Thursday, May 8, 2025
7:00 PM
Williamsport, PA

Council President Adam Yoder brought the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday, May 8, 2025 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:
Jon Mackey

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

Approval of the Williamsport City Council minutes of 04/22 /25 were approved upon a motion **by Mr. Pulizzi and** second from **Mr. Allison.. All were in favor. The vote was 5 to 0. Ms. Miele had not yet arrived and Mr. Mackey was absent. .**

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

Land Development – 600 Campbell St
Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.
Mr. Pulizzi made the motion and it was seconded by Mrs. Katz.
Mr. Knarr, what I present to you tonight is a land development request at 600 Campbell St. It is within a residential zoning district. What they are requesting is to construct a 10,161 square foot building, as well as doing an addition to the existing building of 912 square feet and an accessory structure of 728 square feet. It was reviewed by Bill Scott, storm review, it was reviewed by County and you have counties comments. As part of their expansion of what they are doing, it will be a driveway. They have adequate parking and handicap parking. Again, it went through planning, county planning, as well as stormwater authority and Bill Scott, city engineer.
Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Mr. Knarr. Any comments or questions on number nine from members,
Mr. Knarr Quick comment about fire trade, they provide a great service to the community and this will allow them to provide that service at a higher level.
Mr. Yoder: Second that. Grateful for them very much so. Any other comments or questions related to item 9? Hearing and seeing none, Mrs. Frank on item 9.
The land development was carried with 5 yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0.
Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted yes, Mr. Yoder voted yes. Mr. Mackey was absent and Ms. Miele had not yet arrived.

Subdivision – 913 Summit Road
Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second.
Mr. Beiter made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Pulizzi.
Mr. Knarr This is a request from Barbara (NAME?), 913 Summit Hill Rd. What they are requesting is a lot subdivision of 7247 square Basically if you look at the drawing, when they purchased the home, they realize that the neighboring property had a shed and part of their driveway was on the property. We do not normally see this, but amicably they decided to subdivide that and add it to the neighbor's property so they have their own access to their driveway and it cleans up as far as a subdivision. It was reviewed by County and planning and gave a positive recommendation.
Mr. Yoder: Thank you, Mr. Knarr. Comments or questions from members on the subdivision? Hearing and sing none, Mrs. Frank on item 10.
The sub division was carried with 5 yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0.
Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted yes, Mr. Yoder voted yes. Mr. Mackey was absent and Ms. Miele had not yet arrived

Demolition 33 East Third St
Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.
Mr. Pulizzi made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Beiter
Mr. Knarr, again. What this is a request for 33 E. 3rd St. What real estate develop men Inc. is requesting to demo that. They are required to grass and seed within six months if they do not have a current land development land brought forward, but they are requesting to demo it. The inside is getting deteriorated and things of that nature, the outside is peeling paint. It is within the central business district and they are requesting to demo it.
Mr. Yoder: Okay. Any comments or questions from members? I believe we have a representative somewhere. If there are questions. .
Mr. Pulizzi i: I have a question and maybe you can answer it or maybe you cannot. Welcome. Demoing the building, I can understand that given the structure and condition of it. Are you able to speak to any idea of what you are looking to

put instead?
Mr. Knarr We have a contract with Steinbock or demolition and we had some asbestos abatement to take care of there. Once the building is demoed, we are going to seed - soil and the seed the entire lot. It will turn into a grassy area like the rest of the law over there.
Mr. Pulizzi: Okay. Any idea what commercial develop meant you will put in place of the building?
Mr. Knarr No. The bank got acquired by Northwest and the acquisition is going to take place 25 July and at their request, they want this building demoed , which we had planned a couple years ago and now we are just getting to it. We put it off for a little bit, but now it is time to pull the trigger.
Mr. Pulizzi: Okay. I appreciate it. I only ask because obviously we want as much viable commercial development within our city limits as we can. Especially in our downtown.
Mrs. Katz: To the question I have, they used to be the old Eagle club and then it was 33 E., the restaurant. The building did have some really viable things that were in there. Now that it will be torn down, with no plans of anything. That is a huge block of nothing except grass. We have waited for years for somebody to take over the plot on the corner there. Is that still owned by the bank? Is that what you said?
Mr. Knarr answered yes..
Mrs. Katz : It would be nice if there were some plans made with this because everybody is trying to build up that end of town and not enough down by the building. It is just one grassy knoll. I would like to see this as a business.
Mr. Knarr Yeah. I know the intent of Northwest bank is to put that block up for sale.
Mrs. Katz : It is a great corner. It would be fantastic. Hopefully it comes through. Thank you.
Mr. Yoder: I would echo the sentiment. That is prime real estate downtown. I think there is a lot of opportunity there. I'm really happy to hear that it sounds like the expectation of the bank as they will offload that to a developer. I think demoing this helps that effort. It would be really great to get some communication from the bank on what the timeline looks like. I know you are resenting the bank, etc., but Gary, if there is any kind of feedback that we can get on what that timeline looks like, get an understanding of maybe if there is anything - whatever it may be. There is a good plot of land there and it would be great to see that developed, sooner than later. It takes time, but -
Mr. Knarr We actually have a pretty good lot beside that as well, which was the old transit station. I said, I know the intent of Northwest bank is to unload that property, but I'm not here representing the bank -
Mr. Yoder: I understand. Any other comments or questions? Mr. Allison?
Mr. Allison: Just a comment. I realize the need to take the building down, since it is not viable anymore, but that is a very iconic building . From way back in the city. It is just a shame. Different entities have tried to make it viable and make it feasible to repair it, but nothing has really taken hold there. For a long period of time. There is always time to bid farewell to older things, but it was a great building and it's time.
Mr. Knarr> I agree. I know when we took the building over, I think it was four or five years ago. It wasn't in great shape to begin with at that point, just from the change of hands and nobody really investing in it and upkeep. Financially, it needed to go into the restoration of the building and from our standpoint it just does not make sense to us.
Mr. Yoder Totally understand. Any other comments or questions? Miss Miele?
Ms. Miele : I was dismayed to see that on the agenda. That had a series of historic Rose structures that were demolished by Jersey shore state bank 10 or 15 years ago. More like 20 years ago if I remember right. At the time, with no offense intended, it was much the same. The buildings are in deplorable condition, but they under them for 20 years. It was pretty obvious who had let them get there. Yeah, that said, while I know it is a relatively ineffective mechanism, I will be voting no on this tonight. There are a handful of structures in Williamsport that I feel truly represent a chunk of Williamsport's history and this building is one of them. Buildings get into bad shape, but as we have discovered with our own City Hall - no matter how bad of shape they get into, they are often better buildings than the buildings we would replace them with. You know, I was exceptionally sorry to see this come before us. I had hoped for better for that one. Thank you.
Mr. Yoder: Understood. Any other comments or questions from members? Alright. hearing and sing then, Mrs. Frank on item 11, please.
The demolition was carried with 5 yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 1
Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted yes, Mr. Yoder voted yes, Ms. Miele voted no and Mr. Macky was absent.

<u>Demolition 615 Market St</u>.
Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second.
Mr. Pulizzi made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Beiter.
Mr. Knarr What we have before you is 615 Market St., it is a property that wasn't blighted and it went through the legal process, blighted put it on the blighted property list and at that point it was voted that they move it to the RDA and the RDA did not purchase it. Obviously the roof, the structure of the interior was I for years and years, again, because it was blighted at this point in time they are requesting to demo it because it is just not feasible, structure wise, the roof is caving in in order for it to basically be a viable property. So they are requesting to demo it.
Mr. Yoder: Any comments or questions from members? Mrs. Katz?
Mrs. Katz: Gary, are these the buildings that are next to (NAME?) the cleaners?
Mr. Knarr No it is not. It is on market Street next to the church.
Mrs. Katz: Next to the church. Oh, up further.
Mr. Knarr> It is the green building - if you drive by, you can see that the roof is almost caved in.
Mr. Pulizzi: Mr. Knarr, I don't know if RDA is able to speak about what they propose to do with the lot once the building is torn down? I don't know - it's okay, I would just hope that this property would go back on the tax roll, seeing how we continue to lose more and more of our viable tax roll revenue. That we cannot get back. Hi, Skip!
Mr. Skip Memmi. The RDA plan is to demolish the building within the next couple of weeks, if you so give us permission to do so. Ultimately the property is surrounded completely by property owned by the church. Both the side lots and the rear lot. It is a really small lot and it is very awkward in topography. We will probably list it for sale and depending on who acquires it, they may build on it, they may choose just to leave it a vacant lot. I don't know. I cannot give you the answer. It is a health and safety issue that we are trying to rectify at this time.

Ms. Miele: How much will you have invested into it?
Mr. Memmi $120,000-$125,000.
Ms. Miele Obviously the starting price of the property is over that, correct?
Mr. Memmi The appraised value of the property, even before the appraiser got to go into the interior of it was $23,300.
Ms. Miele: Nonetheless, I think it would be appropriate for the RDA to try to recoup the money.
Mr. Memmi We will try to do that through a purchase. Yes, ma'am.
Ms. Miele: I would be reluctant to see it go and fall of the tax rolls.
Mr. Memmi The RDA board - they are willing to lose some money on the project, but they are hoping to recapture their funds and hopefully find a buyer that is willing to do something with it.
Ms. Miele: It would be one thing if it were to remain on the tax rolls, but if it comes off the tax rolls and it becomes a net loss for the RDA. We look forward to an update on that. Thanks.
Mr. Yoder: Any other comments or questions? Okay. Hearing and sing then, Mrs. Frank on item 12.
The demolition was carried with 6 yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0.
Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted yes, and Mr. Yoder voted yes, Mr. Macky was absent

Resolution # 9919
Resolution Authorizing an Agreement Between the Williamsport Bureau of Codes & Stuckey Ford

The City Clerk read the resolution.
Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.
Mr. Beiter made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Mackey.
Mr. Knarr Bureau codes is requesting the purchase. We have sex in our fleet and we purchased four, we had originally put this in the capital budget several years ago, but obviously it was brought to the ARPA funding. We have two older vehicles and we have problems with the one so we are requesting that a resolution be passed so we can purchase the same thing, another Ford edge that will almost complete our fleet. We have a part-time Street inspector and he has the other Chevy Cruze, but he does not put a lot of mileage on it, so we will keep that continued on with the capital project of that property.
Mr. Yoder: Okay. Mr. Miele, anything to add from a finance?
Ms. Miele: Relatively cut and dry. This is money we set aside from ARPA funding for the purchase and Gary has assured us that all of these vehicles are quite heavily used and of course this will be his in particular.
The resolution was carried with 6 yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0.
Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted yes, and Mr. Yoder voted yes, Mr. Macky was absent

An Ordinance Transfer Ordinance #2 (first reading)

The City Clerk read the ordinance.
Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.
Mr. Beiter made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Pulizzi.
Ms. Livermore . This is the second reading of ordinance transfer number two. This was to move $50,000 from the RVTA local share that we budgeted for the local share into legislative contingency with the intent to put it towards what is next on the agenda for the FTA payments. We did discuss with RVTA that there was nothing left for the local share. This is an abundance. That is the plan.
Mr. Yoder : Any comments or questions? This is a second reading, to clarify. All right, hearing and sing on, Mrs. Frank in item
The resolution was carried with 6 yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0.
Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted yes, and Mr. Yoder voted yes, Mr. Macky was absent

Resolution # 9920
Resolution Authorizing Payments 2 & 3 of FTA Repayment Plan to be Paid from Legislative Contingency

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. The resolution you have before you is the plan to pay the second and third FTA payment from legislative contingency as we just discussed. We moved to $50,000 into legislative contingency to hopefully cover the majority of the payment and the plan is to pay both of those payments from legislative contingency at this time so we have a plan and we can make those two payments.
Mr. Yoder: Anything to add, Miss Miele, from finance?
Ms. Miele, : The financial discussion really revolved around how much money would remain in the legislative contingency fund, which is estimated about $20,000 at the end of these two transactions. Obviously we had started the year with $75,000 and that line item, which was promised or intended for various purposes and that is a place we intend to put money when we think we will have additional expenses for XYZ and we are hoping to keep it there until we know what the expenses are. That said, the finance committee, I think, encourage the administration to figure out where these funds were coming from and to open discussion with City Council as that is required. In the end, it is an administered of moved to transfer funds into legislative contingency to cover the expenses we anticipated in that line, and additionally the remaining $20,000 in that legislative contingency is not going to touch the number of the amount of money we will eventually need to repay the FTA. So we need to figure out a longer-term plan and I think the only way to make this a less pleasant transaction than it already is for us is to have this conversation over and over again each month until we decide where we are transferring funds from. For me, I would prefer to get that settled in at least make it something that we understand and the funds are allocated and we do not need to have this conversation any longer, until we, you know, if we can figure out a different - some sort of different motives for this in the year, but for now, I prefer to know where the money is coming from.
Mr. Yoder: Agreed it.

Ms. Miele I believe that was the bulk of the conversation during counsel. I know we have multiple other expenditures that may be needing to come from legislative contingency sometime in the next couple of months and so I think we need to get that squared away ASAP. That is not something that can wait until the fourth payment is in line before we make that decision. We need to refill that legislative contingency dollars one way or another somehow here. That was all, Adam.
Mr. Yoder : Here . Anything to add from other members? Mr. Pulizzi? Sorry, I was thinking Miss Miele.
Mr. Pulizzi: It has to be the color.
Ms. Miele: It is the haircut, Vince. It is the haircut.
Mr. Pulizzi: I was not able to hear everything you said. Did you mention that finance committee is already required from the administration where the additional funds are going to come from and we do not know yet?
We have a couple options that the mayor would like to put in front of you guys for discussion. Before we are sure of anything. That is my understanding.
Mr. Memmi We are ready to hear those once he is ready to bring them forward. We are on his timeline.
Ms. Miele I did not have time to look at it yet, Jamie, but I'm happy to see a general fund statement in our inbox.
Ms. Livermore I have a paper copy for everybody because I didn't know if everybody would get it electronically.
Ms. Miele: I don't know if we have ever gotten before. We did back in the way day, didn't we?
Mr. Yoder We did under Joe Pawlak he was consistent about that. Since I have been on cancel and when he transitioned out of the city, that is when it stopped and since he left - in defense of Jamie, between Joe and Jimmy there has been a lot of transition in that office. And so I am glad to see that pickup. We need that, especially notably, the expectation of going into this year, it will give us a good picture of where we are trending, etc.
Ms. Livermore I wanted to make sure to get that to you as soon as possible. I had to do some adjustments from a 25-24 and upcoming, the audit will be on the next City Council meeting for 2022. Things are rolling, moving, going. We have most of 23's audit initially prepared. We are on our way, just working forward.
Ms. Miele : Janice, can I request that you put the budget report on the next finance committee meeting agenda?
Mr. Yoder Good. Very good. Any other comments or questions? Alright. hearing and sing on, Mrs. Frank on item 6, please.

The resolution was carried with 6 yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0.
Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted yes, and Mr. Yoder voted yes, Mr. Macky was absent

Resolution #9921
Resolution to Approve Livic Civil for Professional Engineering Services to design streetscape Improvements along West Third Street

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
Mr. Scott this resolution for your consideration, it authorizes professional services agreement to Livic Civil, professional engineering services to design the streetscape along W. 3rd St. created the limits are from Hepburn Street going West, approximately 150 feet, the area in front of Jack Asbury and puff and stuff on both sides of the street in that area. The scope is a brick and concrete sidewalk, 88 - - street trees, and period style streetlights. The engineering task will be task one, preliminary hearing for $21,000, task two for $9000, task three, we need a highway permit because that is a state road in the area. That is $7000 and task four, bidding and construction support for $8000, which gives a total lump sum to not exceed of $45,000. This project is funded by Pennsylvania Department of community and economic development D.C. ED grant, multimodal grant that we received.
Ms. Miele First I would like to point out the irony that did not occur to me on Tuesday, Bill, that we are spending 7000 or $8000 given by the state to meet the state requirements to occupy the roadway to do the work. I don't know why that did not kick in on Tuesday. That is some small bureaucratic absurdity that I felt like I needed to acknowledge. $7000 Out of $2000, it is 3.5 percent of the total allocation that we are paying directly back to the highway as to get permission from the state to do the work in the first place. Okay, that said, we received - I believe you said it was a $2 million initial application, Erica, from streetscape from Center Street, excuse me, to Hepburn Street and received $200,000 allocation this round and in hopes that DCED will see fit to give us further funding to complete the project. We are moving as quickly as we can to complete this portion of the project and I think we can acknowledge that it would have been cheaper to do it in one fell swoop. That said, that is where we are at and this is what we are doing. What have only been one Highway occupancy permit instead of three or four, but we can get about halfway down the block between Hepburn and Elmira with these funds and we are going to start by addressing basically moving backwards from the CBD into the new CBD with the funding, that area was recently designated as additional business district three or four years ago, but all in all, I think it is a positive thing and I would say that we have some of the largest pedestrian safety issues in that chunk of the walk. We discussed the pole in area for what is currently a vapes store, tobacco store, whatever it is across the street from the jackass brewery. Right now it is basically a 100 foot long pole in area where you can pull in and Park, which obviously creates issues with pedestrians trying to walk across the entire stretch. This will take care of making it a one entry and then you drive down Park, then you pull back out. We will achieve - we will make some changes to pedestrian safety on the block, which I think is a good thing for the city. That said, otherwise, we anticipate this project being within budget and we certainly hope so. We hope that the DCED will see fit to fund the remainder of the two block stretch.
Mr. Yoder: Any other comments or questions from members? Alright. Mrs. Frank on item 8, please

The resolution was carried with 6 yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0.
Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted yes, and Mr. Yoder voted yes, Mr. Macky was absent

Accept for filing

WMWA & WMSA 03/26/25

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

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

The Minutes were accepted for filing with 6 yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0.

Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted yes, and Mr. Yoder voted yes, Mr. Macky was absent

Announcements

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Thursday May 22, 2025 at **7:00** PM, **Trade & Transit II 144 West Third St, 3rd t floor,** Williamsport, PA.

Upcoming Meetings:

Thursday, May 15	10:30 AM	Zoning Hearing Board
Tuesday, May 20	11:30 AM	Public Safety Committee
	1:00 PM	Finance Committee
	2:30 PM	Public Works
	6:30 PM	HARB
Wednesday May 21	9:00 AM	ERC
	10:00 AM	Blighted Property
Thursday May 22	7:00 PM	City Council Meeting

On Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 7:00 PM there will be a Special Meeting at Trade & Transit II, 3rd Floor to educate the Public & City Council about the Home Rule Form of Government. Residents of the City of Williamsport are encouraged to attend. There will be a brief executive session following this Council meeting.

Comments:

a. Members of the Public
b. Council Comments

Mrs. Katz: This is for veterans Park Memorial day is coming up at the end of the month. We still have another Council meeting to announce this, but for people to realize that they will be having a service there, May 24, it is a Saturday at 11:00 a.m. and it should last about an hour. The other thing, with of this, they still have not gotten the cameras. We have to figure out where the cameras are. I thought they were getting cameras from ARPA.

Mr. Yoder: I think you, Mrs. Katz. We can ask the administration to look into that, but I would echo your sentiments about the service event that they have on the 24th. It is an outstanding event. At that Park is a jewel. Not just for the city, but better in parks across country and it is an amazing service that really humbles you, I think moves you and in any shape, it is beautiful and I encourage everybody to attend if they are able to. You will not regret it. You will not regret it. Any other comments from members of Council? Any comments from the administration? Nobody. I don't see anybody from the news media. Administration

a. News Media

Meeting adjourned upon motion by **Mr. Pulizzi** and a second by **Mr. Beiter** Meeting adjourned at **7:36 PM** with unanimous ayes.

Submitted by:

Janice M. Frank
City Clerk