Thursday, April 12, 2018
Williamsport, PA

Council President Jonathan Williamson brought the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 7:30 PM in City Hall Council Chambers. Chris Cooley did televise the meeting. The invocation was given by Councilman Joel Henderson and was immediately followed by the "Pledge of Allegiance".

Council members present:
Jonathan Williamson, President
Randy Allison, Vice President
Bonnie Katz, Councilwoman
Derek Slaughter
Don Noviello, Councilman
Elizabeth Miele, Councilwoman
Joel Henderson, Councilman
Absent:

Also, Present:
Gabriel J. Campana, Mayor
Rebecca Haladay, City Engineer
Mr. William Nichols, Jr.
Mr. Joe Pawlak
Mr. Gary Knarr
Megan Page HR
Adam Winder
Dave Young, Police Chief
Sol. Norman Lubin
Janice Frank, City Clerk,
Todd Heckman, Fire Chief
Mr. Joe Gerardi

Approval of the Williamsport City Council minutes of March 29, 2018 was approved upon a motion from **and Mr. Slaughter made** a second from **Mrs. Katz.** All were in favor. **The vote was 6 to 0. Ms. Miele had not yet arrived, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes. Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes, Dr. Williamson voted yes.**

Limited Courtesy of the Floor
There was no courtesy of the floor

Presentation by Moose Lodge 145 – Donations for kids – Mr. Harris Levinson & Mr. John Dunkleberger

Mr. Levinson and Mr. Dunkleberger wanted to give stuffed animals from the Williamsport Family Center 145. They were stuffed moose for the Fire Department and the Police Department to hand out to children in the time of need.

Dr. Williamson thanked them on behalf of the City of Williamsport and stated it was a great gesture for the children and it much appreciated.

Presentation by Stahl Sheaffer for an update on the Brandon Park Rehabilitation Project

Ms. Novinger introduced Robin, from Stahl Sheaffer who will walk us through the budget plans.

Robin introduced Bryan Alman who is the landscape architect. We are following the master plan that was brought forth and completed by Larson Design Group, the layout in which they have concluded to in the master plan. There are a few rearrangements of the concept in the park but overall knowledge that what was proposed originally. On the top side, northwest side, there is a sidewalk connection proposed for Park Ward and Packer Street. There will be ADA access and incorporation for other improvements. There will be 5 foot sidewalks throughout the Park that will connect to the existing sidewalks. To the left is the nature play area that is based on natural components. On the right side, there is a bio retention area, they will have some landscaping in there and grading to address some of the low spots. The existing parking lot will be improved and extended there will be a total of 31 spaces, 12 additional spaces that will be added to the lot and then a mill and overlay to the lot itself to improve the existing services. There will be a sidewalk connection over to the former pool house. Moving south, there is a proposed second bio attention area. That one will be a little more active and interpreted to address another wet area of the park that is difficult to mow and maintain throughout the summer. There will be some walk ways there. The last component for the tennis courts, we are proposing to leave the asphalt in place and make repairs to the existing surface, and put some color on it and some improvements to the lighting there. Lights will have a timer on them so they can be controlled by the city and they also will have a pushbutton on them, so the city can control it.

Brian showed the sheet that explained the Nature Play area and is off the new walkway plan is in proximity to the existing playground equipment already there. Nature play is little bit of a different take on recreation play for children. It relies on natural materials. We are creating a nice natural place for the children to play in, there will be seating for the adults too, with logs, rocks, etc. There is also additional landscaping, and we are trying to create some natural habitat.

Dr. Williamson stated he has been an admirer of Brian for about 10 years. He asked about changes in the maintenance requirements for the maintenance costs in these areas going forward.

Mr. Aluman answered some of them you are creating a different expectation in those areas and it is a different type of landscape, and hoping through this process, there is a training educational process with the maintenance crew, and we could also mobilize some volunteers for this. We will be creating positive drainage with there is not now.

Dr. Williamson stated we have improved recreational opportunities with this project, improve maintenance and improving water quality and water quantity issues and we are enhancing quality-of-life in a beloved Park of the City.

Mrs. Katz stated this came to Public Works and we did discuss the funding of this project. For the public to understand, the public survey was done a year or two ago and it was incorporated in this plan. She wanted the public to understand that their time was put to good use. We can also attain credits towards our MS4 projects. So thanked them for the presentation, well done. The survey was used to get the funding for this.

Ms. Miele stated she is very excited and this is a great project and we are keeping the assets in the park and losing some of the detrimental areas. I think in nature play will be a huge asset, and a nice connection for us.

There was additional discussion as to it could be developed more, and there's an open play space in the center of the design that is appropriately accommodated for a structure in the future. It can be more of an organic process. There are alternatives for different build up scenarios in the future. There was additional

discussion about the edible plants, and an opportunity for kids and parents to learn. There was discussion about a handbook or guidebook for people, especially the maintenance department.

Dr. Williamson changed the order of the agenda.

Resolution #8761
Resolution Execution of Agreements for the Use of Bowman Field

The City Clerk read the resolution.
Dr. Williamson asked for a motion and second to adopt the resolution.
Ms. Miele made the motion and it was seconded by Mrs. Katz.

Ms. Novinger stated we have worked diligently with the Cross Cutters and with MLB to make this season possible and to accommodate as many requests as possible. By protecting our investment at the field, we have worked with the city groundskeeper and we are planning to have all the games requested played by May 19. This was reviewed by the Public Works committee.

Mrs. Katz stated this came to Public Works and we passed this to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. Ms. Novinger will also be doing a street truck fair on June 16 which is another thing we discussed, but most of it is more or less normal, there are just a couple of things added on. They tried as much as they could to get as many as these high schools to be able to use the field. There were a couple that weren't able to squeeze in the time because they wanted too many days in a row, but this was passed to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation.

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the resolution.
The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.
Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Resolution #8762
Resolution Authorizing the Renewal of the Lifland Skatepark Lease between the City & Lifland SkatePark

The City Clerk read the resolution.
Dr. Williamson asked for a motion and second to adopt the resolution.
Mr. Slaughter made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Allison.

Ms. Novinger stated this resolution is to continue the Lifland Skate Park lease. It is simply a one-year continuation of what is already in place.

Ms. Butterfield stated she realized that the groundbreaking was in 2011. She doesn't have any real statistics as to how many people use the park because there's no way to count. But every time she drives by there, there are always people using the park. One of our goals was to have fewer people skateboarding downtown and she thinks that goal has been accomplished also. She stated she really hopes this can continue.

Mr. Lonnie Gamble showed some illustrations stating there has been some issues with drainage on the road. Because of the drainage problem and accessibility, we get a huge puddle in front of the park and it ends up going into the park, so is our dream to get those roads paved down in there, we are happy that we got the first part of this completed with everybody's help. He and a committee has been working on things there. We hope that we can see this last for another 20 years or more.

Mrs. Katz stated this went to Public Works, and we sent this to the full body of Council with no recommendation, only because she was questioning the lease. She remarked as to how Lonnie has been skateboarding for years, and Sally is right that this has taken some kids off the streets. Her question about the lease was only from the standpoint that there might be another entity signing with Elm Park. Joe Pawlak told her that this is just a renewal of the lease, she spoke with Norm about this and Adam had a good idea to put some boundaries in there….

Mr. Winder stated basically we took Elm Park and broke it into two different pieces, there is a center road that goes all the way to the brush pile, so using that is the main boundary and you go from the east to the property line that merges with the school district, and they all come together at the E city boundary. He went on to explain about the relief well, and that is where the boundary that is used with Little League. The thought was to use the Stone Road.

Dr. Williamson said if there's another entity leasing the complex, and the boundary is probably what it will end up being, but until were closer to completing that discussion, it might need a revision, and might this be a solution to move forward on this lease as it is written now and come back to an amendment.

Mrs. Katz stated that we want this skate park and I know everyone else wants the skate park but when it comes to a lease and signatures on a lease, you and make sure that every I is dotted and every T's crossed.

Dr. Williamson stated he agrees and asked the solicitor to help work things out after this discussion and make sure the boundaries and the language matches up.

Mr. Lubin stated, the other lease will have definitive boundaries, and we could amend this resolution at that time, and also make sure when we do the other lease that this area is excluded.

Dr. Williamson stated than that will hold this up.

Mrs. Katz stated that we just wanted to clarify things here, and we wanted to have a discussion and conversion with the rest of Council.

Ms. Miele stated as long as we have members of the skateboard party here we should at least get on the record that they acknowledge and are comfortable with this agreement.

Sally Butterfield stated she was absolutely comfortable with this.

Dr. Williamson spoke about the street areas, what is skate able, and an area that is just a waste of space and it was noted that they could pour concrete there. He said he would like to challenge us all to think about making that a permeable driving and parking area. Because it would help with the drainage side of things, and would help with MS4 provisions and there are creative products that you could put in there that a little bit more gentle, not just temporary stuff, but cool stuff that you can drive right through with a lower environmental impact. Dual purpose.

Ms. Miele stated potentially we might be able to secure some kind of funding if we could tie it into the storm water.

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the resolution.
The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Resolution #8763

Resolution Authorizing the Statement of Work & Master Services Agreement between the City & CivicPlus for the Purchase of Recreation Software

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion and second to adopt the resolution.

Mr. Noviello made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Ms. Novinger stated this is to purchase recreation software from Civic Plus out of Manhattan Kansas. They have provided the most cost-effective product and the best product of the city's intended use. With the software, the City's Recreation Department will now be able to accept credit cards, we will be able to take summer camp registrations online, members of the communities will be able to purchase full passes, we can schedule field uses on lines, people can rent pavilions, we can sell special event tickets, there will be a master calendar of events. There will be parking usage forms that you can also feel out online and the will be promotional opportunities and connections with social media sites. The funding for the software was budgeted in line item 220-64010 and there are some additional funds that are required for this purchase but I was able to find some savings by using Ameri-Corp for summer employment. This was reviewed by the Finance Committee.

Ms. Miele stated Finance loves to hear that we will be financing something fully by the department. We did send this to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. The software looks very promising, and this was reviewed by our IT Director and this company is working on upgrades and it will work out exceptionally well for the Recreation department. The fee will stay at $4500 per year.

Dr. Williamson asked for questions or comments.

Mr. Henderson stated it is about time that we keep up with times to move up with the times. He stated he thinks is entirely feasible to think our revenue will increase as well and there are plenty studies that point to that fact. He feels this is going to be a great, well needed addition.

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the resolution.

Mr. Allison wanted to state that the new city website is up, and it is still in progress. A lot of things are going to improve but it seemed necessary to make the shift sooner rather than later, the previous one was very limited. That problem has been solved, and it will accommodate everything that everyone wants to do. There has been some comments that people thought it would be more than it is, well it is going to be more than it is there right now. Our IT department and others are working on it now.

The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.
Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Demolition - 333 East Third St. Casey L. & Bradi E. Stopper

Mr. Gerardi addressed Council, this is a request for a demolition located at the property at 333 E. 3rd St., this property is located in the central business district. He showed two pictures, one was an aerial view of the building and the other one shows the actual building. The building that is being discussed is the yellow portion which was an add-on years later. It is approximately 50 by 120 feet. It has been vacant for years. The owner wants to construct a parking lot to open up for a storefront that he is going to expose. He will be coming back through for a certificate of appropriateness to look at that building. He is trying to provide an open space, so people can get in and out of his building easier. There is a representative here.

Dr. Williamson asked for motion and the second to approve the demolition.

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

Dr. Williamson asked if all of it was one parcel and is he the same owner is across the street?

Mr. Gerardi answered yes, but there are no plans for specific development. Mr. Knarr and Mr. Gerardi did walk the facility to check on compliances.

Ms. Miele asked if and how is this in keeping with our Downtown Ordinance? This is a substantial setback from Third Street, and she felt the point was that of the requirements, they are supposed to be with the other buildings.

Mr. Gerardi answered that is correct, but there is only one other building, that is the Eagles. He realized what she is saying, and it would not line up with the only facility on that block.

Ms. Miele, stated she is not sure that it wouldn't be an improvement with the structure, but she is talking about her understanding of what our restrictions are and we could potentially be setting ourselves up for a kind of a strip mall.

Dr. Williamson asked if there were any other comments or questions. He asked for a vote.

The demolition was carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 2.
Ms. Miele voted no, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted no.

Resolution #8764

Resolution to Authorize Change Order #1 for SWIF Plan

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion and second to adopt the resolution.

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

Ms. Haladay stated this resolution is approving the change order between the City & Wood, formerly known as AMEC in the amount of $13,715.00. The City is required to submit the SWIF plan as required by the Army Corp. This resolution will allow Wood to complete the prioritization and a risk matrix for our swift plan. This was sent to public works.

Mrs. Katz stated this did come to Public Works and we recommended it for approval to the full body of Council with positive recommendation. This is everything that is going on that has to do with the levy. Therefore we knew the expenses would come to this.

Dr. Williamson asked for comments or questions.

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

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Ordinance #6344

Ordinance Amending the Administrative Code of the Codified Ordinances Providing for the Specific Areas of City Government Which will Operate Within the Various Departments(final reading) Bill# 1710-18

The City Clerk read the ordinance.

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion and a second to adopt the ordinance in final reading.

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

Ms. Page stated This is the final reading of an ordinance amending the administrative code. As advised by Councilman Henderson during the last meeting, a revision was made to the language of each section heading to now read as hereby read as follows, other than that no further changes were made since the first reading.

Dr. Williamson stated we added ITT as an amendment and it was not added to our new ordinance and we need to make sure that it gets in and Mrs. Frank will let Ms. Page know where it should be placed.

Mr. Henderson had a question about the authorities, after thinking more about this, should we put the Parking Authority and the Redevelopment Authority?

Mr. Lubin stated with the Parking Authority, we have a contractual relationship, it is more of a management type contract to showed that where the Parking Authority would fit in……Also the Redevelopment Authority is the City's agent, because there are certain projects that the city can't do without on authority.

Mr. Henderson stated he does understand the practicalities, but it almost appears that there is a legal oversight, over authorities which we don't have.

Mr. Lubin stated, it was carried on this because it was carried in the past,…….

Mr. Henderson stated he wouldn't recommend any change in the coordination of what we have, but perhaps for future generations, I'm wondering if we should remove them from this ordinance but just to make it clear that they are independent of the city. And we don't have oversight of those authorities. I think that is important for us to do.

Mr. Lubin answered the reason why they are in is because of the current ordinance, it doesn't matter one way or another if it's in or out.

Dr. Williamson asked how all this would apply related to the Hiawatha?

Mr. Henderson answer that would bring us as to the relationship of the Hiawatha.

Mr. Nichols stated in 1994 resolution was adopted by council establishing the relationship of the City and the Hiawatha in terms of us managing it. So there is something on record, when it was newly incorporated, as our responsibility in terms of managing it.

Dr. Williamson stated it depends on the cases in which we are managing them, so we have contracts with all kinds of people, so the question is does it rise to the level to be part of an ordinance?

Mr. Nichols answered the way it is different is by resolution it was established, and bylaws,……

Dr. Williamson asked if there was a reference to anywhere else to the Hiawatha in the city ordinance?

Mr. Nichols answered no.

Dr. Williamson asked what is different between the two authorities, so why not say under recreation, is recreation commission, because clearly that is part of the city sub departments that have a relationship with these autonomous or semi-autonomous, or volunteer boards or authorities…..

Mr. Nichols answered I think you should refer to the solicitor, the code provides guidance in terms of how the administration needs to be set up, it depends on how specific you want to get in terms of organization of the city, that nowhere else you have anything that references….. I don't think the ordinance gives you guidance in terms of continuity, but that is the only reference, for any kind of an organizational chart.

Mr. Henderson stated his interest was protecting the autonomy and he felt that it would be in our interest to protect it, it would not change how we actually do things but perhaps it would clarify, that no we really don't have any legal authority to oversee the Parking Authority.

Mr. Nichols asked if it's more like a mandate, he'd always referenced it as a guidance.

Mr. Lubin stated it's not going to make any difference, it is not to have any legal effect and it's not can it reduce the independence of the parking authority or the redevelopment Authority, whether they are listed they are not. Because they are also listed in this section were the different authorities are created.

There was a discussion about other committees, some of them are straightforward, and some of them are changed.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to remove the Parking Authority, Hiawatha, and the Redevelopment Authority from this ordinance. Mr. Noviello seconded it.

Ms. Miele asked about the difference between the Hiawatha and the Tabor Museum?

Mr. Nichols answered the Hiawatha is incorporated as a 501 3C the Museum is separate.

Mr. Nichols stated again, when this ordinance was made, we did not have an organizational chart. I think we are going backwards again where no one knows any reference point.

Mayor Campana stated he thinks the Parking Authority should remain where it is, if that move would've been made, we would not have had Kohls. He felt personally it should stay there so the mayor in the future has that ability.

Dr. Williamson stated you would have that authority because it was established not how it's organized. The only reason why there's a relationship is because of a contract, not because of the parking authority law. And different bodies have different versions, we got some information that we just received in our packet about the Brandon Park commission, because we did not realize how the Brandon Park Commission works, it was about our ability to remove members if we would so choose. Different laws have different setups for how this works.

Mr. Allison stated and that makes his point it seems like it would be cleaner if we did not have them in there. There was discussion about the Hiawatha and who has authority, and Mr. Nichols stated that the bylaws say it's going to be managed by the city, but if the banded it will go to the foundation. It might not be necessary for the City to maintain…. A policy of the administration that is shared publicly….

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the amendment of the ordinance.

The ordinance in final reading was amended with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the ordinance in final reading.

Ms. Miele stated that Mr. Henderson's motion to amend last time, related to the phrase hereby amended to read, was not meant to apply to the language of section 1, section 2, and section 3. It was meant to apply to the language in section 3 subsection a. Consequently we need to do an amendment to undo….

Dr. Williamson stated the record is probably pretty clear, and the version that sits in front of us, is relevant to what we are voting for as long as we know what were all voting on, as to say the original ordinance submitted with the changes under subsection a is hereby amended to read as follows as well as adding the information technology, and now the third amendment related to removing contract services, Parking Authority, Hiawatha, and Redevelopment Authority. I think we know what we passed two weeks ago and we know how we amended it tonight.

The ordinance in final reading was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Ordinance Amending Article 117 General Fee Schedule(first reading)Bill#1710-15

The City Clerk read the ordinance.

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion and a second to adopt the ordinance in first reading

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

Mr. Gerardi this ordinance is amending article 117, the general fee schedule. The copy you have in front of you is highlighted, and Janice has the original for the ordinances. This did go through the Finance Committee, changes are in section a number one, the original fee was $12 it is now 13, he left a number blank because the Department of State can change numbers, some of these were dropped, some added, on sub divisions we now charge $300, we never had a fee in there before. We are raising the liquor license, to $200 because the legal ads tend to run a little higher. There's also a fee on banner permits, and that fee is $15. Mr. Knarr will be the one who is tracking these. He discussed the sidewalk fees, and we got rid of the fee from $30 down to zero. Once the sidewalks get fixed, we will establish a fee. The next is about Street cuts, it used to be a $75 and we feel that it is unfair to Gas Company, so we decided that it should be a $200 fee with no $75 closeout if it is done in one day. The last discussion is the peddler fee, because that could be anybody, would be Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc. the fee was $10 and doesn't even cover a background check, so we are bumping it up to $30. The newest addition is about shelters, because this winter there had been a lot of additional sheltering because of the cold, and we do have to go in and inspect that, so we felt it was similar to a sobriety house or a rooming house. So we are basing it off that it should have the same thing as we have for rooming house, $60, plus $50 for each room. We did go through the finance committee.

Ms. Miele stated Finance did forward this to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. We generally agreed with the sidewalk fees, because of the cost to fix your sidewalk. We discussed the shelter concept and didn't arrive at a fair concept because it is slightly different to offer undertaking for a couple of weeks during the cold spell. My understanding is that you would need us to make an amendment to the word shelter. Master plumber was at $80, why only raise master plumber, why not the other ones?

Mr. Gerardi answered the other ones are ones we have changed, and these are ones that we haven't changed, but what we think we will do next year's come through as a cost of increase raise of all fees. We need to raise fees each year to keep up with the cost of living.

Mr. Allison asked about the shelters …….also the peddlers includes door to door solicitation, if you're running for an office, so we have to have a discussion about that… But the shelters, when you compare the other ones, they are more of a business, just the concept of a shelter being a nonprofit was opened their doors for others other very less fortunate.

Mr. Gerardi stated they usually open up in the wintertime, and there are usually churches that do that. But there is one in the city that has changed his classification from rooming house to shelter. It is not a shelter, it is a rooming house, and we have actually gone to court about it. They house probably 80 people per year and they are getting money from someone to fund these. But churches, that is part of the function of the church. So they are playing a word game.

Mr. Allison stated so the ones that are following the rules, he felt that it should be a nominal fee.

Dr. Williamson asked if we have a definition of what is shelter is? So one thing we could do is defined as shelter, and say that is shelter is something that is not open year-round.

Mr. Gerardi answered yes we could have our attorneys check over as to what you are looking for.

Dr. Williamson stated so if we add a definition of what a shelter is, that would more or less define it as something not year-round and it would make sure that our rooming house definition clarifies this, and then we could come back and add the nominal fees to the actual shelters.

Mr. Gerardi stated he has no problem in waiting till next time to come up with that definition.

Mrs. Katz wanted to clarify something about the peddlers and the solicitors. We have a lot of non-profits that solicit and asked for business, donations, do they have to also apply?

Mr. Gerardi answered rate now at this point we just have $10 associated with this and ordinance, I think $30 is a good number of for what we wanted do, and I think I have to go to our attorney to say these are the people that are included in these are the people that are excluded.

Dr. Williamson stated we could always revise it, to make the list match what our expectations are.

Mr. Noviello wanted to talk more about the sidewalks…. You don't have to have a license to do your own sidewalk? Is that right?

Mr. Gerardi answered, you will come in and apply for a permit and will be given a drawing.

Mr. Noviello asked about the replacements of slate sidewalks..

Mr. Gerardi answered, they can keep them, and they can level them.

Dr. Williamson wanted to clarify, that is clear that everyone still needs a permit, although there is no fee, and the key is just eliminating the fee but they will be given a drawing.

Mr. Henderson stated he did look up the code that we have now, says persons who without compensation solicit in behalf, any public recognized religious, educational, civic or charitable organization are not required to obtain a license as provided herein. So the newspaper was wrong, a religious organization doesn't need to obtain a license to solicit.

Mr. Gerardi said that is correct and you did clarify that.

Ms. Miele stated it would be her suggestion that she thinks soliciting door-to-door neighborhoods which would be totally different than going to businesses, therefore I am a business, so there is a different standard.

Mr. Gerardi stated I think you will find that it's in the ordinance that they are required to get a business license, so if I knock on your door as a resident, you have the right to asked for a city permit, that you know the person has been checked out by the city.

Dr. Williamson asked if there were any more comments or questions. He asked for a vote on the ordinance.

The ordinance in first reading was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Resolution #8759
Resolution Real Estate Reduction – Stopper

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion and second to adopt the resolution.

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

Mr. Grimes stated this resolution is for a real estate reduction and it did go to Finance because it is a little unique. These are for two warehouses owned by the Stoppers and the assessments were changed on both. It's about a reduction of 1,500,000 in assessed values. That will reduce our revenue by about $20,000 annually. I want to also say that if his properties were assessed lower, then we shouldn't be charging him an extra $20,000 in taxes if that is truly what they are valued at. One of the reasons why he wanted to highlight this is that it shines a light on the need for reassessment in our county. The reassessment is long overdue, and the reason why it hurts us as the city is we have all of these people who have properties that are says to high, and properties are assessed too high for a variety reasons. Most property owners have the right to come to the County and asked for an appeal, and the get the property taxes lowered. But other people, are under assessed because they have not been reassessed in 14 years. So if you work hard add $1 million because we didn't bring anybody up, but dozens and dozens of people brought theirs down, then we have to raise taxes on everybody. Mr. Stoppard did go to the county appeals board, and they denied his reassessment, and it was denied because he did not have a proper appraisal. There was appeal to the Court of Common Pleas and these numbers are not in order from the court, these are settlement numbers that happen between the parties involved. There is another large property in that same scenario within the city and he wanted to make Council aware of how that works.

Ms. Miele stated this did come to Finance and we sent it to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. We definitely need a reassessment in both the city and the county, that said it is not something that we can undertake. So consequently we are stuck with watching our property values go lower and lower. This is something that we need to look at.

Dr. Williamson stated he will join the Treasurer in a call to the County Commissioners to complete a reassessment process for the first time in 14 years.

The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.
Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Resolution #8760
Resolution Real Estate Exoneration – Gilbert, Henderson

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion and a second to adopt the resolution.

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

Mr. Grimes stated these are two real estate exonerations for homeowners in the city who are hundred percent disabled because of serving in a time of war or conflict. They are hundred percent disabled from that service and they are allowed to have their properties hundred percent exonerated.

Dr. Williamson wanted to thank them for their service for their country. He asked for a vote on the resolution.

The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.
Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Resolution #8765
Resolution Awarding the Aggregate Bids for the City of Williamsport

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion and second to adopt the resolution.

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

Mr. Winter stated this was a simple one it is done every year and we put bids out and it goes to lowest bidder and we get the best prices. This was reviewed by the Finance Committee.

Ms. Miele stated Finance Committee did forwarded this to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. This is done every year.

The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.
Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

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Resolution #8766
Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of a 2018 Bucket Truck

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion and second to adopt the resolution.

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

Mr. Winder stated the city currently owns a 1992 bucket truck, and at the beginning of this year we were taking Christmas lights down and it caught on fire. There are a lot of miles on this, and we do need a bucket truck so we are requesting a 2018 bucket truck, this one will have slightly further reach than the old truck.

Mrs. Katz stated Public Works did forwarded this to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. The old truck is going to go on Munci-bid and we are going to try to get some money out of it. This is a necessary purchase for the City.

Dr. Williamson asked for comments or questions.

The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.
Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Resolution #8767
Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Lease Agreement for the Purchase of a 2018 Bucket Truck

The City Clerk read the resolution.
Dr. Williamson asked for a motion and second to adopt the resolution.
Mrs. Katz made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Winder stated this is a lease agreement for the bucket truck utilizing all tech capital services it would be a five year lease. Payments would be $22,645 a year starting this year and going through 2022. The biggest reason for wanting the payments is at this point the goal is to stretch liquid fuels as far as we possibly can. This did go to Finance.

Ms. Miele stated Finance did forwarded this to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. It is obviously a little bit of a balancing act, we only have so much funding, and a project like this would take up almost an entire year of our liquid fuels funding. If we do try to spread the cost out, it is about a 10% increase in the price for the privilege of taking in over five years. It is essential that we start to look towards budgeting and set aside money before we need to make an expenditure.

Dr. Williamson asked for questions or comments.

The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.
Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Resolution #8768
Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of a 2017 Bomag Pavement Roller

The City Clerk read the resolution.
Dr. Williamson asked for a motion and second to adopt the resolution.
Mr. Slaughter made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Allison.

Mr. Winder stated this is replacing an ancient piece of equipment, currently we have a 1988, and in has rolled about 600,000 tons of blacktop. The issue now is that the parts are obsolete. It was slated last year to be purchased. This year we have to get a new one because we cannot get parts for it anymore. So the money was put into the streets and parts equipment line item, general fund. The new roller is $32,036.40. On the resolution it states 2017, at the time I got the quote, the gentleman from five-star equipment call me and said that we could get a 2018 for the same price. So we are getting the 2018.

Dr. Williamson made a motion to amend the resolution to say 2018. Mrs. Katz seconded.
Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the amendment to the resolution.
The amendment of the resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.
Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Mrs. Katz stated this was reviewed by Public Works and sent to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. The roller was getting so bad that it was rolling the wrong way. And the other vehicle is under costars, what will you do with this piece of equipment?

Mr. Winder stated it will go on Muni-bid.
Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the resolution.
The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.
Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

.**Resolution #8769**
Resolution to Authorize Submission of a Flood Mitigation Grant

The City Clerk read the resolution.
Dr. Williamson asked for a motion and second to adopt the resolution.
Mr. Noviello made the motion and it was seconded by Mrs. Katz.

Ms. Haladay stated this resolution authorizes the submission of a 2018 flood mitigation grant through the Department of community development in an amount not to exceed $500,000. The City of Williamsport is currently seeking funds related to flood control, specifically Graffius Run. This grant requires a 15% cash match, the City has spent over 15% in match requirement and the expended funds will be utilized for the match. Applications are required to be submitted no later than May 31 of this year, and applications are to be reviewed by the DCED to determine eligibility. This application will be through our consultants Penn Strategies specifically Jason Fitzgerald and this was reviewed by finance committee.

Ms. Miele stated that Finance did forward this to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. The funds that we have already expended on Graffius Run will certainly count as a match, correct?

Mr. Fitzgerald answered yes. The maximum that you can receive on this grant is $500,000 and we are requesting the maximum amount. We will possibly know by July, but most likely it will be approved by September 18, 2018, we can in the future we can apply this for construction. In the future rounds, we could potentially apply for the construction. The application will be submitted by May 31 at the latest. If awarded the funds, a contract would be sent back and we would go to City Council for approval. He stated that we have a pretty good claim to these dollars.

Dr. Williamson spoke about the impact of Marcus Shell and we can remind them of that.

Mr. Allison stated that maybe we can look to include some recreational projects. It is going to be pretty expansion for that whole area.

Ms. Haladay stated that was mentioned and we can try to implement.

Dr. Williamson asked if there were questions or comments.

The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.
Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Resolution #8770
Resolution to Authorize Submission of an Act 13 Legacy Fund Grant Application

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion and second to adopt the resolution.

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

Ms. Haladay stated this resolution is a Grant Application to authorize and Act 13 Legacy Fund to Lycoming County in the amount $20,000 for the band shell. After review and recommended improvements, from the report, the band shell will have ADA requirements, structural repairs and preventing moisture damage. This was reviewed by the Finance Committee.

Ms. Miele stated Finance did forward this to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. This is a drop in the bucket, but in terms of expenditures and the money from the county would help us meet the match requirement. If all the money comes in that we applied for, then they should all arrive around the same time which will help us rejuvenate the band shell.

Mrs. Katz thanked Streets and Parks for all the work that they are going to do it in the parking on the bandshell.

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the resolution.

The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.
Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Accept for filing

Public Works Minutes 02/21/18
Finance Minutes 01/16/18
Controller's Report Feb. 2018
Brandon Park Commission Meeting 2/20/18

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion to accept these minutes for filing.

Mr. Noviello 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.
Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Announcements

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 7:30 PM, in City Hall Council Chambers. There will be a Police Pension Board meeting immediately following this Council Meeting. (**Enter through the police department at rear of building for meetings after 5:00 PM.)**

Upcoming Meetings:

Monday, April 16	12:00 PM Planning Commission
	5:30 PM Government Study Commission
Tuesday, April 17	10:00 AM Blighted Property
	3:30 PM ERC Meeting
	6:30 PM HARB
Wednesday April 18	4:00 PM Charter Commission
Thursday, April 19	10:30 AM Zoning Hearing Board
	4:00 PM Board of Health
Monday, April 23	10:00 AM Fire Pension Meeting
	4:00 PM Recreation
Tuesday, April 24	1:00 PM Finance Committee
	2:30 PM Public Works
	3:30 PM Public Safety
Wednesday, April 25	11:30 AM Redevelopment Authority
Thursday, April 26	7:30 PM City Council Meeting

[Meetings Held in Council Chambers Unless Otherwise Noted – [scr] = William Sechler Community Room]

Dr. Williamson asked for comments or questions from members of council.

Mrs. Katz wanted to remind everybody that Richard James is trying to put together a cleanup in the city and if anybody would like any information you can go on social media. It is the week of April 15 to the 22nd. Newberry partnership is doing a cleanup and Newberry as well as Council, Liz Miele and Joel Henderson. She asked Mr. Winder will have clean up in the City.

Mr. Winder answered, you can put it out on April 16 and we will have pickup by April 23.

Dr. Williamson wanted to thank Mrs. Frank for very carefully going through and reviewing the committee list for the various Authorities Boards and commissions within the city, so he would like to ask all the appointing bodies, Council and the Mayor to review the updated list and we can all work to get openings filled and reappointments finished. We do have some openings and some people that need to be reappointed. We do have an updated list thanks to Mrs. Frank's work this

week. He also announced that we had an executive session at the end of the last Council meeting on the purpose of negotiations and personnel.

Dr. Williamson asked for comments from the administration.

Mr. Nick Grimes stated he received an email tonight, there is a bill in the Senate that can considerably change our tax collections and where they are. He has been working very closely with Mr. Fitzgerald and the Pennsylvania municipal league, he did receive an email tonight that he intends to make an amendment tonight. It will be on Monday, he expects the bill to go on Tuesday for passage, and that amendment would allow us to pass a local resolution to opt out the consolidation of the business and mercantile tax. It also removes a line that bans contingency audits, in which the city has found legitimate revenue from that. It also moves the date out to January 1, 2020, so a lot of accomplishments to help the city there financially. Sen. Brown has worked very well with us, and this still has to go through the house and the governor's desk. Our music taxes which would move over to the school office. There are still a lot of if's there.

Dr. Williamson stated that is big news, and you should be applauded for the work that you have done for our community and all the other communities across the Commonwealth who would've been affected by those changes.

Dr. Williamson asked for comments from the general public.

Scott Miller, 822 Tucker St. At the last Council meeting I mentioned how I have a phone that can take pictures and I can email it, and the Mayor asked me to send a copy. I thought there was an app that we were supposed to have, but obviously the App did not stay around very long and there is not the manpower to operate a computer at Streets & Parks because they are down to minimal staffing. So to be able to report a pothole, I got a mirror cam, mirrorcam.com and it has a nice little chip that you can record up to 14 hours with sounds. So, Mayor you are going to get a whole bunch of videos. Adam, the 700 block of Tucker ST…he continued on, how he reports things and now he is going to make sure, he has a written one and send certified….pot holes, storm drains, etc should fall under the same guidelines. That is something I can take legal actions, I checked with Mr. Gerardi that is my sidewalk is not done, there's a $200 fine. I think I could use $200 for every pothole that isn't fixed. You know there is a problem, when you know things needed to be fix and you ignore it.…I should have a picture of you all and name it hypocrisy. Don't forget Earth Day, April 22nd.

Adjournment

Dr. Williamson asked for motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned upon motion by **Mr. Allison and it was seconded by Mr. Henderson.**
Motion was carried by a **unanimous at 10:09 PM** "ayes'.
Submitted by:

Janice M. Frank, City Clerk