

Council President Adam Yoder brought the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday, July 20, 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,
Vincent Pulizzi, Councilman
Jon Mackey, Councilman, absent
Eric Beiter Councilman absent
Absent::

Also, Present:

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

Approval of the Williamsport City Council minutes for 07/06/23 were approved upon a motion **by Mr. Pulizzi** and a second from **Mr. Allison** **All were in favor. The vote was 5 to 0.**

Limited Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Bruce Huffman, I would like to address item 8. Some of you may remember the more senior members of Council, I have spoken on previous items voted on. I change something to be more relevant to today. I would like to think Mayor Derek Slaughter, the former city engineer John Sander and community moment director Mr. Memmi and anyone else that was involved in securing the latest funding to get the bandshell project moving. In my historical investigations, I have learned that there is perhaps no other building in Williamsport so deserving of such preservation and rehabilitation for this unique reason. The bandshell is the only structure in the city whose idea and original purpose was conceived of by a Williamsport pastor, Reverend William C Rittenhouse whose construction cost was funded by hundreds of contributions from Williamsport citizens, organizations, and businesses at the urging of a Williamsport newspaper, the Gazette and bulletin. Whose design was created by Williamsport architect, F Arthur Reinhardt who instantly also designed the 1930s addition to what is now City Hall. Whose edifice was built by Williamsport contractor, Jacob Goering and sons and finished by numerous other Williamsport subcontractors and his dedication was performed a concert by Williamsport's and the nation's oldest, longest continuously operating community band. We should be eternally grateful to all those Williamsport's come in his early to Reverend William C Rittenhouse for his support for something that nearly 110 years after being dedicated will hopefully soon be available for the benefit and enjoyment of Williamsport. The bandshell at Brandon Park is and hopefully will forever remain a true and enduring community treasure. Thank you.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Mr. Huffman.

Ordinance #6458

Ordinance Commercial LERTA (final reading) Bill#1825-23 (remove from table)

The City Clerk read the ordinance.

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

Mr. Yoder made a motion and it was seconded by Mr. Allison.

The motion to remove the ordinance from the table was passed with a vote of 5 to 0.

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

Mr. Yoder: Yes. The motion to remove passes 5-0. Second reading of this LERTA. We discussed this a month ago, we tabled this two weeks ago to verify some information that was brought forward to us on the commercial side of this. And I think we are going to make an amendment to this, let me make sure I get each one of these right. This one. Norm, I'm assuming I can just motion to amend it per the updated documents in front of us, is that correct?

Mr. Lubin replied Yes.

Mr. Yoder : I'm going to make a motion to amend the commercial LERTA for the documentation in front of us.

It includes proper dates, most importantly it modifies one section that was previously excluded, the east side of Maynard Street. It was brought to our attention that that section was not included, and the development going on on Maynard Street requested to be included because of their need for additional help to secure some national tenants that they had pitched to us last year, when we allocated rescue plan funding for them. And I think that is something that we want to do, specifically given the nature of the tenants that are going to be coming in I think that we are going to be reaping really good tax benefits over the life of that, to where we are going to get this back and then some, much sooner than I think with most investments that we have gotten in the past. Okay? That is a little bit of the background on that. Any comments? I reserve a second to the motion to amend.

Mr. Pulizzi seconded it.

Mr. Yoder: Motion and a second. A little background on that, that is really the only change with this one. Any comments or questions?

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second to pass the ordinance in final reading.

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

The ordinance was passed in a final reading with a vote of 5 to 0.

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

Ordinance #6459

Ordinance Residential LERTA (final reading) Bill#1826-23 (remove from table)

The City Clerk read the ordinance.

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

Mr. Pulizzi made a motion and it was seconded by Mr. Allison.

The motion to remove the ordinance from the table was passed with a vote of 5 to 0.

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

Mr. Yoder I do believe from talking with the developer over the past couple of weeks, I am thinking hopefully September timeframe they are going to have a land development plan and be ready to announce who the tenants are. I think the community is going to be very excited when that is announced, as I think are most of us and we look forward to what that is going to bring in a multitude of different ways over the long term here. Any final comments? Miss Miele.

Ms. Miele asked And we have amended the map to include the area.

Mr. Yoder: The map is a reflection of the ordinance. The amended ordinance, the map will be adjusted accordingly.

Ms. Miele: Just trying to make sense, we've got 20 days anyway, but still. Next question, I am not looking at the original ordinance that was amended, I noticed under the residential ordinance there are two parcels. One at the (word?) real estate taxes troubles with the property, not the ownership which is to say the property is transferred.

Mr. Yoder: I would say we chat about that when we hit the next ordinance.

Ms. Miele Is there a reason why? The second one, maybe in the full ordinance and I have simply not reviewed the full ordinance, but the exemption from real estate taxes authorized by this ordinance shall terminate irrevocably upon default in the payment of full of real estate taxes. It seems like that would be a desirable element to have in both of these ordinances.

Mr. Yoder: Norm, I don't know the background of that.

Ms. Miele: It may well be in the other ordinance, I'm just ring at the full text of the ordinance. So in the second ordinance, the residential ordinance that we will be reviewing momentarily, there are two. Under section 2 of article 355.06, there are two parcels. To and three, one of which states that the real estate transfers, the exempt from taxes authorized by the ordinance travels with the real estate. The other of which says if there is a default upon the real estate taxes, that are due payable on the property, the LERTA exemption and.

Mr. Lubin: Correct. The reason is, because the exemption goes with the property, not with the property owner. That is why it doesn't terminate on sale or exchange of the property.

Ms. Miele What I'm asking is, is this also in place and not included to the amendment in this ordinance that we are passing tonight for the commercial LERTA? It is not in the language for the commercial LERTA we are passing.

Mr. Lubin: They will already be there in the original ordinance. But it has always been treated that way, that it goes with the property.

Ms. Miele: If someone fails to pay the real estate taxes, the real estate taxes that are due, the LERTA exemption and.

Yes? We believe that to be a place for both of these ordinances.

Mr. Lubin: Correct. This part was added in, that's why. The residential part.

Ms. Miele: We are adding it to residential, and only exists in the commercial. Sorry Norm, I haven't done my homework and I wanted to make sure that was in both of them. I think that is everything I need to know, Adam.

Mr. Yoder : Thank you. Sorry for the confusion on my end. Any other comments or questions? Janice on the motion to amend. >>

The motion to amend the ordinance was passed with a vote of 5 to 0.

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

Mr. Yoder . On passage of the updated ordinance, any final comments or questions on the commercial LERTA?

Mrs. Katz : Adam? I'm not having this in front of me right at the moment. Is the brewery included in that on Maynard Street? Does that cover that? The new restaurant. What's the name of it? Is it the trail and?

Mr. Pulizzi: She is talking about new trail over on arch.

Mrs. Katz I know John Mackey questioned that.

: Because the property that business is on, the friend of that property is the east side of Maynard Street.

Mr. Pulizzi: Specifically norm what Bonnie is referencing is new trail brewing over on Arch Street. It was brought up previously to make sure.

Mr. Yoder: I believe that it is, yes.

Mr. Lubin: I believe this amendment was more to include the development on the east side of Maynard Street.

Mr. Pulizzi : Correct.

Mr. Lubin: Before, it specifically excluded Maynard Street. That's why.

Mr. Yoder: What's that?

Mr. Allison: LERTA is on one?

Mr. Yoder: I believe so. Bonnie, I believe it was originally included. This amendment changes along the Maynard Street corridor only.

Mrs. Katz: That I realize, I wanted to make sure because we did question that two weeks ago, I think. I just wanted to make sure it was clarified, obviously it is and I'm sorry.

Mr. Yoder: No, no worries. No worries. Any other comments or questions on the commercial side? Okay. Hearing and seeing none,

The ordinance was passed in a final reading with a vote of 5 to 0.

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

Ordinance #6460

Ordinance ARPA Transfer Ordinance #7 (final reading) Bill#1827-23(remove from table)

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. Allison.

Mr. Livermore stated there was nothing more to add.

Mr. Yoder stated that Council can pass this as it and make amends/changes later on.

Mr. Yoder asked for a vote on the ordinance.

The ordinance was passed in a final reading with a vote of 5 to 0.

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

Ordinance #6461
Ordinance Transfer #2 – Bandshell (final reading) Bill#1828-23

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. Pulizz.

Mayor this is what was alluded to earlier when Mr. Hoffman spoke, this is just a final reading of the bandshell. This was before the design.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, serpent this was discussed two weeks ago when it was reviewed and financed two weeks ago, I believe. Had some good discussion about it I think two weeks ago. Any additional comments, questions? I would think Mr. Hoffman again for his commentary on the background of the bandshell. That was very helpful and always appreciated. All right, hearing and seeing none Mrs. Katz stated Before I vote, I want to make it clear to the public, what a historian we have in Mr. Hoffman. He is fabulous and the information he has and that he gives to us and clarifies everything, I want to thank him. Anyhow, yes.

. The ordinance was passed in a final reading with a vote of 5 to 0.

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

Resolution #9676

Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Agreement between City & Government Finance Solutions

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

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

Mayor this is a little bit of what we have with government finance solutions for that time has come again obviously, that is in front of you this evening. As you know, we have budgeted moving forward I believe one day a week for government finance solutions, Mrs. Rash and her team to be here but obviously she has been here, so it is up for review again this evening could clearly she is here for any discussion, conversation, or questions.

Mr. Yoder Thank you, Mayor Slaughter Peter this was reviewed and financed, I will turn it over to you miss Miele.

Ms. Miele: This was reviewed in Finance, I would probably give this to Mr. Beiter but he is not here tonight. Honestly, most of the discussion related to this item was not in fact related to this item, miss Rash can testify. There were a number of questions what was going on the finance firm, what was going on in the delayed audits from 2019 to 2022, etc. For this contract, the only person who had any particular queries was Mr. Beiter. I think as Tracey said, we are budget currently through the rest of the year for one day a week of her services and this contract reflects the ongoing cost for her services. However, there is additional funding when we selected the financial management system, the financial management software we selected a couple of months ago. It was less expensive than the one we had originally gone after, and came with less and limitation assistance. And we have been authorized by the DCED to utilize some of the overage in funding and the grant we received from DCED to pay for additional time from government finance solutions. So we are, I believe, technically miss Rash will be giving us two days away from her services, one of which will be billed in part to DCED, the other will be part of this contract in my understanding is, what are we paying? It is not a grant in full, correct Derek? What is our match on that one?

Mayor: I want to say 70/30.

Ms. Miele: That's what I was thinking. They are paying 70, we are 30. I do remember exact numbers.

: Anyway, Tracey will be helping to influence the financial software, then one day a week on a theoretically training the new person in the finance department who will head the finance department; however, we have not made a higher there yet for some of the questions also centered around what the hiring process was looking like in the finance department. And the answer was - right?

Mayor: We have two interviews this coming Monday.

Ms. . Miele: Great. I think the only thing that came out of the finance meeting that seems to be an interest and a change to this resolution was that Mr. Beiter seems to be interested in having once again sort of an endpoint set on the resolution, so that we could review the services, the amount of money spent so far with government finance solutions. I was thinking he was coming to this meeting with a firm answer on whether he was a dollar figure or an amount of time, he wanted the three month. The dollar figure is obviously going to be different this time around. I think we had said previously, \$75,000 or three months, he said another three months was when he was looking to review that. I don't know Randy, do you want to make that amendment?

Mr. Allison: We have the 2019 audits complete, that is a big step.

Ms. Miele: We handed them to the auditors.

Mr. Allison: From our end, it is complete. It goes through the auditor, that is a huge step in that direction. And it's evidence of a lot of work that has been done by Tracey and the mayor and others working together to get us back up to a level where we should be.

Mayor: We have three auditors that spent the day here last week, working through with Tracey and her team. Anyway, I will let Tracey speak.

Ms. Rash: I did speak to the audit partner yesterday; she believes she will be before you with the 2019 audit by September.

Mr. Yoder : All right, thank you very much. Any comments or questions I suppose on the contract? Did I hear an interest, I mean Mr. Beiter is not here. The idea of another three-month trigger to bring forward where we are at.

Ms. Miele That seems to be what he was proposing at the committee meeting.

Mayor: That will probably line up nicely with (NAME?) coming in to present the audits and stuff. Maybe depending on the timing. Sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt you.

Ms. Miele: I think that was the only- we are all aware that even though we would like to keep an eye on how much we are paying government finance solutions in the finance department, Tracey has obviously been incremental in managing our finance department for the last nine months. For a little longer than that, sorry Tracy. I think all of the finance committee felt as though this was a positive item to move forward with for the city. But Mr. Beiter did seem to want a 90-day window on this.

Mr. Yoder: I think that is a good idea. I would make that motion to amend the resolution that the contract comes back for renewal after 90 days.

Mr. Pulizzi seconded it.

Mr. Yoder, : Motion and a second. It's a natural trigger to have these conversations, get updates on what is going on. I think part of Mr. Beiter's concern, and I had this initially. I think we are making a lot of headway in the finance department, but there is a significant cost to it. I mean, based on what I am seeing, thank you for sending this to me, Mayor Slaughter and Tracy. I think we spent about \$223,000 out of the general fund in the past year for services. Again, not disputing what work is happening, but I think it stresses the importance of getting that transition moving. I mean, under more perfect circumstances we could hire probably two or three people at pretty good levels for that salary. Okay? And if that level of funding in our budget is sustainable, great. But I worry that it's not. So we really need to get moving on that. So Mayor Slaughter, I will be very interested to see what comes of the interviews, what comes from the hiring process. I would encourage you also, I know we have talked about this a little bit and I think we have had some public discussion about it, I would really look to amend the administrative code to reflect, I think what you are viewing the administration to look like. If that is a position that is going to be a department head formally in your administration, we should amend the code to reflect that so we can execute that properly.

Mayor: You're talking about director of finance? We have already sorted working with Austin, working through that language.

Hopefully the last meeting in August. Maybe the first, depending on where we get. We started working through that, director of finance, director of administration.

Mr. Yoder I would encourage you to look at the capital budget language also but I know the desire on your end is to do that the back end of the year, along with regular budget. Legally we have to do it in May, I would encourage you to incorporate that as well and we have that debate could I think there are arguments on both sides of that, I think that would be a very good conversation for all of us to have. And that's good.

Mayor: We started as well. Trying to bring all of that at once.

Mr. Allison: One more question. Tracy, a wild back you indicated there was a possibility that there were monies, funds, or grants that we would possibly get a refund on?

Mrs. Rash: Are you referring to the unclaimed funds? Yes, we received a check of about 45,000-ish dollars earlier in the year, I applied for some more in the last couple months.

Mr. Allison : Okay. Just that there is an offset to the work that has been done.

Mrs. Rash: I have been working diligently on getting your IRS penalties abated as well, should that happen we are in the clear completely. We are still in the process of that, though.

The base fee for that was \$150,000 plus interest.

Mr. Allison: A couple of those things break our way, then we are basically breaking even. Thank you.

Mr. Yoder : Any other comments on the motion to amend? Hearing and seeing none, Mrs. Frank on the motion to amend, please.

The amendment to the resolution was carried with a vote of 5 to 0.

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

Mr. Yoder: Yes could motion to amend passes 5-0. Back to the main motion, any other comments or questions on the main motion of the contract?

Mrs. Katz : Tracy, is there any possible way we could get some figures from you as far as what we are doing financially? We would get a report on our packets at least quarterly and you know where money is and everything else. I know you got your hands full, Mrs. Livermore, is she in charge of some of these things? That she could do some of this? And I understand, if there was a part timer that was hired also. Did you hire somebody else in the office?

Mrs. Rash: Yes. There was a budget for a part-time person. She is like an accounts payable and data entry clerk working with us, Mrs. Livermore did complete the bank reconciliations last week and is running reports right now for you for the first half of the year.

Mrs. Katz Thank you, I think we would all like to see them. It keeps us on track also of where we are going. Thank you very much.

Ms. Miele: Bonnie, those will be on the agenda of the finance committee in two weeks time on 1 August. I know you often join us. Tracy, will you be there for the finance committee meeting in two weeks time?

If we are receiving those and will be in our packets come to review them would be helpful. It doesn't need to be long.

Mrs. Rash : Even if I'm not here, I can be there remotely.

Ms. Miele: We are all going to be remote, we don't care where you are.

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

The resolution was carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0.

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

Resolution # 9677

Resolution to Adopt & Allocate Funds for an Outdoor Fitness Courts as Part of 2024 National Fitness Campaign

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. Allison.

Mr. Yoder: We don't have to remove this from the table. This is already on the table. Mayor Slaughter, welcome Sir.

Mayor what you have before you is a resolution to adopt and allocate funds for an outdoor fitness court as part of the 2024 national fitness campaign. This was discussed I think originally back at the beginning of this year, I believe they showed a video with outdoor fitness court and all of the campaign materials. We did apply for that grant, we were one of 200 cities in schools across the country that was selected. So we are ready to move forward with that could we allocated it as part of our CBDG budget. The outdoor fitness court is scheduled to go in at Memorial Park, and there are sponsorships available that we are working through as well to offset our match. So we don't have any to share publicly yet, we are working through that process and we are hopeful by the time this goes in next year that we do have some sponsorships that are confirmed and ready to go. I have reached out to other cities that have this, they do like it. It encourages outdoor fitness, various classes, and it uses your own body weight. Weights are not necessary, there is an app that goes with it, it also has a course that you can do, a circuit as part of the program. Everything we've heard about it has been positive, this is essentially just the resolution to start the process to move forward with those folks.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Mayor Slaughter. This was also reviewed and finance, Miss Miele.

Ms. Miele : This was reviewed and finance, I think Randy and I together can probably piece together some of the questions that we had related to this item. Mayor Slaughter, helped me to understand. This is designated for shop place, correct?

Mayor This is those needed for Memorial Park, essentially next to the courts that are already there.

Ms. Miele : I think most of the questions were mine, most of them I didn't actually ask in the meeting only because it didn't seem as though there was a lot of information available about it at the time. So the city is setting aside the total cost, the total cost is about 160 if I am understanding that it is manufactured by the national fitness campaign.

Mayor: Yes, essentially they handle it all come and we bid it out for installation.

Ms. Miele: Are they a nonprofit?

Mayor: They don't know --that I don't know, I can check.

Mr. Allison: We didn't talk about that.

Ms. Miele: Part of what confuses me a little bit as if we are purchasing something from someone and they are giving us money off of it, I would describe that as more of a discount than a grant.

Mayor: To check on that. I don't know if we are purchasing it from them.

Ms. Miele: It appeared as though we would be. Not that I don't think this item is a good idea, but is there a shelflife for it? It sounds as though we have two pour a concrete pad, correct?

Mayor : It is a concrete pad, they said barring any unforeseen circumstances. A tornado or something, like 20-ish years. There is very little to no maintenance other than, again, a leaf blower or whatever. General stuff for concrete.

Ms. Miele: What is the material for it? What is it made of?

Mayor: It's concrete.

Ms. Miele: Is all made of concrete.

Mayor: There are different schedules you can go into, it increases the price. We dusted the base one. Other cities I have spoke with, the base one was sufficient. There was yoga, you can do two sides. One side can be strictly for yoga or a workout aerobics, etc. We went with the general basic circuit one.

Ms. Miele: Okay. It looked as though it was sort of rubber or something.

Mayor: May have that option. Obviously it increases the price, we cannot do it if you would like.

Ms. Miele: My concern was the rubberized services are not generally guaranteed 50 years. What was I going to say? Mr. Memmi reassured me, we have some place to store this if it comes - it's shipped for storage in January then we store it?

Mayor: Would hope to align that we are not storing it for so long, we did talk a little bit about that off-line. I spoke with them a little bit about that. I don't want to store it for three months, they realize we are in the Northeast and the weather might not permit installation in and of February, beginning of March could we may look to align that shipment date closer to when it will actually be installed. But if we do, I'm sure we have streets and parks somewhere that we could store it up there.

Ms. Miele: Okay. I am very much open to be persuaded on this, I was a little concerned. What are we visualizing as the big benefit to this item within the city's parks over and above what we already offer?

Mayor: We often receive requests for folks to work out outside, whether it's showing up and doing, like I said some type of yoga or some type of outdoor aerobics. In our parks, I know some folks use Brandon Park now here and there, or Shaw Park. This gives them an actual incident doing it on the grass but it also provides, our high school teams such as cross country or track to utilize our parks and do different things but they have asked if we have any workout, you know, a lot of parks are seeing even some for the elderly, they are starting to implement workout equipment, so to speak. This sort of kills multiple birds with one stone bridge they can do the work out if they'd like, they can utilize it if they want to get some folks together and do aerobics. Sports teams can use it if they want to come and get a workout in, there are multiple military come on thinking about that. Military folks can come and use it, we have seen them working in the parks. Doing push-ups, sit ups. This gives them the circuit to do that. I guess it just encourages healthy initiatives, above and beyond just the play equipment for children. Adults, children, everything in between. There is an app, the app actually gives you workouts to your beginner come all the way to advanced. If you are a hard-core, like Councilman Pulizzi and it really in good shape, they have an advanced app or down to beginner. I think it is just encouraging, we saw during the pandemic people are outdoors. All the studies show, that is not going away.

Ms. Miele: I agree. We have a lot of great outdoor opportunities in Central Pennsylvania. Sorry, I sort of derailed the finance report which were some basic questions about the funding. The one question we did have that came out of finance, Randy, correct me if I am wrong but what the administrative plans were for this item, and what the fundraising goal was.

Mayor: The goal would be all of it. We are really, you know, tracking that down. I don't want us committed yet, but we have some really good leads. I want to say publicly, I don't think that is fair to them at this moment to call them out publicly, not to call them out, but to mention them publicly. We are heading down that path and it is looking promising.

Ms. Miele: Okay. I think it is a great opportunity, I just worry, having seen us struggle even in some cases implementing things in the parks about the ongoing cost of the item. I am just trying to kinda wrap my head around where we are at there, and I struggle a little bit with the concept of having gotten a grant from the entity that is telling us the item. I guess it would be regarded as a discount or a grant, I suppose it works out to be the same thing. Right? Is that about the average amount of money they would give a community off?

Mayor: I believe so. It may vary slightly from year to year, I think that is the average amount. And along with the sponsorships, that provides those entities, they can do different things on the court as far as branding, things of that nature. Logo. It spices it up a little bit, I guess. As far as ongoing maintenance, it is very little to none. There is no mechanical items that come along with it, or any of that. Not a lot of stuff to break, I guess.

Ms. Miele: Okay. Anyway, I believe I have done justice to the discussion and finance, I may have well missed all of it. Randy do you have anything to add?

Mr. Allison: I think you covered it pretty well peered one thought or question that came to mind, suppose somebody wanted to charge other people of fee to take them through that workout. Would that put us at any possible kind of risk?

Mayor: I don't know how we would know about it, I guess.

Mr. Allison: We wouldn't know about it unless they get hurt.

Mayor: Would be regular, like if you're playing basketball and get hurt. If summary were to run a course there, that is a question for Norm.

Mr. Allison : To be able to guarantee they have use of the facility for a certain period of time, they have to run a lease agreement with the city. For which we would obviously charge. If they are out there on their own, it doesn't stop other people then from joining and or standing around and watching.

Mayor: Yeah, I'm not going to go out there and lobby for a lease agreement with workout folks. Hopefully just the public can use it.

Mr. Allison: That is my hope, to.

Mayor: If somebody approaches us about that, I guess council and administration, we could talk about it. If it was every Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m. wanting to run a fitness class or something. I never really thought about that.

Mrs. Katz : I have two questions. How tall is this piece of equipment?

Mayor: I don't know what the top of my head, I could check that. It is not super tall. Or superhigh.

Mrs. Katz : I hate to be a negative Nancy here, but would there be a problem with little kids climbing all over it? This isn't a playground environment.

Ms. Miele : That would be a challenge, I think.

Mayor: I don't foresee that being an issue. Speaking with the other cities that have these, they didn't mention running into any issues in their parks and recreation. They said no, I don't foresee that being an issue. You know, it would be there by the pickle ball courts, I think it would be the same as with anything if they wanted to mess with it, they could. There is no buttons, you know. Not really anything that would attract a little kid to come over and mess around with it.

Ms. Katz : I didn't think so, I wanted to bring that out. No when it comes to fall, sometimes in the summer time were going to have leaves and dirt and everything else. Is our streets and parks going to take care of blowing the stuff off of the track?

Mayor: It will be right there next to the pickle ball and basketball courts. As they are cleaning those off and getting them cleared, they would just do that as well. It would be in the general vicinity.

Mrs. Katz: I understand, we had this discussion when you first brought this to us. The reason it is in Memorial Park is because this company insists on having it near a public fairway. So it is seen by the public, and what is our most used road? Fourth Street. That is why it is in Memorial Park. I think it is a great idea, which is have to cover all of our bases to make sure that nothing happens that we're going to wind up paying for.

Mayor: Read, they come and do a whole campaign kickoff to highlight it, get with administration and counsel, do a big community kickoff for it, to explain it to everyone, demo, etc.

Mrs. Katz : I also want to see something that is below beginner.

Ms. Miele: Just one. This is coming from the 2024 CBDD budget, or 2023?

Mrs. Rash 23.

Ms. Miele: We already reviewed that, correct? For some reason, I must have been thinking this was related and may be resurfacing with the tennis courts or something like that in the budget. Are there other initiatives that we could be funding with CBDG if this were not something-I know we discussed with Skip, I guess what I'm curious about is what else would we do with those dollars if we succeed in funding this entirely or partly with community contributions?

Mayor: There is a lot of different things.

Ms. Miele: What do we allocate for streets, say come in the 2023 CBDG budget?

Mayor: Around \$300,000.

Ms. Miele: Which is a little under normal, seems to me like we do 340 or something like that.

Mayor: If we get the sponsorship, it will come to council for reallocation.

Ms. Miele: A substantial amendment, seems to me.

I don't know. Williamsport has certainly had these sorts of things before, I remember one being at Cochran underneath the trees across the practice field from Cochran school when I was a kid. And there is one right now I believe in the park at Waterville that I take my kids to. I seldom see them being used, that is not to indicate - aside from my kids, that is not to indicate that this wouldn't get used, especially because of the much more central location. I'm struggling a little bit with the idea of the expenditure when we probably could put that funding toward something else. What do you guys think?

Mr. Yoder : It is a valid point. Look, I've got my own personal opinions and priorities of what I think we should do, at the end of the day I think this also impacts our ability to bring people into the city. Okay? I think streets are more initially visible, people might, you know, feel the pain of a bumpy street more so, I've got a two-year-old and recreation certainly is much more at the front of my mind than it was three years ago. It is a balancing act, certainly. Have we thought of other areas where we could potentially pull money as a backup outside of CBDG? Just kind of thinking through that need to balance multiple things, right? What were other avenues looked out on the administrations and?

Mayor: We looked at too many, possibly act 13, possibly could do a little bit on there. Again, we are hopeful we will get some sponsorships, but if we want to do a substantial amendment, we could look at possibly act 13 which would still require obviously an ordinance update to act 13.

Mr. Yoder: Let me ask a devil's advocate question. In the event we don't have any other options from CBDG and in the event we need to tap into that, do we have the ability to get out of this if we decide look, this is a great idea, but we've got some serious street paving needs or something else we need to spend this on, versus this?

Mayor: I think so. I don't think this ties us into it. This is just saying we are allocating the funds. It will have to come back to council for the construction, there are still other items related to this that will have to come back.

Mr. Yoder: So it is nonbinding.

Mayor: Exactly. This starts the process rolling, but if we get to fall or early next year and we say listen -which is often what we did this year when we first started talking about this. We were looking at moving forward for this year, then I said let's look at next year. That could happen again if we have other priorities pop up. Either way, it's still has to come back before you all.

Mr. Yoder: Whenever it does come back in front of us, I think it would be beneficial and helpful at least for me, I think for Miss Miele, I don't want to speak for you, but for others. In the event we got to tap into our own capital, I think it would be good to understand what options we have in the event we need to look at balancing a couple of different things. That would be helpful and would ask that when that comes in front of us, that you have that.

Mayor: Hopefully by that time, we will have additional information on sponsorships.

Ms. Miele : From reading the companion document, it looks as though theoretically they are looking for us to confirm funding in total in January, which makes this kind of a budget discussion item. Anyway, okay. I feel comfortable with this as a preliminary step, but just given the sort of budgetary shortfall we are talking about this year and the potential for community development in 2023, well in 2024 April 20, 2023 to fill in some dollars for street paving that we may need to cut from the general fund, I would reserve final judgment on this for a while. That's it.

Mr. Yoder: Any other comments or questions? Some good points as well. Okay. Hearing and seeing none, Mrs. Frank on the motion for item 10, please. .

The resolution was carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0.

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

Resolution #9678

Resolution to Purchase Windstream Solution Service Agreement

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

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

Mr. Black what you have here is an agreement where we will be changing our phone system from what we are currently using to a cloud-based system that is from Windstream enterprise. Essentially, this comes about because we are at some point going to be moving out of City Hall. I would rather not have to move that equipment, this keeps us from doing that. There is no upfront cost for this equipment, it has a monthly fee of 2154.50 which is about a savings before taxes of about \$1100 per month.

This also gets us away from having to do a capital expenditure in a few years for about \$6500 for a new phone system.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you very much. This was also reviewed in finance, Miss Miele.

Ms. Miele: Reviewed in finance, no particular issues. I think the one thing to note is that while it is exceptionally exciting to see that level of savings over the course of the year and the capital savings as well, I want to say we figured potentially as much as several hundred dollars less per month just because of the tax and fees.

Mr. Black: Approximately between 4 to 450, somewhere in there. It varies month-to-month.

Ms. Miele: There is a no paid category called taxes and fees on the bill, it is not likely to change as we move forward into the new cycle. Aside from that, fascinatingly this is the same provider, they are just no longer supporting some of the attributes of land lines, right?

That will lower the cost to us pretty substantially. Excellent. We were excited to hear that.

Mr. Black: Another region --reason for the urgency on that, we have a number of what they call plain old telephone service lines, which will be going \$80 a pop for each one of them here in the next couple of weeks. If we don't move on at that point by the fall, they will be going up \$350 apiece. They really want to get rid of them.

Mr. Yoder: Okay. Thank you both, thank you Miss Miele could any comments or questions from members of council on the resolution?

Mrs. Katz : Adam, I do. Kris, I know I can be very ignorant and some of the language could is this strictly for the land lines? Or does this also include cell phones that employees have?

Mr. Black: No ma'am, this is just the desktop phones.

Mrs. Katz: Just the land lines. I guess we can never get away from the land lines, can we? Because of everything that is used with all the different departments.

Mr. Black: Yeah. I don't have a landline at home, but I am never at home. It is easier to work off of a desk phone in your office then it is to try and work off of a cell phone within your office. Sometimes you don't have as good of reception on a cell phone, where you will always have a solid connection with this was one of the caveats about this, if we move locations we don't have to reinstall anything. We just plug it in where we want it to be in the phones work, the extension works. Just as it was originally installed.

Mrs. Katz : I agree with you, we have no landline at the house. As everybody has heard me complain at times, do everything on my cell phone can be a real pain in the neck. Yes, I agree with that. I was just curious, thank you.

Mr. Yoder Thank you, Mrs. Katz could any other comments or questions from members? Hearing and seeing none, Mrs. Frank on the motion for item 11, .

The resolution was carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0.

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

Accept for filing

Public Works 12/13/ 22 & 01/03/23

Controller's Report May 2023

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

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

The minutes were accepted for filing with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0.

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

Announcements

. The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Thursday August 3, 2023 at 7:00 PM, Trade & Transit II, 144 West Third St. 3rd Floor, Williamsport, PA

Upcoming Meetings:

Wednesday, July 26	11:30 AM	Redevelopment Authority
Tuesday, August 1	11:30 AM	Public Safety
	1:00 PM	Finance
	2:30 PM	Public Works
Wednesday, August 2	9:00 AM	ERC
Thursday, August 3	7:00 PM	City Council Meeting

Comments:

a. City Council

.Mr. Yoder I will say for the record and to the public, and number of people saw an advertisement for sale of City Hall in the paper over the past 10 days, bids were received and we opened them at 12:15 PM. We got three, they were read publicly. It is all public record, I will fully admit, I have not had a chance to look through the details of each of them. From what I can quickly gather, a couple of different ideas on apartments, public space, etc. But for anybody that did not make the bid opening that was curious, and that has had interest in this, the three bids are from J Baz Realty, (word?) real estate for \$100,000, and herbal gifts for \$499,000. Norm, correct me if I'm wrong, we don't have to select the highest bidder, lowest bidder. It is really a combination of, you know, what we deem as best value to the city.

Mayor: Yeah, the best proposal. I haven't seen the proposals, but from the little bit I have heard, they are all a little bit different on how they intend to use the property. I think that is going to be the real differential.

Mr. Yoder: Correct. As we kind of dive into those and understand them, unless we possibly run into something or need some more time, I think the idea initially has been to work through that and make that decision in the month of August at some point. So perhaps over the next couple of meetings, we will do that. But if that changes, we will certainly adapt accordingly. I know a number of council members have gotten questions on that, that was on me about advertising it. We did address that, but for the public. Any other comments from councilmembers? Any comments from the administration tonight?

b. Administration

Mayor: Just two brief once did I think we all know that we have had two issues the last two weeks at Memorial pool. I believe we graciously received donations of swim diapers from some community members to hand out at the pool, so very thankful for that. I know some families for one reason or another do not have swim diapers available, so we will have those available hopefully tomorrow to hand out to any family in need of a swim diaper. That is good news, hopefully that brings that to a resolution that is to be seen. Secondly, the small business program is coming. The deadline is coming for that, so anyone that is still interested in applying, nonprofit or business for our ARPA business nonprofit program, if you have questions reach out to administration or city Council. That is coming down the pike, we will start to review those and at ministration and council over the next month or so as well.

Mr. Yoder: When was the deadline?

Mayor: I think it is the end of this month.

Mr. Yoder: The end of July, okay. (indiscernible) For the reminder on that, that slipped my mind on that deadline. I think we have a handful of applications, I would suspect we could certainly take morbid when I say a handful of applications completed, meaning they have been submitted. They are ready for us to review, right? There has been a number started, a decent number. I think 30 - 40, only single digits on each side have actually been completed for those of you that have started them, get them in. As a mayor reference. If you are even thinking about it, get it in.

Mayor: I just meet -even met with UHI yesterday, they are available for any questions.

Mr. Yoder: They redid that video, the webinar that you and UHY did come it is on the website.

Mayor All information is on the website. The video, the slide deck. If there are still questions, get in touch with one of us. We don't want it after the fact, which people are could they have been reaching out could a lot have started, like you said there have only been four or five actually complete, complete with all of the required federal documentation and things. It is federal funds. Fortunately/unfortunately, it is required.

Mr. Yoder: Fantastic, thank you sir. Any other comments from members of the administration? Any comments from members of the public? When you get to the podium, if you would state your name and address for the record. You've got three minutes.

c. Members of the Public

Beverly: Good evening, thank you. My name is Beverly (NAME?), Fox Hollow Road, Williamsport but I am one of the concerned citizens about losing City Hall for the people. I am relatively new to the area, when I first came here I was told, well, that is the original City Hall that is over on Pine Street, I believe. I thought, well, that is a shame. I would love to see the place, but you can't now because it is behind a pay wall, or you have to find a special event or something to go to. I was one of the people that toured the building this past week. I basically have two questions. One is, has everything been done? What grants have been applied for? It's an old building, you must have known that things were going to happen over the years. There should have been attempts made for planning, the other thing is -excuse me. What has happened as far as insurance for the damage? As an experienced homeowner, when things happen, the insurance comes and takes a look at things, and he'll get reimbursed. Things are fixed. So the second point is, the city of Scranton has a very similar building. It's almost the same vintage, could even be the same architect. I don't know. But it's the same, and they have their City Hall is still there. Are they that much smarter? Not much more organized, well prepared? How is it that they can manage to keep their building, and Williamsport

can't? Canvassing for this, I've talked to so many people have connections for the building, their grandparents worked there. Every time I talk to somebody, we are concerned about City Hall being on, they shake their head, like it is really a shame. What can you do? I appreciate the time, I just urge you to see if there is any way of moving in a different direction and keeping city government in City Hall. Thank you.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you very much. Any other comments from the public? Mr. Huffman, the podium is yours, sir. You have three minutes.

Mr. Bruce Huffman: Thank you again, Bruce Huffman, 1000 Cherry Street in the city. I was also one of the other people that had the chance to tour City Hall. I had to say it was a bit depressing going through there, knowing how the building looked and was generally kept for the years before that and see it in its estate. I realize the damage occurred was unavoidable, the way it was portrayed in the media seems to be far less damage. I mean, seems to be greater. They portrayed it as greater damage than what it actually seems to be. Again, I am concerned that we are losing an opportunity, a chance to keep this historic structure. As well, I continue to think that the donated and dedicated property act does apply, obviously I am not an attorney. But I have consulted two different agencies in the state, the State historic preservation office and the local government commission of the Pennsylvania General assembly. When I explained the situation in general to them, they seem to be inclined to think that the donated and dedicated property act likely would apply. No one has given me any reason or rationale as to why it doesn't apply, so I would urge you again to seek that out. I would happy to give you the names of the people I was in contact with, again I think it is an opportunity to keep this building. I also was at the bid opening and it seemed to me that some of the bids were incomplete, did not have all of the specs that the real estate was hoping to get on your behalf. I would hope you look closely at those as well.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Mr. Huffman. Any other comments from the public? There is nobody from the news media here. I will take a motion for adjournment.

d. News Media

Adjournment

**Meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Allison and a second by Mr. Pulizzi Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM
with unanimous ayes.**

Submitted by:

**Janice M. Frank
City Clerk**