Thursday, October 17, 2024
7:00 PM
Williamsport, PA

Council Vice President Eric Beiter brought the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday, October 17, 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:
Bonnie Katz

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

Approval of the Williamsport City Council minutes for 10/03/24 were approved upon a motion **by Mr. Pulizzi and** second from **Mr. Beiter. All were in favor. The vote was 6 to 0. Mrs. Katz was absent.**

Limited Courtesy of the Floor
There was none.

Mr. Yoder changed the order of the agenda.

Ertel Associates – 321 Second St.. – Subdivision
Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.
Mr. Beiter made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Pulizzi.
Mr. Knarr: What we present to you tonight from Ertel Associates is a one lot subdivision and it is located in the M letter H zoning district and lot number one will contain 25,814 ft.² and it will be added to parcel 6500 100 which is owned by Stamons and the residual to contain 14,000 ft.². It was reviewed by both planning and also before the zoning hearing board for setback variance as it does not meet the side yard setback of 10 feet in that zoning district and so it did go before zoning and did get zoning approval and reviewed by both County and planning and basically what this is doing is obviously Ertel Associates use this and they will no longer utilize it and so it is currently being used by Stamons and so they're basically subdividing that and having Stamons purchase that area for their continued use. And again, it was reviewed by County under the County comments, it went through the zoning hearing board and I can answer any questions at this time.
Mr. Yoder: Thank you Mr. Knarr, any comments from members? Okay. Hearing and seeing none, Mrs. Frank on item 9?
The subdivision was passed with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.
Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted yes, and Mr. Yoder voted yes. Mrs. Katz was absent.

Resolution #9848
Resolution Acknowledging & Agreeing to Assignment of Certain Radio Tower Assets
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. Knarr this is a resolution regarding transfer of licensing from iHeart communications which is located upon West fourth Street next to Elm Park and as part of a requirement anytime a licensing agreement goes before the communication system, it optically has to get a blessing from the municipality it serves. Basically what you are seeing is the licensee of tower access will be merged with a vertical bridge and I do have a representative here to answer any questions. This is just kind of a formality, because the license is being transferred and there is a merger.
Mr. Yoder: Thank you Mr. Knarr. Any comments or questions on the resolution? Ms. Miele?
Ms. Miele: So, iHeart will continue to utilize the tower? Is that how I am reading this resolution?
>MAUREEN GONIMA: I am Maureen Gonima and I work with iHeart and yes they will be attending on the tower and really the tower will be owned by vertical bridge and vertical bridge is a tower operating company and they own towers throughout the United States and they are a very reputable company that owns and maintains towers, but iHeart will still be operating on the tower.
Ms. Miele Okay, got it. And so vertical bridge is a reputable company that will maintain the tower etc. etc., no change in our requirements.
The answer was yes.
Mr. Beiter asked : This is the tower that is located on the Elm Park?
: And it is not the transmitter in the back, the circular one. It is the actual tower? Okay, thank you.
His answers were yes.
Mr. Allison : There is that one typo and I don't think it is probably essential, but I think it is the third paragraph down. Because, it is the first one I looked at and it said vertical bride and it is not just a juxtaposition of words, but -
Mr. Yoder asked for the vote.
The resolution was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.

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

JMD Portfolio 613 Third St. = Land Development

JMD asked us to hold off on this so they could be here for the next meeting, they just happen to have to go out of town, I believe. So, I think we can just leave it on the agenda and I can have a motion and second and if not we can just reintroduce at the next meeting.

>>SPEAKER: In addition at the next meeting if you want to keep those packets, the only thing I'm going to add to it is not -- I have now been provided elevations of what the building will look like. I will send those out for the next meeting. **This will be next meeting.**

Retire US presentation

Mayor: Thank you, good evening President Yoder and Vice President Beiter. What is not before you, but a presentation that is coming to you from the city and I spoke with myself and Cynthia Hart a little while ago we discussed it with Austin White and we thought it would be a good idea to do a presentation first and I am not going to obviously steal their presentation, but basically it is a service that potentially could be used if we move forward with that by city employees related to the finances and retirement and things of that nature, but we thought it was a good idea before we put any resolution or anything before city Council. Basically it just gives an overview for something that city Council and administration may be interested in exploring. So, with that, I know there are folks from retired US online and I will turn it over to them now for their presentation.

>>MICHAEL SCARPATI: Thank you, I was trying to turn on the video for us there, but it looks like that is disabled. I am sending a request to be able to grab a screen share, as well. And thank you guys for your time. My name is Michael Scarpati, director of the partnerships at Retire US and today we are going to walk you through as the program as a whole. And really quick -

Mr. Yoder : Before you get started, can you send us a copy of the presentation? Because, we do not see it on the TVs or anything like that. And that is fine - we can listen in - but if not after the fact it would be very useful.

>>MICHAEL SCARPATI: Copy after the fact, would you guys be able to see my screen if I share?

Mr. Yoder : I mean Kris can, our AV person, but just go through it, because it will be on the live stream and on the recording and that will be another resource for us to go back to.

>>MICHAEL SCARPATI: Sure, okay, perfect. And so why don't we get started, so Retire US is a comprehensive wellness program and meant to supplement the existing benefits that you offer employees of the city of Williamsport. And this really came out of this post pandemic shift and so after the pandemic we see a lot of data were 92% of employees are stressed for economic opportunities and 74 our stress with financial decisions and 63 actually expect their employee to achieve security and as a result 54% of employees say financial wellness is the number one most desired benefit. So, we did some digging into why is that? What is driving this need for financial wellness? And it comes down to a couple of things. It is literacy, 63% which is the average test score for a US adult and so there is just some gaps here in education and understanding not only for how to prepare for the future, but why certain components of finance are important and the second is retirement planning down in the bottom corner here. 27% of workers feel confident in their ability to retire and so over 70%, there is a gap in confidence in being able to plan for those big life milestones for the finances. And what financial wellness programs do, it brings to the forefront some other layers to the benefit offerings for the employees. And really we are looking to accomplish really six core functions. It is enhancing financial literacy, improving financial behavior, supporting financial stability, reducing financial stress, encouraging smart financial decisions and ultimately cultivating financial freedom. And Retire US is a platform that is designed to put the user, the employee, in the middle of advisors, analysis tracking, education, support and messaging with a team of financial professionals and guides to really make it easy for you to understand your financial needs, develop strong financial habits and ultimately manage your finances like a professional. As a result we have been featured in numerous publications and most recently a top 10 corporate benefit magazine for 2024. And so really the way the platform works is that we simple by this journey towards wealth mastery we call it and it covers these six key milestones and the real focus is starting on this current financial situation and financial wellness is all about the now and how we are navigating our financial stressors, understanding the red flags in our way and ultimately making conscious decisions that help cultivate financial security stability and ultimately financial freedom. And here is essentially our approach, this is how we do appear there is basically five tears of our approach, financial education, it is integrated tools and resources and personalized access to independent experts, organizational insights and then full service benefit management. And what this essentially comes together in is the platform and so let me just show you a high lever view for Yakima County which is another County we are partnering with. And so this brings you a place as an ecosystem that connects you with all of these tools and resources and independent financial experts. And so you can see that right here are wellness path for financial mindfulness is first to your current situation, once we complete our financial checkpoint this is about a four or five minute multiple-choice quiz and we get a baseline assessment here of a retirement pacing or risk to failure and it drops these different red flags that you can see here at the bottom. And red flags are kind of the blind spots and these are the financial areas that should be further evaluated. In the platform connects you with independent experts that you can meet with for up to an hour, your spouse is also included in this benefit to talk through systems and strategies that you can put in place to remove these red flags and leverage the employee benefits that you have access to in addition to outside accounts that you have. And so we are not only speaking to just the resources inside the County for the city, it is everything that the employee has access to. And it is helping put systems in place to really remove these red flags and cultivate financial freedom. There is also big levels of literacy in access here to just build our financial knowledge. So, this resource library right here, these are curated pieces of content, guides from industry experts that employees are able to use as reference guides as they want to start getting things a little bit more clarified for their financial situation and then this is on-demand and we call it the Netflix of financial wellness, this on-demand module. And so the do-it-yourselfers, they have access to these little bite-size modules, five-minute modules just how to prioritize cash flow and had to spend vs. borrowing and making those decisions and refinancing a home or how to pay down debt. And so a lot of different modules depending on where the

person is in their journey and there is about 40 or so that they can go through at their own pace. And then our wellness toolkit. So, are wellness toolkit that you see just offers additional layers of tools and analysis and one of the most popular features that we have in this toolkit right now we call it a portfolio deep scan and it actually helps you understand what would happen to your investments if the stock market or to crash which right now is obviously a very hot topic with what we have seen in investment markets. So, with the Retire US platform we are here to help your employees feel empowered in their financial decisions and really cultivate a handful of things for the employee, but on the organizational side of things, what we are really looking to help you support is productivity within the workforce. On average employees spend three hours or more per week distracted at work because of financial stressors and so we are looking to help solve some of those productivity issues that you see, employee retention, giving people a little bit more understanding and support, benefits increase, this is a financial wellness program and so it is an additional - 80% of employees say they would actually choose additional benefits over pay raise and this helps attract talent and create a healthier workforce and provide better corporate culture. And so that is the platform and we have partnered a number of ways that we discussed with Mayor Slaughter and the rest of the team have to do with no cost options right now for the first year where we allow you to test pilot the program and the resources and then at the six-month mark we can make a decision of how we would like to potentially continue the partnership moving forward and talk about how various features and budget can be allocated to make the program more robust and give you guys more resources. So, right now the proposal is to have financial wellness for the employee base as a benefit and no cost out-of-pocket for the first year and the employees would get access to not only the platform, the education, live workshops and also access to meet one-on-one with independent financial professionals to help resolve any areas within their current financial situation.
>>ADAM YODER: There is a delay, okay, I got you. Thank you for that. Wow. That is a delay, I just saw it go off! Okay, thank you for that. I really appreciate it. Does anybody have any questions for Retire US following the presentation or anything that stuck out, Mr. Pulizzi?
>>VINCENT PULIZZI: Thank you for bringing this to us, I appreciate it. So, I'm curious, the cost of the city would be zero dollars for the first year and then how much would it cost the city after the first year and subsequently the years after? What is that billing structure look like?
>>MICHAEL SCARPATI: Great question. And I think I mentioned there may be a little bit of a delay, so we will work with this as best we can. There is a couple different ways that we partner and the proposal that we have would cost the city $5000 moving forward to maintain the level of financial independent financial guidance for all of the employees. There are other partnership tiers that can expand on more connectivity and advisor services for the employees, but right now we just landed on basically we call it a basic financial wellness partner. And so there is opportunity to expand services, but for right now the services would continue.
>>VINCENT PULIZZI: Can you elaborate just a little bit and so say I am the city, what does $5000 get me? Does that get me 10 hours of one-on-one zoom call time with you guys helping me with my strategy? Is there a cap on the number of employees?
>>MICHAEL SCARPATI: Great question. This was built off of the employee count that you have and that gets everybody access, every single employee in the county has access to a 30 minute financial wellness review meeting is what we call it with an independent expert. Now, is everybody going to use that? That is not going to be the case, generally we are targeting anywhere from 40 to 60% in total usage across the county. And they get access to the live workshops, we do one per order with the independent financial planners, the platform tools and resources and there is unlimited access to the my blocks, the on-demand modules as well as the online resources and toolkit. So, everybody has access to that 30 minute financial wellness review at that tier and that is able to be extended to an hour to cover any areas outside of the current financial situation because that 30 minute is really focused on red flags and benefits that you have access to through the workplace and things that you are doing outside of the workplace and you can add into that if you would prefer and is generally we build on these programs over time with our partners, but you can add risk and insurance, short-term savings and retirement planning and tax diversification, estate planning, there is a bunch of other things that these advisors can focus on with the employees and this gives them the current situation, the current financial situation in 30 minute financial wellness review meetings across the entire employee base.
>>VINCENT PULIZZI: Okay, thank you very much for elaborating on that and explaining it. 27 sure, my pleasure.
>>VINCENT PULIZZI: I have no more questions.
>>ADAM YODER: Anybody else have any - any questions? For Retire US? Okay - interesting. I'm not seeing any other questions. We appreciate you being here and walking us through the offering at a high level.
>>ELIZABETH MIELE: I would rather see the packet.
>>ADAM YODER: If there is any presentation packet that you have, if you could send us that, please let us know and I am sure that will spur probably some additional questions and then we can circle back and deliver those as they come up, but definitely some food for thought and I think we will take that into consideration as we get into the budget. So, thank you very much. Mayor Slaughter, thank you for bringing this to us, as well.
>>MICHAEL SCARPATI: Thank you, much appreciated.

Resolution #9848

Resolution Authorizing a Contract Between The Williamsport Bureau of Police & Reiner Productions

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.
Chief Bolt. This is simply a resolution authorizing a contract between the Williamsport Bureau of police and Reiner productions and we are going to enter into a film contract with them which is ignite services, in Williamsport to promote videos for the lease. The cost of this would be $5500 and the cost from this comes totally from our grant that we were awarded through PC CD and we have money set aside for recruitment and retention and this is one of the projects that we would like to utilize that for. And I will open it up to any questions that you may have.
Mr. Pulizzi I: Did we put the software RFP or anything like that?
Chief : No, because this is going to be more of an artistic type of assignment, plus it is going to be somebody is going to have access to officers during training and special sensitive areas and we feel confident that we would be able to do

this just with her. It was just going to be a much easier fit after having seen what the final product is going to be already.
Mr. Pulizzi: Okay, so the ignite services, they have done these things before?
Chief : Yes and Reiner we have worked with her a number of times and she has her own production company also locally which does like a newsmagazine program called on the polls and she has done several articles with both the school district, the Bureau of police for her program as well and we have a decent relationship and we have seen the end product and she has already done some proof for us that are extremely well done. So, we are very confident peers.
Mr. Pulizzi : Thank you, chief. Good to hear. I have no more questions.
Mr. Mackey : No questions, I just a second assistant chief Bolt, I know her and she does great work and I have no doubt that this video will be top-notch.
Mr. Yoder: I second that, she does great work and she is going to give us a really good quality and everything. And to your point assistant chief, she is already familiar with us and so it should be pretty seamless and so exciting stuff, good to see! Any other comments or questions? Hearing and seeing none, Mrs. Frank on item 6, please?
The resolution was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.
Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted yes, and Mr. Yoder voted yes. Mrs. Katz was absent.

Certificates of Appropriateness – HARB
Item 1. Enrrique Castillo , 324 Walnut St
Replace rotted mansard overhang with wood, to original appearance.
Paint building Ben Moore Manchester Tan, Ben Moore Mayflower Trim
Item 2. Richard & Sara Mirabito, 405 West Fourth St
Prepare & paint all previously painted aras, colors: New London Burgundy
Annoplis Gray, Accents – Gold Leaf color, Briarwood Exterior Trim Secondary color
Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.
Mr. Beiter made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Mackey.
The certificates of appropriateness were carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.
Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted yes, and Mr. Yoder voted yes. Mrs. Katz was absent.

Accept for filing
Finance Minutes 3/28/24, 6/18/24 & 07/09/24
Controller's Report July 2024
Mr. Allison made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Beiter.
The minutes were accepted for filing with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.
Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted yes. And Mr. Yoder voted yes, Mrs. Katz was absent.

Announcements
The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Thursday November 7, 2024 at **7:00** PM, **Trade & Transit II 144 West Third St, 3rd t floor,** Williamsport, PA.
Upcoming Meetings:

Tuesday, Oct 22	11:30 AM	Redevelopment Authority
Tuesday Nov 5	11:30 AM	Public Safety
	1:00 PM	Finance Committee
	2:30 PM	Public Works
Wednesday Nov 6	9:00 AM	ERC
Thursday Nov 7	7:00 PM	City Council Meeting

Comments:
a. City Council

Mr. Yoder I have an announcement before we go into comments and we did have an executive session last Thursday and would not be the 10th? Related to matters with personnel and then I will open that up for comments or members of city Council. I think it might be wise to talk about the idea for a special meeting for reallocation for rescue plan funding. I know the mayor has been working through compiling a number of data points related to some different options that are out there. We have gotten some hard data on a lot of them and I am expecting to get some final data for old city tomorrow and so I think as of tomorrow we can probably do a special meeting as early as people are comfortable and interested to start moving the final money around. I think we can do as early as next Thursday for advertising and everything and that would kind of fit in the normal I think two week gap between meetings if that fits people's schedules, we can also consider you know a couple weeks after the November 7 meeting, as well. I am just trying to recall Austin, can you remind me between reading advertising requirements or length between, I am struggling to remember that off the top of my head, that is why mentioned that.
Mr. White between 48 or 72 hours.
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 7:40 PM with unanimous ayes.

Submitted by:

Janice M. Frank
City Clerk