

Council President Adam Yoder brought the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday, December 8,, 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  
Jon Mackey, Councilman,  
Eric Beiter Councilman  
**Absent::**

**Also, Present:**

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

Approval of the Williamsport City Council minutes for 11/03/22 & 11/28/22 were approved upon a motion **by Mr. Pulizzi and a second from Mrs. Katz. All were in favor by a vote of 6 to 0. Ms. Miele was absent at the time of the vote.**

**Limited Courtesy of the Floor**

There were none.

Appointments/

**Zoning Hearing Board**

Richard Carlson, 1401 Campbell St is appointed to a 3 year term commencing 12-6-22 & ending 12.6.25

Scott Cauley, 40 Woodland Avenue, is appointed to a term commencing 12-8-22 & ending 08/06/23.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second on the appointments for Zoning Hearing Board

Mr. Knar stated, these two individuals would make a very good complement to us. They are aware that they would be required to attend the planning and zoning training offered by the County, which is done every other year and they are willing to attend that at this time and I can answer any questions, and I believe one is present via Zoom.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Mr. Knarr said I believe these interviews were done in the finance committee. Ms. Miele, the chair is not here yet. Between Councilman Allison and here is Ms. Miele. Perfect timing. If there is any insight into the conversation from finance, that would be welcome

Ms. Miele: Absolutely. I think effectively the conversation - and thank you to whoever moved my microphone so close that everybody will be able to hear me no matter what. Anyway, the majority of the conversation - we have two - frankly, apparently excellent candidates. Gentlemen with time in their schedules. They are both retired. One is a relatively new transplant to the city and one has lived here quite a while. They both have background. Excuse me, Mr. Carlson has more background in the subject matter I believe and more springs, but Mr. Scott Cauley looks like he would appoint himself while on the board. I said they were both willing with the time commitment, the time commitment especially to the learning element of the zoning and hearing board role. It was an excellent conversation. Very interesting, nice to make both of their acquaintance. Be it remotely. I personally would have no qualms recommended both of them for the zoning hearing board.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Ms. Miele. Other members of the finance committee, you're more than welcome certainly and if there are any questions or comments from any of the members of Council. I think Mr. Cauley is on zoom as well if anybody has any questions.

Mr. Allison They are well qualified and we know the importance of the zoning hearing board. The foundation to development and everything that goes with it, and keeping things orderly within the city. So, yeah. They fit the bill very well.

Mr. Cauley: Excellent. Mr. Cauley, anything you care to add before we take a vote? Is he on? I thought that he was.

Mr. Cauley : Good evening members of Council. I wanted to take just a brief moment and thank the finance committee and members of counsel for the consideration of disappointment. I look very much forward to working with the other members of the board as we go forward. So I just wanted to give a brief thank you for this consideration.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Scott. Thank you for stepping up and serving the city. We are very think will for that also. Okay. No questions on the zoning hearing board opponents. Mrs. Frank on the motion.

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

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

**Board of Health**

Maren Desaulniers, 2113 West Third St is appointed to a 5 year term commencing 12/6/22 & ending 1/6/27.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

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

Mr. Allison. Chairwoman Miele did go to this. She knows personally this individual. We all saw her resume and she is qualified four or five times over and the Board of Health is important function that we need within the city. I think we have learned that through pandemic and things like that. We need to have a functioning cutting edge Board of Health. This is a good start on that.

Mr. Yoder: I don't know if Mr. Desaulniers is here on zoom. That's okay. She is extremely qualified. I would commend our city clerk, Ms. Frank, she really helped to steer her to the right place where she would be - where her service would

be most effective or useful, or however you want to turn not. So she will be a good fit there. Thank you Janice very much for that there. No other comments or questions?.

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

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

**Mr. Yoder changed the order of the agenda.**

#### **Subdivision & land Development Newberry Sub Shop**

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

**Mr. Pulizzi made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Beiter.**

Mr. Knarr: Good evening paid what we present you tonight is a request from West branch federal credit union and Newberry sub shop. It proposes a subdivision as well as a land of element. The first part would be the subdivision would be lot number one, it is going to contain 1.4 undeveloped acres, which contains that the total parcel is 6.48 acres. Lot number one would be subdivided into 1.47 with the residual keeping West branch federal credit union intact. It does serve both public water and sewer, and does have access off of High Street. So that would be the subdivision part of it. As far as the land of element part, lot number one, they are requesting to build obviously the Newberry sub shop. Be approximately 3200 square-foot building with an additional area for covered - for covered patio for seating and off-street parking for 24 standing parking spaces as well as for two handicap spaces. It was reviewed by both John Sanders, as well as the Williamsport storm water authority for the storm water and it does comply with all of those areas. It was also reviewed by planning commission. The planning commission gave a positive recommendation as well. Lycoming County reviewed it and you do have the comments in front of you. What I will tell you is the plans in front of you are already all amended and Lycoming County planning already has it down there so you do have the correct and new updated plans. I do have a copy of what they call the will serve letter for Williamsport sewer and water authority, in addition, Pen Dot has determined that there is not a new high occupancy - - or occupational one. I do have obviously a maintenance agreement and an easement agreement for West branch Valley and Newberry sub shop. That will not be active until the land of element is approved and the subdivision is approved. I do have the County documents that we have requested on there. At this point time I do have a representative here and I can answer any questions.

Mrs. Katz: Yes, who is the representative? Newberry sub shop has been a mainstay in the city for I don't know how many decades and I'm happy to see you are expending it and I think it is such a great asset to Newberry.

Dawn Flexer is the owner of Newberry sub shop. I've been working with her for the last year and 1/2 because she has wanted to stay within the city, but she wanted to expand and find the right area. It has been a longtime process that her and I have been going through.

Mr. Yoder ask for a vote on the sub division.

**The sub division was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.**

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

#### **Subdivision 701 First St**

Mr. Knarr: What you have it is a request from 701 1st St. It is to subdivide lot A, which would - - square feet and a commercial building with public water, sewer services, and the other two parcels would be parcel number three and parcel number two. Those two parcels will be added for one and will be sold in the future for one. What it is designed to do is obviously because it is such a large parcel and they do not use the whole facility, they are looking at basically bring this down into one smaller lot in case they decide to sell or develop the other parcels. That's why they are going through this process. It was reviewed by many commission and passed with a positive recommendation and also went through the planning commission for the County October 11 and you do have the comments in the front.

Mr. Yoder asked for a vote

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

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

#### **Certificate of Appropriateness Outdoor seating 10 E. Third St**

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

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

Mr. Knarr What we present to you is the American Legion post one at 10 E. 3rd St. is requesting outdoor seating. You do have a sketch drawing of the proposed outdoor seating as well as you do have images of the design of the seating that they are requesting. It is within the public right-of-way. It does obviously have a large area that has a handicap accessibility to that parcel. One of the main reasons they are requesting it, obviously like everyone else is to establish the outdoor sitting within the downtown area grade in addition obviously this would allow them to apply through PLC be for an extension of the premises for the outdoor seating. It did go through planning and planning capacity with a positive recommendation for the front of the building. I do have a representative here.

Mr. Yoder: Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Knarr. Any comments or questions from any members of counsel? Okay, hearing and saying none. Mrs. Frank on the motion please

**The Certificate of Appropriateness was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.**

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

#### **Certificate of Appropriateness 425 Market St**

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second.

**Mr. Pulizzi made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Beiter.**

Mr. Knarr presented the certificate. Very little discussion.

**The Certificate of Appropriateness was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.**

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

The City Clerk read the ordinance.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

**Mr. Pulizzi made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Beiter**

Mayor what you have before you is the second reading of the ARPA transfer for the Maynard St., Commons. This was discussed last week - a few weeks ago on first reading and now it comes to you on a second reading this evening.

Mr. Yoder Okay. Thank you very much. So we handled this in first reading with the request from the developer. There are a couple of housekeeping items that we will make some motions to. For a couple of items that we have either voted on previously or have openly discussed in the past couple of weeks. I'm going to try to match what you propose Mayor Slaughter. If I am wrong, just say something. So the **first motion that I would make to amend is taking \$156,150 from COVID related expenses and moving down to create a item for police vehicles. Is there a second that motion?**

**Ms. Miele seconded it.**

Mr. Yoder. This is an item that was voted on about a month ago I think and it is not budgeted so I think that's where the mayor was proposing to take that. Any questions or comments?

**The motion was carried with seven yes roll call.**

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

**Mr. Yoder stated I'd to make an amendment to transfer \$270,000 from the public works future project reserved budget and move to the item under that category for pool filter replacement.**

**Mr. Pulizzi seconded it.**

**The motion was carried with seven yes roll call.**

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

Mr. Yoder There are a couple of other amendments that I think majority of Council also wants to make. Related to both I think budget as well as another idea that has been floating out there. I will make these amendments and I think most are in agreement on these, but if not we can certainly rescind the motions or we can vote them down. The next motion I will make is to remove \$1 million from the land bank authority and create item in economic development for a small business revolving loan program.

**Mr. Pulizzi made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Beiter.**

Mr. Yoder: Motion and a second. There has been some ideas thrown around recently about creating a small business revolving loan program to try to help, I think drives some new growth, specifically in downtown Williamsport. I personally love this idea. I think we can work out the details, but I've had brief conversations with our ARPA consultant. They have done this and other municipalities. They have a model for this. This should be pretty straightforward, but we have stuff to work off of. Are there any questions or comments related to that? Ms. Miele?

Ms. Miele: I think this is the beginning of one of the most important things that we can do with the American rescue plan active funding. If we are not putting it into economic developer ourselves, I think offering the opportunity to create a fund that will allow small businesses especially to forage and benefit from these funds in the city will be a huge benefit, especially a fund that is self replenishing. That is to say over the course of the next several years the money will come back to the city. This is the sort of money that you might need to purchase the equipment to start your business. You know, I think that is huge and I look forward to working on the program.

Mr. Yoder: I would second that in a couple of specifics. Speaking to the sustainability of that. With talking to our consultant, we get this loaned out and once it comes back after 2026, it is free and clear. Meaning we are not going to lose that if we get the money back and it is unrestricted at that point. I don't think we should pool the money after the fact, but this is a way to certainly create a sustainable fund, you know, and within the guidelines that are offered. So I'm excited about this also. I would commend Ms. Miele. This was a common notion of her idea and Mr. Pulizzi, I know both of them have been in my ear a little bit or a lot the last number of weeks. So it is always a pleasure to work through ideas when we have good support for them. Thank you both very much for that. Any thoughts, comments, or questions? Okay. Motion to amend. Let's take the vote, Mrs. Frank.

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

**The motion was carried with seven yes roll call.**

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

**Mr. Yoder. . The first motion I will make, I'm going to motion to move \$1,801,100 from the levy and transfer that to the lost revenue line item. Is there a second?**

**Mr. Pulizzi seconded it..**

Mr. Yoder. The thought process here is taking this funding and moving it through lost revenue and creating a reserve fund for the purpose of ensuring we have this funding after we get beyond the 2024 allocation period, and the 2026 allocation period. Both of those projects are moving, but I don't know if we will have any firm, you know, level of detail by the time this money needs to be allocated and I think this is a way to get some of this money allocated and reserved and ensure we do not lose that for those projects. I think in talking to other councilmembers to work through getting this money allocated and spent, that is an idea that I think many were open to and aboard with. I think I had a second. Any questions or comments related to that motion? Ms. Miele?

Ms. Miele: I think to further flesh out one thing you did not flush out. The city can, without having to provide any sort of documentation, utilized \$10 million of the ARPA allocation for lost revenue. We have utilized a little better than six of it within the city's budget. This would simply - we had earmarked this funding and I believe your next motion is to go towards those specific projects. That's that those projects will not move fast enough in order for us to keep it as allocated. We are moving it with an a fund of the city and when they - - reserved for the uses in which it was originally committed.

Mr. Yoder: That is correct. We can take up to \$10 million off the top for lost revenue. We have, by my mouth, off of

Tracy's updated ARPA but jet - - of lost revenue that we can take so dividing that by two. We get two numbers that are off by one dollar. So that is correct. That is the rationale. The other comments or questions related to this motion? Do you have a question, Tracy? Go ahead.

Ms. Rash Even in lost revenue there are three things you are not permitted to do with ARPA funds and one of them is to put into a sustainability or reserve. So the motion might be too **use it as lost revenue to supplement the future budget and the budget would flush out and the budget that would have been used for that is flushed out and that is used to put into a sustainability reserve.** I just want you to be careful on wording.

Mr. Yoder: Understood. **I will amend my motion to put this for all extent and purposes into the general fund.**

**The motion was carried with seven yes roll call.**

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

Mr. Yoder stated to go back to the changes.

**. The motion was carried with seven yes roll call.**

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

**Mr. Yoder. I**

Mr. Yoder. As Ms. Miele had said, with the lost revenue ability, the whole rationale applies, again, the goal is not to use this for anything aside from these two projects. This is simply a way for us to ensure that we are able to keep it and have something there in case something comes up with these projects and we need to make some moves when we get into crunch time. He asked for a motion to amend.

**The motion to amend was carried with seven yes roll call.**

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

**Mr. Yoder. I**

Mr. Yoder. Those were the other amendment that I knew about. Are there others that I don't know about that other council members would like to make? Okay. So I will fully admit this. I have been very reluctant to spend this money. I have been very concerned about, you know, how we would spend this money, but they've got to a point where I think we have come to some consensus and we are getting some projects moving, which is great. When I look through all the changes we have made and what we have now, I see a lot of buckets that are either failed of projects we know are going to happen. In my mind there is very little left that we have to spend. There is some money with reserve for public works. There is some reserve money for recreation projects. Outside of that, you know, there is not really much in my mind to move around. I think we wanted to see this money get put into the proper accounts and get it finally allocated and get these moving, right? So I cannot speak for other councilmembers, but I think we are in a really good spot with this ARPA budget and our ARPA allocations. I'm excited to see some work with the land bank and redevelopment authority getting moving great I'm looking forward to the other recreation projects that the mayor may have in mind. We have agreed that there's a handful of projects there. Let's get it going. Any other comments or questions related to the ARPA budget before we vote on the final reading? Ms. Miele?

Ms. Miele As discussed in last week's special meeting or was it two weeks ago? It has been forever. Anyway, while I support all the amendments that we have just made to the ARPA ordinance, I unfortunately do not support the level of funding that we initially created this ordinance to commit to a project on Maynard Street. I would have been, but with a commitment, I'm not comfortable with the \$1,050,000 commitment by making. Consequently I will be voting no. I do support the other items that you put in there. Thanks.

Mr. Yoder: I think I of all people can score a protest bow and understand. Point well taken and understood. Thank you for your support of the amendments. Any other comments or questions? Okay, hearing and sing unpaid Mrs. Frank on the main motion.

**The ordinance was carried in final reading was carried with 6 yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 1.**

**. Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted yes, Ms. Miele voted no Mrs. Katz voted yes, and Mr. Yoder voted yes.**

### **Demolition 339 Washington Blvd**

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

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

Mr. Knarr I appreciate it and I'm sure Mr. Stopper appreciates it as well. What we have is a motion from Mr. Ben Stopper for the property located at 339 Washington Blvd. He is requesting to demolish the Stroman building only. part of the building and the back part of the fitness center will remain. I did walk through the facility with Barry (NAME?) associate, which is our professional services for are and codes. After the last four years there have not been any utilities within the building and Mr. stopper is requesting to tear the building down. It would just be the Stroman building, not the Benji building. He has brought an engineer in. We have reviewed the engineering plans and Barry Eiseman and Associates is okay with basically how the structure is going to be brought down and providing that counsel does approve this we will move through with issuing a demolition permit with the Stroman building only.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Mr. Knarr. Any Commons or questions related to this item from members of counsel? Ms. Miele?

Ms. Miele: It is a shame what is happening in that law of Washington Boulevard. This building has been a cornerstone of Washington Boulevard and really set the straight line up there. It's an attractive building and well-built and I am truly sorry to see it go. This is apparently my night for protest votes here.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Ms. Miele. Any other comments or questions from members of counsel? .

Mr. Beiter: The curiosity question I have for Mr. Stopper is he was willing to share if he has future plans for that when the building is torn down?

Mr. Stopper has no plans as of yet..

Mr. Yoder: Any other comments or questions? I'm hopeful we can see something go on there. We need more development in this city. You know, if you would sit through the next couple of items, you're going to hear some discussion on some pretty big issues that were under financially, it is not just us, but it is other third class cities. The

deck is stacked against us unfortunately. We need development. So we hope that by doing this we can work together to make that into something mutually beneficial. I really hope that we can and I would welcome that conversation. I'm confident mayor Slaughter will welcome that as well. Whatever we can do to make that happen we would love to do that. If we can. Any other comments or questions? Mrs. Katz?

Mrs. Katz: Mr. Stopper, what is - not the square footage, but how much land is available once it is turned on? It is an acre? So there is a lot that could really be put on the property then? On an acre?

Could not hear answer.

Mr. Allison Just regarding that, I think what Mr. Stopper has done with the property on E. 3rd St., that building that was the former Mazda dealership, the front of that looks very nice. It is an improvement in that part of the corridor is in the gateway development and these are the kinds of things that are going to help us down the road. I just want to thank him for that and I'm sure if the appropriate opportunity comes along he will be glad to help the city on that.

Mr. Yoder asked for a vote on the demolition.

**The demolition was carried with 7 yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0**

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

#### Bill #1811-22

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

The City Clerk read the ordinance.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

**Mr. Pulizzi made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Beiter**

Mayor What you have is the first reading adopting various budgets for the city of Williamsport. I don't have any introductory at this point.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you very much, Mayor. Here we are. It is the most wonderful time of the year. Sorry. So we have had a couple of budget work sessions as we do to understand what is in front of us. We've had some time I think to digest the information that was presented to us to I think talk to each other and ask each other what we like, what we don't like. I think there is a number of changes that a majority of us support and will probably be making. There are a couple of good things with this budget actually. I am glad to see that we are funding the capital projects fund. Whether I like or dislike any of the projects. Glad to see the strategy. I think we have been saying that for a couple of years that we need to actually start doing that and I commend the administration on, I think hearing the message and doing that. That is good to see. There is some consistent things that I think we've been talking about for the past couple of years that we are still seeing. We are running a deficit of about \$4 million this year. I think probably realistically taking one-time expenses out is probably three-ish, 3 to 4. We see again our - we don't have enough revenue to meet our expenses and needs. We are kind of going about this from an approach to offering services, in a fairly consistent weight as we have been for a while. We do not see too much different than we have in prior years, but especially pre-, this group of officials as well. Let's see what we want to do. I will open the floor for anybody who has any potential changes or amendments that would like to make. Mrs. Katz?

Mrs. Katz : Yes. One of the changes I would like to see, maybe even a discussion, and Gary please do not have a heart attack over this, but we feel that Gary Knarr is doing double duty here and majority of us feel like he should be compensated with an increase in his salary. I don't know where, how much, but this is what we've talked about, analyzed it and we know what Gary has been doing. I don't know what the rest of counsel feels with this, but his salary right now is proposed for \$61,808. I think it should go at least \$10,000 more or all the work is doing. I mean it is double duty that he is doing mayor.

Mr. Yoder: Mrs. Katz, for the record, let me put up right here. The ordinance reflects this budget Tracy that is printed out and on our desk or is it the one that you submitted for the work sessions? So which budget does the ordinance reflect? This one right here? Okay. So according to that, we have an ending balance of \$797,000 roughly. I mean, Mrs. Katz, some of the changes that we will probably make, I think we will have a probably net reduction. I don't know - this is probably bad to say, but I don't know that worrying about where we are going to pull it is probably something we need to necessarily worry about. I would say if you think that that is the adequate amount I would make the motion and I would say you make the motion we have a discussion on it. We can amend the question if we need to.

**Mrs. Katz I make a motion to increase Mr. Knar's salary from 61,800 -\$71,808.**

Mr. Yoder: Is there a second? **I will second it.** Is there any discussion on the motion? Mrs. Katz for the record, I agree. I think that if the strategy is - if that's the structure of the department I think that makes sense and is fair. We have had two different roles, I think for a long time and consolidating the roles, the work does not go away. No we have Barry Isaac, the mayor has brought forward and we have contracted with that is handling part of that work, but I don't think Barry Isaac is handling 80% or 90% of that work. So I think that's a fair starting point and a fair move.

Mrs. Katz : I know I did not discuss this with you, Gary. I don't like anyone else has either. Something we felt was a just thing to do.

Ms. Miele I would make two suggestions. Gary, this position does not get overtime, correct?

Mr. Knarr answered correct

Ms. Miele: It would strike me maybe as being most appropriate for us to go to the administration and ask them what they think it should be and come back next time to make the amendment. I am happy to do either, but - salaries is primarily an administrative thing.

Mr. Yoder I understand. If we are going to raise it I would prefer to do it tonight because we are going to be only stage next week. So if we can, I would prefer to do that tonight.

Ms. Miele an we table the amendment for a moment.

Mr. Yoder: We can table it and come back to it and let them consider it. That is up to the administration.

Mayor: I think it would be more than a few minutes. We haven't talked about it, but yeah.

Mr. Yoder: Mr. Allison. I did not mean to cut you off.

Mr. Allison: We have not talked about this part, but when we raise salary it also raises Social Security and admin and other line items. We need that crunched as well.

Mr. Yoder: Understood.

Mrs. Katz Mayor, we have not really seen reports of what is going on. Like with the codes to permit. It seems like it is outsourced with Gary overseeing and somehow - sometimes I worry about that. I really do.

Mayor: I think that's going well. I don't want to speak for Gary, obviously he is right here. I think it's going well and it is going well with every Isaac. I think Gary and Matt work altogether from Barry Isaac and Associates and obviously there is work for all of us to do, but I think the partnership is working out well and I think we are seeing definitely some changes in the codes department. We have had some hiccups here and there, unrelated to Gary, but I think it is going well over well before are they keeping up with the rental properties and are they keeping up with permits and all of those? : Well within the 10 days I believe it is, Gary? Everything from what we are seeing when the new developing or whatever comes in, the plan reviews and Gary is reviewing it from the - - then Barry Isett & Associates reviewing. I think that's all going well. We are getting certificate of occupancy operated getting inspections done. So, you know, I think that piece of it is going well. So yes, I think that relationship is working out well.

Mrs. Katz: Okay, thank you.

Mr. Yoder: Very good. Any comments or questions from counsel? Any added perspective from the administration? If you like we could table it and save it for later, but to your point, I think you would probably want to digest it longer than that. I understand and respect that also. Mr. Mackey?

Mr. Mackey: I agree with your sentiment here. I do feel like Gary is definitely working harder than he has or was six month ago. Not that he was not working hard six month ago.

[ He is a hard-working guy. I think I agree with counsel and Miele, that regardless of the fact that there's only going to be five council members here next week, I think this is something that should probably be digested over the course of a week and voted on next week.

Ms. Miele: John, can I hear that again? You say you agree with me? I would like the record to reflect.

Mr. Mackey: Might not be the first time. It's the first time I could actually hear you to agree with you.

Ms. Miele: Alright. Whoever the jerk was who taped my mic needs to come over here right now. It.

Mr. Mackey: That's not to say that I don't want to see this pass. I would hope that the administration is hearing what we are saying and would consider this, but I do think it's only fair for something like this to give them a little more time to digest.

Mr. Yoder: Council agrees? Okay. You just need to resend your motion. So **Mrs. Katz rescinds the motion**. We can certainly raise it next week and I look forward to raising it next week. I respectfully essay ministration to take that into consideration and we look forward to your feedback. Thank you very much. Any other motions?

Mrs. Katz: I have another one. This is strictly for Council here. Our city clerk. Our city clerk I would like to see her salary raised from \$41,000 to \$43,000. When you take it into consideration everything our city clerk does, she doesn't just do everything for Council but she helps all the other department. The right to know that comes in. I cannot even keep count of all of the right to knows that she gets all the time and I said she does work in other offices in the city and they think it is only fair that she gets a small bump up in her raise. **Mrs. Katz I would like a motion to take the city clerk's salary from \$41,200 to \$43,000.**

Mr. Yoder Is there a second?

**Mr. Allison seconded it.**

Mr. Yoder: Motion and a second. I would echo the sentiment. I would do kind of know now what Janice does. I really know what Janice does after this year and it's pretty eye-opening the other thing I would add, you know, I've probably gotten two or 3000 constituents that, you know, they are all good just thinking and commending how good of a job she does in directing them to where they need to go. When they hit a brick wall like with Gary's departments and trying to get answers or direction she is always there to help. When I say two or three dozen, I mean that. I can probably show you the call log. She does a really good job. We are lucky to have her and this is an easy one to support. So thank you for making that motion and a second. Ms. Miele?

Ms. Miele: I will support this. I would support the motion, Bonnie. I would agree that Janice does a tremendous job down at the city clerk's office and, you know. she actually got us a new member on the board of health. I echo the consummate last year when I supported number of raises that city employees were receiving and I did not think that was done in a correct fashion. I think we need a mechanism in which people can achieve a pay increase we need policies for how that happens. We need employee evaluations and I don't care who it is, and Janice once again, this is not about your performance or anybody's. We don't operate like a business. We need to have reasons for giving our employees raises and all employees need to know what those reasons are and what they can do to achieve that kind of increase as well. I understand with our new software, with the new software that we hopefully will be approving later on today...Will become a simpler and more transparent process. I cannot emphasize the extent to which I believe that is absolutely essential for us as a city and for creating a working atmosphere in which employees feel comfortable striving and trying to improve the quality of the output that they are producing. So as I said, while I am happy to support this, I really think we need to figure out what the policy and procedure for merit-based increases is and we need to stick to it from here. Okay?

Mr. Yoder: Excuse me. I would agree with that. Here is a prime example. You referenced last year, Miss Miele, a number of people got raises that were pretty new with the city as well. I'm not going to argue that they were not without merit. When you look at where the labor market was foster and where is this year, we have another member of the ministration getting a pretty good pay raise this year as well. Same application, right? We just openly talked about looking at getting another pay raise for a long-standing employee who does not have it, did not get one proposed. So I completely agree with that. I would urge the administration to work through that in whatever way, shape, or form they need to do. So it is fair, it is straightforward. Frankly, I think it will help make the process better. I think it will improve organizational culture. I think it illuminates dissension between employees that feel they may or may not have, you know, gotten overlooked and I don't think any of us want that at all. I don't think anyone is trying to do that, but this keeps us from doing that. I would absolutely love to see that. Any other comments or questions? Mrs. Katz?

Mrs. Katz : I agree with Ms. Miele. Evaluations are important. Even though this is not a government agency we are dealing with, it's still important for the employees that are working for us to realize and know where they are going and they can voice their concerns also in this probably would have to go through HR. To see how this would go. Molly, I think you probably would have structure in this as far as evaluations go. So to me I think that would benefit all of us all

around and I think it would also be helpful all way around. What we discussed tonight with Gary, what we're discussing with Janice, I think evaluation probably would be very beneficial.

Mr. Yoder: Any other, Miss Miele?

Ms. Miele: Secondly, the secondary advantage in the government setting is the transparency to the taxpayer as well. When we are asked why our salaries are what they are for various employees we should be able to answer that.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Miss Miele. Any other comments or questions? Okay. Hearing and seeing none. Mrs. Frank on the motion to amend please.

**The amendment to the ordinance carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.**

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

Mrs. Katz: Yes. One of the things we have to discuss is when we are paying with our leases with Transit I & II. What we are told when we moved here is that our rent would be \$11 a square foot and that was determined by the transportation. That was the fair market value that's where it's going to be and we were also informed come January it is probably going to increase. : That's what the previous administrator told us. That came down in an email.

Mayor: That is incorrect we are locked in at that for the next few years with the lease agreement.

Mrs. Katz: What we're looking for as far as breaking down what it costs for us to use this room. We are not the only ones using the string. Police, fire, I don't know who else uses this room, but - zoning? A whole lot of people. So therefore - it is not stated in the budget this is broken down to each department. Where came from I have no idea. Is it broken down at all?

Mayor: Are you referring specifically to this room?

Mrs. Katz: There are leases they are supposed be paying and so much of the department use this room also and I want to know if the cost is being spread out or if it's a general.

Mayor: What I was told by RVTA is that you get 80 hours of time free in this room for the entire.

Mrs. Katz: 80 hours free?

Mayor: Free, then after that they estimated 100 hours a month or city Council meetings and that is it. That's all they told me they would charge.

Mrs. Katz: Okay. That I did not realize.

Mayor: There is \$1200 that I add to your budget, in the original budget.

They said that's for cleaning after city Council meetings, but after that they felt that the hours would fit within the 80 hours.

Mrs. Katz: Okay. I did not realize the 80 hours are free. I thought we had to pay also.

I just wanted to clarify that. Mayor, is that we understand?

Mayor: answered yes.

Mrs. Katz: We are still looking at \$11 a square foot. We could get cheaper rent elsewhere.

Mayor: Potentially.

Mrs. Katz: I think if we are smart and we have to save taxpayer money, I think we should be looking into other areas. It may be of where we could go where it would be more cost-effective instead of what we are paying here. It is just something where throwing out. I threw it out in the very beginning when this came up as far as rents go and what we are paying. We should be cognizant of what money is being spent on our spaces at this point. We are no longer doing anything with City Hall except paying for, I take it, utilities and that's about all we are paying is utilities. Even that is costing a little bit of money at this point. I don't think there is not much left in the City Hall account.

Mayor: I'm not sure.

Mrs. Katz: From what I looked at and what Randy and I were looking at there's not much left.

Mayor: There is around \$200,000.

I need to look into that. Are you referring to the cash carryover? I want to answer the right questions.

Mrs. Katz: I know. There was a City Hall account and I wanted to know what is left in that account at this point.

Mayor: If you give me a moment.

Ms. Rash: I cannot access, unfortunately I cannot access the main server from here so I have to find it for you. I will say that I believe it was around \$200,000 of carryover into next year.

Mrs. Katz: Okay. Okay. So something I think I would like to see with the rest of counsel in the ministration think about this of where we should go. I mean eventually you have to bring codes back in some area. They are in RVT.

Mayor: We have already started working on that actually. It's looking as though we will be able to bring them back to Trade & Transit I. We actually had a meeting last week I believe it was. Maybe this week, I don't remember. With RVTA folks. What I will say is we continue to explore options. I don't think that we should pack up and move at the moment. My recommendation would be to let Tracy continue to work through the finances so we have a more accurate picture of that. Get us back on solid footing. Obviously we have the train back on the tracks at the moment. I don't think we should jump back off the train, but while the train is heading in the right direction we continue to explore other possibilities as we are moving forward. I would say, the other thing we have to consider would be the morale of the employees. I think if I were to tell them tomorrow to pack up and move again and get all of our public works folks over here and have them moving offices all over the place, I don't think that would go very well. Separate from that, it is a possibility from our understanding to begin with FTA, that one of the buildings may come back to the city. That is obviously not taken place yet, but that's a possibility as well. I think we have to get a few more pieces in place would be my humble recommendation and continue to explore possibilities simultaneously. So I'm not saying that, you know, that I'm against that, you know, I don't think we have to make a knee-jerk reaction at the moment. We can take our time and make the best decision moving forward both in the short-term and long-term. I think for the moment that we continue to solidify our financial standing and look at options to explore for the long-term.

Mr. Katz: I appreciate that, Mayor, I really do. What we were told with everything that's going on is that trade and transit one and two, and this comes from emails over the past year at this point that we might owe RVT money for these buildings and it kind of scares me that we don't know where we stand. I cannot see where that would be possible, especially with Trade & Transit one ends the city was very much involved in that building. So, you know, there is a lot of unanswered questions here and I think - I think I'm getting frustrated because we are moving slowly instead of quickly and not getting a lot of the answers that we need.

Mayor. I think part of that is it takes time. It's going to continue to take a little bit of time. The survey from my understanding is done. What was surveyed at RVTA. I believe that will be coming in front of you in a not too distant future, I have a say cannot speak for RVTA. I recommend reaching out to Jill Nagy or Todd right to see where they are at with that and the assets - I believe that's what you're talking operated then backing some of those that were surveyed out in Oak Park - - that would clearly come back to the city, but initially transferring of the assets, getting all of that done, I think that makes the point perfectly that I don't think that we should really make any other decisions until we get some of these ones sorted up. Talking about TT I and Trade & Transit II, obviously I cannot speak to that, but we are working through all of that as well.

Mr. Yoder: Bonnie, to your point. Mayor Slaughter, we talked about this a little bit yesterday, right? I think a number of us, with what we are seeing right now, I think a number of us think that moving up to 3rd St., Plaza makes a handful of cents for a handful of reasons but it's a lot more cost-effective compared to where we are at. You know, we are in a situation where at some point or another we are going to have to borrow a ton of money or cut a lot of stuff to keep us from going into whatever the law is, act 47 or whatever it is from going into financial stress. It's not a question of if, but a question of when. Going there positions us to maximize resources between two governmental entities and position us to help bridge that gap between revenue and expenses. So this is the first time. If you said this yesterday I totally missed it, but this is the first time hearing that one of these buildings might come back to us. The reason I say that - the other thing that I have learned is we have been through this a couple of times in three years. This is going to continuously be a moving target. So outside of inheriting a building or building a building, you know. What's that?

Ms. Miele: Do we have any rich uncles?

Mr. Yoder: I don't think so. I don't think so. I think there are a number of variables and from my perspective it makes a lot of sense. I think as we digest and continue to think about this, to me, I don't know why we cannot do that at another location. When I think about the codes office moving, you know, if they are already planning to move, in my mind I don't know why they couldn't just move catty corner to the trade and transit one and trade and transit itself. How many employees do we currently have in trade and transit one?

Mayor: Like 20 us.

Mr. Yoder: Okay. As frustrating as it is and I can certainly understand our employees perspective and can sympathize with them to a degree. I mean, we are not moving the integrity of all employees in city government. So in my mind it makes a lot of sense. If there is a motion you made to change that, I would support it. I don't think we would need to do that tomorrow, right? Or January. I think being responsible about that would look like it happening if we would decide to do that sometime in the back half of next year, right? We were fortunate that we were able to get over here just like that. The administration did a good job in crisis hour of moving over here. I don't think it is fair at all to expect the administration to just pick up like that. I think a very clean, organized move is very fair and reasonable and I think I can be accommodated at the back end of next year at some point. That gives us time - I will get off of my soapbox. I think it's a good idea. I would support it, but in fairness to the administration, we did just talk about it yesterday. So that's up to the councilmembers if they would like to make that motion.

Mayor: To clarify one thing, I was not referring to trade and transit one and two. There is another property potentially. It's not getting either one of these buildings back. The transportation museum is most likely what will come back to us. It is not set in stone or anything.

Mr. Yoder: Understood it.

Mayor: Again, in reference to third Street Plaza. We don't know the details of that. We don't even know what services make sense to share rid of that has a lot of variables that we would have to work through if that were to take place. I disagree personally with that sentiment at this point. I'm not saying that my mind cannot be changed down the road, but - I don't see what the benefit would be at this time except for our financial situation - with the commissioners that are going to turn over next year. I know there's at least one. So there's just a lot of variables to work through.

Mr. Yoder: And thank you for the perspective, Mayor Slaughter.

Ms. Katz: I just wanted to open up a discussion.

Mr. Yoder: Anything on that discussion item? Anybody have any other amendments? Ms. Miele?

Ms. Miele: I don't have any amendments, but I have a basic question that I forgot to ask during the budget session, which is, Tracy, how did we arrive at our beginning fund balance and how confident are we that it is accurate, absent several years of audits.

Ms. Rash: I believe that when the mayor presented the budget originally, we said the systems are inequated and not accurate and we did the numbers to the best of our ability at the time. I continue to find errors in the systems and they are rolled forward years numbers of last year.

Ms. Miele: We are counting on having \$3.6 million - nearly \$3 million deficit spending budget, but we are relying on a number that may or may not exist of \$3.6 million to begin the budget year.

Ms. Rash: Cash has been reconciled for the most part, but there are receivables in those numbers and there is - I had found that there has been cash deposited in certain funds that should be in other funds and have not been able to rectify those numbers as of today. So in total, I can tell you that what cash we have - I just cannot tell you by fund if it is correct.

Ms. Miele: Okay. You are saying that we don't believe we have any accounts payable that would put us at a less than - for instance I think the IRS tax that we referenced Once upon a time.

Ms. Rash: I cannot guarantee any of these numbers at this point because I have done my best to get them as accurately as possible for this presentation and to get you numbers for a budget, but they are unaudited and they are not reconciled, some have reconciled, but other accounts within the system have not been.

Mr. Yoder: Okay. I understand, part obviously what is being demonstrated by the budget this year. We ended the 2022 budget with it estimated ending balance of \$203,000, and yet believe now that we actually began 2022 with about \$1 million more than we thought we had at the bottom line and we ended 2022 with about \$3 million more than we expected. I understand that generally speaking we understand the budget and we understand consequently this is not me saying that we are going to end up in a bad position, but to the a million other caveats - - it's not clear that we have the three main dollars of deficit to spend or worth of income to spend. Actually, the only - I think there are a handful of other things that still need to be worked through with the budget and I look forward to working through those between this meeting and next meeting. One of those obviously being Mr. Knarr's salary that we let lapse, but there will be other

things. My primary concern with his budget, and it has been my concern with the last several budgets and I expected this year as with the last several budgets, my concerns will be somewhat ignored. We are engaging in \$3 million worth of deficit spending and we know that by the beginning of next year, when we begin the budget process next year, more than likely all of the cities employees will be receiving at least a 3% wage increase, likely to come out to about \$1 million if not more. So we are looking at basically when we begin the budget process next year, I would not expect our revenues to change dramatically, but we will need a \$4 million to make the budget balanced next year if we proceed as we are currently proceeding. The reason that makes me nervous is that we don't have the \$4 million anywhere. I talked to the ministration a bit about it in private and I'm not sure if there has been any revelation, but I do not see a path for us arriving at that \$4 million for next year short of raising taxes next year by a pretty grotesque amount. I want to say it comes out between \$5 million and \$6 million of real estate valuation. I don't know what we plan to do about that. I'm not saying anybody does, but I would certainly hope that some folks share my concern about that and I think that all of us know that there isn't \$3 million of spending to come from this year's budget to align with projected revenues. You know, that would be what 1/3 of the police department, half of the fire department. It would be all of everything else. That is not quite true, sorry. I would personally advocate for the idea that if we were to raise taxes by a small amount this year, that would give us something at least toward that \$3 million next year and also the beginning of further earnings toward that \$3 million in the years to follow. I don't believe that anyone else on counsel would support that, but I will go ahead and put it out there because I see us digging ourselves, with the help of American rescue plan act funds into a financial hole that we will have a hard time digging ourselves out of next year and I'm not looking forward to the budget process in the slightest. So I'm advocating for doing something to add least begin to alleviate it this year.

Mr. Yoder: I'm still getting over 2021's budget to be honest with you. That was a brutal process. Look Miss Miele. You are right. I'm not going to sit here and argue that your thought process about incremental tax increase doesn't have logic to it. I'm not going to sit here and say that it isn't even necessarily fiscally responsible. I would counter that with - I would not support that this year and I would counter that with the way - literally where we are at now is we have to get very creative with how we offer services and those conversations are not popular. They are not easy, but that's what we are tasked to do unfortunately. Here's an example. I am not planning to make any of these motions tonight, but, you know, we should seriously consider having our recreation department privatized and I say that because it costs us \$350,000 a year to offer our recreation programs we have to see if there is a private sector way to do that much more cost-effectively. Not going to say that the qualitative benefits are not there. They absolutely are. There is a huge benefit to having those, but in the situation that we are in, that is something that we absolutely have to look at. This one is unpopular also, but we have to look at policing differently. I'm not going to say here and say that our police officers don't do good work. They really do and we have a need for them 100%. But we need to figure out how to offer plea services in our city a lot more cost-effectively. I don't know exactly what that looks like. I don't know if that is formalized partnerships with other police entities. Maybe that is (WORD?). I see you looking at me. I get it. Trust me. That is the next step and that is unfortunately how we fix that. Again, we do not have the revenue. The organic revenue to meet our obligations and that is nobody's fault sitting here. It is nobody's fault in the administration either. That is Harrisburg. The deck is stacked against us and it is stacked against every city. We were just talking about before the meeting. There's all kinds of literature going out right now about these insane conversations are happening in every third class city across the state. If there was ever a need for any kind of actual real reform in the state, it is municipal tax reform and it is loosening up the requirements that we have to do. This is a huge soapbox. I get it, nothing is going to come of this tonight, but it needs to be said and said on the record. Our state legislators need to get off of their rear ends and do something about it. 100%. Jamie Flick, Johnny Hamm, all three of them, absolutely. They hear it from me and they don't like it, but they do. Anyway, Miss Miele, I got it. I'm nervous about the next couple of years, too, but without looking at and making progress in doing things differently, I personally struggle to raise taxes because I'm concerned about continually incentivizing not thinking outside of the box. Does that make sense?

Ms. Miele: And I agree with you. That is not what I'm saying. I see and I appreciate your point, Adam. On saying is unless you came up with some sort of ransom overnight that's going to retrieve \$3 million next year, we are up against it and to my way of thinking, effectively hurting the citizens of Williamsport by continuing to let the budget do what it is. It is not responsible governance and I agree with you that we need to have the hard conversations, but we are also not having those hard conversations. Ideally next year we start the budget process sometime in June and we begin to have those hard conversations then because they are going to be really hard next year. But, you know, I simply, you know, \$4 million is ungodly hard. \$4 Million is half of the cost - half of the fire department. We cannot cut that out of next year's budget no matter how hard we try and consequently a responsible incremental tax increase would help to lessen that burden when we have these conversations next year.

Mr. Yoder: Understood.

Ms. Miele: I'm off of my high horse now.

Mr. Yoder: I will get off of mine, too. I hope, and I mean - saying and expecting the budget to look different next year is a bit strong language, but it is critically important. It really is. Mayor Slaughter, I know you are around the state law I think that's great. If some of the things are learning for example are in this. I'm not personally seeing and and I would really like to. That's what I'm saying, right? I cannot urge you enough and beg and plead enough. This really needs to look different next year and it is hard to do. I get it. Trust me. I have to vote on it, right? We need to do that. We really do. 11 I would frankly disagree with you. I think this budget looks significant different than the previous two years. Obviously I think we all agree without just looking at the capital projects alone. Having Tracy here from June to say that Mayor, frankly to say that she has not done anything, I would strongly disagree with that. I think these numbers, as Tracy continued to work through them, which she just alluded to few minutes ago, it is going to continue to shift. We don't know what the numbers might be a year from now as Tracy continues to dive into this. It could put us in a better position. We don't know this, but this budget right here, in my humble opinion, with the work that Tracy and all the ministration has done on this looks way different. It is much better than where we were - bring Tracy and, with the level and skills that she has has been invaluable to the city and I think that will continued to be so. That's one such a strong advocate of Tracy with the value she brings in the position she has now and will continue to get us in. So I would strongly disagree that this budget does not look any different. I think it is significantly improved and it will continue to improve. Our numbers will continue to improve as she works through them and working with the auditors, she has an auditing background and all the expense she brings and that will continue to be reflected obviously to city Council as

we continue to work through that together, but these numbers are as good as we can get them for the moment given the position and the situation that we are in, but they will continue to improve. It is improved, but obviously we are not where we were and we are not where we need to be, but we are headed in that direction and so having Tracy here has been, as I said, a tremendous improvement.

Mr. Yoder: Derek, I apologize. The criticism of the deficit does not equate to a criticism of the budget as a whole.

Ms. Miele: We need to think much more creatively and we will be forced to think much more creatively next year. So that is my point on that one. The idea of setting up a capital project fund that actually leads to summer. The idea of tying money in for needed equipment over the next - even perpetuity effectively for meeting the city's capital needs over the long-term is an excellent thing that should have happened a long time ago and I think all of us are exceptionally grateful to have traces and put an Tracy's assistance in constructing a budget that is responsible and provides for the long-term needs of the city and sorry, none of my discussion about the deficit . should take away from that. We are making progress. I am absolutely not saying that we are not. I am saying that unfortunately we still have a lot of progress to make and, you know, the final story, even if it does turn out that there is more money that has not been accounted for, even if we do turn up a couple million dollars next year is that we are still in a position where our total revenues are - hold on, Tracy. Our total revenues are about \$24.8 million and our total expenditures are about 27.6, right? Is that correct? I'm just pulling the tarp funds out of both sides of that, Tracy. So if I am wrong, I am wrong. Sorry I did not hear you.

Mayor: Are you looking at general fund?

Mrs. Katz: I'm just looking at general fund.

So general fund - proposed revenue for the general fund of 28.8.

Ms. Miele: That includes affirming dollars for our bus funding. So that's why it took me a second to do the math. We are taking in about \$24.8 million annually in tax revenues and various things and we are spending about 27 and even if we discover more money that has fallen out of previous budgets, it is not probably going to effectively change those numbers all that much. So that's what we need to figure out is a way to make our revenues and expenditures gel, but perhaps Tracy, never mind you are not going to make that point. I was going to say it doesn't look as though we were under budget next year, but that's a trend.

Ms. Rash I think one of the things Mayor is referring to is I have found that there's a number of revenue sources that are not presented as revenue in your budgets so I'm working towards finding out why that has been happening in the past and that might increase your revenues next year if they are meeting revenues like they should be. I haven't found some older buildings that had not taken place so we are working on getting those filled as well. So we do anticipate that there may be some additional revenues, but again, because I'm just getting to the point of working through those, they are not included in this budget.

Ms. Miele: We are looking forward to that and hopefully that is the case. If you find \$3 million in additional revenue coming in on an annual basis I will be delighted. (Laughs). I will happily eat my own words and whatever public fashion you would like me to. In the meantime, all I will continue to say is we need to figure out a weight to bring in everything that we spend. That's just basic accounting. So I will continue to advocate for bringing those numbers closer to one another, whether it is by cutting or increasing our revenues. Ideally we do both and ideally we do a lot of the increasing of the revenues by increased economic development in the city, but we know that is a long game that we are playing their and we're not going to see that next year. Anyway. Sorry. I'm done.

Mr. Yoder: No worries. Let's come up from the rabbit hole. Anybody have proposed changes or amendment they would like to make? Let's get back on course here.

Mr. Yoder There is a proposed change I would like to make. Actually two. **When I would like to start with that will lead to the second grade if we turn to the capital projects budget for the emergency rescue vehicle for the Police Department. The proposed investment is \$310,000. I would like to change that to zero dollars.**

Mr. Yoder: Is very second for the motion?

**Mrs. Katz seconded it. .**

Mr. Pulizzi : If I may. I am conflicted - I understand why. I have spoken to the chief and I have spoken to other members of the administration my feelings are that at some point in time - I look at the emergency rescue vehicle as a separate it is an emergency rescue vehicle. It's one of those things that God forbid you ever need it and you do not have it. I would much rather have it and never needed then never needed and have it. So I - - I support the Chiefs wanting to put that into the budget with forward thinking. Especially with us getting bigger. Having Little League World Series and MLB being here. I get the need for us having them. We were fortunate enough to host the former president of the United States here this year. These are certain pieces of equipment that we have to have. However, on the flipside I also understand that and I agree with other members of Council, Williamsport should not have to hit the burden for all of this. If this is going to be an emergency vehicle that services not just Williamsport, but the surrounding communities, the surrounding municipalities and counties, I think chief, our response is eight counties?

Mr. Pulizzi: For the record I can count I said eight and I put up five fingers. I can count. So yes, I think - do I want to see Williamsport have emergency rescue vehicle? Absolutely I do. That's exactly what they do is they save lives. I think Williamsport is the one who should have to flip the bill for all of it? No, I don't. I think this is something - hopefully this is something that could start a conversation with us with other local municipalities. Neighboring counties. Some other entities within the city itself that host events that we need to have this equipment for because I believe right now we end up having to essentially borrow one of these. Is that correct?

: Yeah, I wanted to get my point out there that chief, I believe we should have one, I do. I firmly do and I agree with the rest of Council that I don't think that Williamsport should have to flip the bill for the entire purchase. I hope that this can open to some really good dialogue between us and our surrounding this polities, counties, whoever it may be that we can make this happen. I really believe that we can have one here and hopefully it will be the start of a better relationship with some of these agencies, governmental bodies, whatever they may be. Thank you.

Mr. Yoder these decisions are really easy to be honest with you. I completely agree with everything. Realistically my mind this is a regional resource and I would be extremely delighted and glad to pitch in for part of this, 100%, but we need to be pitching into a regional resource. I don't know if that's the County. I don't know if that's a combination. I don't know what it is, but we are in a position to lead the effort, but we really have to do that and it's not easy, I get it, but if we can make headway on that, I would be more than happy to, you know, revisit down the road and transfer something toward that, but I share Mr. Palazzi's side as well. Mrs. Katz? Miele do they charge us rental when we borrow it?

Mrs. Katz: Would you know how they got there is, since we know the price tag of this? So really, it is a large group - When you borrow that vehicle it is called the (WORD?), right?

Chief: Is similar to the one we have now. We have a vehicle from 1985 that is very antiquated and quite concerning when we put officers and their.

Ms. Katz: Is there special training that is required?

Chief: There is greater one to purchase the vehicle, then the company that builds a vehicle, they provide a driver's course and - - (SPEAKER AWAY FROM MIC). Doing tax cooperation's from the vehicle, as well as rescue vehicles. It is not just a taxable vehicle. It can be used for rescue operations, like rescue on floods. And it has the ability to go to rural areas as well.

Ms. Katz : I think the bottom line is we can probably go to funding in other areas.

Chief: I'm trying. I'm laying the foundation out and trying to get out there and have conversations, but a lot of people looked at me like you're looking at me now when I brought up the \$300,000 cost. I get it is expensive. I've been China work was only. That's why I put it in the budget instead of getting burdened with one large cost all at once.

Mrs. Katz: Has the county been receptive in any of this?

Chief: The county has made I talked to the District Attorney's Office and they are receptive to participating in this. I talked to them before.

Ms. Katz Okay. Thank you very much for the information.

Mr. Pulizzi If I may make one more statement here. You know, I support our police wholeheartedly. I 100% do. Just to be clear though, again, the very definition of insanity is continuing in the same repeated course of action and expecting a different result. So at this point in time, you know, I would support Mr. Yoder motion to remove this, but only because I think that I want to see us also go after some additional help and funding to help Williamsport first and if we don't make any headway or progress with that then I will bring it back up, but again, if we try and we try, and we try and we don't get anywhere, you know we could still potentially find this money, but like I said this is a lifesaving piece of equipment. I would like to see us try and get it or at least some of it elsewhere first and if that doesn't work then I will be bringing a backup. Thank you.

Mr. Allison : I agree with Mr. Pulizzi. It is worth the effort to look at different ways to funded this in the please are already doing that, but we need to be a part of that conversation, I think the city Council. I'm in favor of doing that, but we need to be committed to it and have a plan I think of what we can do on counsel. Whether it is having an ad hoc committee that is going to look at this and work on it. Whatever substance it might take, but just so it does not, you know, we are three months in the next year and we have to get moving on that. Then we are really dedicated to that purchase and we can revisit it then if it's not going to happen that way. So I think it is worth working on, definitely.

I appreciate hearing it. I note the chief has done an awful lot of research and has a lot of information regarding the vehicle. I think we can do a great job and maybe even see if our contracted firms, Delta or color, whoever it may be, cf. there are some grants. No? Try that and didn't get anywhere? Okay. Again, I would like to see if we cannot go to the county first and maybe some other institutions and organizations here within the city that benefit from said events that we need to have this piece of agreement four. See if they will help contribute. Thank you.

Ms. Rash Would Council consider cutting that cost in half and then sending the chief to get a match for it? So continuing to keep \$150,000 in the budget and then he would be tasked with finding a 50% match?

Mrs. Katz What I would be comfortable with right now as I look at the ARPA budget - the replacement if that is \$15,500. I would be willing to commit that for the capital budget to start and then going forward we can show commitment to other municipalities and other members of that task force, Weatherby other counties, other local municipalities and so forth because I believe after we get through this particular amendment, you will see why I would like to save the rest of that money.

Mr. Yoder: Yeah, I would support that also. Again, there is what? 10 counties, right, that are a part of this task force, right? So there's ideally a lot of other municipalities that could be putting into this. I think that is a good starting point for sure and I would reinforce the point, you know, are we the largest municipality that is involved in this? Okay. I think it would be wise for us to figure out a mechanism to make that commitment and to make that relationship formal and sustainable. I mean, I don't want to say authority, but something along those lines. Whether maybe it's an organization with just a bunch of MOU's, I don't know what it was like, but to keep that formalized because, you know, it is not only good for them to contribute to purchasing it, but we are going to need their help to maintain it as well and any other resources I think that are associated with that task force, I think that's a good model to replicate. Again, I'm not a public safety expert and I don't know what that formal mechanism is or what it looks like, but we should really figure that out and figure out where that is going to be housed.

Mr. Beiter Chief I don't mean like the physical location of the bearcat, I mean like the structure of the organization. The rules. The bank accounts and what have you. I feel like there needs to be a formal organization. I understand that completely. I think (WORD?) needs to be a regional resource as well.

Mr. Yoder : Mr. Beiter do you want to resend the motion and remove?

**Mr. Beiter: I will resend the motion and make a new motion to take that amount from \$310,000 to \$15,500.**

**Mrs. Katz seconded it.**

Mr. Allison: As an addendum to this whole conversation, one way I look at all of this is that we live in a different world now and it is constantly getting, whether we would like it or not, more violent and more unpredictable. We cannot say with any degree of certainty that something could not happen in our city or our area because we see examples of it regularly now. And that is hard to quantify what that means, but we need to be cognizant of it and it needs to be part of the conversation as well. When you weigh that out and you see some of the things that have happened in our nation and in our society, the destruction that can be - bring havoc and pain and all kinds of terrible things - I cannot think of an entity that would say, I'm glad we did not spend that money because we saved money, but we were not able to respond. You know, maybe I'm dramatizing it, but it is just an aspect I think that we need to keep part of this conversation because that is the real world not as the real world our public safety departments working on a daily basis.

Mayor: One other piece of the funding aspect would be - - in January, we will be his largest district and has previously secured funding, I think Councilman Pulizzi hasn't said that. So once he officially becomes our Congressman I think we could work with him and his team to see if there is other funding out there from the federal level maybe we can secure

some for us as well. We will be his largest district as well but the largest city in his district, January.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you for bringing that up. Any other comments or questions related to the revised motion? Good discussion. Mrs. Frank on the vote for the amendments.

**The amendment to the ordinance carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.**

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

**Mr. Beiter** : The money we have left over from that is - - I had previously discussed with Mr. Livermore, one of our last meetings about a line item that was missing in the flood control budget and that is a line item for (WORD?) has run. I feel like it is imperative that we have some action taken there and not just wait for studies and consultants to be done. I think if we have money there we can allocate **for an employee that can be there at a more pertinent time when we have flooding issues, rain issues, things like that. It is very disturbing to have to - I imagine be a resident in that neighborhood and wonder every time it rains if someone is going to be there to dig out the debris that clogs up the drain and then their house is going to end up being flooded, Whether it be with mud or rainwater from the various outlets that come down the stream.**

**Mr. Yoder seconded it.**

Mr. Yoder. Any additional discussion, Cummins, questions from members of Council? I think it is a great idea. I appreciate you making the motion and bring it up. Would appreciate Mr. Livermore, I know you have some plans that you talked about with Mr. Sanders. You do not need to expand upon them right now, but it would be wonderful if we had some stuff at the beginning of next year to really go over, but thank you.

Mayor: I would just add that they are in the process that they committed and they are scheduling a meeting so we can keep Council informed on the initial report that they're doing for short-term and long-term fixes.

**The amendment to the ordinance was carried with 7 yes roll call votes.**

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

Mr. Yoder Okay. I will make a couple here. So I think the right place to do this are these locations, Tracy. If they're not, just tell me. So can you refresh my memory under the revenue sources - the difference between the two lost revenues. What I want to do is the money we switched over from ARPA for the remaining lost revenue, I want to do those procedurally and not those out. So we would need to increase the revenue from one of those categories I presume. I don't know which one is the appropriate one. They are the same category, right.

Mrs. Rash It is just one line.

**Mr. Yoder** Perfect grade I wanted to clarify that. Thank you very much **I would make a motion to increase the art but lost revenue line item by \$3,602,149.**

**Mr. Beiter seconded it.**

Mr. Yoder: Motion and a second. This is moving over the money that we just transferred in the second reading of ARPA two lost revenue. This is the procedure to get that through the budget. Okay? Any comments or questions? Okay. Hearing and seeing none, Mrs. Frank on the motion to amend.

**The amendment to the ordinance was carried with 7 yes roll call votes.**

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

**Mr. Yoder**, then I would also make a motion to amend the general fund summary to create a line item for **reserve emergency funds with revenues in the amount of \$3,602,149.** Is there a second to that motion?

**Mr. Beiter seconded it.**

Mrs. Rash Can you clarify for me what your intent is?

Mr. Yoder: So the intent is to establish a separate reserve emergency fund - similar to capital projects fund, but not for planned capital projects for larger, either emergencies like a pandemic that might happen or larger projects where we don't either have any kind of concrete idea of what we need to accomplish, but we want to anyway. Make sense?

Mrs. Rash Very good. Just wanted to make sure you wanted it in a different fund within the system and not separate within the cash account.

Mr. Yoder: I think the idea is to have a separate fund in the system. We will be bringing forward an ordinance to actually codify the use of the fund and then how to take money out of that as well. Next week. I think also the first week of January as well.

Mr. Yoder. Any other comments or questions? Hearing and seeing none, this is Frank on the motion to amend, please.

**The amendment to the ordinance was carried with 7 yes roll call votes.**

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

Mr. Yoder. These are a couple of procedural ones and I'm going to put these out of order, which will totally messed me up, but that is okay. Does anybody else have any others? Do we want to save more for next week? Recommend if anybody wants to increase anything we do it this week. Okay. Blah blah blah. Give me one minute here. There was one more that I would like to do. I make sure that I find the right line item and also find the - bear with me. Remind me, Tracy. In the budget, - sorry, I am messed up because this is not bound. Where is the director of finance located - what line item is it and that the actual budget? Is it in fiscal officer?

Ms. Rash The salaries portion. That would be back on page.

Mr. Yoder: 23-10? Is that the section?

Ms. Rash I thought you meant the salaries.

Mr. Yoder Where does not reflect in the actual budget? I did not get a chance to label my pages either, sorry. If you get the title of the budget area.

Mrs. Rash Finances on page 12 and 13.

Mr. Yoder: These are numbered, nevermind, thank you. I totally missed that. Thank you. Though the budget currently reflects hiring someone the middle of the year for the director of finance, correct?

Mayor: Yes.

**Mr. Yoder: I would make a motion to increase that by - that salary by 25% and the reason I would like to make that motion and say that is I would like to see us work through that process sooner. I don't think it is realistic**

**that we are going to hire someone January or February, but maybe April is more realistic and I say that, I think we need to get that** position filled as soon as we can. I think it is a very critical position to get filled. Tracy is doing a very good job. I don't think any of us are going to sit here and dispute that. I think we need to keep her around on a very limited basis once the individual is hired. I mean, I think Tracy you talked about triage. Your finance job was in triage. at some point we need to get into rehab. When you go into surgery, your surgeon does not do rehab. We need to get to that place as soon as we can and continue that transition in the office paid I would like to see that sooner and make sure we have the money in the budget to fill that position sooner. Is there a second?

**Mr. Beiter seconded it..**

Ms. Miele : Let me shortcut that.

Mr. Yoder: I think you very much for shortcutting that.

Mr. Yoder: Do I have a motion in a second? Any additional questions or comments in regards to that change?

Mayor: You can go to Councilman Allison. I would just say that we will try our hardest. I think - I will be blunt, I think it is unrealistic. Given 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and now 2022 audits, resetting that all the way to the begin, I don't think she would be going anywhere anytime soon. I will be frank about that. We just have so much work still to be done. She is still literally just maybe 1/1000000 through everything that we are working on and so we can try, but I think we would literally be starting all over again if we brought someone in. I think that would be externally difficult and I'm not sure that that would really serve us.

>>Mr. Yoder: Point of clarification. You had referenced Tracy doing the audit.

: No, no, no. Not doing the audits. Working through our side to get the information to the auditors. She is not doing the audits.

Ms. Miele: I think both of your points. Adam did not cut the amount of money in the budget next year for Tracy. The idea was not to - ideally, yes. Nobody is trying to kick Tracy out the door, but ideally we have slightly less need for her services, but I don't think the intention is to kick Tracy out, as much as start the transition process so we are not utilizing Tracy's time on things that someone else could easily do.

Mayor: I want to be clear, that is still a lot of work to be done.

Mr. Yoder: Sure. There is no reason we cannot post the job now. There's no reason we cannot and have at least three or four months to get a good candidate pool and eventually make the hire. We could have posted that in October. Tracy has been here since June, right? Remember when we had the contract in front of us and made some changes. I think that we all kind of agreed then and at least openly discussed, this is a need very much so, but part if that is we need to get an updated view of what that finance office needs to look like and understand a roadmap for that person. We should have that by now. I think with everything going on in the finance office, I think it is reasonable to have that in a six month time period. I think we need to continue with that process and do that Mr. Vider.

\ I recall, when we approved your contract we approved a time limit our dollar limit on that.

Ms. Rash Tomorrow will be the last day.

Mayor: There is going to be a contract coming to you next Thursday to extend it. Again, I just disagree. I fully disagree. That is just my position on that. I think we need Tracy pretty six months, given our situation is not nearly enough time.

Mr. Yoder: I don't think anyone is questioning the need for Tracy.

Mayor You are saying we should have a roadmap by now. I disagree.

Mr. Beiter : What we are all stressing is that we want someone to learn from Tracy as long as possible because of her expertise and we completely understand that you have years of that. We are not going to find somebody off the street that is going to be up to speed. So we would like to utilize as much of her time that we are committed to paying for along with somebody else.

Mayor: Right, I understand that. What I'm explaining is that I don't think we're quite there yet. She is not able to even say where we are. I don't know what - I think we have to get to a certain point before we can - I agree. Obviously I want that person training from Tracy, clearly. I'm just saying I think we need to make a little more progress before that.

Ms. Miele It is - - we may not succeed in doing that until the third quarter of next year one way or the other.

Mr. Yoder: We very well may not, but I would like to enable the administration to do that as fast as they can.

Ms. Miele: That will enable you to jump on a good candidate if someone appears.

Mr. Yoder: Yes. I'm trying to help the process. That is my goal here, right? Not try to argue about the finance office or any of that kind of stuff. Outside of my own personal opinions grade I want to help the process. That is the goal here.

Mrs. Katz?

Mrs. Katz Also if we hire somebody it would be a new person learning the correct way to do this. I think that's where we are coming from.

Mr. Yoder: I disagree with you Mrs. Katz. This is not a job for a fresh college graduate before no, no, no.

: New to the city of Williamsburg, yes.

Mrs. Katz : You teach them your way of doing things the right way because obviously there have been problems from what we are hearing and to have someone come in and the learn the process the correct way.

Mayor actually why the position has not been advertised yet is because we have been working on getting systems in place that we need to present to this evening and with the introduction of those systems we will streamline processes and they will learn the correct ways going forward with your systems now, it didn't seem like the most efficient process to train someone on systems that are inadequate and then switch them to systems that are adequate. So that's the process we have been walking through.

Mrs. Katz: That's where I am coming from. To learn the correct way and see where we are going because you are trying to, use the term "modernized "where we are at instead of being antiquated. So therefore having someone come in and learn the process.

Mr. Allison But yeah, I agree. We want to help the process, but I don't see how, at least for me, I cannot help the process unless I have a decent understanding of where we are at in the process and I haven't had that kind of in-depth conversation to this point. I want to have that next year. So I understand how these things are progressing and why they are progressing and what point we are at because we do want this position in our administration, but timing is everything and it has to be done correctly. So that was going to be my question. With what Tracy is dealing with right now, is not conducive to having somebody else around? I can see where that can actually be detrimental if we are not

at that point. So I think it is just a matter of determining where we are at. I think Tracy has the clearest perception of where the process is. Given that she has uncovered so much, but she can give us an estimate of where we are going and I think that's another point - a little bit off of this, but I think we need to be able to get some information about where we are going and our city's finances. I think we are going to get to that point where there will be some predictability of the trend that we are going into, rather than, well we just found this out and found that out. So it sounds like there is a decent amount of unknowns right now. I think we are all on the same direction. It is just.

Mr. Yoder: Certainly understood. I don't know why giving the administration capability to fill that position sooner is a bad thing. If counsel disagrees that is perfectly fine. Hopefully we can get some information next week when we look at the contract. This is a long time coming. Frankly we should have been doing this two years ago.

Mrs. Katz: It is hard for you to do the job you're trying to accomplish and also have somebody there that is trying to learn in your training? It would complicate our process,

Mayor. That's why in the budget I had proposed doing the budget and fiscal officer for three quarters of the year because that would give me another couple months to get payroll outsourced, which we will discuss later and continue working through several of these issues. Then the budget and finance officer would come on. That person would learn to do the daily duties and then the finance director would be hired shortly after to take on the hiring duties and I would be transitioning all of that to them. So that was my thought process in putting the budget together in the way it had.

Mr. Yoder: Understood. Thank you. Any other comments or questions? Hearing and seeing none, Mrs. Frank on the motion to amend.

**The amendment to the ordinance failed with 4 no roll call votes.**

**. Mr. Allison voted no, Mr. Mackey voted no, Mr. Pulizzi voted no, Mr. Beiter voted yes, Ms. Miele voted no, Mrs. Katz voted yes, and Mr. Yoder voted yes**

Mr. Pulizzi: Hay. As Mr. Pulizzi said, the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and expecting different results. I think whenever we get to a point when we are not doing the definition of insanity we can. Mrs. Frank on the vote please.

**The ordinance was carried with 7 yes roll call votes.**

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

#### Bill#1812-22

#### Ordinance of City of Williamsport, County of Lycoming & Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Fixing the Tax Rate for All City Purposes for the Year 2023 (first reading)

The City Clerk read the ordinance.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

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

Mr. Yoder Mayor Slaughter 11 this is the ordinance that setting the tax at \$16.22 million.

Mr. Yoder: This is the same tax rate we had last year. We had some pretty lively discussion I would say, or at least on depth one way or another, but currently as it sets the budget as proposed does not have a tax increase and this budget reflects that accordingly. If there is a desire to amend not one way or the other we have this reading and the next. Same for this to raise. It's simple majority to increase it? Only for the budget? Thank you for the clarification. Any comments or questions related to the millage ordinance? Miss Miele?

Ms. Miele: I'm not making a motion to amend because I don't feel like wasting any more time. However, I would like to say that my hesitation of me voting against the budget is contemplating the fact that I do intend to vote against this because I do feel like we should increase the tax rate and voting for the budget of course is de facto of approving the tax rate as is because that's approving the fund balance. Anyway, it is semantics.

Mr. Yoder: Understood. You can help the process and have your protest vote accordingly prior I understand and appreciate it. For sure. Okay. Hearing and seeing none,

**The ordinance was carried with 7 yes roll call votes.**

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

#### Resolution #9582

#### Resolution to Correct 2022 Budget Ordinance 6421 for the City of Williamsport

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

**Mr. Pulizzi made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Beiter.**

Ms. Rash . So the motion before you or the resolution before you is just to correct a typo in your prior year budget. So all of the detail attached to the budget was correct. Adjust the number on the ordinance was wrong. I spoke to the city solicitor and he suggested this is the way to technically correct it.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you very much for that. I don't remember if this was reviewed in committee or not. I don't think it was. It wasn't in finance? Anything you want to add miss Miele?

Ms. Miele: That's not how it was told to us in finance. That was not entirely how it was exciting to us in finance. It was a claim to us that we were correcting the number for the capital projects. What we had spent in 2022 I believe.

Ms. Rash: So the budget for 2022 in the detail, in the support detail was correct, but the number that had been carried forward to the ordinance for actual appropriations was wrong. It was actually the prior-year number that had not been updated for 2022. So it is just a typographical correction.

Ms. Miele: Fair enough. It was just going to us as a discrepancy. That is even better I suppose.

Mr. Yoder: Any other comments or questions? Hearing and seeing none, Mrs. Frank on the motion for item 9, please.

**The resolution was carried with 7 yes roll call votes.**

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

#### Resolution #9584

#### Resolution 2021 Real Estate Refund – Echeck

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

**Mr. Pulizzi made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Beiter.**

Mr. Mackey: No relation either. I have a E-check refund that needs to be is your grade I had taxpayer one make a typo that force them to pay taxpayer two's property taxes. It was a very weird and strange coincidence of numbers there. They both happen to be around the same amount and they are one digit off on their parcels. Yes, but they're looking to get a refund sent to the County delinquent office because it was for last year's taxes in the amount of 1658 .7 the difference of what she owed is \$27.10 because she paid a little bit over.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Mr. Mackey. My me, were these reviewed in finance? I did not get a chance to make notes.

Mr. Mackey: The County and the delinquent office, all three of us got together and reviewed what was going on.

Mr. Yoder: Okay. Gotcha. Any questions or comments from members of Council? Mr. Pulizzi?

Mr. Pulizzi: Even though we are issuing a refund, I want to go on the record and say, I commend whoever the taxpayer was who paid a little bit more. That is pretty rare.

Mr. Yoder Miss Miele always brings us up whenever we have a real estate - seriously. People always fight their taxes and they never fight to pay more. This individual did at least for a little bit. Very strange.

I would completely agree and hopefully our commissioners are listening and are making plans to do an assessment. So please. Okay. Hearing and seeing no other questions. Mrs. Frank on the motion please.

**The resolution was carried with 7 yes roll call votes.**

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

**Resolution # 9583**

**Resolution Real Estate Refund 2061 Reach Rd**

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

**Mr. Pulizzi made a motion and it was Mr. Beiter.**

Mr. Mackey This was an assessment as we were just speaking of and they found it was worth about \$250,000 less and as a result in a refund being issued to the taxpayer in the amount of thousand dollars or an amount of \$4042.88.

Ms. Miele: Very random question, Mr. Mackey. How is the current real estate market affecting real estate valuations like this? For instance, when was this completed? I'm assuming relatively recently.

Mr. Mackey This assessment was recent, yes. I'm not specific on the specific real estate, but do not quote me on that.

Ms. Miele: When we lasted an assessment in the county was 2004, but it seems like real estate values of by and large are rising. Is not affecting the way in which when people are requesting reassessments - I'm curious. It would seem as though we should then see people's properties being valued at a higher level across the board because the real estate market is really relatively high right now?

Mr. Mackey: Yeah. Especially because things were changed in the past years in regards to how the assessment was unpaired it would update a lot of things and you may not have to do taxes for that. The County does handle all the assessments in the assessment office treated my office just receives what they are saying it is worth is actually worth.

Ms. Miele: I guess I'm curious to understand the process a little bit more thoroughly, but we have certainly seen a number of reassessments on property of value, but it would seem like values and property in general within the city should be higher than they have been previously. (SPEAKER AWAY FROM MIC). Exactly how it is evaluated, etc. It is not a question for renumbered I thought it was a simpler answer. Sorry.

**. The resolution was carried with 7 yes roll call votes.**

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

**Resolution #9585**

**Resolution Accepting a Contract with Paytime for online Human Resources & Payroll Services**

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

**Mr. Pulizzi made the motion & it was seconded by Mr. Beiter.**

Mrs. Steele: Hello. We've been talking all night about our credit systems but we are excited to bring this to you. This is the mayor took office he has been interested in updating the city's software. Currently we have HR and the financial software assistant called Fundwear, which was installed in the 1990s is no longer supported. If that system were to go down we would lose the ability to pay payroll, pay our pensioners and accounts receivable. So time is of the essence. Tracy and I have been working with several different companies but have landed on Paytime with regard to the systems that it brings to us and its cost. So we would be looking at an implementation cost of \$3500 and then \$28,000 and some change in some annual fees. This would be funded - the implementation cost would be funded by the CDED strategic training program at 70% and then the other 30% we would request to come from our book. We do have Ryan Strickler on the call tonight if you have any questions for him. I can go over any of the functionality with you as well.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you very much. This wasn't reviewed in finance, miss Miele?

Ms. Miele: This was reviewed in finance and the discussion was as we would expect, generally positive. Mr. Vider in particular felt very strong about this software. Yeah, I think really the only question and Ryan answered pretty accurately is the possibility - this is not a fixed amount that we are paying on an annual basis. Wait. It is entirely possible that the cost of these services will increase on an annual basis according to Ryan. I believe the amount generally speaking falls in the 2% to 4% number. Which I believe this is not currently built into our budget, correct Tracy? Because we did not have these numbers? Is it in this current copy? Sorry.

Consequently we would want to build that 3% into that 2023/2024 budget. (SPEAKER AWAY FROM MIC). We did not do it this week, but I'd be interested in possibly doing it next. I would prefer to see this funded instead of ARPA funds, the initial 30% that falls to the city. It seems to me like it should be coming out of the city's budget and not out of ARPA. It's something I'm not willing to dine, but we should absorb the cost of the software in the city budget.

Mr. Yoder: What was the total cost?

Ms. Rash: Forward limitation of Paytime it was initially \$3500 and then 28.

Mr. Yoder At \$3500?

Ms. Rash: For implementation of the first year.

Mr. Yoder: I would generally agree. I think outside of some left over - a substantial amount of recreation money, I know this is a drop in the bucket, but aside from public works reserve money and - wow, not public works, God. There

is one more cup of coffee back there.

I'm about to grab it. Recreation. That's what I was looking for. I think we have pretty much allocated and are expecting everything to proceed, at least initially as forward. So I would prefer to see in the general fund also. I'm happy to approve this with the expectation that we make that change next week in the general fund. I don't want to see this kind of stuff funded from ARPA. I'm comfortable with less than recreation. I would like to leave it that way.

Ms. Miele: This will be an ongoing annual expense. Now the implementation I understand will not be an ongoing expense. It is much much higher.

Mr. Yoder: I think the same argument is applicable to the second one. I know that is higher and moving forward with - I know we have heard antiquated systems two or three times tonight, but - and again, I get it. We need to do this and it's unfortunate. I know we are getting match money, but this is pretty important stuff. We should have been doing this a couple years ago, but better late than never. I would also like to see out of the general fund.

Ms. Rash To clarify, the cost would go through IP, which is in City Hall operating and be allocated to the general fund through the allocation.

Mr. Yoder: If I remember, I think there is a surplus in City Hall anyway.

Ms. Miele This will be interesting, but just so you know you will not see that cost increase general fund in one spot. It will be allocated out to every permit.

: There is no surplus in this year's general fund. Or in this year's city fund. (SPEAKER AWAY FROM MIC).

Mr. Yoder: I thought there was, sorry. Any other comments or questions?

Ms. Rash I do have one.

Mr. Beiter One of the benefits of the system is allowing employee to clock in using their phones so they can keep better track and you can get more accurate time, but making sure that they are at location when they clock in. Not on the highway because they're running late or whatever particular reason or they're not clocking out after they have already driven down the road a few miles. Things like that. Not trying to accuse anybody trying to steal, but things can start to become a bit of a habit. What kind of process are we going to have in place to make sure that we are getting the correct hours from our employees?

Ms. Rash: That the process has a system called geo-fencing. So we say where they work. We specify that and they can only punch in or out within a certain proximity of that location.

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

**The resolution was carried with 7 yes roll call votes.**

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

#### **Resoluton \$9586**

#### **Resolution Accepting A Contract with BS&A Software for online Financial Management Services**

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

**Mr. Pulizzi made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Beiter**

Ms. Rash So again, after looking at a number of accounting packages, we decided - we focused in on what is called BS&A. It is used by a number of Pennsylvania municipalities. It has - it is beautiful. It almost made me cry. So it has the ability to do all paperless workflow. It also has the ability to assign specific users specific duties so that, for instance, if an invoice is for the police department, it will route to the police apartment assigned users for approvals before it even gets to the finance department to be put through the system. It will allow them to put triggers on it so that when they meet a certain percentage of their budget it will trigger them to look at that and make sure that they are monitoring more closely. They will have real-time access to their information. It also has the ability to public face, so it can be made accessible to the public when that time comes after it is set up. There is the ability to do dashboards so that you know where you are in terms of budget. In terms of year-to-date, in terms of even your workflows. So we are proposing that we purchase this product. The implementation fees are \$137,000, with a \$54,000 annual service fee. Once again, DCED will cover 50% of the cost and the city will be responsible for 30% rate I will say it will be a year until the software is ready to be installed in our system.

Mr. Yoder: This was also reviewed in finance.

Ms. Miele: This was reviewed in finance and I think once again there was general positivity by the members of finance. We clearly need a new software system within the finance department and obviously Tracy feels as though this is best suited for our needs. There were a couple of questions that I thought I had resolved in the finance meeting, but Molly, you sent me a follow-up email that made it a little bit more confusing with a quote from a man named Dan. So the annual service fee is listed with exhibit B, it is \$79,000 annually. Don't say that number, I see a number of 47. I'm not sure - I am not sure what that means.

Ms. Rash We may need to clarify bit we originally asked him to include a proposal that had HR and payroll modules. He may have gone back.

Ms. Miele: It seems to say within the contract that customer service is included in the annual fee and it also indicates that the annual fee - it looks about 253, but in one place it says 47 and another one says 53, but nowhere does it say 79.

Ms. Rash : I make how to clarify with him.

Ms. Miele: Got it. There are no additional fees. I think my primary concern - so this particular contract is locked into an increased rate of no more than the consumer product pricing, which is reassuring. That allows us to know more or less on an annual basis. If there are increases they will not be exponential, but this is obviously the more costly of the two software's and there will be no fees over and above those fees that we are currently building in is my understanding.

Ms. Rash: Correct. Many of the other software is, every user was an additional charge. Soy made very clear that I wanted to be clear with him that we need to have unlimited users for the access and that is included in that fee.

Ms. Miele: Yes, but it looks as though - it looks as though the software meets our needs and potentially exceeds it. The other question, - so you said that we mixed some HR modules and some other elements of the software for the time being?

Ms. Rash: Correct. The initial proposal included payroll and HR, but we found there HR product was not as robust and the cost was much more expensive than going with Paytime. It was probably two or three times more expensive to get the HR and payroll module within a BS&A than to just go with Paytime. Paytime will give us an upload that will upload it

into the software. So in terms of getting the data into the accounting package.

Ms. Miele: Excellent. I guess - it does seem as though we selected - (SPEAKER AWAY FROM MIC). What was the logic behind that?

Ms. Rash: We decided not to purchase that at this time.

Ms. Miele: It is also included in the annual fee that is on the resolution.

Ms. Radh: I think we may be talked about implementing it later, but not initially.

Ms. Miele: I guess the thing is that we are paying for it initially. According to the exhibits. If I am reading everything accurately.

Ms. Rash I think what we did is we had told him that - to included. Again, we are not paying for now. We will pay for it in a year and it will be part of the system at that time.

Ms. Miele: Just to clarify, the \$53,000 - so we are approving a resolution with \$137,000 worth of implementation fees and \$53,000 in annual service fees. To get to that \$53,000, we would appear to be paying for those modules this year. Admittedly, only 30% of those modules, but still. I said to get to the \$53,000 number in the resolution, it would seem as low, reading their exhibits that we are paying for those modules this year. Only 30% of the modules because of course DCED is paying 70%.

Ms. Rash: Correct. We will pay for it once we actually get them running.

Ms. Miele: So that will be on a different annual schedule?

Ms. Rash: I'm clarifying. We are asking you to authorize this because that starts the process, but they're telling us it will be a year until they can come in and implement a sucker.

Ms. Miele: All of this will be implanted within a year? Got it. I thought you'd were telling me that you are rolling out the modules after the rest of the software. It is being done simultaneous.

Ms. Rash: As a part of the accounting package, yes.

Ms. Miele \$53,000. Other than that, the software looks good. The contract looked acceptable and we brought it to you thinking it was a good idea.

Mr. Yoder: Any other comments or questions from members of Council? Again, I would agree, same thing here. I would rather see this out of the general fund if it's going to be long term anyway, but yeah, we can make those changes next week.

Ms. Rash: I will have clarification from him when you approve this as to what his timing is and whether that is 23 or 24.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you very much. Better late than never. Any other comments or questions? Hearing and seeing none, Mrs. Frank on the motion, please.

**The resolution was carried with 7 yes roll call votes.**

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

#### **Resolution #9587**

#### **Resolution Authorizing a Purchase of a 2021 Ford F550 Truck**

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

**Mr. Pulizzi made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Beier**

Mr. Livermore t I present to you tonight is a resolution to purchase eight 2001 F-550 plow truck pretty much graded this truck will be financed through Jersey shore state bank at \$98,000 and we will have five annual payments at 21,114.95 a year. This will be paid out of liquid fuels. This is - - which is out of state college. They are our star delivered it will also be outfitted with a 10 foot plow and a spreader on it. It is a used truck, but it only has around 10,000 miles on it so it is pretty much knew. The parts of that, I found this truck obviously. I don't have to wait a year and 1/2 and I save about \$30,000. So as soon as we get approval I can make the move and hopefully have it before Christmas. This truck will be replacing a 20-year-old truck, which is a GMC 2002, which will be put on bid I believe. This was reviewed by Austin and on through public works.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Mr. Livermore. Did this go to public works, Mrs. Katz?

Mrs. Katz: Scott went through a lot of work - - they usually get how many thousands of miles? A lot.

Mr. Livermore I think the company that got it - they usually get a few demo trucks so they use them for a little bit and sell it and I happened to meet up with a guide and I asked if they had any trucks.

Mrs. Katz You met a guy. I love it. It is a truck that is much-needed and like you said you are putting our old truck on bid and we will see what money we get off of that. You can pick this up as soon this is passed then, right?

Mr. Livermore: Within the next couple weeks but I have to finish paperwork.

Mrs. Katz: With all of the equipment? So if the snow comes down? You may need it

**The resolution was carried with 7 yes roll call votes.**

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

Accept for filing::

Public Safety minutes 08/10/22 & 09/14/22

ERC Meeting Minutes 08/11, 8/31 & 10/26/22

WMWA & WMSA 9/28/22 & 10/26/22

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second.

**Mr. Pulizzi made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Beiter.**

**The minutes were accept for filing with 7 yes roll call votes.**

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

Announcements

. The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Thursday December 15, 2022 at 7:00 PM, Trade & Transit II, 144 West Third St. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Williamsport, PA

Upcoming Meetings:

Tuesday Dec 13	1:00 PM	Finance
	2:30 PM	Public Works
Wednesday Dec 14	9:00 AM	ERC
	11:30 AM	Public Safety
	11:30 AM	Redevelopment Authority
Thursday, Dec. 15	7:00 PM	City Council Meeting*

- **Indicates in person meetings**

Comments:

- a. City Council
- b. Administration
- c. Members of the Public
- d. News Media

Adjournment

**Meeting adjourned** upon motion by **Mrs. Katz** and a second by **Mr. Pulizzi** Meeting adjourned at **9:48 PM** with unanimous ayes.

**Submitted by:**

**Janice M. Frank**  
City Clerk