Thursday, August 2, 2018
Williamsport, PA

Council President Jonathan Williamson brought the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday, August 2, 2018 at 7:30 PM in City Hall Council Chambers. Chris Cooley did televise the meeting. The invocation was given by Councilman Derek Slaughter and was immediately followed by the "Pledge of Allegiance".

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

Also, Present:
Gabriel J. Campana, Mayor absent
Mr. Joe Gerardi
Mr. William Nichols, Jr. absent
Mr. Joe Pawlak
Mr. Gary Knarr absent
Adam Winder absent
Dave Young, Police Chief
Sol. Austin White
Janice Frank, City Clerk,
Todd Heckman, Fire Chief

Approval of the Williamsport City Council minutes of July 19, 2018 was approved upon a motion from **and Mrs. Katz made** a second from **Mr. Slaughter.** All were in favor. **The vote was 6 to 0. 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. Ms. Miele had not yet arrived.**

Limited Courtesy of the Floor

There were no requests.

Presentation – Penn Strategies

Mr. Fitzgerald provided all the members of Council and the administration copies of his report and it is available to the public if requested. The team of Penn Strategies have attended numerous meetings with local, State, and Federal officials related to the Levee Project. They have continued the advocacy efforts on behalf of Pa Department of Community & Economic Development RACP Application. Our team has assisted with managing the relationship between the City of Williamsport, Loyalsock Township, the Borough of So. Williamsport & the County. The team is also kept an updated progress of our lobbyist in D. C. The plan is to piecemeal the project to make real progress and demonstrate a commitment to completing the project for the purposes of finalizing a SWIFT plan as required by the Army Corps of Engineers. We are working with Senator Gene Yaw and Governor Tom Wolf to secure RACP funding in the amount of $1,125,000 which would be matched by Act 13 dollars from Lycoming County to fully fund the immediate need of $2,250,000 to repair the Levee's "relief wells." The relief wells can be repair or reconstructed. We have requested to pursue additional funds and get the State to cover ½ which would be the $1,125,000.00 and we are expecting to hear about the funding very soon.

Grafius Run Project

The team researched similar projects throughout the Commonwealth to develop potential funding strategies and identified a potential funding solution through the PA Department of Environmental Protection. They have provided funding entirely in the past. Pennsylvania has one of the most extensive flood protection programs in the nation. The DEP is authorized to provide structural flood protection in any are of the Commonwealth that requests such protection so it can be economically justified. There are many conditions which must be analyzed before determining the feasibility of providing flood protection. There has to be a cost benefit analysis done. Step one, is the City of Williamsport & Loyalsock Township must pass a Study Resolution of Sponsorship which will serve as a formal request for DEP assistance. Following this request, a project engineer will take preliminary calculations pertaining to the hydrology of the local area. If approved by DEP, a feasibility study would begin. All of that work would be done by the DEP.

The biggest part of it is the economic justification. After the study work is issued engineers from DEP will meet with the City of Williamsport & Loyalsock Township officials to explain the proposed project in detail and to discuss items of local participation and responsibility. No other action is taken by the Commonwealth unless the City of Williamsport and/or Loyalsock Township approves a "Resolution of Sponsorship". They would do the study and come with a cost, this project impacts 269 properties. We will have to negotiate with property owners the right to go on their property. You will have to sign an agreement holding the Commonwealth free of liability from any damage. The solicitors would work with them. We have to agree and maintain and operate the completed project. DEP wants to come in and do

the project. After the City of Williamsport and/or Loyalsock Township adopt a Resolution of Sponsorship, DEP will request the necessary funding in its Capital Budget Program for construction of the Project. When design is completed, and all lands have been acquired, the project is advertised for construction and is awarded to the lowest qualified bidder. The City doesn't have to handle that.

To justify the funding, there will have to be equal or greater loss as the investment in the project. In order to do that, we would have to look at the last 10 years that the City has provided us with and then we have to survey the residents for some costs that have not been captured, such as washing machines, heaters, etc. So it have to be a great value of damages.

Dr. Williamson thanked him and stated he knows Mr. Fitzgerald has been meeting with Public Works and this is a lot of good information on the levee side. On the Grafius Run issue, we finally have the momentum now. He asked about a timeline, and asked if we can pass a resolution on August 30?
Mr. Fitzgerald answered yes and he expects that Loyalsock will consider passing the resolution as well. There is a meeting already scheduled. He would like to have all the information collected by the end of September or early October. He and Ms. Myers are going to gather the information from the residents. If we do everything on time, construction could start maybe in two years.
Dr. Williamson stated the faster we get the first step done, the faster it starts. We have to keep this moving and get it rolling, so the citizens can find relief. The citizens have been dealing with this a lot long and he hopes to deliver all this as soon as possible. There was additional discussion about how important this is to the residents.
Mrs. Katz stated that this is a wide spread area and the past storm we had, we paid $11,000 in overtime. I know the citizens will be very helpful in filling out this forms and this is one major step, we have to do immediately.
Mr. Fitzgerald stated we need people to know, we have identified a path to fixing the problem.
Ms. Myers stated since there are a lot of homes and businesses that are affected by this, we plan to hold a public meeting late next week or early the following week. We need to try to bring the people in to fill out this surveys , it will only take five minutes. We are also trying to find a spot that is convenient for them. If they are unable to come in, we can call on the phone and fill it out with you.
Mr. Fitzgerald asked if someone could authorize a resolution for Mrs. Frank to place on the next agenda, I'd ask the Mayor, but he is not here.
Dr. Williamson stated that he authorizes Mr. Fitzgerald to do so.
Mr. Fitzgerald answered then, it will be done and he will get it to Mrs. Frank.
Mrs. Katz spoke about the importance of the surveys and asked the press to please state that in newspaper.
Mr. Allison stated as far as the funding, he'd be glad to help, he lives in that area since 1986 and there have been several instances and it has gotten more frequent. A few years ago, it was wide spread and he'd be glad to be a liaison and let everyone know it is different this time.
Mr. Fitzgerald stated what Mr. Allison said is pretty accurate, there have been more instances of heavy rains.
Dr. Williamson thanked them for the presentation.

Certificate of Appropriateness – 150 West Church St – Chartwell Hotels(tabled)

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion to remove this from the table.
Mrs. Katz made the motion and it was seconded by Ms. Miele.
Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the motion to remove this from the table.
The motion was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor. 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.
Mr. Gerardi stated last meeting you requested the owner to do a revision to the building. He showed the new drawing on the board. He gave everyone a handout and the drawing that was changed. They did go back through, they removed the door and move the window to Third St and put a canopy above it with wall scones. They changed the color a little bit and there is a representative here.
Dr. Williamson expressed his appreciation to Chartwell for listening and hearing all the concerns and responding well. He feels thinks a more attractive for pedestrians to walk by and it makes it easier.
Ms. Miele stated she felt it is an excellent way to address all the concerns.
Jennifer Liosi, CEO, Chartwell Hotel, stated there will still be the two foot planting and we may put a small 3 foot fence and the door will be accessible. Behind the building there is another emergency exit.
Everyone thanked Chartwell and Ms. Liosi.
Dr. Williamson asked if there were comments or questions.
The certificate of appropriateness was carried with seven yes vote 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 Safety Minutes 05/22/18
Historic Preservation Committee Minutes 06/05/18
Dr. Williamson asked for a motion to accept these for filing.
Mr. Slaughter 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
There will be a Police Pension Board meeting immediately following the City Council Meeting. There will also be an executive session after the police pension meeting in the matter of negations. The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Thursday, August 30, 2018 at 7:30 PM, in City Hall Council Chambers. (**Enter through the police department at rear of building for meetings after 5:00 PM.)**

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 2, 2018

Upcoming Meetings:

Monday, Aug. 6	12:00 PM Planning Commission
	5:30 PM Government Study Commission
Tuesday Aug 7	11:00 AM Historic Perseveration
	3:30 PM ERC
Monday, Aug 13	4:00 PM Recreation Commission
Thursday, Aug 16	10:30 AM Zoning Hearing Board
	4:00 PM Board of Health
Monday, Aug 20	12:00 PM Planning Commission
	5:30 PM Government Study Commission
Tuesday, Aug 21	10:00 AM Board of Health
	3:30 PM ERC
	6:30 PM HARB
Wednesday, Aug 22	11:30 AM Redevelopment Authority
Monday, Aug 27	4:00 PM Recreation Commission
	5:30 PM Government Study Commission
Tuesday, Aug 28	1:00 PM Finance Committee
	2:30 PM Public Works
	3:30 PM Public Safety
Thursday, August 30	7:30 PM City Council Meeting

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

Dr. Williamson said we take a break in August for Little League to enjoy the festivities.

Dr. Williamson asked for any comments from members of City Council.

Dr. Williamson asked Mr. Pawlak because the Mayor wasn't present and Mr. Nichols was on vacation, he asked a couple of weeks ago, there was scheduled a meeting of what was going to be the last step before sending out an RFP to shop around for an insurance broker, and that was to be rescheduled, did that meeting get rescheduled yet?

Mr. Pawlak stated not to his knowledge, he hasn't talked to the Mayor because he (Mr. Pawlak) was out for several days.

Dr. Williamson asked at the time the Mayor said something about language inserted about lowest cost (that is what was in the paper), has he provided that language?

Mr. Pawlak answered again that he hasn't seen anything yet.

Dr. Williamson looked at Ms. Miele and stated of course it has not appeared on the Finance Agenda?

M. Miele answered She hasn't heard from Jill Nagy or our insurance consultant.

Dr. Williamson asked when do we need to do according to time line, what is our drop dead date?

Mr. Pawlak answered it is his understanding that the insurance companies will open and accept request for bids 60 days prior to the close of your year. If there is a new broker coming in, we would want to give him time to explore all the City's needs and it would be whatever time the brokers are comfortable with.

Dr. Williamson asked how long does the RFP process itself take?

Mr. Pawlak answered we were currently planning closing on one in early Sept.

Dr. Williamson answered so two months, two months prior to the end of the year is Nov. 1, so Sept 1, they need to familiarize themselves with our needs and respond, "I insist, regardless of what the Mayor does, and because Council has authorized to set the agenda, it will be on the agenda on August 30, 2018."

Mr. Pawlak stated the RFP is out, what was paused was a meeting so brokers could familiarized themselves with our process.

Dr. Williamson stated so they go everything they needed.

Mr. Pawlak stated in the RFP there is still a question and answer period where questions are requested or required to be submitted by August 23, later in the month. There would be one week or 1 ½ weeks respond time to all the brokers questions that were asked, and they would have a week to two weeks to adjust their responses.

Mr. Pawlak stated the question and answer is the better approach because everyone is providing a written questions and all answers to all questions will be responded to all.

Dr. Williamson stated if we get written questions, are we prepared or is there any reason to expect the Mayor to delay our timely answering of those questions.

Mr. Pawlak answered he cannot speak for the Mayor.

Dr. Williamson stated of course you can't , but are we prepared and have the information we need to have?

Mr. Pawlak answered when setting up the timeline we gave ourselves enough ample time to respond to the questions that were submitted.

Dr. Williamson stated two years ago, Council asked for this process to occur. It did not occur two years ago, we ran out of time, last year, it didn't happen and I think largely the Mayor drug his feet on this issue. This year I expect it to happen. We have a process started and we have time to make it happen. It has taken eight months to get there, we could have done this earlier, but we still have time, he expects proposals from brokers and he expects the better service for the best price. We have waited too long for this process and we only get one shot per year.

Ms. Miele stated to clarify the process, what happens is we have been working for several months on the RFP. We had an initial meeting with brokers through the Finance Committee to ask the brokers for their concerns and issues they wanted to address. Ms. Nagy drafted the final document and it was her understanding that it was approved by the Mayor's office (Council does not have a role in this). Eventually we advertised to set dates for the RFP and final answers were due Sept 1, the responses to the RFP are due on the 16th of Sept. That gives us a month to review and gives the brokers time to review.

Dr. Williamson stated so you are stating that after the Mayor approved it, then he canceled because he wanted to add language.

Ms. Miele answered that is right and she copied everyone on her email because if you have a concern about the language, you voice that concern before and not after. We have been trying to do this for two years and now we are trying to do this in a timely fashion. So to wait until it is released and have a problem with it would seem to indicate, either one hadn't take the proper time to review it beforehand or perhaps was listening to someone who hadn't had a chance to review it before it was made public. Yet to say there were concerns by someone in the community and the Mayor is responding to those, it would be hard for me to say. Her point is the Sept. 16 deadline, means the City needs to be up front and answer all questions and give ourselves ample time to review proposals. The other important element which we haven't heard from the administration is that she feels it is very important to have a member of the Finance Committee sitting on the broker selection committee. She has mentioned it several times but has not heard from the Mayor. We want to make sure this is transparent and make sure the City is not making any deals to accommodate anyone and to make that a reality, we need to have officials on both sides.

Dr. Williamson thanked Mr. Pawlak for answering the questions and you are the one closest that we are able to communicate with about the issues. Also on the 30th, we will be asking about questions received and our progress in answering those questions given the pending timeframe. And thirdly, could you pass along the request that we would like to have a member on the selection committee, and in the end if that one is rejected, my requirement would be that we get all of the proposals that were submitted in a timely fashion, so that when the administration makes a recommendation, we can do our own review of the proposals. So we can decide if the administration's decision is one that we can concur with.

Mr. Allison asked if Mr. Pawlak knows how many RFP's were sent out.

Mr. Pawlak stated there were 10 to 15 individuals but he wasn't sure of the agencies.

Mrs. Katz stated there will be a public meeting on Tuesday, August 8, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the Lion's Fair building in Newberry for the public to voice their opinion as to what should or shouldn't be done at the Park.

Dr. Williamson asked for any comments from the administration.

Mr. Gerardi stated the Monday, August 6, Planning Commission is canceled.

Dr. Williamson asked for any comments from the general public

Joe Fioretti, 37 Eldred St. I'd like to thank the Mayor but he's not here tonight AGAIN. A couple of things I want to talk about, you talked about tonight, the levy and Grafius Run. Thank God it is happening and I'm sure a lot of the property owners are saying the same thing. I hate to say it, but what took so long? I also heard that once it is done, it is going to be our baby, we own it. That means in the budget we have to keep putting money in there for the upkeep of it. Look at the levy, here we are trying to hold the levy together, I'm really worried about that. One thing I read in the paper is Mayor Campana talking about the city being in financial distress and possibly trying to keep us away from Act 147. I have done some reading on Act 147, and I am pretty sure that is one thing we don't want here, Harrisburg is going through it right now, it is supposed to be a five year process, you are supposed to get back of on your own feet, and take off again. Harrisburg has been in it for seven years now and they are asking to get out of it but they want to keep their tax rates going the way it is, if they don't they're going to lose $12 million,. And for the next two years for their property tax rate, in the next two years it would be 21, and another 43% tax rate. We can afford that. So hopefully between the mayor and City Council, you were elected officials for the city, you run the city for us, things can maybe start getting a little smoother. I don't see it happening right now and I don't know what we need to do for mediation or whatever. I am not picking on sides in saying it is one or the other, this is terrible for our city. I just hope things can get better in the future here. I just wish the mayor was here tonight. I did have a meeting with him two or three weeks ago in his office. There were a few things I wanted to talk to him about, and one of them was Mr. Cappelli who is on the Water Authority. When Mr. Cappelli left here, he owes the city some money here, probably about $5000 in legal fees. He said he would pay it back. I am taking the man for his word. He never paid it back. When he became a State Representative, he was hired back here for our Water Authority now, and he is working. What I would like to point out is if I dont my water bill, they shut it off. And they will not turn it back on until I pay my water bill. But how ironic that Mr. Cappelli is sitting on the water board over here? I don't think he should be here, he never paid the money back and why he is sitting on the board I don't know why. Thank you and have a good weekend.

Adjournment

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned upon motion by **Mr. Allison and seconded by Mr. Slaughter.**
Motion was carried by a **unanimous at 8:27 PM** "ayes'.

Submitted by:

Janice M. Frank, City Clerk