

**Town of Williamsport
Mayor & Town Council
Regular Session Meeting Minutes – January 16, 2024**

On January 16, 2024, the Mayor & Town Council for the Town of Williamsport held a Regular Session. Those members of the elected body who were present included Mayor William Green, Assistant Mayor Dennis Grove, Councilman Jim Braswell, Councilman Charles Brown, Councilman Earle Pere, Councilman Ben Tinsley, and Councilperson Margaret Yaukey. Town employees in attendance were Chad Rooney, Town Manager, Ed Kuczynski, Town Attorney, Nadene Green, volunteer, and Deputy Koontz, Washington County Sheriff's Department.

Mayor Green called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and subsequently requested a moment of silence and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Assistant Grove made motion to approve the meeting minutes from the December 11 Regular Session; Councilman Tinsley seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Braswell made motion to approve the meeting minutes from the January 9 Work Session; Councilman Tinsley seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence included information related to the Washington County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League.

Mayor Green noted there are no reports from the Board of Elections Supervisors, Board of Zoning Appeals, History & Museum Board, Planning Commission, Land Use, nor Legal Counsel. Mayor Green outlined the submitted Washington County Sheriff's Report to include 111 events including 4 reports, 2 arrests, 22 traffic stops with 30 violations.

Mayor Green asked for Councilperson reports: Councilperson Yaukey had no report, Councilman Pereschuk had no report, Councilman Brown noted the holiday season with the lights in the park and celebration of trees in the barn were very nice; Assistant Mayor Grove columns replaced at Library mold issue scrubbed,

Assistant Mayor Grove asked to make a motion to proceed with overlaying Conococheague Street utilizing American Rescue Plan Act funds and discontinue efforts to utilize the Federal Land Access Grant funding. Councilman Braswell seconded. Councilperson Yaukey requested additional information noted she did not feel informed enough to decide on the motion. Assistant Mayor Grove explained the town has worked for over six years on this grant and construction still has not started on the project. Councilman Brown noted the town would abandon six years' worth of work, would not install sidewalks in identified areas, and would lose money. Assistant Mayor Grove and Councilman Braswell explained the town would be using a different pot of money and the engineering work would be used to overlay the street. Councilperson Yaukey requested the Mayor's thoughts on the matter. Mayor Green outlined expected delays due to new boring required by the grant overseers, timeline for use of American Rescue Plan Act funds, future unexpected challenges, and optimistic timelines would not see work on the street until mid- to late- 2025. Town Manager Rooney elaborated the process to

complete engineering and timeframes to be met with a best-case scenario to begin work in Spring 2025. The lack of uncertainty and confidence in the review process moving quickly, the recommendation would be to support Assistant Mayor Grove's motion and use American Rescue Plan Act funds which do not hold the same requirements. Mayor Green added his concerns about this matter. Councilperson Yaukey asked if the town is abandoning the sidewalk; Mayor Green noted the town will continue to apply for sidewalk grants and this would be an area included in future applications. Councilman Brown asked when a boring sample could be done; Mayor Green noted it may take up to 60 to 90 days to complete. The financing of the project continuing with Federal Lands Access Program funding and American Rescue Plan Act funding was discussed. Town Manager Rooney clarified the motion to be: motion to direct the Mayor and Town Manager to complete any tasks needed to abandon the Federal Lands Access Program project/funding and to schedule the overlay for Conococheague Street as soon as possible utilizing the Washington County contract utilizing American Rescue Plan Act funding. Assistant Mayor Grove agreed with the language of the motion, Councilman Braswell agreed as well. Mayor Green reviewed that there was a motion on the floor with a second; Councilperson Yaukey, Councilman Pereschuk, Assistant Mayor Grove, Councilman Tinsley, and Councilman Braswell all voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Brown did not offer a vote in favor nor in opposition of the motion.

Councilman Tinsley and Councilman Braswell had no report.

Councilman Pereschuk had to leave the meeting and did not return.

Mayor Green then moved the meeting into New Business.

Mayor Green asked for a motion regarding RFP 2023-10 Byron Memorial Park Restroom Facility Improvement Project with the one submitted proposal from Advantage Landscape & Construction to complete the work for \$62,976.40 as presented in the January Work Session. Councilman Braswell made a motion to award the project to Advantage Landscape & Construction; Councilman Tinsley seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Green noted the engineering submissions for RFP 2023-11 Engineering Services was provided and a decision should not be held until all members had an opportunity to view the submissions.

Mayor Green presented the proposed dates for Car Shows in Byron Memorial Park for 2024. He noted there is a significant increase in the frequency of car shows. The Mayor asked for consideration to have the town sponsor the first car show each month with one of the remaining dates used as a rain date and to have the organizers rent the pavilion with money from the rental going towards the Ruby Seamour Scholarship. The town would then not handle any money as part of the car shows. Councilman Braswell made a motion to follow the Mayor's proposal; Assistant Mayor Grove seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Green presented information on the Military Banner program to advertise applications and present a better mock-up prior to purchase of the banners. Councilman Tinsley motioned to

approve the program as presented with a modification of the banner; Councilman Brown seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Assistant Mayor Grove made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session, Councilman Tinsley seconded; the meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.

Respectfully Tendered,



Chad P. Rooney
Town Manager