Thursday, December 11, 2025
7:00 PM
Williamsport, PA

Council President Adam Yoder brought the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday, December 11, 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:

Also, Present:
Derek Slaughter, Mayor,
Valerie Fessler
Sam Aungst, Fire Chief,
Justin Snyder, Police Chief,
Solicitor Nicolas Grimes
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 of approved upon a motion **by Mr. Pulizzi and** second from **Mr. Mackey. All were in favor with a vote of 6 to 0.**

Limited Courtesy of the Floor
There were none.

Presentation to Chief Sam Aungst

Mr. Yoder am going invite some representatives from Senators office to the podium and representative back here for a presentation for one of our members of our team in Williamsport. Welcome both of you thank you for being here.
Mr. Jamie Flick: Thank you . We are here tonight -- I will wait for representative flack to get up here but we are here tonight to recognize somebody who has dedicated a great deal of their life to service not only of the city but of our country. Senator Jo was not able to be here tonight but he asked me to come as I have done some work with him in the past to recognize Sam Aungst for his service and his upcoming retirement from the city.
: Sam, come on up. We have a citation. (Indiscernible) Would you be so kind as to read?
Mr. Yaw Representative : It goes on. It's quite long but I'll read the most important part. It says whereas Chief Aungst began his career with the Williamsport Bureau of fire on March 16, 1992 as a firefighter he was promoted to firefighter journeyman in March 1995 and rose through the ranks to serve as engineer, fire engineer, fire inspector and platoon chief. Named acting deputy chief March 2020, Chief Aungst was promoted to deputy chief did in July of that year and accepted the role of chief in January 2022. During his tenure he furthered his education by earning a bachelor's degree in fire science and a master's degree in leadership with emphasis on disaster preparedness and executive fire leadership. Recipient of the Lycoming County rescue technician award Chief Aungst served as chair of the North Central division for the office seat fire Commissioner and is a member of the international Association of fire Chiefs. The Pennsylvania career fire Chiefs Association and international Association of fire investigators. To his great credit he served his country with honor and distinction as a member of the United States Naval reserve from 1997 to 1998 and Air Force reserve. So on behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Senate of Pennsylvania and the state House of Representatives we are here to congratulate chief Sam Aungst on his retirement.
Chief Aungst: I appreciate everything and everybody's help along the way. In this last four years, and never he truly wanted to be Fire Chief. I really didn't. But the need arose and myself and my best friend -- I'm sorry.
: Stepped up and we did what we thought was best for the Williamsport city fire. I appreciate it. Thank you. (Applause).
Mr. Yoder: Sam if I can just say thank you very much for your service to the city, to the community. Your service has not only been to this city. You served a Lycoming and a number of capacities. It's Bryn and honor and privilege working with you on counsel and I just -- thanks brother. I appreciate that. .

Resolution |#9983
Resolution of City Council to Approve Substantial Amendments to Fiscal Years, 2019,2020,2021, & 2024 Annual Action Plans for the CDBG & HOME Investment Partnerships Program

The City Clerk read the resolution.
Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.
Mr. Mackey made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Beiter.
Ms. Fessler. Thank you. Tonight we just had a couple things to go over so there was a couple of repayments that had to be accounted for and some bugs that were not expected that had to be accounted for so we are asking for counsel's approval to submit a substantial amendment to HUD for 2019 for a repayment of 49,275 and then in 2020 a repayment total of 15,003 8063 which will go towards the fire department rescue boat. Then in 2021 a re-budgeting extra funds in the Willow Street design rescue boat and owner occupied single-family rehab which was the emergency rehab program, and in 2024 we had leftover funds in the early Boulevard program that we could reallocate to the Sojourner Truth industries so I'm looking for approval tonight for those amendments.
>> COUNCIL PRES. ADAM YODER: Thank you Jamie. Are there any comments questions for Ms. Fessler or Ms. Schroeder related to the amendments? Okay. Hearing and seeing none Mrs. Frank item 13 please.
.**The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor.**
Mr. Allison voted yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted yes and Mr. Yoder voted yes.

Resolution #9984

Resolution Authorizing a Professional & Administrative Services Agreement Between City & SEDA-Council of Government for Professional & Administrative Services for the Legislative Pre-Disaster Mitigation 2023

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second.

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

Ms. Fessler This resolution actually represents a really exciting time for us because we are kicking off the levy reconstruction projects with the eight-dollar earmark that we have been allocated by the federal government. What this resolution authorizes is for SEDA-COG to assist us with a compliance and professional administrative services to manage that grant funding. It is not Jamie Schroeder it is a different division of (word?). Nancy Kramer who is not able to be with us this evening but I do have some extensive information about her credentials and her work with SEDA-COG if you are interested in that. She is working with the county to administer and manage compliance for their EDA grant which is the $5.5 million Crosspoint project kicked off with the levy. This is a recommendation essentially to pay 2% administrative services feed to SEDA-COG for each reimbursement we do for this project. I will just note that one of the reasons why we feel having SEDA-COG represent us through this project is because this project is reimbursement basil we are going to be doing about $10.7 million worth of projects. We get reimbursed for the funds that we spend so we have to make sure that we cross every when it comes to bid docs and every single compliance items so we are really excited to have the opposite have SEDA-COG alongside us to make sure we do that so we don't face a repayment and also they have extensive project management skills with this type of project and we know they will move this project fast for you as the work that we have scoped with this money will be right up against the deadline left spending it even with an extension so we are really helpful to work with them and have them help us with the project.

Mrs. Katz Five the question I have is this is the $8 million that was allocated. It has to be five or six years ago. Is that the same $8 million?

Ms. Fessler : This $8 million was allocated and I believe it was 2023. Mayor Slaughter correct me if I'm wrong. It was to be expended by would've been five years from to be expended in would've been five years from to be expended in September 2026 and we're working on extension to extend it through September 2028. And really just to speak to that a little bit. There wasn't anything on the cities end that held up the project and allocation. We are just now under contract with FEMA and the funding has just been released. There's been nothing on the end of the city that has held this money up. The second that we received the contract and it was signed, we reached out to SEDA-COG for those professional services agreement and hear we are. It wasn't until after the shutdown was over that we receive the final contract.

Mrs. Katz: That's what I kind of thought. Remember -- and I was just wondering if it was the same allocation. If I remember correctly, Senator Yaw part of that also I think. Maybe I'm thinking of something else but it's about time we shoveled some dirt here.

Ms. Fessler : Yes, we are ready.

Mr. Beiter: Do you have other examples that -- of projects that SEDA-COG has worked on of this magnitude?

Ms. Fessler : They are currently managing the $5.5 million grant that the county has from the EDA for the Crosspoint project. I asked Betsy to submit her credentials so I could read a few sentences. Great. Betsy Kramer SEDA-COG community revitalization manager has extensive experience managing complex state and federal projects across and 11 county region and has secured or advanced more than $34.5 million in grant funding for local governments. She has supported by a highly skilled SEDA-COG's team specializing in labor standards federal and state critic behind fiscal management project ministration and ensuring thorough oversight throughout the life of the project. Betsy has been working diligently with FEMA on the city's extension request and reports positive indications the grant period may be extended through spring 2028 which will provide an appropriate timeline for successful completion of this 26 month project.

Ms. Miele: Not to exceed $215,000 match. Payment to SEDA-COG will be coming out of the emergency and reserve fund? : Which strikes me as a totally fair and appropriate place for it to come from.

Mr. Yoder: That was the idea behind it.

Ms. Miele: You gave me a sharp look and I thought I can't be the only person.

Mr. Yoder: I had to think for a second. That was not what that was. That's what we designed it for.

Ms. Miele: Are there any other monies for this levy project coming out of that emergency and reserve fund?

Ms. Fessler Yes. The (word?) project is 10.7 million and the grant is 8 million so we required to put a 20% match and that was the money that was pulled from the emergency fund.

Ms. Miele: I guess the following question is there still that much money in the emergency and reserve fund.

We move some things around and there was the payment to the FDA. Good. Thank you.

Mr. Yoder Any other comments or questions? Hearing and seeing none Mrs. Frank item vote 14 the vote.

.**The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor.**

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

Certificate of Appropriateness – 124 E. Fourth St.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.

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

Mr. Knarr what I present is a certificate of appropriate request from Mike Harris Realty for the location of 124 E. fourth Street it is currently occupied by sweet fire coffee and bakery shop because it does reside within the CBT-I requires a certificate of appropriateness. The front part of the building has mountain stone at the bottom and wood siding on top with a black roof . The back building actually has about the same type of thing and has the mountain stone at the bottom. It is gray siding that goes all the way with the black roof with balconies will be made up of wrought iron as well as some wood trim to match the front part of the building. I can answer any questions and I do have a representative here.

Ms. Miele : First and foremost the business is a terrific addition to the part of the town and they seem to be doing very well. The renovation interior wise is certainly a success and exterior I think is a good thing for the building as well. The one question I would have Gary is that the renovation is completed.

: It is not completed. They are still working on phase 2 which will be (word?) as well as across the street from the alley there will be refurbishing that building as well so it is quite an extensive renovation designed by Visco architects .

Ms. Miele: We will see a certificate of appropriateness for the left side of the alley.

Mr. Yoder: Any other comments or questions from members? Hearing seeing none Mrs. Frank item 16.

The certificate of appropriateness was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor.

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

Resolution #9985

Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Real Property to River Valley Transit Authority .

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second.

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

Mr. Grimes this is something that the city has been dealing with since March of last year I believe. What to do with certain properties that were built with federal transit authority money owned by the city since the separation of RVTA and the city. After negotiating in March again in the summer we've come up with a resolution that we feel is in the best interest of all the parties involved here. Essentially what this resolution does is authorizes the city to transfer three of the buildings that were built with FTA money to RVTA. Those buildings are transit one, trade transit to and Church Street parking deck and some offices . This was originally approved actually March of last year . Then with certain things coming up with the FTA, that resolution was pulled back. Another resolution was passed to say that two of those properties were now being used for essential transit purposes . This resolution pulls back that resolution and transfers these three buildings. With that transfer there's a certain number of considerations for the city. The first and probably the most important being that if those properties are not used for transit purposes as the FTA intends or they become in disrepair or they attempt to be sold then those properties come back to the city. The reason for that is it wasn't 100% FTA funds that were used to build those properties. It was about 80% which means if those properties are sold, 80% of the money has to go back to the FTA. That doesn't matter what the sale price is or how much FTA put in. 80% of the assets are theirs. In the future if those assets are sold or not used appropriately, then the city still has that reversionary interest to where they then would be able to protect that 20% equity in the properties. The other thing that it does is allows the city for at least two years to continue to operate out of the buildings that they are operating in at a reduced rental price than what they are operating out of now as part of a consideration for that transfer. RVTA still needs to vote on this so right now it's pending a range of five to $10 per square foot but that's less than the $11 per square foot currently being paid. Also there's a consideration that if this study would needed a certain number of parking spots could be reserved in the church Street parking deck for the city. This has been reviewed by RVTA solicitor. It has not been approved by their board yet. FTA was in the discussions to make sure that everything that the city and RVTA is doing is in compliance with their needs and their requirements. I'm certainly happy to answer any questions .

Mr. Yoder: Thank you Mr. Grimes. Are there comments or questions on the resolution? Mr. Beiter.

Mr. Beiter: Just a comment. Mr. Grimes thank you very much for all the work you put into this. I also know Mr. Kenyon put in a lot of work as well. The folks at RVTA thank you very much for being patient with us through this process. It was a very unique situation that we were all unfamiliar with and wanted to make sure we had the best equitable solution for RVTA and the City of Williamsport since these were funded partially by the city 20%. I appreciate your willingness to come to the table at this point for an equitable solution.

Mr. Yoder : Thank you, Mr. Beiter. Any other comments or questions from others?

Mrs. Katz : I'm sorry. I let go of the mute key. What you're saying is that we will still be paying rent at a lower rate. I know I have asked for a breakdown as far as what funds were used for these buildings for train and transit one and train and transit two . Is it so hard that you can't pull a spreadsheet showing where the funds came from? To me, I've been asking for that for a long time.

Mr. Yoder: Mrs. Katz, fair question. I think at the end of the day, if it's something we are interested in I think RVTA can probably certainly get that for us. But I think more importantly, yes, we would still be paying a cost per square foot for the space we occupy for rent. As we should because we will be continuing to occupy them at least in the short term. At the end of the day, frankly, that situation is a little more in line I think with what we've been operating under. They will own and operate these properties now. The important thing to remember and Mr. Grimes hit this point and I think this is important for the public to realize. When you look at the stipulations in the deed that we have put in there in terms of it coming back to us should they're need it or they want to sell at that kind of thing at the end of the day the equity that the city has, the 20% is protected. We think about these properties and to be investment the city has made with all the respect RVTA and the investments they have made and the Feds have made, that's protected which I think at the end of the day is what a lot of us were trying to figure out how we do and what we do what that looks like. I think RVTA can probably get that for us if we still need to see that. That's how I would answer your question Mrs. Katz. Are there any other questions from members? Hearing seeing none Mrs. Frank item 10 please.

. **The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor.**

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

Resolution #9982

Resolution Honoring Councilman Randall Allison for his Distinguished Service to the City of Williamsport

Mr. Yoder read the resolution into the record.

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

Mr. Yoder: We had a first time in a few cycles there was an unfamiliar name there was a familiar name not on the ballot that was Randy Allison. With tradition of departing members of Council it's been our tradition and a good one to honor them with a resolution and we are doing that here today . For the record I will read it in so the public and all of our

attendees here can hear what is in here and we can do some recognition of Councilman Allison. This is a resolution ...City of Williamsport. Whereas Councilwoman Randy Allison has faithfully serve the residents of our city with dedication integrity and distinction on City Council from 2010 through 2026 and whereas Councilman Allison served with exceptional leadership as Council President from 2019 through 2022 a period that encompassed unprecedented challenges including the coping 19 pandemic and whereas during the time of significant transition with both the mayor's office and City Council membership Councilman Allison provided steady, reassuring leadership that guided our municipal government through changeable times. And whereas his calming presence and thoughtful approach to governance during the pandemic helped ensure continuity of essential city services and responsive decision-making when our community needed it most and whereas throughout his tenure Councilman Allison has been known for his wisdom and deliberation his candor and discussion and his gracious disposition in all interactions with colleagues staff and constituents and whereas his commitment to transparent collaborative governance set a standard that current and future councilmembers will continue to emulate and aspire to achieve and whereas Councilman Allison has earned the respect and admiration of his fellow council members city staff and the residents he has served there is unwavering dedication to the betterment of our community and whereas his contributions to our city's progress an example of public service has left an undeniable mark on our municipal government and taking the benefit our community for years to come. Now therefore be it resolved the City Council does hereby express its profound gratitude to Councilman Randy Allison for his outstanding service, commends him for leadership during challenging times and extends its best wishes for his future endeavors and be it further resolved that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the City Council and a certified copy be presented to Councilman Randy Allison as a token of appreciation for his service to our city and his residence.

Mr. Yoder: If I can maybe offer some comments and really thanks and gratitude to because you're really somebody as I look back in serving with you for six years, you're really somebody that has impacted me personally and professionally. Because you've always really been in my corner . When I moved back to the area I got involved with the local committee. I remember sitting beside Deb actually . I see her nodding her head. Getting involved with the committee. You were always really there as a resource for me and supporting me and a lot of things I was interested in trying to do. When I reached out to you to talk about running for City Council you are always there as a resource. And as somebody who is very supportive and insightful in the process. My first couple years on counsel where I will openly recognize that I probably wasn't the easiest to work with AT times, you know -- I mean not. You handled a young, up-and-coming whippersnapper maybe with a lot of poise, intelligence and grace . I really never thought much about it until I was fortunate to see you in this seat and understand how impactful you have been and how valuable your approach to leadership was and a lot of what I've tried to do in my time as Council President has really been modeled after what I learned from you. I'm extremely grateful to be sitting here beside you for six years and to have had you have my back for beyond six years. I can't thank you enough. I think your family as well because you've served City Council for 16 years. I have no idea how you've done it. This is hard. This is hard.

Mr. Allison: She's sitting at the back of the room.

Mr. Yoder: Use served three terms on the school board before. Your dedication to this community is unmatched. This community is better for it so thank you very much for everything you've done for the city, for the community, for me . I will not forget it. And none of us will.

Mr. Allison: You're very gracious. Thank you for those words.

Ms. Miele: Randy, you don't get the floor unless the rest of us say something. You know how that goes. : Randy is allowed to have the floor first if he wants but don't expect it to happen on budget. Go for it. : Then I'm taking the floor next because I'm usually the second biggest mouth on the Council but I'm the only person here who has ...Somebody punked out early. But he picked a good time because it means we got (Indiscernible). I remember back when I first gone on counsel that nobody could have been more surprised than I was that I got elected. It's possible there were some people who were more dismayed than I was but I'm not positive about that either. For a brief time actually know for quite a while after I got elected I was the only Democrat on City Council. I looked at everybody else on City Council as an entrenched Democrat from a liberal family for generations. I looked at everyone with a certain degree of suspicion. And some of them deserved it, but I remember thinking after getting to know Randy that I realized that I had known his son Adam when we were in elementary school and Adam was one of the first kind of friends I had in elementary school. We kicked each other under the table at lunch. It was a really sweet relationship we had and I thought Randy, maybe I should give him a chance. Even as a Republican. And it has turned out -- there's something kind of remarkable about learning to really love and respect someone with whom you share both everything in common and very little in common. Randy and I come from most of the same places. We have a lot of the same goals and we cherish I think pretty much all of the same things as truth in our lives and yet there are very few things more different than in some cases the way that those inform our political views. Yet I have come to have more respect for Randy than anyone else I've ever had the good fortune to know. It's altered the way I think . Not just about Randy and not just about other people of opposing political views on City Council but frankly everybody in Williamsport and sometimes nationally. It makes me give pause and take second thought on everything that I would have leapt forward and judged in my life. That frankly Randy may not sound like the complement that it is but it takes a lot to make someone rethink the bedrock things they have believed in their lives and it's ...call you a jerk or many worse words I use on a regular basis despite the fact that I know (Indiscernible) doesn't like swearing. I don't think that I could have been as good a councilperson as I have been and certainly not a person as I have been if it wasn't to get spending time with Randy over the last 16 years and the fact that the poor guy had to spend a couple years with me as vice president in the middle of the pandemic when I had multiple children and was doing absolutely nothing. I don't know exactly what I'm gonna do without -- I don't know what any of us are going to do without Randy to hold us on even keel and make us take a step back and stop leaping to conclusions and having strong opinions and thoughtfulness that comes from a radical approach to treating other people like decent human beings. I am going to attempt to not be so much of a hothead moving forward Randy and to bring a little bit more view into my family interactions if I fail Debbie is going to remind me. That I have failed to take a step back because I know she's capable of that. Thank you Randy for everything you've done for all of us. And now I'm guessing everybody else wants to also say nice things but you can steal the floor whenever you'd like.

Mrs. Katz: Adam, if I could put my two cents in: Randy, you have been my rock. I think you know every time I was

ready to jump off the cliff with what I wanted to see and do you were able to calm me down and talk it out as what we were looking at what we were doing. You've done that so graciously over the years. That's what I would love to take away that you are the calmness but you're also the intelligent one who's gone through an awful lot through ups and downs with council and the administration. How could we -- I don't think we can let you go. I'm sorry, Randy. I don't know how we can say goodbye to you because you have been the force behind the table there. Please don't be a stranger, okay? Stop and see us, okay? And also give us your hand on the shoulder and say it's going to be okay. That's what I look for. I look for being told it's gonna be okay, Randy. That's how you always handled it. I'm gonna miss you sitting there, but I don't want to miss you. I would like you to still be there. So take care, Randy.
Mr. Allison: Thank you Bonnie. I will stop by and see you as often as we can.
Mr. Pulizzi: If I may, it's going to be hard to follow up everybody else's statements. Randy, in the very short time I've had the privilege of sitting up here and serving with you, you've taught me an awful lot about the person that I would like to be and the servant to the city that I would like to be. Up here, I'm usually pretty quiet, but behind the scenes I know I'm pretty loud and hotheaded and we all know that and when that happens, Randy's the guy I call. He is the study, consistent rock we always lean on . His experience and his wisdom, his demeanor have always helped rain me in and bring some clarity to my approach. Which is not always the best. But Randy, I'm going to miss you. Truly. I think if everyone in the city aspire to be more like you we would be far better off. Thank you.
Mr. Mackey I will go next. I'm gonna follow up with what Vince said. Calming. I think that's the best word. That can be used. Much like Vince, I've found myself the past six years when I've been worked up about something and you have to make some calls and talk to people. you're the one that I would always feel better after I got off the phone with and there's a lot of times I'm not even sure you said much. You just let me vent and : All the things I wanted to say. I'm not sure I asked your opinion. So I apologize for that. But getting off the phone with you I always felt better. I just want to thank you for that. Unlike President Yoder, I know I've been very easy to work with the last two years and you're a Republican? I didn't realize that. Anyway. But just thank you so much for quietly showing us all, especially us, Adam, myself, Vince, Eric, Dave Banks previous, all these new people, showing us quietly how to do this job. So thank you so much for that. You will be missed, but I'm gonna come see you at the growers market as much as I possibly can.
Ms. Miele: You know we're gonna talk them into some kind of service. we'll see.
Mr. Beiter I had the least amount of time to serve with you but we've known each other a little longer than that from my mayoral run in 2019 and you were helpful when I came to you for advice about how the process works, what issues were facing this city at the time and when I got elected to council, in 21, I thought was what would Randy do? Again as everybody has said, with that calming mentality you've had throughout, you've been a great example for all of us almost as a father figure on City Council. But just taking a moment to take a step back and not necessarily comment but just give an opinion as to where you see things from and then letting us do over things because it was almost like you were trying to Pulizzi your way. As you did that. It was greatly appreciated. Thank you very much for that and I will say that I am jealous of all of you that you've gotten to spend more time with Randy as an elected official but as I said the condition of your retirement is you are not allowed to go away fully. The other thing is the young man that got elected in your seat has the same exact haircut so we won't miss you that much.
Mayor Slaughter: Everything that needed to be said has been said but my first few years on City Council the two years I spent there I had the privilege of sitting next to Randy. That was an honor and joy as I was learning the ways of City Council and as President Yoder alluded to Randy was president of council as I took over as mayor. I also had many phone conversations with Randy during his time and I still do and it's been said that he's calm, he's measured, he's pragmatic and reasonable and I think in today's political climate, we could probably use a few more Randys . That was appreciated over the years. Eight years now that I've worked with Randy. In local government and so I appreciate all the words of wisdom and listening that he provided to me as well. Thank you for your service here to the city and getting to know you and Deb over these last eight years. Knowing you before and getting to know you better now it's been a privilege and an honor. I'm sure I will still see you around. And see what the market and other things you're involved in so thank you.
Mr. Allison: Thank you. I should just quit while I'm ahead. I'm kind of overwhelmed. I don't see myself like that. But I'll take your words for it. It's been a great experience. I'm so thankful I had the opportunity to serve on City Council and be a part of our city and the things that we've worked with . It just kept confirming in my soul that it's really about people . It's how we treat them. How we respect them. And how we can reach out and help those that need it. I know that's the spirit of all the people on council and in our administration. We want our city to thrive. It's in great hands with this group. I can say I love each and every one of you. I have felt like a dad because I am a generation older than everybody else except Bonnie. And Bonnie and I are compatriots in all of this. It's been great. But in the words of Kenny Rogers, there's a time when you hold them and a time when you fold them. There's a time to walk away and there's a time to run. I know it's a song and we probably all want to sing along with it. But I felt in my spirit and soul that it was time . I served here and I'm grateful for it. It was enlightening in a lot of ways, but it was time . I held them, and I knew it was time to let go. I knew it was time to walk away. But I knew it was time not to run for City Council again. Nothing stays the same forever. And there has to be transition. There has to be new life come forth . I think in public service, it's good to be cognizant of that that it's a privilege to be here and it's a privilege to be a public servant . But you don't own that. You hold onto that and try to make things better. For your city and for the people in it. But that doesn't mean you should be there forever. I think we've seen some of that at higher levels of government. But I like the way this group functions. I just think everybody and God bless you all. everyone I've met in the administration has been just great. They are upstanding people. We don't always agree on everything, but that's how it should be because iron sharpens iron . You don't get better if you don't get challenged. I'm just grateful for everybody out here who has given their lives and time in ways that I don't even imagine the stress and strain. I thank you all and Godspeed.
Mr. Yoder: If you'll allow me Randy, I want to give Janice an opportunity to say a few things to Randy because I think you wanted to.
Janice Frank: Randy, I've been 15 years here and knowing you forever. I'm gonna miss picking up the phone and going, Randy, help me! They're making me crazy because you've been here so long with me. I'm going to miss that. But I know that you and I will keep talking and I know we share a long history and our love and worship for Christ. I thank you for everything you've given me too.
Mr. Allison: Janice, you're irreplaceable. I think everybody on council would say that. The knowledge and the research

that you've done over the years, not just things that people on council or the administration have asked of you. But the way you've embraced the position that you have. But you've also embraced the people that you interact with. I'll never forget that. But we will be crossing paths . I am half Italian. We have that together too. But thank you so much, Janice. You've meant a lot to everybody here.
Mr. Yoder: Very much so. If you'll allow me, there's a few members of your family that her back there. If you are so motivated, we'd love to welcome you to the podium and if any of you would like to share . If not, that's fine as well.
Mr. Allison: Here comes the law.
Adam Allison : I have nothing prepared. I wasn't expecting to say anything. I'm not an emotional person. But man, give me an opportunity. Just -- sorry. Having an opportunity to learn everything that you talked about that everyone has said. I'm so thankful for that. I don't know if he would agree, but I think perhaps his years on the school board were at least as intense and rough . I was a K-12 student along with Liz in those years and seeing it unfold in my own classroom with my own teachers . As difficult as that was at times, I loved it and I'm thankful for the opportunity to be there and learn with services. I can only speak from my perspective. As a public school teacher, I know that when you go to school to become a principal, one of the first things they teach you if the program is good is how to serve. In order to be a good leader. I always -- that always stuck with me with my dad. The people who he chose to work with. It's pretty neat and shame on me for not coming here more often. You read about it in the paper. Every day. I ask him as many question as I can. I don't even live in the city but I was born and raised here as he was. Thank you for allowing me to be here and everything I was able to do tonight.
Mr. Allison: Thanks, Adam. Love you, buddy.
Mr. Yoder: Alright. Any other parting comments before we take our vote on our honorary resolution? We love you, Randy.
Mr. Allison: I'm going to abstain.
The resolution was carried with sic yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor.
Mr. Allison abstained. , Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted yes and Mr. Yoder voted yes.
Ms. Miele: Now in typical fashion for Randy, he has to sit around for another hour while we do other things instead of getting to leave and go somewhere.
Mr. Allison : I can do an hour**.**

Ordinance #6519

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

The City Clerk read the ordinance in final reading.
Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.
Mr. Pulizzi made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Beiter.
Ms. Livermore. As Janice said this is the final reading for the operating budget for 2026. Does anybody have any questions or comments?
Mr. Yoder: If the group would allow me, I will kick this off. This is the second reading of our annual budget . This passed unanimously in first reading. We kind of hinted at a few conceptual changes that we wanted to discuss tonight. Members of the administration just bear with us as we do this and try to have a dialogue on where I think our heads are at as we work through a few concepts. There are two categories that a number of us had interest in exploring to further position ourselves going into 2027. Both categories are in line with recommendations that PFM has publicly told us. The first is changing contribution limits for healthcare contributions for employees that we are able to do and that is that will -- at-will employees. There's a few dynamics related to that. I was able to obtain some guidance from PFM on what else do they see in other areas? This is much more the administration as it is for members of council here. I think in the municipal marketplace, the contribution areas aren't much different than I think what we're seeing generally. With our union employees . I think it's anywhere from 10 to 15 percentage contribution we're at. Correct me if I'm wrong Jamie. 135 range across non-and unionized, correct?
Ms. Livermore: Paid from zero dollars to 5%.
Mr. Yoder: In looking at that concept, there were a few different ranges that were floated to me for PFM and we already have it established in precedent that I thought word worth discussing and that round. PFM had suggested or at least validated the concept of a 57 set up or 710 would be a really good balance in getting closer to where I think their recommendation is and not getting so far as to where we're creating this massive shock to employees in getting closer to the open marketplace. The other thing for us to remember is our elected officials are already contributing more. Mayor, controller, treasurer, Council members until January 1 when insurance is no longer available are doing five and 10. 5% individual and 10%?
Ms. Livermore 10% difference between family and individual coverage.
Mr. Yoder : There's a few different levels that I think we could make an argument for in doing that. Then aloe open the floor for thoughts from members after this one as well. The way that -- it took me a few days to help understand this better so Jamie thank you for your help in that process. And again I will reiterate thank you for your help with this overall budget. It's a lot of work. I know you're putting in a lot of late hours and I think I can probably speak for the group that we are very grateful for it. The way that the budget is set up, the cost is reflective of the overall actual costs. The actual is where we would see savings and the contributions. I think we could implement that a couple different ways . We could make line item changes. Something cleaner is we could pass a resolution noting and setting a policy for at-will to start. That's what we have control over to make contributing more in this budget as well. I will open the floor and just gauge a couple different things. Is there a consensus on a level as well as is this something we want to pursue now or in January?
Ms. Livermore: Personally, I don't feel like I would pursue this just yet. I think I would rather wait . We've worked pretty hard on this budget . Making changes, trying to find savings, working on contracts. We're working on everything all the way around. It's my personal feeling that, even with the PFA recommendations which on paper are very sound right now, we're working towards fiscal equity across the board. I just worry about the financial impact that this could have on some of our at will employees at this current time.
Mr. Yoder: Any other feedback from the group?

Ms. Miele: I think because -- to return to the PFM recommendations, the vast majority of city employees contribute significantly less to healthcare than most employees. With that in mind I think it is only appropriate that we begin moving toward a higher level of healthcare contribution from individual employees. That said, I'm with Vince in the sense that it doesn't strike me as the world's best Christmas present. I would suggest that we work on passing a resolution in the beginning of the year implementing a change like this. Perhaps early next year and that is to say give ourselves a six-month saying this is what we want to work on, engage in discussions with employees that will be impacted and say this give people a little bit of time instead of making it something that hits on 1 January and completely modifies what you thought you understood about your upcoming year . Things like vacations have already been planned . But they have to buy healthcare contributions. In part because I think that it will improve our ability to negotiate with our unions moving forward on this issue, and in part because I think that it is one of the more equitable ways to help our employees understand the cost of healthcare to the city and give them a level of buying in the insurance coverage we're purchasing and the kind of coverage that they want and what's cost-effective for them. I think it's a wise decision. But I think that we should begin discussions on that in the new year and have it land in June or July and it would be a little bit equitable for people to adjust to those changes.
Mr. Yoder: To be candid, I appreciate both of the feedback on the employees side of it. At the end of the day, this is really the difficult part of this process. When we're looking at trying to fix some systemic things and trying to build as big of a bridge as we can between now and hopefully getting in a better position in a couple years, this is a hard thing to discuss. I certainly appreciate the perspective. I agree. Frankly, this is -- of the two categories, this is a much more of a moving target. There's a lot more to this. This is a lot larger scale of the change. Compared to the attrition concept that PFM had said that we can discuss here. Any other comments from other members?
Mr. Beiter: I have a quick question for the administration. When was the last time that our healthcare has been put out to bid?
Ms. Livermore I think it was two years ago. I think it was when Molly was here but I think we discussed this in the last meeting. Donna and I have talked about she plans to do it beginning to mid year's year. An RFP would be put out. There's time restraints with the healthcare so I think you have to do it have some sort of thing before June 30 in order to become fine with your current provider.
Mr. Beiter : A resolution with six-month lead time would coincide with that plan very well so employees would probably see a change in healthcare costs -- when you shop that around you might see a lower rate in the first two years if you codify your contract so might be a net neutral for those employees and then it would be a much slower ramp up for that.
Mr. Yoder: Any other comments? Get into next year looking at middle of the year is where do some groundwork, legwork on that in collaboration with the administration and revisit that late spring of next year. Is what I'm hearing.
Ms. Miele: We should try to revisited earlier than that.
Mr. Yoder: With the idea of getting it through late spring early summer. Any other comments on that item? The other broad category that PFM noted is the concept of attrition. Again this is also a difficult one that I don't think any of us -- I don't like it at all but it's something I think we need to talk about and discuss and see if it makes sense . With the concept of notably positioning ourselves as best we can for 2027. The bridge strategy was a two-year strategy and with what I expect to pass later in the meeting of the home rule, getting us to a point where we can hopefully get that implemented and provide revenue flexibility to where we can then make up some of these things we had to do to get from point A to point B. These are a lot more black-and-white from a technical budget perspective. I'm going to make a motion, a couple motions here and I don't want to freak out anybody in the administration because if the consensus is not do anything I can rescind the motion. I'm making the motion just to start the dialogue. So I'm gonna make a motion to reduce a firefighter first year by 0.3, impacting the salary, FICA, health, life, workers comp line items.
Ms. Miele: Only impact (Indiscernible) for now. That's all we do just others would pass on.
Mr. Yoder: Is there a second to that motion?
Mr. Allison I will second..
Mr. Yoder: Chief Aungst I believe there's a potential retirement coming in 2025. No, 2026. Next year. That .3 was the conceptually meant to try to backfill that potential employment. by removing that .3 staff member, that would eliminate the replacement should that individual retire enacting the concept of attrition in your department. From what I've gathered throughout the week from some feedback I've gotten from other members of Council, and indirectly through the administration, I think we can manage in the department by making that move. Again, I recognize it's not optimal, right? But it's a little bit of the background on that.
Mr. Yoder you don't mind popping up here, thank you cheese. I appreciate it by the way.
Mr. Allison: Eliminating that position is gonna have an impact on the regionalization efforts we are trying to make. we're gonna try to do with the limited manpower now. If we eliminate that position, that is going to create significantly more overtime as well. I will stand here and tell you I understand where you're coming from. But I think it's a huge mistake . The mayor has -- since I've been chief, the mayor has increased us by three personnel which has been a tremendous help. Losing anyone is very detrimental, especially right now and we're entering into these regionalization talks. I would hope you would definitely reconsider and find other sources.
Mr. Yoder: Look, I appreciate that. We are not voting on the motion yet. These changes are a lot more concrete or straightforward from a technical perspective and how they work in the budget compared to the earlier piece that we talked about that's a lot more -- has more complexity from a line item, budget composition perspective. Are there any comments or questions on that motion? From members? Look, I'll say this as well. I don't know that -- I understand where you're coming from. And I mean this truly. I don't like it. And I know that you recognize why we're talking about it. It's a battle. Hopefully it's temporary. Hopefully it's a temporary two year strategy to help us solidify that bridge to where we get the revenue flexibility to where we can hopefully bring it back but as that regionalization effort takes off, staff at the way we need to be. That's the root of why we're discussing this.
Chief Aungst: If I can ask one question. Why is it always the fire department that is faced with layoffs? Obviously and 96 we were laid off. They lead firefighters off and never replace them. In 97 I believe they laid eight more off. They were never replaced. I believe it was 2000 made or in 2009 or 2010 there were threats of -- not threats but possible illumination of two firefighter positions . Now this year we're looking at not replacing -- no layoffs, but elimination of a position. If you could just answer that, I would greatly appreciate that.

Mr. Yoder: Certainly. I don't have the institutional context that you do to start off. I really appreciate where you're coming from and understand the frustration . I can't really answer those questions about history and that kind of stuff. How I would answer that question is first off, you are not the only department that we're going to have a dialogue about. Secondly, as I mentioned, in my mind and I think in everybody else's mind, this is really a temporary measure. This is a temporary measure that does not -- I don't know how to say this the appropriate way. You've kind of alluded to it. It's attrition which is we're not firing or cutting people . We're not replacing temporarily. Like I said, I mean this. Because I've voted to hire new firefighters . Most of us have, right? And I think that vote reflects hey, we get the challenge that your department faces from a staffing perspective and I think that reflects the desire of this to be a temporary measure. Getting us to as good of the position we can be in going into 2027. If we can get to where we want to go with the revenue flexibility, we backfill that position. As the (word?) effort which is excellent that you and your department should be commended for continues to take root, we can be in a much better position to staff that as it needs to be and we want to be. I don't know that that addresses the frustration that you have that I understand and sympathize with. But I mean it . It's hopefully a temporary measure to better position us as we going to the 2027 budget because at the end of the day, the feedback that I got from PFM when I talk to them about a couple of these concepts is look, what your budget looks like today, this is a great 2026 budget in the bridge concept compared to what we thought it was going to be. However, we're using a lot of one time things or reserves that we don't want to continue too long and get too far behind. Capital . we're gonna be limited in being able to dip into our emergency reserve multiple years because of the good work that we're seeing with the levy. It's really a balancing act of trying to put this together and frankly in the 2027 budget I will be shocked if we don't see more of these things and if we don't do some of these things now it's gonna be harder in 2027. For all of us and that includes your successor and all the firefighters in there. I don't know if that addresses your question but that's how I would answer that, if that helps, chief.
Chief : It helps me understand, but it's a stab to the heart.
Mr. Yoder: I understand. It does us too.
Chief Aungst: I think there are other ways that we can come up with and be creative to come up with other ways to handle that.
Mr. Allison: Mr. Beiter or Ms. Miele.
Ms. Miele: I think if and when we know that we become a home rule municipality and the financial reforms that come with that as a possibility, we can reform the budget with an eye toward having enough funding to -- not that any of this is excess. We know this has been bare-bones for a long time but I think the point is that we can't deplete reserves to the point that we don't have enough bridge funding to pay our employees. That we have to take out a loan. The best approach that we can come up with is to try and be maybe not jerk Coney invite close to it right now with the hopes that by May 2027 we find ourselves in a position we can begin adding positions back in because we know where we are financially. We know we are more comfortable financially but I think Adams right. I am the councilperson who's been increasing taxes for the last four years as everyone knows but we have to do one of two things. We have to raise taxes to meet our financial needs in the current government system that we're in or we have to cut positions until we find ourselves in a better financial position. If the will is not there on the part of the administration and on the part of my fellow members of council to increase taxes, then we have to meet that by cutting back on staffing until we get to a point where we're more secure financially. I think that is the genesis of this. That is what -- there were multiple things that we heard . Sorry. For some reason I just keep getting sick right now so if I sound gravelly it's gravitas and that I came with a cold but the recommendations of PFM were attrition and a handful of city departments, increased contribution in healthcare which we can only do with at will employees and for an increase in taxes larger than the one proposed in the current budget. We have taken -- we are working to take as many of those recommendations as we can because we need to position the city hopefully in a couple years time to lead it back into the fray with a solid financial footing and we can't do that without adopting as many of those recommendations as possible.
Mr. Beiter : With the regionalization efforts that are going on, manpower and over time you see increasing but how is this position integral to the success of that? Is it something that it's a third of a person?
Mr. Yoder: It's 0.3 assuming that correct me if I'm wrong chief. The individual retires at some point mid to late next year and that person would be going through the Academy and would not be one to be operable until the end of next year.
Mr. Aungst: I believe the individual who is retiring retires January 27.
: The third is -- we have been doing for several years is when we know somebody's leaving early in the year or late in the year, we hire for the preceding so whether it's the spring Academy or the fall Academy. We hire for that Academy so that they're there and as soon that person retires, they are on the floor and already working.
Mr. Allison: So you have the overlap there.
Mr. Beiter: So you have the overlap there. We'd be looking at an issue in 27 with regionalization and staffing because we are down at that point with having someone at the Academy.
Chief : This individual who was work retiring in 27 retires right abound the same time January 11 same as me. Of 27 and then we would not hire probably until February until they get out of the Academy would be closer to mid-to-late May. Before they get out of the Academy. So there would be several months where there's that position isn't filled.
Mr. Beiter: I appreciate you explaining that more so I can understand how that works for you guys specifically. With regards to the Academy, do we get any kind of reimbursement from the state? The Academy? Spirit
The fire department is footing the whole bill.
Mrs. Katz : Chief, you've been working on this regionalization for several years at this point. I'm hoping that you said your retirement is going to be January 2027. I hope the person that is gonna fill these awfully big shoes is going to be able to take what you have started and go full force with this because I think this is where the smaller townships are going to be going as we have all talked about that is with regionalization. Hopefully that's the way it's gonna be . I don't want to lose the education and everything that goes on with you chief because like I said you for your tail off for this. That's all I have to say right now.
Chief : Mrs. Katz did wake -- make one comment about the world smaller departments. It's not just the rural smaller departments. It's every department. Every single department, volunteer fire department in Pennsylvania, they are leaving by the droves. When we were reduced by 16 back in the 90s, there were volunteers that would come in and help and ease that burden. But today, there is around 13,000 volunteer firefighters who are certified to go into a burning building and put a fire out. As opposed to back in the 70s there were 300,000. It is a massive decrease in the

number of people who are volunteering and it's not just the volunteer fire service. It's organizations as well as many of you all know. They rely on us more than what we rely on them. But we absolutely rely on our volunteers as well. It's commonplace now for seven or eight fire companies to be dispatched to a fire. If we can't -- that's all enough first alarm. That's a working box. If we can't provide that to ourselves, we can't expect them to come in and help as well. To that extent I should say. I would really hope that you would look at, reconsider and find alternative means.
Mr. Yoder: Thank you for that. Thank you for the dialogue so far. Mr. Beiter and Ms. Miele, thank you for the comments and questions. Do you have another one?
Mr. Beiter: This is a question for the administrative edition as a whole and the mayor. Sam, you've got 30 days. It's more a question for whomever your replacement may be. But the fire department, nobody questions what you do obviously. You only have 13,000 people in the state that do the job that are you do so you are a very brief individual and we thank you for that. But is there a way from the administration standpoint that we can look at getting some value added from the fire department. We've talked offline but I'll say this publicly now about potentially having the fire department service in the future so we can look at how we can tough pill to swallow down the road but how can we do that and then have the complement of officers that we need in the fire department but also get other things done . I know you've said to me before the amount of calls you guys go on throughout the course of the year continues to increase. But a number of fire calls decreases and that's a testament to the jobs you are doing. Rental living inspection stack get done and so on. How can we see that value added potentially in the future open ended question I'm not looking for an answer right now but did something I think we should seriously consider going forward.
Mr. Yoder: Any other questions, comments on the dialogue and the fire staffing? Mr. Pulizzi?
Mr. Pulizzi: Not necessarily -- I would put a question out there but it's a very broad question . I encourage all of us to think about it right now and I've said it several times as we are encountering these tough financial situations and trying to better prepare ourselves as we look a couple years down the road to be successful when we consider what we're asking for right now in the back of our heads and every department isn't necessarily a need or is it more of a want? Sometimes it is difficult to think about what we can do without until we actually do without it for a little bit and then we realize it's not easy . It's going to be a struggle, but we can get by at least for now until we can get things fixed. That's kind of my approach at least with everything chief. Obviously, we all votes for your firefighters. We all recognize the value that your departments bring to the city and the services and the safety so the decisions we make right now, we understand what we want. How can we afford it? It's purely us being home per objective and again to Councilman Yoder's point, your department isn't the only one that we will be looking at.
Chief : But we're the first ones.
Mr. Yoder That wasn't -- to be honest with you, it was the first thing on the phone that I could reference. That's why we're talking about you first. It's not intentional at all. Any other questions? Mr. Mackey.
Mr. Mackey: Councilman Beiter, thank you for your question. That was gonna be my question is could you give us a little more information on how this might affect the regionalization effort. You did answer that . But to go farther, I'm assuming there's more to come. Is there a broader plan outside of what we've seen already in terms of regionalization? To Councilwoman Katz point, you're going to be gone soon . Is there a groundwork laid for whoever follows you to continue the amazing work that you've been doing? In that vein?
Chief Aungst: Yes. There's a lot more opportunities for regionalization efforts. I think ultimately, we may be bringing back I don't know if you remember the (word?) concept which included several municipalities meeting together . For some reason, I wasn't involved but for some reason it fell apart. I don't know why. But I've talked to a lot of chiefs from surrounding departments. Chief Kenny, myself, chief Keith when chief Keith was working. We talked to several fire chiefs and one of things that I heard the most was about this Lisa concept and how that was so beneficial and they wished that could be brought back in a concept . But as far as my successor, I know Chief Kenny is very well versed on it. And I know a few other candidates are also. Well versed in the regionalization efforts.
Mr. Yoder: Thank you. I think again to the things that are giving me pause are will respect you. I've had the opportunity to work with you side-by-side to help plan some events and sat in the local command unit with you at several events . So to hear you stand up there and say I think you're making a huge mistake has a big impact on me because you're in an important position and I think we all have a lot of confidence in your ability to perform the job of chief so when you think we're making huge mistake I think that Matt has a big impact on me. But then what President Yoder said is also true. We have hired PFM. They came in. Attrition was one of the things on their list and yes, this idea of the bridge has been talked about. But this bridge is being built to get us to hopefully home rule but there's no guarantee that that's gonna happen. If it doesn't happen, that's what Councilman Yoder is talking about. Then things really could get worse on a lot of different levels. That's also my fear. To just take a step further, it's unfortunately these kind of conversations that probably should be happening much sooner and I'll take credit for that. Not calling you and talking to you about this until now. Captain (name?), you mentioned in the email that you sent today and I really appreciated that email. It was a surprising email to get in a good way. A good surprise. And that email is also giving me pause because I look at you guys the same way. We trust you that you're doing the right things . Not only for your department but for the city. These type of things are really easy to talk about on the phone when you're just looking at a spreadsheet but when you get here in a situation like this and not because people are watching you but because you're actually talking to each other. I wonder, much like the health insurance, if this is something that we maybe hold off on to let the idea of regionalization come to fruition and maybe see with item 15 this push towards home rule . So where that goes. With the understanding that if it doesn't work, then these are conversations that we're going to be having again this time next year and there probably won't be a Hail Mary that can stop the things that we need to do. That's kind of where I'm at right now. I don't think I would vote to eliminate this .3 position tonight. Again, that's just the things that have been going through my head.
Mr. Yoder: If I can piggyback on your comments, to bring this back to how I tried to kick this off, I don't want anybody to think any of us think this is a black-and-white easy decision. It is not. I think all of us at one point or another in the past few years, when we individually talk regionalization everyone's eyes light up. We all have been passionately supportive of the concept. And that's not the only thing that makes this dialogue hard and this decision hard. And frankly, six years into this, this is the hardest part of this job. It is every year. For a number of reasons but we are operating under I would say a pretty flawed process. With timing and when it all happens and it's really driven by the third class charter. Honestly, it's also hard having these conversations but it's good that we're going it like this I think.

It's hard to do the homework behind-the-scenes on these big things. Each of us only have limited time. And frankly, doing the homework on your end takes away from the other big stuff you need to be doing so all of this is difficult and hard. There's a lot of things I think macro level that make it hard for us, make it hard for you all. I completely get that. This is tough. I don't like this part of the job at all. I know you don't either. We're in the trenches together on that one for sure. Mr. Beiter?

Mr. Beiter : A point I like to bring up to my fellow members. And then also to you Sam. Should we leave this in the budget and we're presented with the opportunity to approve the new hire later in the year, we do not have to approve that new hire. Leaving it in may not be the worst result at this point. Because again it's the idea of it. However, what I will say and I mentioned this when we talked about the regionalization with South Williamsport. Should we leave it in, I will say that the reporting and the tracking of that process must be done for us to have those hard numbers come September or whenever the hire would come before us so we can make a very informed decision, educated decision as to whether or not it is in our best interest to go ahead and hire that individual so we can see that value.

Ms. Miele: I would suggest the opposite actually. That if we cut this position now it is an issue we could return to later in the year when we may have a higher level of certainty, at least some higher level of certainty about our funding situation in a couple years time. I would never feel comfortable with the fire department coming to us with someone in hand to hire and us saying no, I'm sorry you can't hire that guy . He went to the interview process and figured everything out but we don't have the money to do that right now. But I would feel comfortable with the idea of the fire department coming in saying now is when we would move forward on the idea of the new hire. Do we think that we could amend our budget for this and permit this new hire that we could shuffle some funds? That we could find a way to fund it? I don't think that either one of those is a great option but I would feel more comfortable cutting the position and perhaps returning to it later in the year because that to me is better than them going out for a hiring list and going through the process and vetting someone and then we shoot it down because we don't have the money.

Chief: That have happened twice. The Friday before I was supposed to start on Monday.

Ms. Miele: Let's not do that.

Mr. Yoder think to Ms. Miele's point, its forces all of us to revisit the idea, the concept, what's the data telling us earlier in the process . That's all of us. That's not just the administration. That's counsel. There's a better level of mutual accountability through what you're saying Ms. Miele. I probably lean your way. But hats off to both.

Ms. Miele: I don't have any of you of us looking at this in six months time and saying we screwed up. Because I think that if there is a solid case to be made in both directions but I think I would rather no offense and that the onus was on the fire department to prove to us why they need the new hire rather than it getting to cement degree and us looking like real jerks on the budget front by saying we can't afford it after all.

Mr. Allison : Briefly chief, could you explain what affect it would have immediately or soon after if that position isn't filled?

Chief Number one, when that position was vacated by the firefighter who is retiring in January 27, that position would go unfilled for several months . During that time, trying to bring -- we maintain seven on-duty at a minimum. Now seven is more than half -- I'm sorry -- less than half of what the national fire Association recommends for a regular house fire. Yesterday we had a house fire on Rose Street which had burned . On July 4 of 2020. That was very labor-intensive back in That was very labor-intensive back in July 2020 because it was a very hot day and we had several personnel going down because of the heat stress. This year, we've had two of our firefighters who have had shoulder surgery. We had one go out on military leave and at the beginning of the year, we lost one of our lieutenants who passed away. We didn't account for that person. We didn't account for losing that person. On the immediate side of not hiring, it's gonna increase over time because you have two guys off. There's going to be one platoon with seven guys. If there's two guys off, then every time they will need to hire over time. When I say two guys off, for vacation, they can only take -- only two individuals can be off at once for vacation. So it's definitely gonna increase the overtime . Just that one person . If I may add, there was a study done and I believe San Diego. This was several years ago. But one of -- this study compared hiring new personnel versus maintaining and paying overtime. at some point, that hiring somebody is less expensive than paying the overtime. Please just keep that in mind as well. Those that answer your question?

Mr. Allison : Yeah. That gives me more context. I tend to agree with that. I just see it as more of a necessity because our long-term goal is to have regionalization and that's going to answer financial problems I believe that we're looking for. Thank you.

Mrs. Katz: Chief, the one thing that hasn't been brought up is since we were hoping townships and other areas that they don't have the amount of training that our firemen have. From what I understand. I don't know if that's changed and you can tell me if it's changed or not. But not having the same training could also be a challenge.

Chief : Absolutely. I'm not gonna say all volunteers have more or less training than our paid staff do. Our paid staff goes to the Academy and they get several months of training that's pertinent to be here the position. The volunteers, it can take several years to get to that point, the same point that it takes our guys several months to reach. But, we do this on a day in and day out basis every day we are doing it. That's a lot different than as a volunteer. When I was a volunteer, my department ran 186 calls year. We run 186 calls probably in about two weeks. There's a huge difference in the volunteer department and the pay department. Like I said, we utilize those volunteers. Yes, there is a difference in training. But there are several volunteer firefighters who do go out and get that training Our personnel get that training right up front right away. So that is a huge difference.

Mrs. Katz: It's a big difference and someone's life can depend on that also.

Chief: Absolutely.

Mr. Pulizzi : Chief, if I may ask, I forget if my colleagues asked you if there was a plan in place to continue regionalization after you're gone. A are you le to expand on that or talk to that a little bit more because quite honestly I'm on the fence right now . I recognize where we're at financially. If this is a want or a need . But I also see and recognize the work that you've done to begin the regionalization process. We desperately need to regionalized our public safety services. It needs to absolutely happen. I know you've begun that process. I also know that your department did come to some hard truths and to some realizations this year with your departments bargaining agreement that they came to work as a partner with the city realizing where we are at financially. I greatly appreciate what you've done I want to allow the position to stay in the budget just to see what happens and let things continue on to see the fruits of the labor . But for me to be confident in the position, who is gonna continue the efforts on

regionalization what's that going to look at right now?
Chief : I can't speak to who would do that. I think it would be a concerted effort on behalf of the whole department. The next chief, the next deputy chief. The union itself. They are all part of it. Every member of the Bureau of fire is part of the regionalization efforts. We have several members who are involved in the East end of the county. We have members up in the West End of the County. All over. The northern tier. Every member is working diligently on opening those lines of communication with the other chiefs, the other departments and the other firefighters outside of the Williamsport Bureau of fire.
Mr. Pulizzi : Thank you. Just as Councilwoman Miele said and Councilman Yoder's perspective I'm more agreeing with Councilman Beiter's approach in that we can keep it there and later on if we see we have a need we can still do that if we have to. But that would definitely -- we would have to make sure that we have constant and effective communication.
Chief Whoever my successor is, I do believe that person along with our administrative aide Renée. they would be able to put together a monthly report that would show you exactly how many times South Williamsport is staffed, the squad truck. How many times we've been over there. How long we've been over there. The number of hours that we dedicate over there. Those kinds of things. Whether we're over there for incidents or over therefore preplanning buildings and hydrant familiarization, road familiarization. I definitely think that's something that's absolutely doable. We can definitely do that and we can send that over to Janice and she can distribute it to you guys . We would be able to send it out individually.
Mr. Yoder : Any other comments or questions?
Mr. Mackey Just one. I just think it's important for me personally just to note that Council President Yoder and I have had several conversations about this on the phone. I generally was in favor of both of the things that we're talking about or the one we are going to be talking about next. I don't want to leave you out on an island. I don't want anyone to think that this is Liz's camp or Vince's camp or Adams And we're all in this together and Adam, you specifically put a lot of time into this job . I have a lot of appreciation for that. I don't want you to think that I don't. I know you think I do. The other thing you said is that this is a part-time job for us. This conversation has brought to light the fact that we need better conversation. We need better lines of communication between ourselves and the administration. But these are the times when I really feel like we need to trust in the people that are doing this full time and know that they have the city's best interest at hand. Anyway, I just wanted to say thank you for bringing this conversation to light because it's not an easy conversation to have and nobody likes to have the finger pointed at them as the person or group of people that want to pick on the fire department or pick on the police department because that's not what we're here to do. We are all here to try to accomplish the same thing. Anyway thank you.
Chief: I appreciate it. Very much so.
Mr. Yoder any more comments.
Mr. Beiter: Can you refresh the motion?
Mr. Yoder : **Doing a reduction of a first-year firefighter by the value of 0.3. It reflects attrition, not eliminating existing employed today staff member. That is the motion. Yes vote would you vote to reduce. A no vote would be a vote to stay. It's been a little bit so that's a very fair point. I'm gonna call for the void Mrs. Frank and I'm gonna call for the vote but I also recognize it may not pass and that is fine. That's part of this process. Ms. Frank on the motion to amend.**
The motion failed with a 5 to 2 vote.
Mr. Allison voted no, Mr. Mackey voted no, Mr. Pulizzi voted no, Mrs. Katz voted no, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted no, and Mr. Yoder voted yes.
Mr. Yoder : Yes. Motion fails 5-2. As much as we debated that one, **I'm gonna make a motion for another one because while I expect that debate to be a little bit shorter and more streamlined because of what we just talked about, we want to explore the other opportunity in the budget so I'll make the motion to reduce one full police officer first-year impacting salary, FICA, correct? Is there a second?**
Ms. Miele seconded the motion.
: Motion and a second. Similar route as to that motion . It is a recommendation from PFM . Not an easy one by any means. The idea is to see if it makes sense to help position us just a little bit better for the 2027 budget. The same background, same concept. I open the floor for comments, questions. Captain, thank you for the information as well. Always appreciated and very insightful notably as we have a dialogue on this motion tonight. So thank you . Are there any comments, questions from members on the motion?
Mr. Pulizzi : If you would, the information you provided in the email to City Council. There was a lot of good stuff in there. could you for the record summarize the thoughts in that email so the public has that information as well?
Ms. Livermore: Absolutely. In the current budget of giving the figures. We eliminated 106 third is in dollars from that budget by just making some changes. Less administrators, eliminating a position and retirements. But I come to the budget when we factor the budget in there's a new hire. They have that new higher rate but that's very inaccurate so I broke it down. Like chief Sam explained, we hire and they show a full year but by the time we hire an officer and they go to the Academy that doesn't start until May. The Academy starts in May. That's six months of no pay for the new hire. For the next six months they get cadet rate which is $14 an hour. Our total in the budget shows 59,000 cost for that new hire when in reality it's just under $20,000. Unlike the police -- fire, our Academy is fully reimbursed. I had a conversation with Mo back last week and they said the grant was approved. Our $5500 per officer to the Academy is reimbursed going back to the general fund. 45% of that salary is also reimbursed. From 2026 it's a little over $11,000. Hiring two officers because we're down one. we're budgeted 51. We have 50 right now due to a retirement we had in November. We have another retirement we know of early in the year so we need to hire two officers. Those savings right there is over $100,000. We also have a deployment that we should know next week -- excuse may the first week of January. We are only entitled to pay him his contractual military leave and his vacation time so that's almost a $72,000 savings. Those figures right there that's $172,000 in savings which is more than two officers get for salary even if you add medical benefits. Still more. Without reducing our force, we are still saving money.
Mr. Yoder: Thank you as well. Mr. Beiter?
Mr. Beiter: Number one, a point. Obviously this is something we decide not to do, feedback for us is paramount to make sure we know what is exactly going on within the department. But what I would ask just from pure ignorance

standpoint, should you get somebody let's just say somebody who works for a local police department. Decides they want to work for this police department and they don't have to go to the Academy. That takes all that and throws it out the window? They don't have to go to the Academy XYZ?
>> SPEAKER: They don't have to go to the Academy. Most likely we get young people who don't have families that are just starting off and they want to come here to work. They have to go to the Academy. Every once in a while we get an officer who comes from another department. If we were to hire one new hire that leaves the Academy and one that comes from South Williamsport, he wants to work here that savings is $81,000 still over the cost of the officer. Again keeping our force where it sat without reducing anything. The decisions like this $72,000 and that's not including...152,000. Obviously we wouldn't make any decisions right now for the fact that we don't know who's going to be deployed. 95 % chance he will be. That's gonna take 2026 but we would know those figures so we can decide yes we are going to save this money or not save this money.
Mr. Beiter: Thank you very much for that.
Mr. Yoder Are there any other comments, questions for our police administration related to the main motion? Ms. Miele.
Ms. MieleI think your main motion was to reduce the number within the salary detail, correct?
Mr. Yoder: Yeah. To reduce it by year one officer by a full officer that's correct.
Ms. Miele: One observation I would make is the deployment radically changes the idea of whether or not we reduce department staffing by one. Would there be a way that we could reduce the salary line within the budget by a number of dollars equivalent to the amount of money saved by the deployment and consequently if someone is deployed then we know we have that money and we can proceed with the two hires that we were discussing. Do you see what I'm saying?
Mr. Yoder: We could. If that's the consensus of the group that's fine. This is a starting point.
Ms. Miele: I'm just asking because to me that is a radical difference in the way you look at the police department staffing if you've got a guy overseas 2026 we are reducing the staffing of the department by two by cutting a new hire. I'm not saying that is or is not a good decision but it seems like perhaps reducing the amount in the salary line item gives them the discretion to decide which things will work in the beginning of January. That is to say if there is no deployment then they move forward with one hire and perhaps discuss another higher towards the end of the year to take advantage of Academy training at year-end and there should be enough play in the salary to do that. And if there is a deployment then they hire in February March with the idea of the Academy in May. I'm just gonna submit that as another potential approach which seems to me like it gives a little bit more flexibility.
Chief We have six officers eligible to retire. Who could walk in tomorrow and say we have somebody who's talking about conditional summer of 2026. To reduce our forces bad enough but to reduce our force and know there's possible retirements, likely retirements puts us in a bad situation.
Mr. Yoder: Any other comments or questions?
Chief: Because of this retirement and these academies you'll also see the savings in the 2025 budget so I looked at the numbers this morning and as I put in that email it's about $150,000 going back into the general fund that we are Narcan use out of our salary line item. There's just a lot of savings that's maybe not seen at first glance.
Ms. Miele: I didn't acknowledge how much I appreciate all the (Indiscernible) in that email. It was helpful and it was nice to have it broken out.
Mr. Yoder: They did a great job spearheading this but I want to focus on the human factor. With the officers at the rate I encourage you to go out with the officers and do right along since he the current tempo because that cost something to because when we're costly working and working and working and just the well-being of the officer is a concern that we have because what happens if you look at her sick time or sick time is pretty high because we're running our officers ragged because what's expected of them in the service we are asked to provide we're providing because they'll make it happen but it's at what cost. The resilience of the officers and first responders goes with fire as well. They'll make it work but I will cost? The well-being of the officers and when that starts to drop then you start worrying about the interactions you have at the community. Officers being irritable. You are spending that money to cover the sick time because the sick times elevated. I could go into more we've talked about before. As I cited in previous budget sessions over the years with the size of the department we should be roughly at 68 to 70 officers. I know that's not gonna happen. I'm not ignorant to the position that we're in but what I want to reiterate is with that being said we're doing the work of 16 officers with 15 and trying to cut all that stuff and how that's covered his overtime costs. I know cutting over here might look good on paper once you see it in black-and-white but that money is going to be spent over here to cover that position that we took away now. Just wanted talk about the human factor in that as something to think about. For the fire department as well.
Mr. Yoder: I've said it before. I appreciate the reiteration of that perspective. It's the truth again. Back to what we were talking about was Sam. And the fire department. That's what makes this decision hard. It absolutely does. Everything you say is legitimate and it's a very strong factor for I think all of us. Absolutely.
Mr. Yoder: Any comments, questions? Okay. Let's take the vote and see where it goes.
The motion fails 5 to 2.
Mr. Allison voted no, Mr. Mackey voted no, Mr. Pulizzi voted no, Mrs. Katz voted no, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted no, and Mr.; Yoder voted yes.
Mr. Yoder: Noyes. Motion fail...these are really big areas we had thought out and wanted to have some dialogue about tonight. Ms. Mealy I don't know if you want to try your concept either it's up to you.
Ms. Miele **: I can make a motion. A recommendation Adam that you're second date. Because for nave votes if somebody doesn't second at them we don't need to worry about it. I would make a motion that we reduce the salary** line items of the police budget Jamie wouldn't happen to have that? No better than I do I apologize I should've thought of this but I was expecting the debate to go along a little longer. Sorry about that. And I have no fingerprints left. Sorry. The salary line item 201-0510 in the Bureau of police by $71,000. $71,700. To account for the possibility of a deployment and consequently constrain a higher unless there is a deployment .
>> COUNCIL PRES. ADAM YODER: Is there a second?
Mr. Beiter seconded it.
Mr. Yoder : Motion and a second. Further debate or questions on that motion?

Mr. Beiter: The question I have is we reduce that salary line item by the $71,000 and change. That's pending the deployment. Should this deployment not happen, it gets pulled right back in?
Ms. Miele : No. The idea is there will be an extra $71,700 in the salary line if someone gets deployed because that is savings we would realize by a deployment so that will make them whole again to make a higher. They will continue to have the money in the budget for the hires they are proposing for the 2026 year in the event of the deployment.
Mr. Beiter: What do we do in 27 when the individual comes back from deployment?
Ms. Miele: We either need to be in a better position to maintain that hire or we need to move on and attrition concept in 27. It's not a perfect idea Eric. I freely admit this.
Mr. Beiter: I want to make sure I understand how that money was being used.
Ms. Miele : It sounds with the number of potential retirements we have over the next years in the department more than likely a reduction by attrition would be a possibility in 27 in the same way it is and 26. I know that's not a perfect crystal ball.
Mr. Beiter : But it is a solution.
>> COUNCIL PRES. ADAM YODER: Any other comments questions? Hearing and seeing none Mrs. Frank on the third motion to amend.
The amendment was carried with sic yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 1.
Mr. Allison vote yes, Mr. Mackey voted no, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted yes and Mr. Yoder voted yes.
. Mr. Yoder : Yes motion passes. Back to the main motion on the budget. Those were the three overarching things that there was some issues and having dialogue on. Let me circle back to what I said at the outline. Fire department, police department and administration, we appreciate the dialogue. It was insightful for me and for all of us not only for this budget, but notably going into 2027 in January when we get BFMs final recommendation so we start dumping into those throughout the year. All of that was very helpful so thank you everybody for that. I know that was a difficult dialogue to have but it was fruitful and I'm grateful for it. Are there any other comments questions changes that other people want to see on the budget? Before we pass it? Yes Mr. Pulizzi?
Mr. P)ulizzi : I would like to make a quick comment. These decisions are touched in tough decisions and I appreciate everybody coming forward together to understand it's not us versus you. It's not you versus them. It's all of us together versus this problem and this problem is how do we pay for everything. As we look internal and we look to make some concessions, hard concessions and make decisions that impact us, I speak for myself but I am sure I speak for the rest of council that I greatly appreciate with everything we are all working together on to try to put our city in a better position in the next couple years. Thank you.
Mr. Yoder : Any other comments, questions on the main motion of the budget? Alright. Let's take the main vote. This is Mrs. Frank item 5 second reading.
. **The ordinance was carried in final reading with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to o.**
Mr. Allison vote yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, 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 2026 (final reading)

The City Clerk read the ordinance in final reading.
Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and second.
Mr. Beiter made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Pulizzi.
Mr. Yoder : It's a tax increase that's what we just passed in the budget. I open the floor for any comments, questions dialogue but I think this is probably pretty straightforward given we pass the budget with the tax increase. I will reiterate what I said last time. Notably for the public none of us want to raise taxes . The administration, councilmembers for sure . Unfortunately we have to given the current constraints financially that we're in and I'm gonna remind everybody outside of Randy there is a high probability we're gonna have a tax increase budget proposed next year. Hopefully, it's not as high as what we thought this year's would be going into this but we should not be surprised if we see one . Let's hope that through good management throughout the year, through proactive application of the recommendations we get from BFM that we can minimize it . I will also say nobody should be surprised about having some very similar dialogue with all of this next year when we are going to the budget again. It's likely going to happen. It's gonna have to happen. We should all be prepared for that sooner than later. Mrs. Frank on the vote please.
The ordinance was carried in final reading with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to o.
Mr. Allison vote yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes, Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted yes and Mr. Yoder voted yes.
Mr. Yoder : Thank you all for the dialogue Jamie thank you for your hard work on the budget the administration we appreciate it. Jumped down to item 8 Mrs. Frank.

Resolution # 9986
Resolution Of the City Council of Williamsport Appointing a City Treasurer

The City Clerk read the resolution**.**
Mr. Yoder asked for a motion and a second.\
Mr. Beiter made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Pulizzi.
Mr. Yoder: We did interviews for vacant treasurer position on Monday. Just to refresh on some of the dialogue in that. Our Treasurer's role became vacant in October. It is an elected position and because of the vacancy we have to go through an appointment process. That process yielded six candidates . Three were nonresponsive to outreach. One had to withdraw because of residency requirements that they are not able to fulfill being in an elected position. We interviewed two candidates. April wine and Adam (name?) . I don't want to speak for anybody but I was very pleased and surprised at having two very good interviewed candidates. I would even say I think both were better than the last time we did this for years ago. We had an improvement in candidate quality which was really great to see. In my sense of this is I think there is a consensus leading one-way so gonna put a resolution that has a blank on the name and the dative starts on just gonna make a motion to amend reflect what I think is the consensus of the group here . I'll let you do your thing.
Mr. Mackey: I was present for the interviews of both candidates. I will be abstaining from the vote tonight and I also post interview process have not discussed any of my thoughts with I don't think anybody up here so I have abstained

from the deliberation of candidates and I will not be voting for this tonight. I forgot about that .
Mr. Yoder : I'm going to **make a motion to amend the resolution to reflect the name in the blanks of Adam (name?) and a start date of December 15, 2025. Is there a second to a motion?**
The motion to amend the resolution was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0..
Mr. Allison vote yes, Mr. Mackey abstained., Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted yes and Mr. Yoder voted yes.
Mr. Yoder: Again both candidates were extraordinary in the interview but to me with the reflection Adam really stood out in a couple areas that I think put him in a better position to come in and be successful. And try to work through a number of things we need him to help us work through. My sense is that was the consensus and similar questions of the group but I'll open that up for debate and any comments or questions before we vote on the amendment to reflect the resolution. Mrs. Frank on the motion to amend.
The resolution was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0..
Mr. Allison vote yes, Mr. Mackey abstained., Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted yes and Mr. Yoder voted yes.

Resolution #9987
Resolution Real Estate Refund

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. Mackey
Mr. Grimes Certainly. This is a real estate refund . There was an incorrect assessment due to an error in the assessment office from the county . There is a specific law that says when the assessment office makes an error they are due six months of ...talking with the assessment office the error occurred more than six years ago so this is a request for six years of refund simply due to the incorrect assessment. This is just refunding the taxes that were paid due to the incorrect assessment the assessment has been corrected. I think that's all I have right now.
>> COUNCIL PRES. ADAM YODER: Are there any comments, questions by members? Hearing and seeing none Mrs. Frank item 9.
The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0..
Mr. Allison vote yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes ., Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted yes and Mr. Yoder voted yes.

Resolution of Williamsport City Council Establishing a fee Schedule for Fire Code Violations & Nuisance Fire Alarms

This resolution was not addressed.

Resolution #9988
Resolution Authoring a Professional Services Agreement between City & Hailstone Economic for HOME Funding Administration

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. Mackey.
Ms. Daily : As Ms. Frank said we are seeking a resolution to move forward with a professional service agreement with hailstone for a duration of the agreement for the year of 2026. Expiring 12/31 and the amount will be not to exceed $30,000. Basically they would be assisting our department with spending down-home funds, coming up with de prioritization matrix so we're able to move these funds a little more quickly and to set forth some policies and procedures that have not been updated in quite some time so we want to make sure we are keeping on top of our home program and policies as well as our housing rehabilitation standards.
Mr. Yoder Thank you very much. Are there any comments or questions on the resolution? Ms. Miele .
Ms. Miele When we discussed -- I'm seeing I missed a document that might've asked my question but I'm going to ask for my understanding. When we discuss spending down-home funds, are we talking about the amount of home funds the city has returned? That is to say we have some --we had a pot of funding I think originally about $1 million in mortgage lending that had been paid back to the city that we were looking to spend down as part of the first buyers program. Is that the funding hailstone will be assisting with?
Mr. Daily: They would assist us to spend that funding down including in that prioritization but we also have prior years funds that would like to get moving on and then as part of their agreement with us they would be working with us to help set forth policies to so that we're not getting behind the expenditure of these funds but we're able to spend them down as we receive them because the federal government doesn't want us to receive funds and to not spend them in that calendar year. The goal here would be that we are able to move funds much more easily than we have in the past.
Ms. Miele: What's the total funding we're talking about assisting us in creating policies to expend more expeditiously?
Mr. Daily : The program income is about $1 million. I believe Valerie may have six years of funding that we previously have not spent that we would be able to move forward . The amounts differ year to year, but the ballpark amount for each would be about $200,000.
Ms. Miele : A total of a little better than $2 million.
: That sounds right more or less.
Ms. Miele : For the relatively low price of $30,000 they will help us to get that funding allocated and help us to better allocate up funding in the future. : That seems more than reasonable to me. Will part of that arrangement be a discussion about the highest and best used of the million dollars in program income we have?
Mr. Daily: We would Malcolm any member of council who would like to meet with our department .
Ms. Miele : I would certainly be interested in understanding more what the proposals are but I would also suggest we should reach out or perhaps request they reach out depending to read -- realtors in areas because there were a lot of realtors who have strong feelings about ways we could best utilize that funding to encourage homeownership within the city.

Mr. |Daily : This will help us expend the home funds that we have currently. Our staff is looking to do a housing needs study moving forward and that would be separate from this but something that I think that would be probably more apt to engage realtors and developers in that regard. Less so on the home funding expenditure.
Ms. Miele Got it. I think -- was thinking since we've used a lot of this as a secondary lien on properties that might be this structure might be something we could get a bit of a sense from the greater Williamsport community of helping people become first-time homebuyers.
Either way. Thank you.
The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0..
Mr. Allison vote yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes ., Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted yes and Mr. Yoder voted yes.

Resolution #9989
Resolution Between the Administration & City Council to work together to place a Government Study Commission Question on the City Ballot in May 2026
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. Pulizzi.
Ms. Miele: I would prefer to read the text of the resolution. But I guess I can open up first by saying that the one concept that has come up over and over again tonight during the significantly longer than one hour discussion that I said Randy was gonna have to sit around for before he could be a member of the civilian public for once is that we somewhat desperately need -- it was the recommendation of the firm that has advised the city on gaining financial footing as part of the strategic management planning program through the community a development of the state it was their recommendation that we tried to become a home rule municipality . When I say try, what I mean by that is it is not a choice open to elected officials within the City of Williamsport. It is a choice that has to be made by the voters of the City of Williamsport. The thing I thought should really be the end note of our budgetary year in the city was a commitment by the administration apparently in the form of Mayor and City Council to work together to put a question on the ballot this coming May to put to the citizens of Williamsport whether they are willing to study our form of governance with the idea that we would elect a government study commission . The majority of the government study commission's functions would be funded by the state as part of their recommendation that we move toward home rule. We would hope. And that the government study commission drafts the home rule charter and the citizens of Williamsport within 18 months of May 2026 have the choice of whether to adopt that home rule charter. I cannot underline how much this is the primary financial recommendation we've gotten to improve our financial standing and the extent to which it has served well other municipalities that have moved in this direction within the state of Pennsylvania. Home rule has been a positive step for the vast majority of municipalities implemented across the state and frankly in some ways it simply allows us to move ourselves into a position enjoyed by lots of other municipalities across the country without these sort of hoops to jump through. With that in mind here's the text of the resolution and then I will jump off the soapbox. Whereas under the aegis of the strategic management planning program the Department of community and economic development of the state of Pennsylvania has made recommendation to the City of Williamsport it pursue the creation of a home rule charter for the city and where is the transition to home rule is recommended in order to increase the city's financial stability decrease its dependency on property taxes, diversify its opportunities for taxation and provide the city with better local control over governance. And whereas based upon these recommendation and out of an interest in bettering the city's financial prospects the mayor, his administration and the City Council wish to act to place a question upon the May 19 2026 ballot to allow the voters to decide if this addition further study the concept of home rule...voters of City of... Intention is to place the following question on the Williamsport ballot for the election may 19 2026 in order to provide the voters of the city with the opportunity to better explore and understand local governance via the government study commission process . Shallow government study commission of seven members be elected to study the existing form of government of the municipality to consider the advisability of the adoption of a home rule charter and if advisable to draft and to recommend a home rule charter whereas it is the intention of the administration and City Council to jointly select a slate of setting candidates for the government study commission including the mayor and a member of City Council with the understanding that other candidates may also choose to nominate themselves and that the final decision on the members of the government study commission will rest with the voters of the city. Therefore be it resolved that the mayor his administration and the members of the City Council of Williamsport do hereby pledge mutual commitment to initiating the home rule, process...To seek out outstanding a full candidates for the government study commission charged with drafting a home rule charter and mutual efforts to communicate with voters of the city about the potential benefits of becoming a home you will municipality. We don't usually read those into the record but because I think it is very important that we go on record stating the multiple benefits that home rule for the City of Williamsport I want that to be out there.
Me. Yoswe: Thank you Ms. Miele first period heading that. We talked about couldn't agree more we need to do this. As a member of council as one of seven, I look forward to voting yes for this but also looking forward to doing what is needed of me to make sure this goes to fruition. Supporting this however I can for it to be successful. So hear, hear. Any other comments, questions? Mr. Mackey?
Mr. Mackey: Thanks Liz for putting this together and you and Adam driving this to where it is right now but I think that last line is the most important to repeat again and that's usual efforts to communicate with the voters about the potential benefits. Because it's going to take all of us right down to the last public works employee. Who's hopefully gonna be out there keeping first Friday safe again next year which I know they will be. I think this is probably going to be or could be the most important thing any of us do or will have done on our time here on City Council.
Ms. Miele: Let's get it done.
Mr. Yoder : Any other comments or questions? Hearing and seeing none Mrs. Frank on item 15.
The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0..
Mr. Allison vote yes, Mr. Mackey voted yes ., Mr. Pulizzi voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Beiter voted yes and Mr. Yoder voted yes.

Accept for filing

Announcements

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on **Monday, January 5, 2026** at **7:00** PM, **Trade & Transit I 100 West Third St, 1st[t] floor,** Williamsport, PA.

Upcoming Meetings:

Monday, January 5	7:00 PM	Re-Organizational CTL*
Thursday, January 8	7:00 PM	City Council Meeting

Comments:

a. Members of the Public
b. Council Comments
c. Administration
d. News Media

Mr. Beiter: Thank you President Yoder for all the work you've put into the budget but throughout the year. You've put in a tremendous amount of effort throughout the year to heard all the cats that are on the Council and also including cats but we greatly appreciate your efforts and I applaud you for all of that. Thank you.
Mr. Yoder: Thanks Randy. I appreciate it. I learned from good people like you. This is our last meeting of the year. I wish everybody a Merry Christmas happy holidays and Happy New Year and be safe. Mr. Pulizzi?
Mr. P)ulizzi: Final word for me from the year is good luck Randy. we're gonna miss you.
Ms. Miele: Where he's going Randy doesn't need luck.
Mr. Yoder ny comments from the administration? I will take a motion and a second for adjournment all in favor of aye meeting adjourned have a great new year everybody.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned upon motion by **Mr. Pulizzi and a seconded by Mr. Allison .** Meeting adjourned **at 9:40 PM** with unanimous ayes.

Submitted by:

Janice M. Frank
City Clerk