

Council President Randy Allison brought the meeting of the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 7:00 PM per remote. Williamsport. The meeting was livestreamed..

Council members present:

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

Absent:

Also, Present:

Derek Slaughter, Mayor,
Mr. Joe Gerardi
Mr. Joe Pawlak
August Memmi
Mark Killian, Fire Chief,
Justin Snyder, Police Chief
Solicitor Norman Lubin
Janice Frank, City Clerk
Adam Winder, RVT
Kris Black, ITT

Approval of the Williamsport City Council minutes for 11/04/21 were approved upon a motion **Mr. Pulizzi and a second from Mr. Banks, All were in favor. The vote was 7 to 0.**

Limited Courtesy of the Floor

There were no comments.

Bill #1785-21

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

The City Clerk read the ordinance in first reading.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second.

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

Mr. Allison stated he will open this back up to the floor. Mr. Yoder, do you have anything further to add?

Mr. Yoder stated , in first readings debate there was a question surrounding potential language of terminating the committee. In the event RVT would transition out of the city's direct control and/or regional authority. I chatted with solicitor Lubin and I have proposed language that I can read into the record should council deem that option advantageous. And that is up to the full body here, But the language would be, should the Department of Transportation no longer be under direct control of the city of Williamsport by action of the City Council the Transit oversight committee shall no longer be standing committee of the city council of the City of Williamsport.

Ms. Miele stated Indeed this is formed as a matter of reaction but as a result of the things that are happening at RVT and we do need transition vehicle there. From RVT's reiteration to something more clear and clean cut and separate from the city. Everyone has agreed to that.

Mr. Allison stated but in any case, councilmember Miele might be able to speak to this more in-depth. I'm not sure. But there are other transportation items that come into play that have nothing to do with the RVT. That it may be wise to have a standing committee on transportation issues and you know, can deal with streets and roads and all kinds of things like that.

Ms. Miele stated that whole discussion was sparked. I meant to reach out to you this week and then it slipped my mind, by a suggestion that someone sent to me on Facebook that we consider incorporating into the standing committee a member of county transportation. And then I think I just sort of ran from there and thought well geez we found all of these things and especially a complete street ordinance that we talk about how we would like to make sure we are implementing it and we, but we don't really have, a mechanism, committee that is trained on issues like that that can make sure that we are. And we have a member obviously we went to the WATTS committee but I feel as though we often have a member from the WATTS committee for a number of years and sent as sort of under informed person because we don't have a lot of knowledge about transportation matters in the city. And council doesn't delve into that a lot. So it seems like if we are to form a standing committee that committee could actually serve quite a purpose. Both in perhaps as liaison as transit authority and board there but also dealing with transit and roadway issues within the city. But just an idea. I'm not sure how everybody else feels.

Mr. Yoder, I think that's a solid idea for sure. And I'm glad you brought that up. I had probably the same person reach out to me about the watts idea also and I, that completely slipped my mind so thank you for reminding me and bringing that up and I apologize for completely slipping my mind. I think that's a solid idea. And feedback, I think other municipalities have this in place specifically to manage I think the interaction with their regional authority as

well and so I think should that be the case, I think between those two things, having a standing committee would be valuable. So I, for one, like the proposal and idea. Again, thanks for bringing that up, Liz.

Ms. Miele, to that point, Adam, I don't suppose you've had an opportunity to reach out to anyone at county to see whether or not we could, the city could request a member of the transportation group there to sit on the committee. Or did you that I was a wise idea or did you not?

Mr. Yoder I like the idea. I have not been able to reach out to anybody from the county. I don't think that it would be an issue putting it in here personally. But if we can, I mean, if we want to get feedback from the county on that, we could pass it and then revise or table for two weeks to get that feedback if that is what everybody wants to do.

Mr. Banks stated Well, concerning councilmember Miele's first point, other modes of transportation that this might oversee, maybe we should go back and revise that sunset language that it's specific to RVT but the committee will remain standing just to have jurisdiction over RBT specifically.

And in such time as RVT is separated from the city.

Mrs. Katz stated I agree with councilwoman Miele and Adam Yoder. I participated and sat in on the last WATTS meeting last week. When you realize everything involved with transportation, with that committee, and when they do everything that they do, we should have someone from the county present. RBT is the county transportation bureau. I think it would behoove us. I would like to see this tabled for two weeks to clear up the language and also get in touch with someone from county and see where we go from there.

Mr. Yoder stated In that case, we should get in touch with someone from the county and look at maybe extending the wording to the scope of the committee so it is not overreaching boundaries the event we have other with transportation. And with the use of the streets and access for all means of transportation and another issue and perhaps its own separate look and advocate.

Mr. Allison stated But I do think we could work on that language as well. Good point. He asked for a motion to table.

Mr. Banks made the motion to table this ordinance. Ms. Miele seconded it. All were in favor.

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

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

Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Inter-Governmental Lease Agreement(remove from table)

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second to remove this item from the table.

No one commented so Mr. Allison asked if this was discussed in Finance.

Ms. Miele answered, this was discussed in finance. And frankly we brought it to council for discussion, And Ms. Nagy was present in the finance committee but really we felt as though a number of members of council had questions on this item. And consequently we didn't really want to use our time and Ms. Nagy's time to finance this item and not allow for that with full body of council so we simply sent it to the full body of council for consideration without discussing it further.

Ms. Nagy stated I'm here if there is any questions on this.

Mr. Allison stated Okay. We can't discuss it if it's not on the table.

Ms. Miele stated I'll make a motion to remove from the table.

Mr. Banks seconded it.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote to take it off the table.

The motion to take the resolution off the table was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

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

Mrs. Katz First thing, we had a lot of questions that we did discuss, and we still haven't received a cleaned up lease. There is still a lot of things that are not cohesive with this, this lease. I can start giving naming some of the things. First paragraph, first sentence, and you know, second sentence. And federal funds for construction of buildings known as Trade & Transit II.. In that second sentence, it should be buildings and Trade & Transit 1 and 2 and museum and bus garage. That's not cleaned up in the lease.

Mr. Allison Did the mayor send the cleaned up lease to you guys ?

Some of Council stated they didn't receive new lease.

Mrs. Katz stated We still have questions as far as removing some of the things -- if there was a cleaned up lease then how come we can't discuss this intelligently then if some things were cleaned up?

Ms. Nagy stated I spent a lot of time cleaning it up. I apologize.

Mr. Allison stated It was in the -- this is an ongoing problem. It was in the city e-mail. And I've tried to make it clear that some people on council are not -- don't have access to city e-mail. So when that is used exclusively, some people are left out. So that's a problem that needs to be fixed.

Ms. Nagy stated But there is a cleaned up version. I mean, I can send that out to everybody.

Mrs. Katz stated I think the first point you are referencing is just inconsistency is within the lease. There is a point where the lease refers to -- sorry, the lease refers to a different county instead of Lycoming. There is an instance of \$3 million written in text and 3 million written in numbers. Inconsistencies like that. Has that been cleaned up, Jill? Okay. So we're not just talking about silly goofy inconsistencies that aren't -- okay.

So if we strike that and assume those items got cleaned up, what other questions did you specifically have?

I'm trying to go through my notes here at this point of where we are.

Ms. Nagy It was straightened out as far as what we are doing with signage.

Mrs. Katz There is signage, and Jill you were supposed to work on that.

Ms. Nagy stated When I was discussing with the mayor, he was making sure there was signage allowed in there so various offices could be noted at the building. So I'm not sure which exact copy Randy has, but that was to be cleaned up to allow signage so people would know where codes office are and police and different things like that so there would be notice signage in there. That was to be cleaned up.

Mrs. Katz Without the mayor being here, you know, I don't think we should be discussing this without him being here. This is his presentation. Because I also want to ask the mayor what his plans are with this. I mean, we have a lease that we are going into with trade and transit, the police department and all of our departments, but I want to know where we stand as far as with city hall. What the finances are going to be because at this point, you know, how much is this costing us and the citizens taxpayers for the amount of money we are paying for the lease. I just, you know, I have questions for the mayor.

Mr. Allison Okay. I think we are going to have to leave this tabled then.

Ms. Nagy Was there any questions about insurance in here so can I least investigate it for next week? Adam thought there might be questions on insurance. That way I have answers for you next time if there is any questions on that particular issue?

Mrs. Katz As far as in this lease. He said there was questions about liquor insurance.

Ms. Nagy Yes, there was that in there also.

Mrs. Katz stated But I don't have the new lease, I don't know.

Ms. Nagy So the liquor license information is still there. Based upon having some discussions with both travelers and safety. So the RBT's insurer and travelers, they thought it was just good to have in there so in the event would you have maybe like a food truck event in front of those or anything like that. And it is not necessary unless you have a specific event so that's why we put the if applicable but we did talk to both insurance companies and they would like it see a provision in the event there would be some type of special event.

But other wise it is absolutely not necessary unless there is a one-day event type thing. So that's why it says if applicable in there.

Mrs. Katz What about the liquor license with -- what happened with that?

Ms. Nagy That belongs to the Hiawatha's board, under the nonprofit. It has nothing to do with the city or transit.

Mrs. Katz stated Just wanted to clarify that.

Ms. Nagy And your question on the signage, Ms. Katz, we have started placing signage in place. The tax office has their signage right in front of their space they have. And the police department for patrol division now has signage there. And we are working on signage moving forward. The codes department has signage at river valley transit identifying they are here.

Mrs. Katz Well, I still want to talk to the mayor and I want to know where we stand. We are go tock voting on this lease and t I want to know what his plans are. Are we planning on staying long-term here? Are we going, planning on moving back to city hall? Are we renters for the rest of our existence? I want to know his plans. Even though is a temporary lease, I think we should know what the next five years are in his vision.

Mr. Winder I believe Jon Sander, who is on here, is working on the valuation of city hall, he may be able to answer questions on where things stand there.

Mrs. Katz I really want to hear from the mayor.

Mr. Sander Yeah, I don't have any comment on that, Adam. Thank you. Right now I don't have any comment. Thank you.

Mr. Allison Do we want to table this again? Yes. Seems like there are some questions that we need related to the insurance that kind of thing but also broader questions from the mayor. So I will make a motion to table.

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

Mr. Allison asked for a vote.

The motion to table this resolution was tabled with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

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

Resolution # 9210

Resolution Authorizing the filing of a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant through Commonwealth Financing Authority for Pine Street Reconstruction Project

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second

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

Mr. Sander stated So what we have in front of you is a resolution for Pine Street Project.. This is a state MTF grant I worked with Delta development on. We submitted a week or so ago. This would go into the grant after the fact, What we need is a \$245,000 match for state grant if it were awarded to us in the amount of 817,606. This project has been around for quite sometime. Back in 2016-17 timeframe the city was awarded federal grant for the Pine Street Project during that timeframe the thought process was it widen the road and mick it two-way traffic. That was during previous administration. Currently that is not the plan, the current administration. We would like to simply replace in kind, and not widen it however possibly add some parking. One of the major issues through h corridor and when I say corridor, the project would go from Trish street on the south to fourth street on the north. One of the major issue says storm water connection to the sewer. And it is actually causing backup into the basements of buildings through that corridor including county courthouse building. So like I said, this is just an opportunity to get the grant. And replace the road in kind and add parking by potentially moving near the county admin building there. That's about all I have. This was given a positive recommendation on Tuesday.

Ms. Miele stated this was in finance and given positive recommendation. The meat of it is this is a very preliminary process. The grant has been submitted. But that does not in any way shape or form guarantee funding. If we do, we can match it. And 25% and that's where the \$245,000 comes in. But one thing Mr. Sander did mention is that this item is, the match is partly funded by the authority and working on an MLU while we are waiting to hear whether or not we are receiving the grant next July. If we do receive the grant the water authority is likely to help match the city's contribution through fuels to the project because they will be receiving a pretty major benefit in terms of upgrade of their pipes while we are doing this.

Mrs. Katz, Yes. When we talked about this at finance, like you said, this has been an ongoing project in the back of people's minds for quite some time. And I do think hopefully this grant will go through because I do know the people that are, the businesses that are on pine street there would really appreciate the problem being fixed. At one point it was, and this is just for the public, this was going to try and be done as two-way street but due to circumstances with PENNDOT and cost factors, it still will stay one way. The only other thing we discussed when you start, if the grant does go through, maybe we will try and work out more parking and like Ms. Miele said, this is a process we will go through. Let's hope it gets accomplished and this project that has been on the books for so many years at this point can finally get accomplished.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the resolution.

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

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

Resolution #9211

Resolution Authorizing an Agreement Between RVT & Centre Communications, Inc.

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second .

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

Mr. Winder This resolution is to authorize three-year agreement with center communications incorporated. We, for years, were on towers that were owned by Bills Electronics. He is in the process of downsizing et cetera. And so the other issue was we could not find any type of agreement that's ever been put in place so doing our due diligence we reach had out for any available tower space on the skyline drive area which is where the equipment currently is. Center communications was gracious enough to come out and evaluate what they could do for us. We did do a test run on sent are communications towers and found that we actually get better service for our coverage area with the buses. We have been paying \$565 a month for the tower service center communication gave us a three-year agreement at \$240 a month. Not to exceed \$8,640 for the three-year agreement. It is definitely a cost savings and it puts us on a lot newer towers. And Center Communications is responsible for maintaining the antenna on the tower.

This was reviewed in finance and passed forward with a positive recommendation.

Ms. Miele this is one of the handful of what I referred to as no-brainers that happened to us on an annual basis. Being as how there is not an existing agreement we can review it make certain the service is offered the same I think we can only assume the city is receiving -- we know the city is receiving what we need. And it is approved. So it is hard point to argue with. This was awarded to full body of council with positive recommendation. A savings of more than 50% over what we have been paying. Which doesn't add up to a whole lot, but it is a couple thousand bucks year. That counts. .

Mr. Allison Thank you, Ms. Miele. Are there comments from other members of finance committee? He asked for a vote on the resolution.

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

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

Resolution #9212

Resolution Authorizing an Agreement Between the City of Williamsport, Public Works Department & Centre Communications, Inc.

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second

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

Mr. Livermore this Resolution is authorizing agreement between City of Williamsport and Public Works department and center communications. Pretty much the other half of what Adam explained many for the usage of radio towers and operations, electronics equipment, not to exceed \$8,640 for 36 months. Starting December 1, 2021. It was reviewed in finance with a positive recommendation.

Ms. Miele stated The only points I would make here about beyond that, only point I would make above and beyond that, is that everybody, even though the agreement would be cheaper if it were both entities, if we had been getting both entities for \$565 a month. We were only getting one np is quite a savings.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on resolution.

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

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

Certificates of Appropriateness – HARB

Item 1. 609 Grace St – Roof Replacement – Stone Fortress

Item 2. 312 Park St – Windows & Gutter System Replacement – Mirabito Brothers Properties

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second on the certificates.

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

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

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

Accept for filing:

Williamsport Water & Sanitary Minutes September 22, 2021

Mr. Allison asked for a motion and a second to accept these for filing.

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

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

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

Announcements

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 7:00 PM,

Budget Session #1, Monday November 29, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Budget Session #2, Wednesday, December 1, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Upcoming Meetings:

Thursday, Nov. 25

Friday, Nov. 26

Monday, Nov. 29

Tuesday, Nov. 30

Wednesday, Dec. 1

Thursday, Dec. 2

THANKSGIVING DAY

CITY HALL CLOSED

7:00 PM Budget Session #1

11:30 AM Public Safety

1:00 PM Finance Meeting

2:30 PM Public Works Meeting

7:00 PM Budget Session #2

7:00 PM City Council Meeting

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All meetings are held remotely unless indicated with an * asterisk, whereas will be held at Trade & Transit, II, 144 West Third St, 3rd Floor, Williamsport, PA.

Mr. Allison asked if there were any comments from Council.

There were none.

Mr. Allison asked if there were any comments from the administration.

Chelsea Blair stated, We, as a board, architecture review board, there are three vacancies for seats. You do need

to be a resident of the community. Or own a business within the community.

You need to have understanding of historic architecture or understanding of the historic preservation within Williamsport. It is a five-year term. We are looking for anybody who is interested and want to do some volunteer time. We do meet once a month to review items in relation to rehabilitation of the historic columns within the historic business district. But other times there are other historic structures throughout the city that are recognized by not only the city and not only by the county but also by the state as historic structures and importance within the community. So we are looking for anybody who is interested. You can go to the community development website under the category and look for more additional information. If you want to learn more about the historic district or any other historic buildings throughout the community, there are other information in there including web surveys in relation to mapping and the 1972 survey study and in addition to the 2015 site.

So that's it.

Mr. Allison said Thank you, Ms. Blair. Great description. And it is a great opportunity, not only to serve the city in an important function but it is also a great opportunity to be educated on a lot of our historic structures and to learn the background of those which is also important to keep that base of knowledge current and the minds and thoughts of as many people as people. That institutional kind of thing that we need to keep alive and keep nurturing. So it can be passed on to other people and other generations. Are there any other comments from the administration? I don't hear any. We have Victorian Christmas coming up this coming weekend. So encourage everyone to get out and explore the community. Saturday and Sunday. Saturday p take advantage of all the things that are offered there. Take time to go downtown in center city and do some Christmas shopping along with that. And hoping for good weather and everybody have a nice safe and happy weekend.

Mr. Allison asked if there were any comments from members of the public.
Both Mr. Lubin and Mrs. Frank said they had not received any.

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Adjournment

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to adjourn

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. Meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Yoder and a second by Mr. Pulizzi. Meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM with unanimous ayes.

Submitted by:

**Janice M. Frank
City Clerk**