiter, you said you're tired of paying for surveys. This is one we don't have to pay for. Another great collaboration with a local college, Lycoming College. The work should be done by summer of '23. We should have all of the information back to us, and it's going to be a really great tool for the police to use to see what they're doing right and what they're doing wrong, as far as the public perception is concerned. This is a great thing and I'll be voting yes for it.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Mr. Mackey. I would second that. I think this is a great thing. I think educating the public as much as we can on what we do, how we do it, and building those relationships with the community is great. This is a great way to do it. Off topic, but related, I'd commend the department and the mayor for these cookouts that you're doing. I haven't been able to make one yet unfortunately. I'm always out of town. So thank you. No, they're a great idea. They're building bridges in the community. I think this will help us do that too. So I'm glad to see that. Commend you on the work for that. That's great. Any other comments or questions from other members of council? Mr. Allison.

Mr. Allison: I want to thank the chief as well. This is very forward looking stuff. Some of us have been asking for for a long time, especially those of us who have been on council longer. Seeing the need for that and just want to commend you, Chief, and the whole department because you have the whole department behind you in this. They're looking at it that way and interacting with the community in a new way that is nonthreatening and opens up all kinds of possibilities that are good as far as communication and understanding. So yeah. This answers a lot of things that some of us have wanted to see for a long time. So thank you.

Mr. Yoder: Well said, Mr. Allison. Ms. Miele.

Ms. Miele: Yeah, two questions. One, it referred early on, will the police actually be taking part in the survey or in giving the survey? I guess one of the first sentences. It says survey residents. That's going to be awkward.

Chief answered Going to be staff and students.

Ms. Miele: It certainly would be wise, they're doing it only within certain census spots it looks like at this point. So pretty targeted?

We're only doing the survey within certain census blocks at this point so it's pretty targeted?

Chief Yes. It's been generated. Lycoming College had a grad student that worked with us and did a similar project. We're going to build off that a little bit, just expound upon it and compile all that information. As I talked before, working on a strategic plan, we've been knocking off a lot of our items on that list and that plan in the first year. But I like to get a fully established five-year strategic plan, and this will help with that in what we need to do, where we need to move forward.

Ms. Miele Yes, I guess that was my second question, when we concluded this in 2023. You may be able to summarize a bit more fully, maybe at the end of the semester, what do we do with the information? How do we incorporate it into our policies and procedures to give ourselves a better department?

Chief Snyder It's not always going to be about policy and procedures. It may be. A lot of times perception may be wrong. One of the things is opening the door for communication. Being more transparent. A lot of what you get today is education comes from TV. A lot of what you see on TV is not the case. So that's what we're dealing with a lot of times. And that was part of with these out reaches we've been doing. And it's been opening up the lines of communication for that education because we get a lot of times that everybody thinks procedurally things are done as they see on TV and that's not always the case. So that's part of it. But on change in policy and procedure, maybe. Not sure. Because I'm not sure what we're going to get back. But we establish a bunch of questions from what was your interaction with the police? And on a scale, what was the professional? Was it a professional interaction, not professional, or neutral, whatever it may be. So looking at how the perception is coming from the community, and what do we need to do to change those perceptions? So if it is something procedural that we need to change, then we'll get together with everybody within the department or FOP, look at what our policies and procedures are now, see if we need to update them. We are currently updating them because we are trying to get accredited. So we are going through a lot of our policies and procedures now and updating them and making them more current. And with the new equipment we're getting to include the body-worn cameras that we're going to be getting. So that will be a newly established policy and procedure. Just to bring us to the times, be better, be transparent, and do it the best we can so we can provide a better service to the community.

Ms. Miele: Good. I think my only point is that certainly one method of outreach is to ask people questions how they feel about the job you're doing. We also have to listen to the answers. Even if the answers aren't necessarily based on the accurate perception of policing, we still have to in some way or another take those answers so I'm not sure whether the two professors involved in this will also maybe help us to synthesize a response, whether that's a marketing-based response or change of policy response, but I think that's something we sort of need to look toward when we complete this, is okay, here's our baseline, and then what's our five-year plan. But also what steps do we need to take and how can we most effectively deal with it. Anyway. It's exciting to see the department engaging in this sort of outreach in the community. And it will be exciting to see what the responses are, and frankly to a certain extent, if they're positive, fantastic. Even if they're not particularly positive, that gives us plenty of room for improvement, which is also an exciting thing. Either way, I think it will work to our benefit.

Chief Snyder The intent is to take that information that we'll compile and I want to put it on our website, on Crime Watch, and put it out there to see. Work from there. Be very transparent.

Ms. Miele: That's great. That's fantastic. I'm glad everyone's doing it. Thank you, Chief.

Mrs. Katz stated It's not a question. I just think it's wonderful that we're using the college as one of our assets. Between Lycoming College and Penn College, I don't think we utilize the talents that are there to begin with enough. And to have Lycoming College conduct this survey I think is wonderful. Chief, I'm just interested. Who came up with this to begin with?

Chief It was something I came across looking, no better way to find out how we're doing than going out and asking. So just a survey I've been trying to put together. We compile a bunch of questions, trying to put together the best questions. So it's a work in progress, so it's going to be my first time doing it. So might be some bumps on the road along the way. But I'm hoping the end result is a good one.

Mrs. Katz: I think it's going to be wonderful. There's also every time you do something new, there's a learning curve involved anyhow. But I'm just thrilled that you're using the college and the college is participating in a city function at this point. And I think it's going to benefit everybody all the way around as far as what can possibly be done. You never know what comes out of -- you have the youth going around taking this survey in the neighborhoods, but you also have the youth that's going to participate in this. And let's face it. Youth has a lot of creative ideas. So I think this is wonderful. Thank you very much.

Chief Thank you, ma'am.

Mr. Yoder: Any other comments or questions from other members of council? Hearing and seeing none, Mr. Lubin on the motion, please.

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

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

Resolution #9342
Resolution to Increase Internet Service

The Solicitor read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

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

Mr. Black What you have before you a resolution to upgrade our internet service through Comcast to better facilitate some of the things we're wanting to do down the road and an increase in our upload speed necessitates us. We have to do this. You're looking at a monthly recurring cost of \$659.95 or a yearly cost of \$7919.40. This was reviewed by Mr. Lubin and the finance committee.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you. Was this reviewed by the finance committee? Okay. I completely missed that. Anyway. I'll turn it over to finance. Thank you, Ms. Miele.

Ms. Miele: Well, the primary point discussed in finance was the fact that prior to executing this contract, if we choose to do so tonight, our internet service has been free. Anything under 35 megabytes --

You said it was anything under 35 megabytes -- not megabytes. That's not what I meant to say. Anyway, we're going to 100. We need about 50. 35 is free. And 100 costs us \$600 a month.

Mr. Black But it's also a dedicated line. It's guaranteed at that speed. The other is maybe 100 down, and maybe 35 going up at best. This is flat, 100 both ways, no questions asked.

Ms. Miele: Right. Up side, down side. However the primary point to you was the watch guard cameras effectively. We need at least 50 up, and we can't guarantee that without increasing our internet service. So we're putting this into the IT budget. In some ways perhaps it should be more appropriately under the police budget. That's not how it works but when we're bearing in mind the costs of the various unsundry services the city acquires, the major reason to increase our internet service was the body cameras that are effectively becoming a requirement of policing now. So just kind of a way to look at it. That said, this contract is 36 months. Mr. Black has no reason to believe that what often happens with residential Comcast contracts might happen with the commercial one, that's to say the price should not jump dramatically at the end of the 36 months. But we could always negotiate or look for another provider. And all there are other providers. At least two that I can think of. Okay. And if we would need for some reason to increase the speed we had, we could do that midstream. We don't have to wait till the end of the 36-month contract to change the amount of data we have. And that's everything, Mr. Yoder.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Ms. Miele. Are there any comments or questions on this from other members of council? All right. I don't have any either. Hearing and seeing none, the motion.

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

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

Resolution #9343

Resolution Modifying the 2021 FFYCDBG Action Plan

The Solicitor read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second

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

Mr. Memmi I have to bring this item for your approval. We've been doing this for a few months. But this is the final resolution the council needs to approve for us to complete the substantial amendment to be able to provide the additional funding for the fire apparatus that we've been looking at. Through the work of CDCG and Kristen McLaughlin and Tyler are here this evening to answer any questions. You've seen this multiple times. We're closing out 16, 17, 18, and we're using up uncommitted funds, 19, 20, and 21 to find the money. There were two public hearings held. It was on the table for 30 days. We're here to answer any questions. You've seen this multiple times. It was reviewed in finance. I'll answer any questions or Tyler or Kristen are here to answer any other questions.

Ms. Miele: This is uncommon but finance has no further comments to offer.

Mr. Yoder. Any other comments or questions from other members of council? Hearing and seeing none, the motion, please.

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

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

Resolution to Approve the Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Action Plan for the CDBG & HOME investment program

The solicitor read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second

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

Mr. Memmi stated. I'll try to be very brief. Document in front of you is about 78 pages. But in summary, the city has received 1,42,508 for funds and HOME funds in the amount of \$272,211 and we have put together the action plan. Again, it's been advertised. Public hearings have been held. And we're coming to you for the final approval. We're looking to put 645,643 into public facilities and infrastructure. Into housing rehabilitation through the CDGB program. \$72,091 and the HOME program, \$202,711. Accessibility, we're looking at CDBG for \$40,359. Light elimination, CDGB. Homeownership program through the HOME fund, \$45,000, and administration CDGB \$208, 500. Tyler and Kristen are here to answer any questions as they put this all together. They held the public hearings. We all were there. And they did the public outreach necessary to comply. Again, you've seen this every year for the past two or three years.

Ms. Miele This was reviewed in finance and there was no particularly exciting discussion. Mr. Beiter had a handful of questions but the budget for community development shrank slightly this year. The HOME budget was up.

Mr. Memmi The total loss in funds was like 20,000.

Ms. Miele: Neither of those was anticipated but we did have a bit of an uptick during the pandemic but it appears to have dried up. Barring any change at the federal level, we're back on the trend of slowly decreasing amounts of funding and community development. Aside from that, the allocations are not unusual. What is a little unusual is the filing time for this.

Mr. Memmi> We're running up against a final clock. We have to get this submitted.

Ms. Miele: Which is exceptionally unusual in the community development department. So we're hoping to get back on track for next year.

Mr. Yoder asked for a vote.

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

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

Resolution #9345

Resolution to Commit to Funding for the Greenways, Trails & Recreation Program for the Basin St. Riverwalk Construction

The City Solicitor read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second

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

Mr. Sander This is kind of a redo of what we passed in May. Essentially DCD is very interested in giving us grant money for this project. It was previously split into two segments. Essentially phase 1 from Panera Bread to underneath the overpass, to the onramp on 180, and from that point to the Riverwalk 1 and 2 phases. They said let's combine the project into one total project and that's what I'm here for today. So what DCD is asking is we are applying for a GTRP grant for the maximum amount of \$250,000 with a match of \$142,056 from the city. Exact same project, we needed a resolution promising the match funding. This was reviewed in ERC yesterday.

Mr. Yoder: This was reviewed in the Economic Revitalization Committee.

Mr. Beiter: Mr. Sander mentioned this was discussed in a lot of detail back in May. We approved it back in May. It's a matter of being a one-phase project versus two-phase project which is why it's back before us. The \$142,056 match that is required is a great use of ARPA funds for that type of project considering it's going to be adjacent to all the old city development and to get more foot traffic down there as much as possible. It's going to be integral to its success.

Mr. Yoder Thank you, Mr. Beiter. I would agree. Any other comments or questions from other members of council? Okay. Let's remember that next time we amend our ARPA budget. Ms. Miele.

Ms. Miele: My only question is how firm do we think the budget for this is? \$292,000? Do you think we'll get it done for that?

Mr. Sander> I don't know. With costs all over the place, I'm not sure.

Ms. Miele: This grant is maxed out at 250.

Mr. Sander This grant is maxed out at 250. Anything over it would be on us.

Ms. Miele: It's what I wanted to clarify.

Mr. Yoder: Duly noted. Any other comments or questions? Hearing and seeing none, Mr. Lubin on the motion, please.

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

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

Resolution # 9346

Resolution of Agreement Between City of Williamsport & Williamsport Area School District

The City Solicitor read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second

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

Mr. Sander So a few months back, Williamsport Area School district put out a contract to pave Cochran's parking lot. It completely surrounds the school building itself. Along the southern portion of the parking lot is a strip that's city alley, and serves five houses over there. So the school district and the contractor asked to see if the city would pick up that portion of the paving projects so didn't leave it completely newly paved parking lot and a busted up strip of alleyway. So that's what we have before you here tonight. What you have is an agreement that the solicitor pulled together. This was reviewed by Mr. Norm Lubin in the amount of \$7,004. This was also reviewed in the ERC.

Mr. Beiter Sometimes. It was reviewed in ERC. This is a project that's already done. Shame on us if we were to say to the Williamsport Area School District, too bad, thanks for paving our street, and stick them with the bill. You mentioned this is getting paid for without of liquid fuels. And the money we're saving because of utility work being done at inlets through the water authority will help pay for that cost there as well.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Mr. Beiter. Are there any comments or questions from other members of council? Hearing and seeing none, Mr. Lubin on the motion.

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

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

Resolution #9348

Resolution Authorizing City of Williamsport/Public Works to utilize ARPA & Memorial Pool Funds for the Pool Membrane at Memorial Pool

The City Solicitor read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second

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

Mr. Yoder I just have a procedural question. Should we discussing these both at the same time if we're making a decision on that? So Mr. Livermore can go over item 19, but if he recommends we actually item 20, he can recommend us to vote that down and we can vote for that one or vice versa. Mr. Livermore.

Mr. Livermore. Nice to be confused. The resolution authorizing the City of Williamsport to utilize ARPA funds for Memorial Pool membrane. Resolution on 19, we're talking about the difference of \$1,080.73. It reads the same as 20. My recommendations are to go with number 20. But I'll read the option 1 on 19. It's a 60/40 split with ARPA expenditures of 76,711.09. To take out of the pool account would be \$51,183.73. That's 40%. This is all based off \$127,951.82. That was the 60/40 split that was discussed back in December. My recommendation is to go with the option 2, which is number 20, which is ARPA expenditures of \$75,666.82. That will leave \$50,000 in the pool fund. This was reviewed by Austin White and this was reviewed in finance too.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Mr. Livermore. This was reviewed in finance. Ms. Miele.

Ms. Miele: It was indeed reviewed in finance. And the difference between the two resolutions coming out of the pool fund was a total of \$4,000. So we said to us it didn't really make a huge difference. I said I had a slight preference for leaving \$50,000 in the pool so I'm happy to support Item 20. Just to be clear, the resolution in our packet, and I thought I saw another from you, Mr. Livermore, but now I can't find it, is for \$52,291 from the pool fund, and you said \$75,000?

Mr. Livermore Leave 50k in the pool account, \$75,666.82.

Ms. Miele: Got it. Because the last document that I have has a \$92,000 total but that was prior to an amount paid out of the city that we weren't aware of. Okay. We didn't see a big difference there as long as the numbers match up to what we owe, then great.

Mr. Yoder: Just to clarify, your recommendation is to approve the second one?

Mr. Livermore Correct.

Mr. Yoder: All right. His recommendation is to vote this one down, approve the second one. Okay. Any other comments or questions from other members of council on item 19? Hearing and seeing none, Mr. Lubin on the motion.

The resolution failed with six nay votes.

The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.

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

The second resolution was voted with positive recommendations.

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

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

Resolution #9347

Resolution Awarding the 2022 Contracts for Street Line Painting & Bituminous Seal Coating for the City

The City Solicitor read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second

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

Mr. Livermore. This resolution is awarding the 2022 contracts for street line painting and bituminous seal coating for the city. DeAngelo Contracting Services LLC for \$20,684.18. They will be doing roughly 175,381 linear feet throughout the city. Standard every year, we go through it. We try to touch everything up. Luckily this year HRI did the benefit for us and did most of the main run down here, which will be a little bit of a savings. I don't know how much yet until we get there. But that's all already done. The bituminous seal coating, Russell Standard Corporation, in the amount of \$32,032.32. This is our tar and chip we'll be doing in a few locations throughout the city. Two main runs that we plan on doing, James Road and Hillside Road. So hopefully get another five to six years of longevity out of these two locations. This was reviewed in finance as well. Any questions.

Ms. Miele : Yes, we further confirmed our belief that Mr. Livermore has a lot of knowledge about paving. (Laughter) Yeah. The costs are up as the costs are everywhere. But aside from that, this is the standard contract. Really the only comment was mine and actually ties in nicely with the item that Mr. Sander just brought to us about the greenways trails and recreation program grant. I've advocated passionately a handful of times now for the city striping bike lanes in our community with using ARPA funding over the next several years to create and maintain a network of bike lanes in the city that would help us safely lead Lycoming College students to the Riverwalk and would also help us to ideally guide all our citizenry to safely use bike lanes instead of some relatively unsafe cycling practices that I see happening around the city as I drive, walk, and bike. Unsafe cycling practices I myself engage in from time to time. We could alleviate all of that. And if we are looking at creating better access to cycling paths and walking paths in the city, it would be an opportune moment when we do this again next year to look at also adding bike lanes that make it easier for people to access those recreational opportunities. But that was all. Aside from that, everything is pretty straightforward.

Mr. Yoder Thank you, Ms. Miele. Any other comments or questions from other members of council? Hearing and seeing none, Mr. Lubin on the motion.

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

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

Accept for filing::

Finance Committee Meeting 07/01/22 & 7/19/22

ERC 03/03/22 & 06/08/22

Controller's Report 05/31/22

WMWA & WMSA minutes 6/22/22

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion to accept these for filing.

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

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

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

Announcements

. The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Thursday, September 1, 2022 at 7:00 PM, Trade & Transit II, 144 West Third St. 3rd Floor, Williamsport, PA

Upcoming Meetings:

Tuesday, August 16	6:30 PM	HARB Meeting
Wednesday, August 17	10:00 AM	Blighted Property Review Board
Thursday, August 18	10:30 AM	Zoning Hearing Board
Wednesday, August 24	11:30 AM	Redevelopment Authority
Tuesday, August 30	11:30 AM	Public Safety
	1:00 PM	Finance Committee
	2:30 PM	Public Works
Wednesday, August 31	9:00 AM	Economic Revitalization Committee
	3:30 PM	O & E Pension
Thursday, September 1	7:00 PM	City Council Meeting*

Comments:

a. City Council

Mr. Mackey: Not that anybody needs reminded of this, but we have a big couple of weeks coming up here in the city. A lot of great events. I would just ask that everyone remain patient and understand that your ability to move around the city might be hindered from time to time, especially when it comes to parade day. Chief Snyder, I was late today so I didn't get a chance to grab that "see something, say something" flyer from you. I don't know if you can speak to that real quick. We've had officers going around, downtown specifically, handing out this flyer. And I think what we are looking for is any help that we can get from the public when it comes to spotting suspicious activity, no matter how frivolous you might think it is. And Chief, I'll let you speak to that a little bit more.

Chief Snyder Yeah, we're just implementing a "see something, say something" initiative for the public and the business district. So essentially for the public, we're talking and putting out a flyer we have. Did you see something suspicious throughout the city or during the little league events? Say something to local law enforcement, make it right. We have report suspicious activity by calling 1-888-292-1919. Or email at tips@pa.gov. Just want to reiterate the difference between suspicious activity and active criminal activity. If you see active criminal activity, please call 911. Not the tip line. So we do also have see something, say something for the business districts, a little bit different. So looking for suspicious activity. What we're looking for, surveillance, solicitation, tacit security, funding, suspicious persons out of place, if you see some rehearsal or dry runs, deploying assets. I can get a little bit more into them. It's flyer we put out there. It's also about reporting it. Again, suspicious activity versus active criminal activity. So making sure you understand the difference between two. If you have something actively going on that's criminal in nature, please call 911. If it's something suspicious in nature, we do have a number we gave you and a tip line. There's also -- I'll leave it at that. If you have any questions about it, I can elaborate a little bit more on some of it.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you very much, Chief. Very much appreciated and it's a great initiative. Thank you, Mr. Mackey. Any other comments from other members of council? Is there any comments from the administration? Mr. Norm.

b. Administration

Mr. Livermore A reminder the city (away from mic) they will pick it up next year but at this time, no more rush pickup.

Mr. Yoder: Just to reiterate, there will be no more brush pickup in the city this calendar year, correct?

c. Members of the Public

d. News Media

Adjournment

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned upon motion by **Mr. Allison** and a second by **Mr. Mackey/ Meeting adjourned at 9:58 PM PM with unanimous ayes.**

Submitted by:

Janice M. Frank
City Clerk