

Council President Adam Yoder brought the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday, March 16, 2023 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

Approval of the Williamsport City Council minutes for 3/02/23 were approved upon a motion by **Mr. Pulizzi** and a second from **Mr. Beiter**. **All were in favor. The vote was 6 to 0. Ms. Miele had not arrived yet.**

**Limited Courtesy of the Floor**

There were none.

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

**Sub division WBT Realty – 3600 W. Fourth St**

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second.

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

Mr. Knarr. What I present to you is a request from WBT Realty Company. They are requesting to subdivide a little over 5 acres into a separate parcel. The residual will be 6 acres they'll maintain for the premise, which obviously is Fairfield Automotive. It is for a possible future development. It was reviewed by Lycoming County Planning. It did go through the city planning and recommend positive recommendation for your approval.

Ms. Miele: Just out of curiosity, we may not know this, is that commercial or --

Mr. Knarr: It is in a commercial zoning district and there will be a commercial business that will be located there. They'll actually come back before council as a land development plan.

Ms. Miele: Just somewhat curious, it looked like to be pretty steep for any sort of housing. So that's why I was, okay. Thanks.

**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.**

**Demo Application 143 Washington Blvd. Lycoming College**

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second.

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

Mr. Knarr stated, we have a demo application for 143 Washington Boulevard, this is Lycoming College item. Motion : Again what you have before you is request from Lycoming College to demo property address 143 Washington Boulevard. It is currently vacant. It is within a residential zoning district and is cross the street from Lycoming College. At this point in time there is no possible development at this time.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, . Any comments or questions from members of council? Hearing and seeing none, Mrs. Frank, the motion.

**The demolition 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.**

**Demolition Application 809 Franklin St Lycoming College**

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second.

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

Mr. Knarr: This follows the same guidelines. It is within a residential zoning district. There had been a fire previously at the location. It is owned by Lycoming College, around the corner from Washington Boulevard, I forget what street that is up there. Franklin Street. So it's right around the corner from the corner of Franklin and Washington Boulevard, and again, I can answer any questions.

Mr. Yoder Any comments or questions? Ms. Miele then Ms. Katz.

Ms. Miele When the fire occurred was it owned by Lycoming then?

Mr. Knarr: I don't believe they owned it at the time. I know Lycoming College purchased it and the fire department was utilizing that for some training.

Ms. Miele : That was actually my second question, do we have a representative. I see you out there. That's all.

Mr. Knarr: Did you own it when the fire happened? I didn't think they did.

Owner: The fire company approached us to use that for training so they actually used both properties we're going to bring forward for training purposes. That's probably why you saw fire trucks there. There really wasn't a fire.

Ms. Miele: That's fine. So they don't light it on fire to use it. That's part of what I was wondering.

Owner: They would but they didn't. Just using it for access through doorways.

Ms. Miele: Is that what happened to the roof of the other structure?

I noticed that several months ago and thought, that's a strange hole in the roof. Thank you.

Mrs. Katz: So you're demoing both properties. There's nothing on the plans for what you're going to do with these properties at all?

Mr. Knarr: Not at this point. The one on the corner of Franklin and Washington is very close to our parking lot there.

Mrs. Katz: The one on the corner.

Owner: Yes. We actually own all the way around that block except for the two additional properties that are still remaining. Potentially in the future we could use them for parking or for building of some type in that location. The one down on Washington Boulevard, actually we own quite a few properties next to that as well. Typically now it's green space, again, looking at future use of it, we're not sure yet at this point. One of the things we've done in the past is accumulated some properties and looked to redevelop that area in the future. But we need the property first to do that.

Mr. Yoder asked for a vote on the demolition.

**The demolition 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 Embellish Salon Studio 140 W. Fourth St**

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second.

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

Mr. Knarr: What you have before you is 140 West Fourth Street within the central business district which requires a certificate of appropriateness. The sign you had before you does meet zoning. They're requesting and obviously the sign will be of a white background with black lettering as shown above. It would be required obviously to apply for a building permit and they are requesting a certificate for appropriateness to place the sign there. So it is a new business that is coming in that location.

Ms. Miele: I just wanted to say if there's anything you want to say about your business, as long as it's a little bit of a platform you're more than welcome to.

Owner on the phone: I was hoping my wife could make it or we could make it in person. Unfortunately that didn't happen. Yeah, we're hoping to have a grand opening May 5th. The hair area is open and we're working on the tanning and we'll have other services that are coming. It's coming along pretty well.

Ms. Miele: Excellent. The space looks excellent. Definitely a nice addition to Fourth Street.

Thanks a lot for coming the area and putting a business here in the city.

Mr. Yoder: Good to see. We appreciate the investment. Thank you very much.

Mr. Kramer: We like the area and we have high hopes. We enjoy it. Appreciate it.

**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 Signage for Rear 101 W. Third St**

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second.

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

Mr. Knarr: What you have before you is a request to locate a full rear of the building at 101 West Fourth Street, the top image will obviously say Liberty Towers. The west will be in American flag. It will be required to be mounted. It will be made out of PVC pipe and a hard type of material that will basically cover that, which should keep it as far from fading and things of that nature. At that point the owner is requesting a certificate of appropriateness because it's within the Central Business District, and I do have representative here.

Ms. Miele: Always me, Gary, sorry. Just a couple of quick questions. Go over for me what this means in terms of our signage requirements and other design standards in the area. This is the rear of the facade, but to what extent --

Mr. Knarr: Because the top part actually is going to say Liberty Towers as part of a sign. Any kind of sign with the ordinance has to go through the process.

Ms. Miele: That's why I'm asking, does it meet the ordinance?

Mr. Knarr: Some of it may be vague because it says they would prefer it to be made out of a wooden material but it doesn't say it's against the wooden material.

Ms. Miele: We clearly allow plastic material in the area. And you're telling me the entirety of the sign is made of PVC?

Mr. Knarr: Jerry. Mr. Miller actually is with Century 21, and Jerry represents 101 West.

Ms. Miele got it.

No, we haven't seen the renderings.

Representative (Away from mic): So they're looking at covering the rear facade. The letters will be removed, a facade wall would be built. (Away from mic)

Ms. Miele: Got it. And so the whole sign is made out of PVC? Or sitting on top of -- okay, yeah.

SPEAKER: In most cases.

. The tower, I'm not 100% sure what that's being built out of. The letters themselves -- here's a build-out of just the letters.

Ms. Miele: Got it. So they would protrude from the sign.

Owner: Correct. So everything is aluminum construction. (Away from mic) LED illumination, and everything is painted with a clear coat paint.

Ms. Miele: So the upper part of the sign will be like any other sign we have in town, correct? Got it. Right. Okay. But the bottom part of the sign you're saying is effectively a billboard?

: At this point (away from mic)

Ms. Miele: Got it. I'm concerned about two things. I'm pretty sure the signage standard mentions signage has to be in keeping size-wise with other signs in the area.

Representative: Based off the architect drawings we do have. That is in compliance with the sign.

Ms. Miele : Right, I'm not arguing with Liberty signage at all.

Got it. But so that he's not terming as a sign. That's kind of a different certificate of appropriateness for a facade remodel more or less? Got it. Okay. Then I guess my own concern is, and this may just be a terminology thing, when you describe it as a billboard, billboards usually get changed out every three or four months because the signage wears.

Representative: It's going to stretch. It's going to cover up imperfections within the rear facade. But it's built for long-term, not having to change it.

Mr. Yoder So it's built like a billboard but it will be static like a picture essentially.

Ms. Miele: It's made to last for several years.

Mrs. Katz: What's the life expectancy of it?

Representative: Almost all are seven years anymore and they put UV protectant on top. It will fade like paint.

Mrs. Katz: Is there any windows behind that at all? No windows, just the back of the building. At all. So there's nothing that's going to be obstructing anything inside. I think it's amazing.

How long is this going to take to do this?

Representative: Right now we're waiting on architectural drawings. Once we have that, it's just a matter of how quickly they can install it.

Ms. Miele: Then I guess my last question is it will not damage -- this is as much a question for the owner of the building, it's not going to damage the structure, basically being sealed off in plastic is not damage to brick or anything. The rear of the building, while it's not particularly beautiful, is in good shape and I didn't want to see at some point pull this off and have it be deteriorated under there or something.

Mrs. Katz It is good against wind then? You don't have to worry about it?

Representative : Yes, the whole thing will basically be perforated but still be made out of a vinyl plastic per se.

Mrs. Katz: Say something does get wrong. How fast would you get there to fix it?

: We're three blocks away.

Ms. Miele : So my last question, it's a really interesting idea, guys, and I think it's kind of cool. But my last question is actually for the other members of council, which is, I'm just concerned it would seem to meet our signage ordinance, but this is sort of a different step for the city, our downtown design ordinance I suppose. This doesn't really fall under the downtown design ordinance because building wraps are not really well received in that ordinance.

Mrs. Katz : I'm looking at this like it could be classified as a mural.

Ms. Miele: So we're thinking of it as public art of sorts?

Downtown design, yeah. Got it. So that's what we're considering.

Mr. Yoder: So it follows precedent that we've done before.

Ms. Miele: I'm trying to figure out if there's any precedent we're setting that we don't want to set. I mean we have murals a block up the parking deck. So it seems to me like we're not doing anything.

Mr. Yoder: I don't think so.

Mrs. Katz: The only thing, it's not paint.

Ms. Miele: Well, but I don't think -- the ones on the parking deck are some kind of synthetic material too. Yeah, exactly. Is it the same material as the ones on the parking deck? Anyone know? Because of the difference in time. I don't remember what those materials were. It seems to me --

Okay. Got it. Well, if this is something we're going to see more of, we should maybe try to work it in there. My only concern is winding up with something we don't want going downtown and not having a means of differentiating the two things. We should look at revising the ordinance if this is something that's going to become common.

representative: (Away from mic) that's one of the issues we're looking for signs.

Ms. Miele: That design ordinance needs to be strengthened or modified, updated to current standards. Awesome. Thank you, Gary. Thanks, guys.

Mr. Yoder: Any other comments or questions? No. Hearing and seeing none, Mrs. Frank, the motion.

**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 Signage for Arrow & Thread**

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second.

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

Mr. Knarr certificate of appropriateness for signage for Arrow and Thread. It is located on Williams Street. The signage that you do have before you, obviously the background will be black with white letterings. The previous sign that was there was I believe the Hartman Agency that was there. So they're replacing that at that point in time. It does meet both because it is made out of a wood structure and does meet the design structures within the Central District as Council all thanked her for placing a business in the City

Mr. Yoder asked for a vote on the certificate.

**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**

Ms. Miele : Actually I have one small question, which is once again, what is this business? Does anyone want to tell us about it?

Mr. Knarr: What the business is, she's going to be offering, and she's actually with us via Zoom. She's going to be offering classes for sewing and things of that nature for children and stuff to get into sewing.

Ms. Miele: That's awesome. If she's there and would like to tell us about it.

Alicia Boyer Hi. Thanks for having me. Sorry I'm not there in person. Yes, I've been in business for about eight years now, and I'm super excited to have a space downtown and be able to offer this on a larger scale. So I'll be teaching mainly children's classes, so adult classes, ladies nights, things like that. But yeah, I'm looking to bring back a lost art.

Ms. Miele: That's fantastic. Thank you.

Mr. Yoder: Agreed. I'll be checking it out.

Ms. Boyer: Can't wait.

Mr. Yoder: Got to keep my 18-month-old occupied.

Ms. Miele: Do you take people who can't sew at all and are well past the age that they should've learned?

Ms. Boyer: Yeah.

Mr. Yoder Very exciting. Thanks for your investment in the city.

### **Update of Levee & Flood Maps – Shannon Rossman**

We have an update on the levee and flood maps from Shannon Rossman. We won't keep you here for the whole time. Take 5 minutes or so and give us an update of where you're at.

Ms. Rossman: I'm the Lycoming planning director. I've been working with Jon Sanders and South Williamsport on levy items. Just give you an item of what's going on, currently as you're aware, we have about -- I think it's around 60 relief wells that are in need of either replacement or rehabilitation. We've had difficulties due to the pandemic and due to finding qualified contractors to bid on the project. Our initial -- this is out for bid I think for the fourth time now. It is currently out to bid. We will be accepting bids on April 28th and we'll be opening them up May 4th at the commissioner's meeting. We had a mandatory Prebid meeting last week. We had two what I believe are qualified contractors that do new well drilling. One of them flew in from Michigan. We had two contractors that I believe are qualified for well rehabilitation. So we do have more interested parties than we've had in the past. We've been able to clarify a number of issues. We were finally, in the last bid we were able to clarify some issues that were catching some of the bidders previously with what is allowed -- how the drilling methods -- which drilling methods were able to be used. Because of the fact that it is a levee versus some of the other types of drilling that's done under high pressure water, certain types of drilling methods are not allowed. So when that was finally clarified, that cleared up a number of items. We've also in this bid we have extended the timeframe to the max allowed by our grant, the first grant we have with the state. The county has a \$1.1 million grant for the first grant. We also went back for \$750,000 for a second grant. So we're allowing extended timeframes because of supply chain issues that will help reduce the bid received. We've also offered that if they can show us that they would be able to give us a reduced cost by extending the grant, we are willing to ask RCAP for a time extension. Right now we would hope to have all the relief wells completely either rehabilitated or drilled that are identified by the end of 2024. As I said though, if they can offer significant cost reduction by having a time extension, we would consider that. I'm actually giving a tour to one of the companies next week of the current relief wells. So because of the placement of the relief wells, we have informed them there will have to be a lot of coordination. One, we have to have laydown areas. We'll work with Jon and South Williamsport on those also. Two, we know this will be over the course of a year and a half almost. There will be little league events going on. There will be baseball events going on. There will be other events going on. And some of the relief wells are in damper areas, so they will have to be done either in a dry season or in wintertime in order for the drilling equipment is a very large piece of equipment. It's not your standard drilling equipment. So it will have to be very stable for when it's used. The one area will also be putting out bid in the near future is when Interstate 180 was built, it cut off the access to the faxen area relief wells down off the exit. So we have to reinstall two ramps. They'll be stone ramps but we'll have to bid those out. Because of the way the creek flows in the middle of that area, we cannot get the drilling equipment in there without putting two ramps in, one from each side. One will come in from the Riverwalk side. The other one will come in from the industrial area. We'll have to bid them out. They'll stay for any future maintenance. The second item that we're currently working on, you all know that we have the EDA grant for \$5.6 million and the county's matching the \$1.4 million. We had to halt the Memorial Avenue design work because of the Army Corps engineers, they need to do their analysis to determine what the proper fix would be and then our consultant can go back and design that part of the project. The other part of that project is fixing cross-pipes on the Northeast levee. Right now I'm working with our seta cog because they're maintaining the grant, it's very technical, I have no clue. I'm not up on those types of regulation. So they're helping with the bidding process and the requirements that EDA has for the grant. We're currently going through and making sure we have public easement or access easement to all of those cross pipes right now. We've been confirming with John and I believe it's Kevin. Kevin, at the city, to determine exactly who owns what or has easements to what. Because PennDOT has gone in and done work since then. The Army Corps, we don't have some of the updated stuff. Our cartographer has been doing a very diligent job in putting that together. And we think we have it all solidified now. So we'll submit that to satisfy the condition with the EDA. From there we'll be hiring a construction oversight person and also our design engineer has been preparing the design for the cross pipes fix so that will be going out to bid also for both sides of that project. We hope to have that out to bid by early summer. The other part of that, once the Army Corps is done with the city's --

Mr. Sander: Semiquantitative risk assessment, SQRA.

Ms. Rossman: What he said. Once the Army Corps is done with that part of the project, then we can go back and look at that, and our design engineer can take that for the Memorial Avenue section. I believe you're having both Memorial and Dewey done, correct?

: The entire stretch, essentially the bridge all the way up into Lycoming Township.

: Because the next part we'd need to go after grant funds or have grant funds for or some funding for would be the Dewey Avenue section. We know Dewey Avenue has deficiencies. You have High Street going over top so we'll have to be dealing with PennDOT because of issues with height restrictions in there. So you have some really technical design work between whoever gets that design consulting work and PennDOT and the Army Corps and the city. That will be quite the project. The other item that we're currently working on right now is we know that every time we've been going for grant funding, some of ya'll and some other federal elected officials have said, what are you going to do for future? How are you going to paid for the continued maintenance of these facilities? Right now we're waiting for an assessment, Randy was able to attend, the mayor was able to attend and John was there. What happened was we've asked our consultant to give us -- we did the first operation and maintenance part of that where we gather South Williamsport's information on where current staffing was, where would we need to add staffing, what would that cost. Now we need to do an analysis of based upon the projects continuing forward, what projects need to be done and funded on a regular basis? Not only fixing what we've identified but fixing things as it keeps going. That continued O&M that is part of owning a levee. So we're waiting for a consultant to give us a cost assessment for that analysis. We have identified that we're asking them to analyze whether it should be a new authority or an existing authority and analyze whether it should be the areas that have an impact from the levee, not just the areas that are behind the levee, but the areas that have an impact from the levee, or whether it should be something countywide that includes additional

hazard mitigation and other incidences that are relative to that type of fee. Once we get that scope of work, we'll be sharing it with the city and South Williamsport and [name?] township for their levee too. As we move forward with that, that will happen with a two-step process. Once we sign a contract with them, what we would do is the first decision point is an existing authority or new authority. Then from there on, you determine, okay, do you want to go with a impacted areas, or do you want to go with a countywide? And they'll be showing us the pros and cons and then you make a decision and you finish the study. So we want to make sure that we cover the aspects needed to make the proper decisions for everybody so that the city has all the information, South Williamsport, everybody has the information to make an informed decision. And part of that is a lot of outreach and education. Because we know that there will be a lot of people asking questions. And that's what I have so far. Any questions?

. Ms. Miele Starting with the one first because that's the one I remember. When you were talking about county-wide versus impacted areas in the levee assessment, if there were reasons to go countywide, would that be flood mitigation countywide?

Ms. Rossman: Yes, our initial thought is, okay, a good example would be what happened in Lairdsville with the tornado. Not just flood mitigation but disaster mitigation. So you had an incident where you had a tornado go through. Luckily it was a small area but its impact was no less than on those people there. It did not rise to the level of state or federal impact funding. So therefore there was no aid available. And there was quite a few people that were impacted there. So that is something that the county's initial thought is, this will be an opportunity to provide some help in those situations. The other issue is we have some major watersheds that all deal with very localized flood events or storm events. Pint Creek had an ice dam issue recently. It only affected a small area, but there's still an effect. Obviously there's no way to assess any kind of aid for that because it's such a small area. We have the Lycoming, the Loysock, the Pine Creek, the Muncie. They all have major, major flood issues. And because of that, we would like to, if possible, come up with some funding to mitigation an effort if we have a project that will help mitigate flooding, or help if there is an event that's very localized and does not rise to the level of the state or federal aid.

Ms. Miele: But if an event did rise to the level of stayed or federal aid, we wouldn't be expected to --

Ms. Rossman: It would all depend upon what the project was. Because sometimes you need match money for things. And that's something that we don't always have readily available.

One of the other things mentioned too is we had the Warrensville slide. Warrensville Road, which is a state road, was closed for quite a long time, which caused a lot of issues in access. Luckily that was a state road and we were able to get that fixed. It took a while because of the cost. It ended up being a lot more expensive than originally thought and we had to program that over a number of years on our transportation improvement program at the county level. However, if that same slide were to happen on a Township road, I'm not sure there's too many townships that can come up with like \$2 to \$4 million to fix that in a reasonable amount of time, and I'm not sure what funding source they would go to for that. So those are the kinds of things that we've thought about.

Mr. Pulizzi Probably. I've been told usually when there's a problem, it's my fault. But thank you very much for being here. I know a lot of us had questions about the current status, as far as where we're at with the levee and the flood maps. So in keeping kind of working backwards. When we talk about areas of impact from the levee within our county, when we think of what kind of impact that's going to be, we just went over environmental impact, things of that nature. When we look at the success or fail of the levee, are we also considering financial impact of the areas of the county as to making sure the levee is taken care of? And the reason I bring that up is because, and maybe I'm missing the mark here with my question. When we look at the levee and how much business that protects, specifically within the City of Williamsport, and anybody's free to jump in and correct me if I'm wrong. But I believe the last number I heard was that Williamsport is responsible for approximately 87% of household revenues generated within the county. A large majority of that is businesses that are protected from the levee. So when we think about making sure that the levee and these other flood mitigation, whatever you want to call them, structures, so when we think about the areas of impact, are we also considering financial, how if the levee failed or if we did not have the levee fixed, how that would financially impact not just Williamsport or Loysock but the county with its entirety?

>> SPEAKER: That's why we had thought about a countywide possibility. The thought was also that if there was some additional opportunities for other municipalities to see the ability to do programs or correct problems or be benefited by due to the localized issue we do have, that a countywide may be a better sell. But it has been discussed. I'm not the one that's going to make that decision obviously. But we did want to include that so there was the opportunity to talk about that. We do want to make sure, there are two fees that are assessed that we're definitely aware of and we've looked at. There's Wyoming Valley and there's Sunberry. When we're looking at the impacted areas, we're looking at the Sunberry model, which is beyond just the areas protected from flooding. We're looking at the areas that benefit from being directly below the levee, not directly impacted by the flooding event. We wanted to make sure that was what was analyzed. Wyoming Valley are those protected by the flooding. So we definitely did look at that. But the countywide is a little more than just the levee, we're also looking at some hazard mitigation, hazard reduction, things like that.

Mr. Pulizzi: Thank you. I appreciate it. If I may, I had a couple more questions. Going back to Memorial Ave, it's the I-wall structure we're looking to have redone. You said we're waiting for the Army Corps of Engineers.

Ms. Rossman: Yes, the SQRA study has to be done before we can move forward with any more design work. Our consultant was able to do a lot of background study on that and they provided all of that information to the Army Corps so they can start their SQRA, not from scratch but with updated background information. But now we can't move forward with Memorial Avenue. There's no project yet for Dewey Avenue. But we can't move forward with the I-wall issue until the Army Corps is done with the SQRA, because we need to know what they're going to say before we know what our options are for design.

Mr. Pulizzi: Yes, ma'am. I was just wondering what kind of timetable or if we had any idea of when the Army Corps is going to conduct this.

Ms. Rossman: We're looking at one to one and a half years probably on the lesser side because it's done an extensive amount of hydrologic planning. So it should be on the shorter side, like a year, year and a half, something like that. But they are taking a very deep dive. In fact, in May they're coming to town to grab all of our plan sets and they're actually camping out here for two weeks to do a really deep dive as everything right now in its entirety. Myself, I've been pushing on the engineering end and Mayor Slaughter has been pushing very respectfully to the colonel at the

Army Corps.

: Unfortunately we've been impacted by the retirements and lack of personnel replacement that the federal government and every other government entity is probably and unfortunately what we had hoped to start last year is just starting in May.

>> SPEAKER: Correct. In addition to the risk assessment itself, the cost, we gave the Army Corps essentially half a million dollars, there's also a public outreach component to let everyone know what they're doing. That's included in the package so to speak.

Mr. Pulizzi: Okay. I appreciate that. I felt a need to ask. In my past that I've had to deal with government, it was always hurry up and wait. So I just didn't know if we had an idea on how long we'd have to wait.

Ms. Rossman: As soon as we have something from the Army Corps, we'll move forward. Unfortunately, yeah, we can't do anything else with the Memorial Avenue. That's why we're going to continue to move forward with the cross pipes section of that grant. So at least we'll be able to get some of those items fixed and crossed off the checklist. And hopefully with the relief wells, hopefully we get responsible bidders and we're able to start checking that list off also. And we are always looking for additional funding to help with any of the other projects that we'll help check off those items.

: Bonnie had asked me to check on the flood maps and I did not have a chance to see when the flood maps will next be updated. But I will --

Mr. Sander: I can touch on that. Currently our levee system is conditionally accredited through the Swift program, which is a really nice way of saying you're not taking care of thing very well. But anyway, once we get full accreditation and full certification, then the flood maps have the ability to be redone, but not until then.

Mr. Pulizzi I appreciate you jumping ahead already and addressing the flood maps. While you're here, and maybe you can't speak to this, but I know when we look at potentially when the flood maps are going to be redrawn, I know there's a lot of concern as far as the flooding that occurs and how the flood maps are re drawn, if Graffius run is not fixed, how that's going to impact the neighborhoods around Graffius and the flood maps redrawn where you have large portions of residential neighborhoods that are now within a flood plane. So I didn't know if there was anything.

Mr. Sander: I can touch on that. I'm bringing two heavy hitter Graffius proposals to you next week. One for the trash rack system and one for the automated sensors that sit in the stream --

Sonars that send out when water raises. In addition to that, WSP is three quarters of the way done. In reality it's a lot of property take. The basins, in the event we want to build basins upstream, the two Graffius run reaches, the amount of property take is large. And you're talking tens of millions of dollars for construction.

Mr. Pulizzi: I'm really hoping, I mean, again, to my understanding, is that the study that was done previously for the size of the piping for Graffius when it's going underground, it's able to handle the volume of water that we get. It's just a matter of keeping the racks clean and free of debris so as to inhibit the flooding. As long as we can keep the racks clean, hopefully we won't need to look at tens of millions of dollars to put in flood basins upstream.

Those were all the questions I had. Thank you so much. And appreciate you being here.

Ms. Rossman : No problem. And when the flood mapping is redone, usually FEMA works with the municipality on their existing conditions. So if your system is working and you're able to prove that, that would be up to them how they would show that on a flood map. But anything you have regarding your information should be shared with them at that time.

Ms. Miele: You said Graffius run, perhaps it would be wise to have -- sorry. It seems like we might be Weiss to have like an executive session related to Graffius Run at some point in the future, just talking about our plans for it especially if we're looking at basins upstream and other solutions rather than the track rack before we start talking about anything with it publicly. It seems like it could become a matter of negotiation at some point and that might be wise. I know, yeah Ms. Rossman : I apologize if I spoke. I didn't mean to speak out of turn in regards to that. Sorry if I did.

Ms. Miele: No, no, what were you saying? That was mostly addressed to you and would you plan something with the administration and we can all sit and talk about it. Maybe after the next council meeting, we can plan. Would that be okay? It seems like if you have a bunch of information about Graffius Run and how we're proposing to handle it, it might be wise to discuss it sooner rather than later. We've all sort of talked about it but I guess I'm just interested in maybe all of us talking about it together. Before we get ourselves into trouble. Shannon, for you and the levee, thank you very much for the update. We appreciate it. I'm sure that the county is as frustrated as we get sometimes at the amount of money we spend and amount of time we spend discussing this and how little ground we really seem to have gained on the problem, in part because it feels as though with climate change especially the rules just keep changing. You know, so the soon as you think you've wrapped your head around the problem, all of the sudden the standards you have to meet are different. We appreciate you helping us keep up with it. And John, we appreciate you helping us keep up with it too.

Ms. Rossman: No problem, if you have any questions, feel free to give me a call. More than happy to talk to you. And I hope we have some good news in the near future.

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

The City Clerk read the ordinance.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

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

Mr. Lubin Good evening, Mr. President, members of council. In light of our very lengthy discussion last time, I have nothing new to add.

Mr. Yoder: Any other comments or questions from other members of council? Hearing and seeing none, Mrs. Frank, the motion of final reading.

**The ordinance was carried in final reading 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**

## **Resolution Authorizing the Execution of Bowman Field Rental Agreement**

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. Allison: Thank you. I attended the commission meeting where we voted on this unanimously to pass this agreement, the rental agreement. And I think everybody's aware there are usage requirements that go hand in hand with this that really pretty tightly regulate the usage of the field, how it can be used, there's a lot of detail in there. I think everybody's gotten those documents. Because it's a top-of-the-line multimillion-dollar Major League Baseball quality field. And that asset needs to be protected as well as all the technology that goes with it. The speaker system, the scoreboard. There's a lot of detail that goes into running that now, that it wasn't quite that complicated before. In any case, because of those things, when this rental agreement was brought up, it was time to revisit the pricing structure. It hadn't been changed for years. We were way below what it should've been. In the past it was appropriate because the outside users were Penn College and high schools, various high schools in the area. So there's a little bit of a disturbance amongst those groups. Not so much Penn College. But the high schools that use it for different things because now where you have the fee schedule before you, which is --

: Page 5. Yeah. I have it in here somewhere. In any case, base rental is \$800. Enhanced rental, which includes -- I'm not going to go through everything, enhanced rental includes everything in the base rental plus the use of wireless microphone system for on-field ceremonies, player at bat graphics, et cetera, et cetera. There's a lot of detail in here, but there's a continuous doubleheader. Those are significant increases in the rental. A lot more goes into the upkeep of the field and the maintenance of it and the technology and everything. So this will help to offset that cost. Every game that's played there now, high school games, it's going to have to be run by cross cutter personnel. We know how to run the sound system, the scoreboard, and all the technology that goes with it. So it's a more complicated operation now. We talked to Cam, who's the Major League Baseball representative, who's paid by Major League Baseball to oversee the maintenance of the field and coordinate with the colleges, and they have that all down, down to the tarps and who takes care of them and puts them down and puts them up. In any case, that's where we're at. And these fees that have been increased are actually still -- they're about middle of the road, maybe a little bit above that but they're not exorbitant to what other similar type fields or charging. We're just getting up to speed on this. We've been through these kinds of things in a number of different areas in the city over the past few years. I think we're all familiar how things have not changed, fees haven't, and we've had to upgrade all those things. So this is part of that. It's a little bit more complicated and widespread. That's basically the reader's digest condensed version. Are there any questions about that?

Mrs. Katz Just to clarify, just because MLB has come into Bowlen Field and they take care of the field, the fees really were not covering our expenses before MLB was here. We're not conscientious in what's going on as far as the whole park is concerned. So having the fees now puts everything in better perspective. But I don't want anybody to blame MLB for this. We do have to increase these costs because it was never, never covered all the costs that were going in for people who were opening up the stadium, who were taking care of the locker rooms, the bathrooms, so on and so forth. So now we're at least getting near it. And I think every year we're going to have to increase it just a little bit for everybody to understand that, that this cannot be coming out of taxpayers' money to maintain one of the jewels of our city. But just wanted to clarify that.

Mr. Pulizzi Just to speak on Bonnie's point, when people do look to rent the ball field out now for sporting events, they keep in mind that they're playing in one of the oldest ballparks in the country, and they're also playing on one of only -- what is now one of only three major league baseball fields in the entire state where you have Phillies, Pirates, and now Bowman Field. Something for them to also consider. We have to make sure the fees and rents are commensurate with exactly what you're getting.

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

**The resolution 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**

## **Resolution #9635**

### **Resolution Awarding Professional Design Services to Livic Civil, LLC**

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. Sander. What you have before you is a resolution to hire Livic Civil to design crosswalks within the City of Williamsport. The contract if approved would be for \$45,302. We'd only have to pay 15% of it which is \$67,098. This is part of a grant the city received back in 2016. We were tapped on by PennDOT to try to use it. The original location is actually right over here, Pine and Third. At the time I think Bill Nickels wanted to widen the road and make it two-way for buses. That's currently no longer a plan of ours. PennDOT allowed the city and Livic to repurpose and relocate the grant money elsewhere, and actually Livic worked hand in hand with PennDOT to do exactly that. PennDOT is one of their preferred traffic engineering firms. They work for District 3. In addition to doing that, while they were doing that, they also made a citywide traffic signal conditions document of all the signals in the entire city for my use, Scott Livermore's use, any of our traffic guys' uses ,foreman's' uses as well. To pay for this, we would have to use \$66,798. I'm recommending to pull that out of our ag13 account which has approximately \$1 million in it. We'll discuss Tuesday in Public Works.

Mrs. Katz This is something being done in -- six different areas in crosswalks. It's much needed. And I learned a lot about (indistinct) crosswalks. Never heard of it but I guess it's really good. Getting the money out of 13 is well worth it for the cost of this. And it's really, when you look at the total dollar amount, it really isn't that much to do the six crosswalks. It has to be done. Because what I didn't ask at Public Works though, this is also handicap accessible?

Mr. Sander: That's correct. Yes.

Mrs. Katz: I forgot to ask that question.

Mr. Sander: What Livic would be doing is ultimately pulling the other bid packages, bidding it out to the contractor. Also administering the project during construction and bidding it and inspecting it. It's the whole package for grand total

of \$45,322.

Ms. Miele : But not the actual crosswalks, right, for that \$45,000? You said the funding for that is coming from elsewhere. The construction --

Mr. Sander: No, so we have a total grant allocation for \$230,000. In that grant paperwork, the design fees are \$45,322.

Ms. Miele: Got it. And then 150 should cover the actual construction of those?

Mr. Sander: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. Probably take longer.

Ms. Miele: I would certainly hope so.

Mr. Sander: It will probably take longer to design it than it will to do it actually.

Ms. Miele: Is that all four, basically addressing all four corners/crosswalks at those intersections?

Mr. Sander: Actually PennDOT and Livic pulled this together for me. So I don't have the answer to that off the top of my head.

Ms. Miele : If you want -- that's not a major thing but I guess -- well, I guess part of the reason I'm asking, I'm curious what we're doing at the intersection of Basin Street and Via Bella because that's going to be the lead-in to the access to the riverwalk there. So that's going to take a little bit of thought. I know some of the renderings I've seen have called for creating like a lane of almost a lane of traffic for bike access. Then the crosswalk needs to be wider.

Mr. Sander : That's correct.

Ms. Miele: Okay. But I guess part of what I'm wondering is I'm assuming we're not crossing Basin Street there at the highway. I'm wondering if we're doing crosswalks all four ways across every intersection because I don't think we currently --

Mr. Sander: I can't answer that now. When it comes up in design, I'll definitely let you know.

Ms. Miele : No, I'd like to know, but I guess part of what I'm asking is, has the administration thought about what we want to do there or is it them making a recommendation to us or us telling them what we want?

Mr. Sander: Specifically it's them on this one in regards to the potential river walk access there, that's us making that call so to speak.

Ms. Miele : Okay. So theoretically it's a back-and-forth I guess.

Mrs. Katz : You're going to oversee that, making sure that's going to be wide enough.

Mr. Sander: Yeah, we have a plan set for that from a couple years ago. We talked about this before. About \$50,000 in grant money for that intersection. We've recently just put in for more grant money for that.

Ms. Miele : For the intersection or for the --

Mr. Sander: For the river walk connector piece. : There's actually a federal earmark request.

Ms. Miele: Awesome. I hope we get it. It would be good to see us get over there one of these days. I think clearly as we're planning that intersection, we need to be assuming that at some point we will get there. Right? My next question is just, I don't know anything about thermoplastic crosswalk.

Mr. Sander: Sure. I'll explain it.

Ms. Miele: How long do they hold up is most of my question.

Mr. Sander They're the most durable style. They're essentially plastic that gets laid on the ground as opposed to a paint line just painted. It's plastic, they get thermoplastic, heated down, adheres to the surface.

Ms. Miele: Right. Okay. But we restripe all of our crosswalks, all of our standard crosswalks every year as part of our street line painting program, right?

Mr. Sander: That's actually Scott's department.

Ms. Miele: But anyway, I guess my point is that's built into the city's budget at like \$12,000 a year or something like that, restripe everything. How long do the thermoplastic crosswalks last?

Mr. Sander: I don't know how long it will last off the top of my head. I'm not a traffic control expert.

Ms. Miele: I guess the only reason I'm asking is we put in those brick crosswalks downtown which are great looking but they're falling apart. It's been maybe ten years. If it's going to cost us \$150,000 to replace all these crosswalks ten years from now when we're not likely to have it or more, I don't know. That's part of what I'm trying to figure out.

Mr. Yoder: Between the other materials is what you're essentially getting.

Ms. Miele They're going to look fantastic and presumably get people's attention. Yeah, just putting some thought into that too or asking that the administration put thought into that.

Mr. Sander: One of the big takeaways here is we're salvaging a grant given to us back in 2016 and repurposing it.

Ms. Miele: No, that's awesome. I mean, I remember receiving the grant I'm glad we didn't use it to widen Pine Street. I'm just asking the administration to think through these things before we get a design that's going to wind us costing us more money to maintain in the long run.

Mr. Knarr Thermoplastic usually has a three to five-year lifespan.

: That's actually part of why we're doing this is hiring this company to do this work for us. That's their specialty. Traffic control specialty design firm.

Ms. Miele: I understand that. And that's great that we're controlling traffic. I'm just asking for the most cost-effective way to do it and whether or not it's real plastic. For three to five years, then we have to replace it, and if it's going to cost us 150, you know. But whereas maybe they could design some sort of other crosswalk mechanism that would hold up better for us that would also provide us with some of the same traffic controls on elements. Just putting it out there because that seems to me like if it's only three to five years that it lasts, thanks, Gary, we should be thinking about how we're going to replace it in three to five years, right?

Mr. Yoder: If we're going to go through engineering process, maybe that's something our engineer can look at for us. If there's something we can do within budget that might last longer, great. But if not, I don't think it's necessarily a bad thing to try the real plastic.

Ms. Miele: No, I'm not getting down on it necessarily. I'm glad we salvaged a grant for it. I'm just saying we should look at the longevity of the product and if there are other products that might hold up for us that we might be able to easily replace when we get there. Anyway. We can --

Mrs. Katz: Who chose this company?

Mr. Sander I did actually. I asked PennDOT, do I have to -- this is one of the very few items, contracts I did not put out for a request for appropriate. I asked PennDOT's local projects coordinator if I was required to, and he said no, I just



want to reward Livic for all the work they did, as I mentioned earlier, the traffic signal conditions document and repurposing these specific locations and the city working directly with PennDOT for that.

Mrs. Katz: Our streets and parks would not be able to salvage the thermoplastic at all. Probably not, right, Gary?

Mr. Sander: Again, the length of it really depends on obviously the living conditions. They say it can last up to ten years, but the average is three to five years, depending on living conditions.

Mrs. Katz: We have to be careful if it becomes dangerous for people crossing the street.

Mr. Sander: (Away from mic) adhere into the pavement so it won't be like something that's sticking up, causing someone to slip or fall or anything. : These are already located all over time. You don't even know it. Last three to five years versus paint, one year basically.

Mr. Yoder asked for a vote on the resolution.

**The resolution was carried with six 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**

#### Resolution #9636 Resolution Real Estate Refund

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 This is a real estate reduction. There are four properties being listed. 150 West Third Church. 621. These properties have completed applications and have been approved by their respective departments over in the county and both the city. This is just City Council reducing the real estate to match what the assessment has chosen to do.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Kevin. Are there any comments or questions from members of council? Okay. Hearing and seeing none, Mrs. Frank.

**The resolution 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**

#### Resolution #9637 Resolution Authorizing Changes to the Fire Civil Service Rules & Regulations

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.**

Chief Aungst : What we're doing here is adding two things to the fire civil service rules and regulations. The lesser of the two, 3.6.4, we're adding specified study materials for candidates to look at before they take the written exam. The more important of the two, 2.6.4, we're adding a one-mile run with an allotted time of 10 minutes to finish that run. And the reason we're doing that is because when we send cadets to the fire academy, Chief Aungst told us the mile-and-a-half run at the academy seems to be the thing that trips people up the most. And it costs us money to send candidates obviously to the fire academy, and we actually, according to Chief Aungst had somebody recently -- I don't know, Chief, you can correct me on this if you want to jump in, I don't know how recently it was, but fail out of the fire academy because they could not complete their mile and a half run, cost us somewhere in the neighborhood of 15,000. This is going to assure the people we're sending to the fire academy will be able to complete that run. Essentially. And I'll open up the floor. We had a really good conversation at Public Safety on Tuesday about this. So I'll open it up to other members if they want to say anything.

Mr. Mackey Sorry, and you only get one chance. So if you fail, that's it. There's no redos.

Mr. Yoder: That's forever, right?

Mr. Mackey: I think you might be able to go back --

Ms. Miele: Pay another \$15,000 and do the whole thing again.

Mr. Mackey Once you fail out of the fire academy, you're done.

Mr. Beiter Question I have, it's a mile and a half at the fire academy, but we're only requiring a mile. Should we be requiring a mile and a half?

Mr. Mackey: Well, I think what we don't want to do, and again, I won't speak for the chief, and this wasn't discussed at Public Safety. It's a good question. I think what I would say is we don't want to limit our pull too much. I understand a mile and a half doesn't sound like a lot to do in I believe it's 10 minutes. But at any rate, that would be my guess. And Chief, if you're still on, you can answer that question if you would like.

Mr. Yoder His name is on the screen. He's running his mile and a half.

Mr. Mackey: I think if you scroll down to Page 8, I believe it's Page 8 of 22. And you also see that candidates have to do the, what they call the firefighter combat challenge. Which is five tasks in 7 minutes or under. That was my question initially. If you can do these five things in 7 minutes, there's no way you shouldn't be able to do a mile-and-a-half run, but I think what we're trying to do is hedge our bets here a little bit more. So I think with the addition of a mile run in 10 minutes with this combat challenge, which I honestly am not sure how anybody can actually do it. While wearing a 50-pound vest.

Ms. Miele: Are they wearing the 50-pound vest during the mile run too?

Mr. Mackey: No, but if you look at tasks 1 through 5 and think about also wearing a 50-pound vest while you're doing it. So again, if the chief is there. Councilman Beiter, I don't have a good answer for you. That would be my only guess is that a mile in 10 minutes at least gives us an idea that somebody is going to be able to do a mile and a half. Once they get to the academy, go through all of the training, because this physical agility test I'm assuming happens at the end of the academy.

Chief: Councilman Mackey, sorry about that. I had some errors with my phone here. You're 100% right. What we came up with that run is to do somewhere near 70% for the test. 70% of what is expected at the fire academy. So a one-mile run is roughly 66%. So 67%, so we rounded that off to make it easy.

Ms. Miele If there's further training in between the performance times, then I think that makes sense. The time is not 10 minutes for a mile and a half, is it? Or is it?

Chief: No, it's -- no, they have to a mile and a half in 13 minutes.

Ms. Miele: Okay. So they have to basically slightly improve their performance. I was going to say that's a big jump if it's 10 minutes for a mile and a half. I've never been able to run a mile and a half in 10 minutes in my life. Of course I can barely carry a 50-pound sack of flour. Randy, I'm sorry.

Chief: If you can run a mile in 10 minutes, you build up your aerobic capacity and everything enough, you can knock off the extra half mile. So when I took the test back in 1990, that was part of the test, was a mile and a half run and you had to do it within 13 minutes. So there was a few that were knocked out, but it wasn't a great number, believe it or not. Today it's a little bit different.

Mr. Mackey: I'm sorry, chief, how long ago did you take this test?

Chief : 1990. (Laughter)

Ms. Miele: It's nice to know they haven't changed their standards, I'll be honest. I think that's assuring.

Mr. Yoder: Any other comments or questions? Chief, thanks for joining us remotely.

**The resolution 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**

Accept for filing:

Finance Committee minutes 01/03/23

ERC Meeting Minutes 12/14/22, 01/04/23, 01/18/23

Veterans Memorial Park Commission Minutes 01/09/23

WMWA, WMSA Meeting Minutes 01/25/23

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

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

**The minutes were accepted for filing 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**

Announcements

. The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Thursday March 30, 2023 at 7:00 PM, Trade & Transit II, 144 West Third St. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Williamsport, PA There will be a police pension board meeting immediately following this City Council meeting.

Upcoming Meetings:

Tuesday, March 21	6:00 PM	HARB Meeting
Wednesday, March 22	11:30 AM	Redeveloping Authority
Tuesday, March 28	11:30 AM	Public Safety
	1:00 PM	Finance
	2:30 PM	Public Works
Wednesday March 29	9:00 AM	ERC
Thursday, March 30	7:00 PM	City Council Meeting

Comments:

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

C. Members of the Media:

Mr. Yoder Mr. Beauge has graced us with his presence tonight. And I don't know if that's a good thing or a bad thing but we'll find out. If you would state your name, your outlet, address, for the record, that would be great. And you have 3 minutes after that. And welcome.

Mr. Beauge, : John Bogie, here representing Penn live. I'm here because this is sunshine week in case you didn't know it. I'm not talking about the nice weather we had today but the open meeting situation. And it has come to my attention, and I have a legal opinion also from the media council from the Pennsylvania News Media Association. It's our belief City Council has not been in full compliance with the open meeting law since 2021, and this is the situation. There's no Pennsylvania law that permits a remote-only public meeting. Act 15 of 2020 authorized remote meetings during a COVID emergency declaration, but it and various pandemic-related provisions ended in 2021 when the General Assembly revoked the governor's disaster declaration. Public meetings must be held in person. That includes committee meetings. Some laws allow for remote participation by individual public officials as long as there's a quorum physically present in a public facility. And remote participation, whoever does remote participation can hear and be heard by all. The act applies to committees that provide advice or take official action. Committees providing advice to council triggers the act. So I know you're not taking action at committee meetings now. You stopped doing that. But you're still providing advice. Agencies may provide supplementary remote access to in-person public meetings, like you do here, but remote technology does not take the place of in-person public meetings. There are many reasons for this, including the simple fact that many Pennsylvanians are unable to access remote-only meetings. I thank you. Any questions, I'll be glad to answer them. But just wanted to bring this to your attention, and hopefully council will comply with the open meeting law and start scheduling committee meetings in person. Thank you.

Adjournment:

**Meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Pulizzi and a second by Ms. Miele Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM with unanimous ayes.**

Submitted by:

**Janice M. Frank**  
City Clerk