Thursday, December 12, 2024
7:00 PM
Williamsport, PA

Council President Adam Yoder brought the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 7:00 PM.at Trade & Transit Center II, 144 W. Third St, Williamsport, PA. This meeting was duly advertised in the Williamsport Sun-Gazette.

Council members present:
Adam Yoder, President
Eric Beiter, Vice President
Liz Miele, Councilwoman
Randy Allison, Councilman,
Vincent Pulizzi, Councilman
Jon Mackey, Councilman,
Bonnie Katz, Councilwoman
Absent:

Also, Present:
Derek Slaughter, Mayor,
Valerie Fessler
Sam Aungst, Fire Chief,
Justin Snyder, Police Chief
Solicitor Austin White
Janice Frank, City Clerk
Jamie Livermore
Scott Livermore, S&P
Kris Black
Bill Scott
Members of the public

Approval of the Williamsport City Council minutes for Budget Meeting Number 2 dated 11/20/24 were approved upon a motion **by Mr. Pulizzi and** second from **Mr. Beiter. All were in favor. The vote was 6 to 0. Ms. Milele had not yet arrived.**

Limited Courtesy of the Floor

Michael Zicolello, 333 Market St.

Good evening. City Council members, good evening. I am Michael Zicolello and I'm speaking tonight because I'm concerned about how the city is planning to change its civil service code for promotion and appointment of its police command staff for ranks above Lieutenant that is captain and assistant chief as well as that for the fire department above platoon she prayed Council's present plan to change ordinance section 157.01 will contradict state law and violate the public welfare entrusted to you. I'm remanded to a statewide civil service promotion and deployment procedure is established for police officers and firemen in third class cities such as Williamsport. I previously provided you with copies of the statute. All appointments and promotions of positions in the fire and police department with the exception of chief shall be by civil service. The state legislature and activist are required to ensure that the most qualified police officers occupy these command positions in our cities because it is the most effective way to ensure the professionalism and competence of the entire police force. This is especially important because the chief of police is a political, rather than a merit appointment and need only be a patrolman at the time he or she is appointed. The importance of professional and competent police command officers is underscored by the difficulties and dangers in every minute of every day police activity. The state legislature has made command competency mandatory by way of the civil service code. They have wisely chosen not to give the power of promotion of command officers in our cities to mayors or counselors. They professional and confident police forces are far too important to entrust to a no hold bar prone to favoritism and cronyism. Council,, if you change this ordinance to get around this clear mandate, you will violate the public trust and estate law. When running for mayor, Mayor Slaughter repeatedly stated, good government brings good business and good business brings good - this change is a bad look. Bad business. (AUDIO LOST). To promote to all positions below the individual chiefs in the fire and police department. We need the best of the best commanding our police force and the fire department. In closing, you will all serve to make Williamsport a better place to live. Vote down this modification. Comply with the state law civil service provisions. Make our police force and fire department the best they can be and improve life in the city and move past this without comment, it will be a slap in the face of every resident in the city of Williamsport. Thank you.

Public Hearing -Liquor License

Mr. Knarr In accordance with the state law as well as PLC be requirements, a public hearing is required anytime a municipality is doing a enter municipality transfer of a liquor license. What is requested is that Puff Cigarette Discount Store is requesting to transfer a liquor license from the former Melito's on Broad Street and requires a public hearing that will allow both those who speak for it and those who speak against it to be heard prior to the resolution going before and I can answer any questions.

Mr. Yoder Alright. I will open the floor or I will open the public hearing. Is there anybody that would like to speak in the affirmative? Okay. Anybody that would like to speak against? Okay. I will close the public hearing.

Resolution #9868
Resolution of the City of Williamsport – Approving the Transfer of Restaurant Liquor License No. R-19853 by Puff Cigarette Discount Store from Montoursville Borough into the City of Williamsport

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second.

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

Mr. Knarr stated this Was requested is Puff Cigarette Discount Store located at 1151 W. Forest St. is requesting a transfer of a municipal liquor license from No. R-19853 from Molito (sp?) on (WORD?) Street. It goes back to P LCD for approval in the liquor license would be transferred from Montoursville to the city of Williamsport.

Mr. Yoder asked for a vote on the resolution.

The resolution was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0.

Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Ms. Miele had not yet arrived, Mr. Beiter voted yes and Mr. Yoder voted yes.

Resolution #9869

Resolution to Approve CGB AV DATACOM to Provide Technical Support & livestream audio & Video Equip

The City Clerk read the resolution.
Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second.
Mr. Pulizzi made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Beiter.
This is extending the current contract we have with our illustrated list AV professional, Kris bird. This is the same fee structure that we have been under and we are simply extending it for a year. Kris and I had a conversation. The end of last week and from what Kris informed me, everything seems to be working fine from his end and I will speak for everybody. I think things are working pretty well on our end as well. We are happy to partner with you, excited to extend this for another year, pending approval of course, but that is the background of it. Any comments or questions?
The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.
Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Ms. Miele vote yes, , Mr. Beiter voted yes and Mr. Yoder voted yes.

(Tabled)

Ordinance Amending part one Administrative Code, Title Seven, Employees & Benefits, Article 157, Civil Service Board, Section 157.01 of City Code of Ordinances to Clarify the Definition & Appointment Process(final reading

The City Clerk read the ordinance.
Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second.
Mr. Mackey made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Beiter.
Mr. White >> Good evening members of counsel. You have in front of you, again, the ordinance amending the administrator code regarding the definitions of administrative chiefs. This was presented and voted in favor on first reading at the last council meeting. Happy to answer any questions you may have.
Mr. Yoder : Any comments or questions from members? What I will say is as we discussed last week, this is really just confirming what has been in practice for decades. These are administrative positions and so this is really just kind of updating our local language to reflect that. Okay.
Mr. Beiter I would like to put forth the motion that we table this until we get more legal clarification.
Mr. Pulizzi made the second..
Mr. Yoder: Any discussion on the motion to table?
Mr. Pulizzi: I don't think it can hurt too much if we table it. Just to get clear vivid legal understanding. It will just wait until after the new year, correct?
Mr. Yoder: I would table it until January 2 next January 2. Okay.
Mr. Pulizzi : Personally I don't see anything that raises a flag to me, but whenever we have two very legal opinions, no offense to anybody or disrespect to anybody, I would like to make sure that I get the warm fuzzy feeling before I say something or vote a certain way. I would second the motion to table it to get a better understanding of it.
Mr. Yoder : Any other comments on the motion? The only thing I will add - I feel very confident in the legal background of doing this. With all due respect, Vince, I will vote no to the table motion. I think this is pretty clear and cut. I'm not concerned about that, but I respect where you're coming from. You either. Okay. Mrs. Frank on the motion to table, please.
The motion to table this ordinance in second reading was carried with a vote of 4 to 2 to table.
Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted no, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted yes and Mr. Yoder voted no. Ms. Miele had not arrived yet.

Ordinance ARPA Transfer #14 (final reading)

The City Clerk read the ordinance.
Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second.
Mr. Pulizzi made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Beiter..
Ms. Fessler. This is the second reading of the ARPA transfer number 14. Does anybody have any questions? We discussed this last week. He.
Mr. Yoder: Any questions or comments on this? We made final changes last week. At this is as close as we are going to get realistically to having everything - everything is allocated, but realistically everything is spent. We run into the situation where things come in a little under. We will likely lose a little bit of funding and we will likely give a little bit back. That is just the nature of the beast, but whatever we do end up giving back it is not because we didn't do our diligence, get it allocated or spent. It is because projects came in a little under and we don't have the opportunity to go back. I want the public to understand that. That will likely happen. It will be minimal because of the nature we have had with this over the past, what, three years?
Ms. Livermore We will attempt over the next week to get all of our documentation to UHY so they can look at everything and get as close to the numbers as we possibly can.
Mr. Yoder: Yeah. That is excellent. I will give a shout out to UHY specifically, we are still working with them as we spend down the funding. When we got the funding, one of the big things that we, counsel really pushed for was a compliance team because this program is so large and unique, you know, we frankly did not have the resources and we still don't really have the resources, with respect to Melanie. You're doing a great job, but I think this is bigger than itself. They have been phenomenal to work with. I have nothing but a good experience. They are very responsive and they know this inside and out. I think we are well served and lucky to have them.
>> Yes, they have been great.
Mr. Yoder: Any other comments or questions on item 7? Mr. Beiter?
Mr. Beiter I don't know if you can answer this question, but are there any talks at the federal level that you are aware of that the federal government might look at cities like Williamsport that made a good effort and say, you can keep this money at the end of it, any kind of forgiveness program so to speak. I know that is not the correct term because it will take the federal government years to look at all of the communities that received this money and if we have all of these safeguards in place, that we did make the effort and here we are at the end of the timeline that we might not have to

pay that back?
Ms. Fessler I don't know for sure, but I can talk to Claire about this from UHY and get an answer for you on that.
Mr. Yoder That might be a good question for as well, to be honest with you. I do know over the past couple of weeks as we were kind of kings and questions related to a couple of the projects we were looking at, Jack and I had a little bit of a conversation about that and it did not go very far and I took it as, at least initially, I think his sense is the incoming administration is probably going to look at other funding programs out there first, either doing - I forget the exact names of the bills, but inflation reduction act. Those types of things first and the way he put it, he thought it could be actually a positive thing as far as impact of what that might look like. I don't know that he is sensing any of that, but I would agree, that would be a good thought to follow up on for sure.
Ms. Fessler Yes. I will get you guys the answer.
Mr. Yoder: So the other thing I will point out in this is notably a panel in the back for everybody at the city of Williamsport. For my dissertation I'm using the reporting data and while I will admit the data I'm using stops at the end of (WORD?). I'm not looking at anything in 2024, but what I can tell, we have been pretty aggressive as far as spending the money as compared to other municipalities, believe it or not. I forget what the final number was at the end of last year reporting, but we have done a really good job of actually spending the money down and getting it out is my reason for saying that. Miss Miele?
Ms. Miele Just out of curiosity, are there places that it would be allocated if we did not spend the funds?
Ms. Fessler> The reporting structure, it is allocated and obligated and spend. So you see a pretty big drop off from allocation to spending. Across the board I think people were figuring out like, okay, let's get this stuff allocated and figure out the kinks of getting resources lined up and spending it down.
Ms. Miele Did you get any granular data on that? I were there places that had done a larger grant offering or something like that where it might not be within the purview of the municipality to have spent the funding?
Mr. Yoder : So let me answer it this way. It is okay. It is okay. For purposes I'm looking at I'm not looking at the subcategory granular level, but the data is there and it is at some point something I will look at. Yeah.
Ms. Miele: I don't feel as though I have done enough research on how other municipalities are spending it and we have certainly dispersed a fair amount of the money, but we have also kept quite a bit of it for our own coffers. Especially in Pennsylvania.
The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.
Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Ms. Miele vote yes, , Mr. Beiter voted yes and Mr. Yoder voted yes.

Ordinance Transfer Ordinance #07 – 2021 Budget (final reading)
The City Clerk read the ordinance.
Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second .
Mr. Mackey made the motion and it was second by Mr. Beiter
Mr. Yoder > We have the second reading of transfer ordinance number seven for the 2021 budget. We discussed this last week and does anybody have questions on this?
: Any comments or questions for Miss Livermore on this one? Pretty procedural. Nothing crazy. Okay. Hearing and seeing then, Mrs. Frank on item 8.
The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.
Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Ms. Miele vote yes, , Mr. Beiter voted yes and Mr. Yoder voted yes.

Resolution #9870
Resolution City of Williamsport Authorizing Issuance & Sale of Tax & Revenue Anticipation Note 2025
The City Clerk read the resolution.
Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.
Mr. Pulizzi made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Beiter.
Ms. Livermore Good evening, again. What you have before you is a resolution for the sale of tax and revenue anticipation notes. This is a common thing, I believe we have done it for the past several years. This is just in case the city would come into or experience a cash flow deficit in 2025, this will protect us. The resolution and the documents were reviewed by Edgar Simmons law firm and they helped prepare documents for us that will come at a later date and the resolution that you guys have in front of you today.
Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Miss Livermore. This did not go to committee. Are there any comments or questions on this?
Mr. Yoder What is the amount?
Ms. Livermore $2 Million.
Mr. Yoder : That is fairly consistent from what I remember from the past.
>> Same as last few years.
Ms. Miele: I think it is the same as it ever has been.
Ms. Miele: I cannot speak your over your, but when I inquired last time, the cost of this temporary loan until the taxes, and is about $14,000 per year. This is basically, as I'm sure people are familiar with in their home budgets. The question of you get paid on Friday, but you need the money on Monday. Right? Just a bit larger. Yeah. It was here when Randy and I got into office so it has probably been 20 years that we have not had enough fund balance to cover our debts until the tax revenue comes in in May every year.
Ms. Livermore The last two years we did not have to pull the loan, but this year there is a possibility.
Mr. Yoder: That was my other question pretty good to know. Mrs. Katz, I heard you.
Mrs. Katz: That is what I was going to ask. What do we have to use in the last couple years and from what Kevin is doing, it seems like it is making it easier for people to pay their taxes at this point and maybe - eventually we will not go back to many years ago when we did not have to do this.
Mr. Yoder : Positive thinking. Are there any other comments or questions on the tax anticipation resolution? Okay. Hearing and seeing then, Mrs. Frank on item 11, please.
The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.
Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Ms. Miele vote yes, , Mr. Beiter voted yes and Mr. Yoder voted yes.

Ordinance Adopting Various Operating Budgets for the City of Williamsport including the General Fund, Emergency & Reserve Fund, Capital Projects Fund, City Hall Operating Fund, Liquid Fuels Fund, Debt Service Fund & Act 13

The City Clerk read the ordinance.
Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.
Mr. Pulizzi asked for motion and it was Mr. Beiter
Mr. Yoder Here we are, second reading of our 2025 budget. I will kick this off this way, I guess. Some savings that were amenable to them going into next year. They did that and to the tune of $350,000 and some change with the rationale of putting that to the bottom line. Just position ourselves a little bit better going into the next cycle this time next year. So I guess we could start there. My question to the group is, are there proposed changes in their that individuals are not amenable to? Over the past week have individuals thought differently about the approach to some of these changes at all? I guess that is where I will open the conversation there. Miss Miele?

Ms. Miele : I am generally amenable to the vast majority of the reductions, but I do feel that it is worth pointing out that if we do not spend these funds - I mean I guess I will have some questions about specific things, the $25,000 we are taking out of the Bureau fire. That seems like a funding for training. What is that?

I would have Sam speak to what he rejected that. We asked each of the departments to go through their budget and reduce it. So if Sam wants to explain that?

Chief Aungst So we had a training situation - not situation, but opportunity for training out in Indiana.
Ms. Miele : So we are removing that training?

Chief That training, the guys that were going to go out did not have the opportunity to get the application submitted in time. There was a little bit of mixup with getting the applications and and getting them registered for the class. So for that reason they were not included. I think there was 49 that were allowed to be registered for the class. They give it once a year. So this year we were not able to get them in it and we were able to deduct that.
Ms. Miele : Got it. Okay. So maybe that is somewhat of a prime example that I was assuming that was something that we had decided not to do because of a tight budget, but it is not. My point is I think a lot of this money will simply fall into the bottom line one way or another whether we remove it from the budget or put it in the bottom line now or simply leave it there and do not spend it. Are there specific examples within here of things that we are deciding not to do? Thank you, Sam. That is all I needed to know.

Mayor I think each department tried to tighten up everything as much as they could. So I think if recreation for example took some amount out of their is trying to reduce some of the things to reduce the budget, but if the funds were there, I think they would possibly be able to use them. So I think they are reducing the activities and each department decided to cut where they possibly could. And you are right, it is possible that these funds would not have been spent, but there is a possibility that they also could have been.

Mr. Yoder: Miss Miele, to your point, you bring up a valid point. There is a probability that even if we leave them in here they will not be spent. I think there is a good argument to do it, notably just, hey, it is a little bit of extra accountability that I think we are going to need to have. Not really just next year, but the next few years as we figure out what the future is going to look like as we put together that action plan that Mayor mentioned a few weeks ago. It is tedious and in a $30 million budget it is not a lot, but I do think it is a appropriate thing for sure.
Ms. Miele : I will also note that there is not specific line numbers in here.

Mr. Yoder : The reason I asked if there are individual items that are not amenable to members, we can do this in one motion. I have not figured out how to do that, but we can do that.
Ms. Miele: So like I said, yeah, it does not particularly make a big difference to me whether we drop the money to the bottom line recognizing that we may have to take it back out and put it back in whatever line we originally reduced in the first place. The only thing that I would have some serious questions on is the $2500 salary addition to the City Council budget specifically and I do not, you know, if everybody else is cool with that and we want to do this whole thing in one fell swoop I'm fine with that. I believe it probably would be better off in a different line where it could become a stipend for someone or something like that, but since we do not know what form it will take, using the Council budget is a holding ground for it is fine and a transfer later can be accomplished no matter where we put it.
Mr. Yoder : I think that. The bigger question is, I think that is just a starting point. Jamie, I do not want to speak for you, but - -

Ms. Livermore I did approach Austin with the question of having the person being an employee of the city or rather a consultant or like she said, a stipend. I think we kind of agreed that an employee would be cleaner.

Mr. White From the perspective of what the person would be doing and the way the ordinance is set up, I think it is probably an employment relationship as opposed to something else look, it is possible to be something else, but just looking at it all on its face, it looks like an employment relationship and there is work that would have to be done to have it be something other than not.

Ms. Miele: I guess, Austin, there is still a handful of possibilities on the table. As some sort of third-party contract to manage it versus adding it to the responsibilities of someone within the city or, you know. I think maybe this is as good of a holding place as any until we figure out what that looks like.
Mr. Yoder: My question is, do we think it is enough? I mean, I know we are talking cuts and this is an ad.

Mr. White We can move on this entire thing and put more money into that line.
Mr. Yoder : Where talking about it so I just figured let's have the conversation now.
Ms. Miele Personally I think we should probably make that a little bit more money. I would also say that it might be better at that point to put it into something like legislative contingency until we figure out where it is going instead of calling it out as a specific line, but I don't know.
Mr. Yoder: It is going into salaries. All it is doing is creating a piece of paper.
Ms. Livermore We put it in as a part-time person. That is why you see the FICA change.
Ms. Miele I think we should put more money on there and hope that we do not spend it.

5000 is what we initially talked about on an annual basis. I said, there are moving parts that we have to adopt the revised ordinance. That will change the responsibility's of the person in charge of that and ideally we would get the

materials digitized, making a much simpler process to do the recovery work for any given meeting and I think frankly $5000 might be more than we need to have budgeted, but I don't think it would be a bad idea.
Mr. Yoder To point out, if you increase that by another 2500 you will want to add another 200 to the FICA.
Mr. Mackey How many times did the HARB board meet this year?
Mr. Yoder: I want to say eight or nine. From what I recall there are a few that got missed.
I don't think they met in December, but.
Mr. Mackey Once a month?
Ms. Miele Their meetings are scheduled monthly, John. Every once in a while, but one cannot predict there is material for it.
Mr. Yoder: To Liz's point, we have to see what the revised ordinance looks like and how that impacts the process, but there is additional scope of work that goes into supporting the board outside of just going to meetings. There is documentation prep work and cataloging that happens before and after.
Ms. Miele Generally speaking, some research into the structure - there is a little bit of an editorial. Editorial, but research element into it. The revised ordinance is going to make a number of the applications unnecessary because some of them will simply be by right changes. If you structure it like this you do not have to go in and apply to make a change so I think it will likely substantially lower the volume of work that HARB does and consequently lowered the work necessary for this position, whatever it is.
Mr. Yoder: Any other discussions on the HARB component? Mr. Pulizzi?
Mr. Pulizzi: Thanks. We're talking about adding more money without knowing what the job roles and response bodies are yet? Wouldn't it make more sense that we fully understand the position and all of its responsibilities and then quantify and then look to move the money around? The amount of money around?
Mr. Yoder: That we can certainly do that.
Mr. Pulizzi You do not want to put the cart before the horse, right?
Ms. Miele : I think we should put it in this year's budget as acknowledgment of the fact that there will be some level of cost like there are for many of our boards. We pay a staff member, we pay a member to sit on the board of health. I have no issue with Vince's point that we can leave at the amount of money that is to increase if we need to. One of the reasons I would support that and I'm assuming this is the reason you are making the point, Vince, if you have an amount of money in the budget, that is likely what it will cost.
Mr. Pulizzi : Thank you. I'm okay with the 2500.
Ms. Miele : Also why I'm okay with reducing the department budgets, although I don't know what impact it will have overall. If you have less money, ideally you spend less money. Certainly works in my household budget that way.
Mr. Pulizzi : Thank you.
Mr. Yoder: Any other comments or questions on the HARB component?
Mrs. Katz : I do. With HARB, they are already getting a big salary to help with HARB - -
Mr. Yoder : Bonnie, nobody is getting a salary to help with HARB. If that is why we are looking to make a change. Nobody in the city is doing HARB to begin with and the HARB members are volunteer.
Mrs. Katz : I had the wrong department and thank you for clarifying it.
Mr. Yoder : Back to the proposed reductions. Are there other questions on any of the proposed reductions before - I mean, I can go through and make the motion, but for doing that I want to make sure we flush out any questions, clarifications, if there are ones we don't want to do I want to catch them now before making the motion. Mr.
Ms. Miele Just wondering if we think this is enough of a reduction to get us prepared for next year? Or what we are looking at going into. You know, we all know that we will be extremely physically constrained next year with the entire buildup. Jamie, I don't know if you're able to speak to it, but everything as is right now, everything stays the same, we passed the budget as is and we look to next year fiscally, what are we looking at? What deficit are we looking at going into 26? Everything staying as is.
Ms. Livermore Everything staying as is, current would give us an anticipated cash balance of - hold on, let me get my notes out of here. At the end of 2025 if everything stayed as is and all the expenditures came in as is we would be looking at an estimate of cash pounds of $1.1 million.
Mr. Pulizzi: With everything else that goes into that, day one 2026, we would be looking at being in the hole by how much?
Ms. Livermore It would depend on 2026 is budget, but if it were similar to this - our expenditures are - our revenue would stay the same. We are at a deficit right now and we have $4 million to get us out. Next year we only have one .1 to get us out.
Mr. Pulizzi : You can assume somewhere around $3 million? Which would equate to approximately how much of a tax increase to make that up?
I will also say that I did a bit of review of the budget and about 75% of the budget are from cost, rent, pension, those things. Only 25% of the budget can be manipulated and that is to include things like our 100% from the commercial insurance policies included in the 25% you do not want to mess with that. A supplies. People need paper. That kind of stuff. All of that is in the 25%. Cutting will be very minimal. There is only 25% of this budget that could even be cut at all. I'm not saying it should, but in any capability at all, but that would leave all the departments very very tight.
Mr. Yoder : Does that answer your question, Vince? Probably not. Look, it is a start. It gets us a little bit closer to that, number one. You know, we have got work to do going into next year to the mayor's point about an action plan. That 25% essentially discretionary spending is what you are talking about. You know, I would make the argument that there is a number of items of that that are not really discretionary that we need to do and so it is going to take a good level of thoughtfulness and prudence to really maximize that 25% to kind of get to where we need to go for next year's budget, right? I mean, if there are other ideas that others have we can certainly talk about them and explore them, but I don't know that we are going to find $1 million -
Ms. Miele: $3 Million.
Mr. Pulizzi : Find a little bit more to get us prepared for what is going to come?
Mr. Yoder : We are not going to find seven figures is my point. Whether it is a million or 3 million. It is going to take months to really work through that. I'm looking forward to doing that from counsel's perspective, but you know, this is a good start. Mr. Allison?

Mr. Allison: Going back to last year, even the year before that, we had planned to do a lot of planning and figuring out and budget crunching and for various reasons we didn't hit the mark and we are at the 12th hour of 2024 now. I do not think we can do anything significant at this point, but to Vince's point, we have to do something significant next year. That is my approach. I am dedicated as part of the team to do what we need to do, but we have to plan whatever it is going to be will include the administration as well. I think we can get there. I really do. Maybe that is too optimistic, but it is better to start out there, I think. Some of the things we have already talked about that we could put into practice and change that we can make. That is where I stand right now.

Mr. Yoder: Miss Pulizzi, you had your hand up earlier. It did not want to forget about you.

Ms. Miele: Just to chime in on that, I will also mention, Vince, for the record that 75-80% of our costs have always been fixed in the city bare minimum and most of the other ones are not discretionary. If I count the theoretically discretionary items I can probably name them on one hand. We give money to the SPCA, $28,000. Like you know, there simply are not things that we cannot willy-nilly say, that is it, we are not paying for that anymore. There is nothing like that in our budget at this point and so that 75%-80% of fixed cost that we have is going to increase next year from anywhere from 1%-8% depending on healthcare costs. Depending on if insurance rises, cybersecurity threats and things like that. Those costs will only increase. That is what happens every year with all of the fixed costs and so I think it would have been a mistake that any of us thought that we would find $1 million and this is budget that we could trim out and everything would continue to function as usual and the wagon would keep rolling without its wheels. We need a bigger fix and the longer we wait to institute a bigger fix, the less time we have to figure it out and the less pretty it is. I've been trying for several years to engage us in larger dialogue about that that last longer than the two weeks at the end of the year when we look at this and say, wow, we are screwed and we move on. We have to figure out another option and I have been saying for five years that if we do not do it this year we are screwed for next year. This year might actually be the year that we are screwed next year. I'm not sure. You know, the truth of the matter is that we will spend a little less then we figured to spin and taken a little more than we figured we would taken in the budget at the end of next year we will be engaging in deficit spending maybe a million or two, but that is a 1-3 tax mail increase if we do not find a way to get rid of that extra expense to the city or increase our revenue. That is all there is to it. When I go out in the community people like, you sound really smart up there. It is not rocket science. You have this much, you need that much. That is all there is. You know? And unfortunately we don't have a lot of places where we can make huge changes, and we had an opportunity with the funding we received from the pandemic, the ARPA funding to put our finger in the hole in the wall. To plug the gap for a moment, but that is aspiring and we did not take the couple your break for what was it not it was an opportunity for a better system and now we need to do it. I would advocate for us getting on that, I guess. If you do not mind, real quick. The contracted services in the police department. At the $12,800. What is that?

Mayor I will let the police speak for that. He brought notes. I can read it for him. Some couldn't be covered by the grant. They think some of the contracted services and expenses would be able to be covered by the grant rather than come out of the general fund.

Once again, we are not nixing anything. Just hopefully sending it elsewhere.

I was trying to hit the unmute button on the thing to explain that.

Chief Snyder I wanted to touch on the base that right now we are going through - transitioning the record management system. Right now we are still paying for Spellman and hopefully by 2026 we can do a significant savings - - altogether with contract services, but I wanted to share that with you.

Ms. Miele That would be excellent. That is what I said to Adam when I talked to them earlier this afternoon. I would have been nice to see - okay, we cut $50,000 and we do not have to spend it next year. You know, none of that is happening and I was not expecting it to, but anyway, that is good news. Thank you, chief. Anyway, yeah. I think the other point to make his next year we will once again have to find this $242,000 that we are funding out of ARPA so the whole is a little deeper. With the capital project items that we are purchasing with ARPA funding, I think we actually are offsetting those costs and those will not reoccur next year. We will have much smaller replacement values in the capital projects fund. So we are actually saving our money every single year. I'm fine with moving - knowing that that is not something that we are getting rid of that we desperately need to, I'm fine moving on this as is.

Mr. Yoder : Any other questions on any of these proposed reductions?

Mrs. Katz : Adam, we are going just to talk about what was proposed was right now, not anything we have done to it, right?

Mr. Yoder: If there are additional things - we can do those separately, but if you have additional ones to do.

Mr. Allison : We have a bunch of work to do on the capital budget.

Mr. Yoder: Let's do this. Let's work through this one here quick.

Mrs. Katz : Liz, you said this many times. We have taken a lot of the money from ARPA and did a lot of recreational things in the parks and everything, which is making them look great and everything, but we have to start thinking about down the line of maintaining all of this and that is a huge thing that we always neglect on it comes to any kind of budgets. If this was two years, three years, four years from now and we saw that things had to be redone somewhere in the park, guaranteed we would not have the money to do it and that is kind of frightening anyway because even though everything looks nice and we are excited about what we are presenting to the public for recreation, and I'm only using recreation is one thing. There are probably other things at this point, but we have to be careful. We have to come up with a plan - put some nickels away all the time for God sakes. Instead of us sweating out at the end of the year and it is frightening. That is all I have to say and I'm glad - I have things I want to add and I have questions about the budget.

Mr. Yoder stated I thank you, Mrs. Katz. **I will make a motion to amend the budget as follows and** I will read through a bunch of line items and outline the new number, Jamie you have all of this. You should be okay right there. Make a motion to amend the budget as follows. **Mayor, supplies and materials line item two $1200, engineering advertising line item to zero dollars. Treason parks, directors office, training line item up to $2000, office supplies to $3000. Streets and parks, traffic control facility maintenance to $30,000, Bowman Field maintenance to $45,000. A flood control gas to $16,000, flood control materials to $23,000 predicament repairs to $13,000. Parks department contracted services to $4500. Waste guarding commission - maintenance to $3000. Equipment repairs to $20,000 paid recreation programs special events to $20,000 paid facility**

maintenance to $8000. Pool program, equipment repairs to $8000. A facility maintenance to $4000. Finance and purchasing supplies and materials to $5000. Planning technology to $1600. Bureau of fire training to $3500 travel to the $20,000 per the supplies and materials to $90,000. Bureau of please contracted services to $89,000. Firearms to $35,000 pretty uniforms to $85,000. Vehicle purchase to $49,000. Is there a second?
Mr. Beiter seconded it..
. That is the total reduction of $351,725 to be precise. Any comments, questions on the proposed motion to reduce? Austin, did I miss anything? Everything okay right there?
Mr. Pulizzi : Before we vote I want to make the, that I appreciate the work that the mayor's office has done and our departments going through and realizing the situation we are in and discerning what our needs are versus what our wants are and knowing the situation. Like you said, the situation we are in and finding some savings. As we can use every single penny.
Mr. Yoder : Any other comments or questions on the proposed amendment? Okay. Mrs. Frank on the proposed amendment.
The motion to amend the ordinance was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.
Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Ms. Miele vote yes, , Mr. Beiter voted yes and Mr. Yoder voted yes
Mr. Yoder: Yes. Motion to amend passes 7-0 and I make a second motion to a mend the City Council line item salaries 224-50 and FICA 218 60.
Mr. Allison seconded it..
The motion to amend the ordinance was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.
Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Ms. Miele vote yes, , Mr. Beiter voted yes and Mr. Yoder voted yes
Mr. Yoder . Let's go to the capital projects budget. I will make the motion to amend the capital project budget, decreased capital purchase line items and codes by $25,000. Police by $33,000. Parks by $380,000 pretty streets by $350,000. Motion and a second?
Mr. Beiter seconded it..
Mr. Yoder > Just to be clear, these are the changes we made it to the rescue plan budget last week and finalized this week. We are funding these purchases with the rescue plan funding and so we can reduce that because we do not need to spend that money this year. Any other comments or questions on the proposed changes there?
Ms. Miele , the $380,000, what is that?
Looking at the capital budget at the very end, we have $250,000 purchased for 2025 proposed.
Parks was a bucket truck and for forest it is $250,000 and there were streets had a leaf truck for $350,000.
Ms. Miele Decreased capital purchases for parks is 380? That is what you said.
Ms. Livermore That must be a typo. Hold on, let me double check my info here.
Parks should be 250. I apologize for that.
Mr. Yoder: I will withdraw my amendment. I will make a motion to amend the capital projects budget, decreased expenditure capital purchase and items by 25,000, police by 35,000, parks by 280,000 - 250,000, excuse me. And streets by $350,000. Motion and a second,
Ms. Miele seconded it.
Ms. Miele : Turned to make sure that is where we were trying to go.
Mr. Yoder: It is just public works vehicles to the tune of $244,000. Sorry. Yeah. Jamie, I think it is minor and we can make the amendment later to the budget, but I'm concerned there were may be things and 26 that we were funding.
That is from ARPA. So those will be changed
Mr. Yoder We will work ahead essentially with ARPA.
Thank you for checking. That is okay. Good. Any other comments or questions? Mr. Mackey?
Mr. Mackey I have a general question about the capital budgets question.
Is this a clarification from the work sessions we had? I apologize I was not here last week if we talked about it last week, I apologize, but the emergency rescue vehicle in the capital projects budget that says was purchased in 2023?
Ms. Miele It was purchased by a grant. That is the bearcat and we established there was an error on the documentation. It is being built right now. I believe that was the problem, but that is what that was. The bearcat that we received a grant for.
Mr. Mackey: Through the flex office?
Ms. Livermore Yeah. So that will be corrected on the final budget, two.
Mr. Mackey: Okay. I mean, do we need to - the thought process here is do we need to start to save to buy a new one in 20 years? I mean, I'm just saying, that is $310,000 right there.
Mr. Yoder: In terms of the 2025 budget, there is nothing we need to do.
We are, $310,000 and we are putting away 31,004 this year and (WORD?) next. We are currently saving to buy another one and 20 years.

- Should we be is the question.

Better to do it and not by the vehicle than to not do and need to buy the vehicle.
> What she is saying is where currently saving.
Ms. Miele : He is saying we shouldn't.
> I understand we are saving for. We have one now that is good for 20 years. The question is do we really need one in the first place.
Mr. Yoder: Fair point and I think we have had this to be a couple of different times when we talk about capital projects. Look, you know, a grant paid for it it was nothing we had to sign off on and I'm thankful for that, too. I get you. What I would say is next year when we start putting the plan together, you know, everybody has to come to that with an open mind. I think part of how we position ourselves for success in the future is either doing things differently or we might have to not do some things. That could be one of them. I don't know if it is or not. I do not want to say it is, but it is a valid point and I think that and frankly I don't think there is anything that is not on the table for me.
Mr. Mackey: Sure. There was never an appetite for one of these things before this fell out of the sky and dropped in our laps.

An appetite on the side of the table is what I'm saying. The fact now that we got one - that's all I am - I'm just asking the question.
>Don found his $45,000 in next year's budget if we remove this and take it out of next year's expense.
Mr. Yoder: Duly noted point, Jon. Any other questions on the proposed amendment on capital projects? Okay, hearing and seeing none, Mrs. Frank on the third proposed amendment?
The motion to amend the ordinance was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.
Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Ms. Miele vote yes, , Mr. Beiter voted yes and Mr. Yoder voted yes
Mr. Yoder : Yes pretty motion passes 7-0. And then there is 1/4 one that there is one more. Under Bureau of law legal services.
Ms. Miele : The fund number 0000 4720, the sale of City Hall, I would like to make a motion to reduce that number to 0 until we have an indication of an actual plan. I do not want to count on income that we are not going to have in this year's budget.
>>ADAM YODER: Yes. Any other comments or questions on that item? Hearing and seeing none, Mrs. Frank on that proposed amendment, please.
The motion to amend the ordinance was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 1..
Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted no, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Ms. Miele vote yes, , Mr. Beiter voted yes and Mr. Yoder voted yes
Mr. Yoder Can I make one further point while we are on that? My last point is reducing that income as well as the outflow from capital projects it does still leave us with a deficit, I believe in capital projects, although I have not calculated precisely what it is.
I can tell you with City Hall still in there, but leaving the savings from the capital purchases in there, it was taking us down to about $14,000 unfunded and that would give us $575,000 or something in there. It is better than it was.
Ms. Miele : I was going to find out that the other mode - note, that Scott Livermore had said we could potentially save $200,000 by getting a walk behind leaf machine, and that is still very much on the table, Scott as a concept because that would reduce our unfunded liabilities substantially in the capital projects Rita wanted to make that point while we had the platform to do it meaningfully. Okay, now on to the Bureau of law.
Mr. Yoder Let's go to the Bureau of law, legal services line item. Make a motion to increase that line item, legal services and the Bureau of law to add $30,000. Is there a second?
Ms. Miele seconded it..
Mr. Yoder : There is litigation fees that just popped up that we need to cover next year and the administration asked to change that one to do that. Any additional comments or questions? Hearing and seeing none, Mrs. Frank on the proposed amendment.
The motion to amend the ordinance was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.
Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Ms. Miele vote yes, , Mr. Beiter voted yes and Mr. Yoder voted yes
Mr. Yoder: Yes. Motion to amend passes 7-0. I think that is all of them that we talked about. Are there others that members have? Bonnie, I know you said you had a couple.
Mr. Pulizzi : Really quick while Bonnie is looking for information, while we go through these, I know there is a council member who was adamant about having page number so we could follow along quickly and accurately. So when we go through these, if we could call it the page number when we are referencing line items. I would appreciate it. I don't want to speak for the one on the page numbers.
Mr. Yoder apologize. I was working off of a digital format that does not have page numbers. My apologies. Was just trying to practice some brevity that I do not normally do.
Mrs. Katz : Top of the page, planning department. Maybe I missed this at the first budget meeting. Why is this huge increase in the salaries for the planning department?
Ms. Miele : Bonnie, the huge increase in the salary for the planning department relates to the fact that those salaries used to be offset. At last year we showed the sellers as offset in the budget related to a supplemented from community development funding. This year we have restructured the way that looks. So the $55,000 input from community development funding is shown in the salary line, reducing the salary amount, but also of note, community development funding is - generally speaking on the decline. Community development block grant funding, which means more and more the planning department is not by and large funded by our block grant funding at all. I think $55,000 is the total contribution of community develop and block grant funding to our planning department this year. So those salaries - it is an artificial increase. We have always been paying those people those salaries. We were simply budgeting them into different places last year. One part taken from block grant funding and one part taken from the general fund budget. This year they are all coming out of the general fund budget in the $55,000 is the only offset for those salaries.
Mrs. Katz I remember that from last year, again, these salaries are really, really high. Okay, let's go on to the next one. On pages 69, HR. **It is a line item that is 51010 and 1080. I would like to decrease that to $69,000. The HR person has been here less than a month and I don't see why we are giving a person a cost-of-living raise.**
Mr. Beiter I will second that.
Mr. Yoder Okay. Any comments or questions on the line item? So to be clear, she is reducing a different line item in the budget. She's using page 69 two reference.
Mr. Yoder Bonnie is proposing to reduce the very first line item to its 2024 actual since the new human resources director has been on board for a month essentially. Is that correct, Bonnie?
Mrs. Katz Exactly. Are there any comments or questions on the proposed amendment?
Mr. Yoder: Is Derek on? No. I was going to say, I would rather have more input from the administration. : Jamie?
Ms. Livermore I can tell you that the salary is low for that type of position and I also cannot state what her offer letter stated either. So that should also be looked at. A 3% is what we do - what the mayor proposed for the administration.
Mr. Yoder : Understood. Okay.
Mr. Mackey f she would have gotten hired four months ago, we wouldn't have a problem with this British as part of the administration. Now we are going to start determining - you know what I mean? This does not feel right. We're talking about $2000.

That is likely what she was hired as for your first month this is what you're going to make. I don't know. There might be other salary reductions I could agree to, but that one is not one of them.
Mr. Yoder: Bonnie, if I may, tell me if I'm wrong, I think the point she is making is - I don't know if we have probationary periods for our at will employees.
Ms. Livermore I believe it is six months. We follow basically the City Hall union contract on probationary period. There should be a probationary period before an increase or anything like that happens. That is my assumption. Fair, we are already doing that though is what it sounds like.
> All other vacation benefits and those types of things are held until the probationary time is over, but I mean I don't know that the salary was listed in the offer letter.
Mr. Yoder: If you do not know the answer to this, that is fine, but just a technical mechanism on the probationary period because I was not aware of that. That is good information. From a salary perspective, are any changes to salary - I assume that would happen after the probationary period? Do you know? You don't know?
Ms. Livermore In the aspect of since I have been here, there have not been hired to positions that are usually changing after probationary period. I think there have been some in the past, but as far as I know currently, no. It is kind of whatever the budget was for, deposition and any negotiation made by the higher E.
Mr. Yoder: If you could have her maybe provide some detail on what the probationary period for employees looks like to send it out, I think that would answer a handful of questions for a lot of people and it would be good to know. Thank you for that. That is helpful. Mr. Allison?
Mr. Allison: Do you happen to know how many employees exactly we have that the HR overseas?
> I believe it is about 150. Do not quote me on exactly, but she oversees everybody in the city. About 150, I believe.
That's a substantial number.
Ms. Livermore She does all the medical benefits and four union contracts and I would say there are eight different medical policies that the city has throughout the departments. She does all of that. All of the onboarding. All of the off boarding by her self. No assistant or anything like that.
>> 158.3 including her.
There you go.
>> I was close.
> I think is 157. I think that one was bringing someone in - -
Mrs. Katz : I with - I agree with what everybody is saying. In my mind, since this person has not been with us very long and we only brought her on two weeks ago? I lost track of time and that is why I brought that up. Also stated that HR over the years has changed dramatically and it has become more complicated and more strenuous and it is more stressful and I can understand that. I just, you know, in my mind I'm trying to find every part of this money that we are forking out to find places that we can cut somewhere because these salaries between the pensions and the salaries, we are getting killed. We really are, but anyhow, I agree with the rest of you because it is what it is and it probably was stated, but I would like to know for sure, okay, if this is part of her contract. Jamie, could you find that out since the mayor is not here?
Ms. Livermore As long as it is able to be given to outside people. As long as it is legally acceptable for me to share what was in her contract I can give you the information, yeah.
Mr. Yoder I appreciate that. Thank you, Jamie. We have a motion on the floor, don't we? We have to vote on it?
That is correct.
Mr. Yoder : Bonnie if you want to withdraw your motion you are welcome to, but if not, we have to vote on it.
Mrs. Katz : I withdraw the motion. That is why I was asking. Okay. If everybody could go to page 72. It is a question. I have a question about it. It is information technology with 1085 and 2010. Could you tell me what - 2010 IT person. Is that Chris who handles her,
Ms. Livermore That is Shawn Bastian 2010 is the Police Department number and Shawn bastion is the IT coordinator and part of him is paid for out of their grant. That is why it says information technology included in treasury. This portion of the salaries are not included in the general fund. They are used through the PCCD grant that the police have.
Mrs. Katz : How long is the grant good for?
Ms. Livermore I believe the grant goes to the end of 2025. We have put a portion of Sean's salary into Kris's budget, into the IT budget to ensure that we have enough funding for him. So it is about half as what we did to make sure and he is a union employee.
Okay. That I did now. That I did now.
Mrs. Katz : With the IT person, I think you will know that I said that I was a little bit upset with giving cost-of-living raise for the IT person and Kris, I know you are angry at me, but I'm looking at every nook and cranny that we can save money and because now we have someone - we are paying someone to do our Council meetings at $500 a month. I did not think that cost-of-living raise was worth it. I don't know what everybody else feels about that, but I know all of you are angry. We were all angry when this came about. This is how it was before. Crickets.
Mr. Yoder: Bonnie and you are right to point out that we are disappointed at that point time when that happened at.
Mr. Beiter: We did find a solution, whether or not it is something that is fiscally responsible is another point that we have talked about as well, but it is in Mr. Black's job description and he is at the discretion of the mayor as far as what his role is within the city and to your point with the other salaries for human resources being the one we already mentioned, at this point we are going to get into splitting hairs to save an additional 10-$15,000 at most. I personally would like to see us put forth that effort towards the budget next year when we start that process. I would hope sometime in February or March. I would urge that to the administration to all that are here and are not. Hopefully listening out there in TV land and that is where we do the real work and make those hard decisions and it not be on the fly this evening.
Mrs. Katz: There are other areas I would like to do, but I think I would like to wait and do these - probably discuss this after the new year, okay, of where we are going with some of the salaries. Because as you know, I think the codes officer manager - her salary is absolutely pitiful. Our own city clerk, which every department in the city goes to and she does work for, her salary is pitiful. And both of these women have been working for the city for a long time and I just find it interesting that all the administration wants to do is give them a cost-of-living raise and I know I am saying, you know, a high salary is high salaries, but these are people that the public is in touch with constantly and they do a heck

of a lot of work and in so many different areas. Both of them do so I want you all to keep that in mind because every time I look at the budget and over the years we have tried to give them raises and they were turned down. That is an area that I'm disappointed in and that we do not stand up for our own city clerk and I know the codes manager, she does a heck of a job. You can imagine, she gets yelled out all the time, too. Other than that, you all answered my questions. Of what I had. Thank you for listening to me.

Mr. Yoder : Thank you, Bonnie. Are there other changes that members have? That you want to discuss? Miss Miele?

Ms. Miele : I have one increase I want to propose and expecting to get shot down because in the rush of December in the restaurant business I did not have time to reach out to members of counsel as I hope to do to discuss it privately, but I was once, years ago and may still be, but I don't think there is anything official going out anymore, the City Council representative to the city of Williamsport bicycle committee and Williamsport bicycle committee has launched in the last couple years into excellent leadership at the hands of Rob Cooley from Penn College who has been doing wonderful things and pushing hard for exciting new bike programs in the city, including he has been one of the drivers behind the pump truck that we are putting in in Shop place, Park and in partnership with the pump truck, Mr. Cooley has worked on a very small pilot by claim that connects a handful of amenities in that city that allows kids to get to and from the pump truck on their bicycles without being in a lane of traffic and he, and discussions with him, he is requesting the city put some money into wanting to do this by claim pilot that would provide safe access to the pump truck that I believe the pump truck is slated to be finished in 25. That would help to inform an application that we would be working on in 25 four safe streets for all funding for a bike project in the city. This is money that depending on what happens with the city streets for all funding, it is possible we would not need, but it's a placeholder that could serve as a match to County funny or safe streets for all funding. I think it would be a good thing to put into the budget this year. **So I am asking, making a motion to insert a line into the streets Department - a new budget line for bike lane - I think I put bike lanes probably and fund it to the tune of $30,000.**

Is there a second?

Mr. Beiter I would second that.

Mr. Yoder: Any comments or questions on that proposed change?

Ms. Miele : I need to be clear that this is something that I do not visualize necessarily being an annual expense. This is a pilot program. I think potentially if we were looking at lining the streets it would slightly increase the street lighting contract at some point to put in bike lanes, but this is a larger project that is not an ongoing every year thing.

Mr. Beiter: Is sorry, I raised my hand. This was about a previous ordinance. Do we not have an ordinance that we need to strike bike lanes on any repaved street with any certain area?

Mr. White We have an ordinance that states right now the name of it is failing me. It has Williams from the county, which is part of Williamsport by committee and several other people who work on a safe streets ordinance for the city, but states that we will, in doing work on streets prioritize creating safe modes of transit for all within the streets. I would not say it is toothless, but it does not have specific rules with Annette that say you have to put a bike lane and when you rebuild the street. You know? It just says that the city recognizes that it is important to create space, transit spaces, not just for vehicles basically come up but for other modes of transportation, but in the ordinance we outlined a potential by claim - like a bike lane network. Scott Williams from the County made the map and Scott is a really good guy who serves on the school board. So he is heavily involved in local and general municipal government, but once again, this funding would not necessarily look at that total by claim map, but it would look at doing a pilot project and see how well Williamsport adopts it and ideally we would look at getting a larger network of bike lanes to protect two wheel vehicles a little bit better than we are currently protecting them in the city.

Mr. Mackey Where's the map you are speaking of?

Ms. Miele It would be in the city's book of ordinances. It is attached to the ordinance related to the safe streets. I can find it for you. I am not prepared.

>> What is the pilot street that we are talking about?

Ms. Miele We are talking about basically connecting Shaw to Brandon with a square. Basically a bike lane square that connects a couple of the cities amenities in the northern part of the city. It let me look.

Let me pull this up and see. Shaw Park, Brandon Parker, approximately 6 miles. A loop derived from the city's approved bike route.

Ma. Mackey : I don't know why you are smiling at me. Give me a moment. No. Generally I think this is a good idea. I'm just wondering, is paint enough to protect people on bikes? Do we ever envision a scenario in which we could see something like we see in bigger cities or in Europe where there is a concrete divider that offers some level of protection for people on bikes as opposed to - paint is nice, but - : Depends on the city streets were talking about. In some cases pain is sufficient. It designates a space that people know is not theirs and indicates we are expecting other modes of transit to use the city street aside from a car, right? That on major streets, you are right. Bigger things are needed. There is a federal grant, safe streets were all that provides like $12 million a year or two ago to work on vision zero, zero traffic fatalities. Augment their transit. Their transit network and I think in the long run, that is the path that we need to go. No, the city is not going to fund major roadway rebuilding.

Ms. Miele I was going on, Melanie did apply for and we did receive the safe streets for all grant this year for action plan.

Mr. Yoder Thank you, Valerie. Where are we on the action plan? I believe there is a cycle that applications according to Teresa (NAME?), applications are due in May for a cycle that would help fund by claim pilot programs, but I'm not able to find much about the online and I have not heard from Teresa about what specifically that looks like. But anyway, John, I would agree that our budgetary capacity is not sufficient to implement - to put a bike lane on W. 4th St. that protect cyclists because this allows us to provide a bit more safety for kids going round to begin to get the community used to the idea that there are bikes on the streets and we expect them to be there and in concert with developing our action plan we examine how that is working and I think we figure out how to tackle it moving forward.

Mr. Mackey Possibly reduce the bricks street line item by $25,000 to make it work out nicely?

Ms. Miele There's an ordinance with the brick street line item and I don't think it says a specific amount, it just says we have to leave a line item in there. I do know that there is an ordinance with the brick street.

Ms. Miele: You know I will drop this motion like a hot potato. I will leave the bike lanes alone.

Mr. Mackey It is all about compromise.

Ms. Miele : It is about compromise, but that to me is not compromise.

Mr. Mackey Do we want to keep kids safe or have brick street put in?
Ms. Miele We can do both.
> Brick streets are the only streets you can safely cycle on in the city.
>Mr. Mackey I suppose. Just do not write down the middle of them.
Mr. Pulizzi : No. Just a statement. I was good, Jon by the way. As much as I understand and appreciate where Liz is at about the bike lanes and wanting to see that for the social development of our town, personally I do not think that this is the right time, given our fiscal situation to look at putting that money there. Especially after we went to the Mayor and administration and asked them to look internally at their budgets to find extra savings for us to get prepared for what is to come and then turn around and take the savings they found a single, let's throat $20,000 at a bike pilot program. I apologize, Liz. As much as I love the bikes, I like a Huffy, I cannot get behind that one. Not saying I would not be behind us in the future, just right now I cannot get behind this and I think we have Valerie and Melanie that are doing a phenomenal job going after grants. I would hope they could get it that way.
I think my fear is as a driver who routinely is driving in the dark up a city street and passes a cyclist that I do not necessarily recognizes there until I'm right on top of them, I'm very nervous and as a cyclist who is afraid to drive on city streets I'm very nervous that if we do not do something quickly then the grant cycles allow we would have traffic fertility's two bicycles in the city. That is my true concern.
I understand what you're saying, but there are laws that say if you are a cyclist and you are out at night you have to have flashing lights?
>> These vehicles do have flashing lights and I am still right on top of them before I see them.
Ms. Miele I feel the same way about the bike to moment, but I don't think now is the time to do it.
>> John is telling me again as long as we take it out of brick street.
>> Is very much associated with this? How much would we need to, where are we pulling it from?
We have it in at 13 already. If this is a safety initiative, it is budgeted currently. It is page 64 under federal safety initiatives. A1 113.
Mr. Mackey Can we put this into act 13? I just ask, to Vince's point, if Vince is concerned about - valid concerns. Maybe that is an alternative option to find a middle ground. That is all I'm asking.
>> Or reduce the budget somewhere else.
> Act 13 budget remaining balance stands at $81,000.
>> With this qualify for CDBG funds where it is not in that particular section of town?
>> With this qualify for CDBG funds? Maybe.
Mr. Yoder If it is in a low/moderate neighborhood and we can prove citywide benefit indicating that people all over the city would be utilizing the streets, that would be CDBG eligible. I can take a look at that.
Ms. Livermore Thank you, Adam. I would say we only have $81,000 in act 13.
>> This is an alternative item, isn't it?
Not that it cannot come from there. Next that is page 65.
>> Thank you, Jamie. I requested it and you were kind enough to build it into the budget.
Mr. Yoder thank you for that. Back to Liz's original amendment that is out there, any other discussion on it beyond the idea of it modifying a different line item for brick street? Vince, another comment?
Mr. Pulizzi : To Jon! Here, on page 38, every year it looks like we allocate $50,000 in the budget towards brick street and I do not see any actual expenditures.
I believe that the director of streets and parks set at one point they were looking for something this year for brick streets, but it is challenging to - it is slow to respond to replace breaks. That is why they haven't done anything over time. I will say, again, there is an ordinance that we keep a line item in there, I just don't know if the ordinance specifies how much has to be left in it. That to me then, you could reduce that as long as the line item is left.
> We have long covered to my way of thinking the streets have been with us and we have done almost no work on them for 200 years because - - (AUDIO LOST). (AUDIO LOST).
[No Audio]
Mr. Yoder : Are there other changes that other members would like to propose? Alright. Before we vote on the budget, I would like to talk about the tax rate a little bit because we have had a couple of directions of dialogue. Publicly last meeting and amongst a couple of people leading into tonight's meeting. The current tax millage rate is 1/3 of a male increase. I don't know that this would happen, but I know there was open dialogue about the idea of it being larger to the tune of 1/2 a male. There has been recent chatter of reducing it to 1/4 mill and I bring it up now because if we change it one way or the other we should probably change it in the budget on the revenue side, correct, Jamie?
Mr. White You will adopt the tax ordinance.
Mr. Yoder Do you need us to modify the revenue line item?
Mr. White I do not believe so. Every vote on in the tax ordinance, yes. Once you get to that. It will change depending.
Mr. Yoder Just asking it now. Go ahead, Vince.
Mr. Pulizzi I want to add, really quick, the proposed one third of a male increase, is that the proposed increase post all the changes that we just made that reflects that?
The proposed millage increase in the line items that we went through tonight and the withdrawal of City Hall revenue from the budget. Does that millage still reflect accurately?
Mr. Yoder We did not touch at all. We did not touch the millage rate at all - - to Jamie's point, we do not need to mess with it in the general fund budget, we just changed it in the next ordinance, but why not here? Vince, it still reads as 1/3 of a male tax increase. Thoughts one way or the other?
Mr. Pulizzi : Personally I am opposed to any tax millage increase. I understand that we always say, well, we need to increase taxes so we do not get hit. We need to increase taxes so we do not get hit. I voted for some of those in the past seeing that they seemed necessary at the time, however, the more and more I look at things and I understand that we are all working together between us and counsel and now we are working more collectively with our departments, but I find it difficult that we continue to look at taxpayers to continue raising taxes and put that on our taxpayers when we should be looking more internally at ourselves and that the agreements that we have within and throughout the city. That is where I think we should be looking to make up the difference rather than continuing to put that burden on the residents and businesses that fall within city limits. I'm not sure right now. The honest truth, I'm not sure right now.

Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Vince. Any other thoughts before we, I guess, sign off on budget and go into the tax ordinance? Miss Miele?

Ms. Miele> No one would be surprised that I generally support taking it to half a mill, but I will support a one third increase because I think the issue, Vince, with municipal government is that we have a form of government and a way of life that counts on the continual growth, but we have a city and frankly a region in which growth has been relatively stagnant for years. The cost of living goes up annually so it is only fair that sellers go up annually, insurance costs go up. Our tax revenue is flat and potentially decreasing with us not increasing the millage rate. I'm not saying it is right and that I like it. Among other reasons I too am a taxpayer in the city. That is one of the requirements of holding this position for good reason. The decisions we make impact us. We have to find a way to take yourselves back to a growing tax base or we need to figure out a way to cut costs as we have covered, costs - cost cuts are difficult to come by because all the salaries we are paying, 158.3 of them as the beginning of 25 are going to increase year-over-year. We would all probably agree because we all see our expenses going up and hopefully the income to go up to match it. But there is a sweet spot we need to find and one of those is cuts, but we also need to, but we also need to increase the tax base in the city and there is no alternative except raising taxes and the one thing we obviously cannot do is spend money we do not have. And so what is left to us this year, to me is to increase taxes by a minimum of one third to leave ourselves in a slightly better position for next year. That is also why I would support 1/2 mill increase. Incremental taxes are easier for everyone to budget for and to deal with, but I think ideally it would have been 1/4 mill over the past few years and we would be in a better budgetary place than we are now. It hasn't been and we are where we are, I think 1/3 of the mill is the least that we can do.

Mr. Yoder: Any other comments on the taxes. I know we are not voting the texture, but it ties into the budget. I would rather have the conversation now, rather than later.

Mr. Pulizzi : I understand 100% where Liz is coming from as far as spending money that we do not have, my approach is that if we continue to vote to make these increases, in essence we are doing is kicking the can down and enabling the same decisions to be made that we have made over the past decade or however long ago that this began. And you know, we keep saying, we're going to fix it, we're going to fix it, we are going to fix it, but if we keep voting for millage increases, are we really forcing ourselves to fix it? If we said, you know what, here is the line. I'm not crossing anymore. I'm not voting yes anymore. We are forcing ourselves to fix it. We are going to force ourselves to sit down, have the discussions that nobody wants to have. Face some hard truths and start looking elsewhere and I'm hopeful that we are having great dialogue now, but I just worry. Pardon me, that we continue to vote for these small millage increases and limp through that it is just going to persist. That is my concern, but I agree wholeheartedly, Liz, it that we cannot keep spending money we do not have.

>>ADAM YODER: Thank you both. Any other comments or questions? Mr. Allison?

Mr. Allion : I was thinking 1/4 mill increase because had we done that years ago consistently we probably would not be in this position. In the quarter, and third, 1/2, it is not going to move the needle, really. Not substantially or materially, but there might be some unforeseen costs coming up, but we need a cushion there and I feel like - I believe, not feel - trying to come up with a reasonable rationale that I can support 1/4 mill increase given that we have the reductions that we went through and approved. I think that balance - that cushion of $300,000, 215 is 1/4 mill. That is over $500,000. I think that would be a cushion to protect us somewhat through the year. That is not going to answer next year's budget. We still have to do that - we really have to do a lot of digging and homework and come up with the solutions. Sooner rather than later. That is what I am flooding or how I'm approaching it.

Mr. Yoder: Any other comments or thoughts on millage and I mean we can finalize any changes to the general fund as well.

Mr. Pulizzi I think I can understand 1/4 mill to Randy's point just in case something happens. I think I can understand that and appreciate that. I own a business. If I consistently spend more money than I make year after year I broke and I'm out of business. I cannot look for some videos to continue to make up for the difference that I keep losing because I am making bad decisions or putting myself in that agreements or whatever it may be. I cannot do it. And we cannot keep doing it.

Ms. Miele : Do you raise your prices, Vince, if you're not covering our bottom line?

Within reason. I up until you start losing customers because you are too expensive.

I think that is the point where looking for here. I think that is also the point I'm making is there has to be a sweet spot in their. I'm not saying we are past the sweet spot.

Mr. Pulizzi What is the total millage placed upon residents to live within the city between County, school, and city?

Ms. Livermore The current for the city is 16.72. I don't know what the others are.

Mr. Pulizzi That is where I am at his Liz, I understand what you're saying, but ultimately if I continue to place and pass that cost on to customers to make it up, they are going to take business elsewhere that is what is happening here is residents within the city are getting fed up with having to consistently paying for taxes that they are leaving. Thankfully we have seen reinvestment in the city by way of Maynard history and other things that we are grateful for, but you know, we have to approach things differently and I am hopeful that we are. I know the administration and the mayor has talked about wanting to go over things and start working on departments and budgetary planning early on, but like I said once before and I will say it again is the very definition of insanity is reviewing the same course of action and expecting a different result. When I talk about passing minuscule budgets when just thinking, things will be different extra, things will be different next year, it is just crazy. Where do we draw a line and say we are done? This is it? Sorry really quick, but to Randy's point, I can understand 1/4 of a mill as a safety cushion. That is all, thanks.

Mr. Mackey To mirror councilwoman and sevens point, we are not a business, we cannot go out of business. We have to keep providing services and tax increase has an effect on residence, but drawing that imaginary line in the sand and also have a severe impact on our residents as well. >> And on new development.

We have been fortunate to see some reinvestment in the city over the last few years so that will start bearing fruit in the form of a increased tax base, but if we are hamstringing ourselves so much that we cannot help support the reinvestment with city services, I think we risk making the opposite mistake. Just pointing that out. We are, in the end, talking about 0.08 of a mill. Yeah, I mean, on a house, I don't know. Depends on the house.

>> I don't want to say it is minuscule. We have residence that it would impact them.

Mr. Yoder It is like $33 on $100,000 assessed value.

On talk, if we debate between 1/4 mill and half a mill.
Mr. Mackey > Now we are really splitting hairs.
Mr. Pulizzi That is my point, but where's putting his potentially with the detriment to the services we offer.
Honestly, tonight I would support 1/2 mill increase as well, but -
Mr. Yoder: Appreciate the debate on the tax rate. We can talk about that in a few minutes. Any changes to the budget before we take a vote?
Mr. Mackey : One clarifying point that has nothing to do the budget, but it was brought up briefly, did you say that the city's probationary period for new employees is six months?
Ms. Livermore At will employees. Each contract it is different and the at will employees, we follow the City Hall contract and their probationary period is six months. Other departments it is different.
Mr. Mackey Correct me if I am wrong. You can access your vacation time until the probationary period?
Ms. Livermore Six is prorated at six months as well. You do not get either until the six months unless you negotiate something otherwise. Correct. You do not get sick time or vacation time until the six month period.
It is a very outdated thought process on vacation, but it's not something we have been able to look at and correct and get because of past practice and different HR. We had turnover. It is something that the mayor, we have discussed looking into because - at will is usually directors or higher levels you are asking them to come in at no vacation time and you only get five days and then you have to wait until you are here two years to get 10 days.
Mr. Mackey Yeah, I think you definitely need to put a priority on looking at that.
That contract is up next year?
Mr. Yoder : Alright. any final thoughts, comments, changes to the budget? We can take that boat and get into the tax ordinance and finish this process up? Mrs. Frank on the main motion for the separating of the budget.
The ordinance was approved in final reading with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 1.
Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted no, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted yes, and Mr. Yoder voted yes.

Ordinance of the City of Williamsport, County of Lycoming & Commonwealth of PA Fixing the Tax Rate for All City Purposes for the Year 2025 (final reading)

The City Clerk read the ordinance in final reading.
Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second.
Mr. Pulizzi made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Beiter.
Mr. Yoder stated . It currently reflects a one third of a millage increase. Had some dialogue on increases and decreases to it. I will open the floor for any changes that people want to make to it before we do a vote, but I will say this, to kind of maybe wrap up a lot of the dialogue that we have had, regardless of where we go with the tax rate, you know, we have pretty openly talked about the need for doing something different not has not just been counsel. That is the administration acknowledging that during the beginning of the budget review sessions that we have had. I think for the first time that I have been on counsel, I feel like counsel and administration are on the same page and we need to address that and I'm excited to see where those fruits go. I know we have talked about sending thoughts through communication to the administration and I think we should do that for sure, but I think one important point that we definitely should openly throw out there is that this is a process that - in developing the action plan that we as city leaders need to spearhead, but it will be most effective and I'm looking to the administration to be the leader of that. Council has a role in that I think we can play a fruitful and insightful role in leveraging the different experiences that we have. Lending the different skills that we have. We have a good group here and we have for the years I have been on counsel. - If I have learned anything in my five years now on City Council, counsel can lead to things. It does not happen as fast and effectively and it is probably a good thing, the nature of how city government is designed. That is how our governance model is designed and I think for the urgency that this requires, I'm looking to see the administration spearhead this. I think they are prepared and ready to do that, but I think this is going to go as far as you take it is my point. We will be here to help you and provide our feedback, but we will be looking to you to do that and I think pretty quickly when we get into 2025 and I know counsel when Beiter made the comment, February timeframe, you know, sooner is even fine. Excited about that process, but let's get it going in 2025, right? All right. Anybody want to make any motions to amend the tax millage rate? Mr. Allison?
Mr. Allison made the motion to amend to ¼ mil
Mr. Pulizzi seconded.
The motion to amend to ¼ mill failed with a vote of 5 to 2.
Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted no, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted no, Ms. Miele voted no, Mr. Beiter voted no, and Mr. Yoder voted no.
Mr. Yoder stated, Motion fails. - It would fail either way. Alright. I thought it was going to fail either way. I am missing - I thought I was the fifth. That is what I meant by that. I did not mean that negatively, Randy. We are still at 1/3 of a mill.
Ms. Miele I will make a motion to increase the tax rate in the ordinance to 0.5 mill's.
Mr. Pulizzi seconded it.
Mr. Yoder Any questions or comments on the proposed change? Hearing and seeing then, Mrs. Frank,
The motion to amend to 0,5 mill failed with a vote of 5 to 2.
Mr. Allison voted no, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted no, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted no, and Mr. Yoder voted no.
Mr. Yoder Look. I mean, I truly believe that none of the seven of us want to see any kind of increase. None of us do. I believe that Mayor does not want to see an increase, to be frank, but you know, we are doing it because of what we are anticipating next year, right? One way or the other and there is a good argument to raise it to five. There is a good argument to reduce it to 1/4. Seems to me the consensus is probably where it is that and that is okay. That is okay. I did not mean to cut you off, Liz. Sorry.
Ms. Miele If you did, I totally deserved it.
Mr. Yoder I deserved it after the "it was going to fail anyway". Anyway. Any final thoughts or comments before we take a vote? It is 1/3 and it seems like that is where it is going to land. Mr. Pulizzi?
Mr. Pulizzi Randy, I appreciate you making a motion to reduce it down to 1/4. I do. After I went on and got on my

soapbox and talked - the more I'm thinking about it - Adam, what you just said, for the first time, feeling very hopeful that moving forward, moving into 2025 that both we as counsel and the mayor and his office and his administration and the department heads that he has now, I do feel very good about the team that we have here in the government representing the city. So in that active - I would be okay with 1/3. Just keep it short and to say, you know what, I'm going to go out on a limb and say I will keep it out one third hoping that moving into 2025 we are going to be starting to work on the 2026 budget going into 2026 that we will get the work done immediately and we are all going to work together on it and we are really going to dig down into it and yeah. I would support 1/3 of a millage increase, but not half. Hell no.

> Mr. Yoder Appreciate that, Vance and Randy and Liz to your points, I appreciate both of you proposing changes. I respect that and as we said, there is an argument either way and both are valid. I cannot deny that so I'm grateful for both of you spearheading both of those. Alright. Any other comments or questions before we take the final vote? Mrs. Frank on item 10, please.

The ordinance was approved in final reading with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 2.
Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted no, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted no, , and Mr. Yoder voted yes.

Resolution Awarding Construction Services for Bowman Field Outfield Wall Replacement
This resolution died for lack of motion.

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Accept for filing

Announcements

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Thursday January 2, 2025 at **7:00** PM, **Trade & Transit II 144 West Third St, 3rd t floor,** Williamsport, PA. This first meeting will be a re-organizational and regular City Council meeting.

Upcoming Meetings:

TO BE DETERMINED

Comments:

a. City Council

Mr. Pulizzi : Normally I do not say anything. I voted in the budget, I voted for the third of a mill tax increase - just putting out there right now that going in for next year's budget, I will not support any kind of a tax increase in any way, shape, or form. Putting it out there. I'm saying that, I'm stating it right here and now. Giving the mayor and the administration and everyone involved a years time the next year I will not support a tax increase. Really putting the challenge out there hoping we can all come together to find other physical means of revenue, rather than continuing to place it on our taxpayers and put that burden on them.

Mr. Yoder : Understood.

Mrs. Katz : Adam, I have something to say. What is the state that says show me? I'm going to be that state. I would like to be shown how we are going to do all of this next year. I would like to see the positive route, I would like to see everybody working together. I'm just so hesitant and only because I have been on this track for so long and I admire Randy and Liz because you are so going forward and I'm sitting here going, here we go again. And other than that, the positive thing, they are having a cookie crawl on Saturday. Come downtown and go to the shops and get a cookie.

Mr. Yoder Thank you, Bonnie. I will leave you all with this. I say this at the end of every year, but just grateful for all six of you. I learn a lot from all six of you. I enjoy talking, working with all six of you is a pleasure. This has probably been one of the most rewarding growth experiences I have had professional probably and I'm grateful this year was with you. Merry Christmas to all six of you, the administration is well. To the public. Merry Christmas, happy holidays, be safe and enjoy some time with your loved ones and I'm looking forward to our work in 2025. Mr. Allison?

Mr. Allison : I would like to thank the administration and everybody that worked on the budget this year. You did a great job. In the a lot of cooperation. A lot of good discussions. We asked for some things. You came back and gave us some options. That is one of the things that makes me positive about next year. We are more of a team at this point and moving in the direction and I think we will increase our ability to work together in that way. I feel really positive about that and I echo your sentiment as well. I think we have a good group here and we work well together. I have to look differently than Liz once in a while -

Ms. Miele : Otherwise people would get suspicious.

Mr. Allison Yeah. And I appreciate everything that has been done.

Mr. Yoder: Same here. Any comments from the administration?

Mayor: Thank you.

b. Administration
c. Members of the Public
d. News Media

Adjournment

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Pulizzi and a second by Mr. Beiter Meeting adjourned at 9:22 PM with unanimous ayes.

Submitted by:

Janice M. Frank
City Clerk