

**WILLIAMSTOWN CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**June 14, 2023**

**6:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Christopher; John Coleman; Kim Crupper; Greg Middleton; Jayson Payne; Bob Perry; Gina Smith; Jeff Shipp; and Vivian Link

**ALSO PRESENT:** Rick & Kristie Willoby; Roy Osborne; Angie Cleveland; Tyler Madden; Michael Miller; Sonny Berry; Jack Epperson; Ronnie Maines; Brenda Maines; Tim Beach; John Slone; Becky Ruff; Jeffrey Kinman; Russell Wiggins; Laura McClanahan; Tim McClanahan; Julie Lewis; Heather Kightlinger; Brad Adams; Maddie Morgan; Matt Morgan; Justin Knarr; Deanna Wynn; Caryn Scheiding; Leah Dilillo; Chris Collins; Chris Spivey; Darryl Hearn; Debby Lucas Angel; Teresa Bell; Vicki Bell; Traci Albert; Kyle Knarr; Dwayne Eckler

Mayor Christopher called the Meeting to order.

Mayor Christopher welcomed all in attendance and requested all to sign in.

**INVOCATION:** Kim Crupper

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. There will be a Special Council Meeting on Friday, June 16, at noon.
- b. All offices in the City Building will be closed on Monday, July 3, and Tuesday, July 4, for the Independence Day Holiday.
- c. July Regular Council Meeting will be held on Monday, July 10, at 6 p.m.
- d. July Special Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 18, at 6 p.m.

**Darryl Hearn-Williamstown Lake Dam Clean-Up Presentation**

Darryl Hearn introduced himself to all present. Mr. Hearn stated broken glass is a major issue at the Dam. He showed Council the amount of broken glass that was picked up by him and presented numerous slides showing the severity of this problem. Mr. Hearn suggested to make the Dam a glass free zone and place signs so the public can see it is a glass free zone. He also stated local organizations can help with the clean up as well. Further discussion occurred. Mayor Christopher stated he is fine in placing signs and providing garbage cans to help in the clean up process.

**Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-04, Garbage Rate Ordinance Amendment**

As directed by Council, Jeff Shipp gave the Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-04, Garbage Rate Ordinance Amendment, in summary.

Jeff Shipp stated the garbage rate will be increased from \$11.50 to \$13.00.

Bob Perry made the motion to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-04, Garbage Rate Ordinance Amendment. Kim Crupper seconded the motion, and the vote was as follows:

John Coleman	yes	Kim Crupper	yes
Greg Middleton	yes	Jayson Payne	yes
Bob Perry	yes	Gina Smith	yes

All voted in favor. Motion carried.

**Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-05, Water Rate Ordinance Amendment**

As directed by Council, Jeff Shipp gave the Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-05, Water Rate Ordinance Amendment, in summary,

Jeff Shipp stated the water rates would be increased for all customers inside and outside the City Limits.

Greg Middleton made the motion to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-05, Water Rate Ordinance Amendment. Gina Smith seconded the motion, and the vote was as follows:

John Coleman	no	Kim Crupper	yes
Greg Middleton	yes	Jayson Payne	yes
Bob Perry	yes	Gina Smith	yes

Majority voted in favor. Motion carried.

**Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-06, Sewer Rate Amendment**

As directed by Council, Jeff Shipp gave the Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-06, Sewer Rate Ordinance Amendment, in summary.

Jeff Shipp stated the amendment applies to Tap Fees and connection charges.

John Coleman made the motion to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-06, Sewer Rate Amendment. Bob Perry seconded the motion, and the vote was as follows:

John Coleman	yes	Kim Crupper	yes
Greg Middleton	yes	Jayson Payne	yes
Bob Perry	yes	Gina Smith	yes

All voted in favor. Motion carried.

**First Reading of Ordinance 2023-07, Implementation of Payroll Tax Rate**

As directed by Council, Jeff Shipp gave the First Reading of Ordinance 2023-07, Implementation of Payroll Tax Rate, in summary.

Jeff Shipp stated a First Reading is required due to changes being made to the First Reading since the June 5, 2023 meeting. Jeff Shipp also stated no action will be taken at this meeting.

Mayor Christopher thanked everyone for coming out. He stated he would allow anyone to speak and express their concerns and asked to limit it to three minutes per person. Mayor Christopher further stated the Police and Fire Departments are short staffed and police officers need new cruisers. Another issue the City is having is the vandalism of the City parks and the expenses associated with it. The Street Department is short staffed as well and the cost to maintain has greatly increased. Chemicals for the Water and Sewer Departments have increased. Water Towers are in need of repairs as well. Mayor Christopher further stated much discussion and many meetings went into this.

Councilmember John Coleman stated the City Parks needs major upgrades and feels the tax revenue would greatly improve the City Parks. Currently there are no other options.

Councilmember Kim Crupper thanked everyone for coming. He further stated implementing a Payroll Tax was not an easy decision. There were only two options available. One was to increase property taxes or implement a payroll tax. Mr. Crupper stated we have an aging community and many Senior Citizens on fixed incomes. Most people are already paying multiple payroll taxes. Williamstown is one of the last city's to impose this. He further stated he was grateful for all the City Employees. Merit raises can be reevaluated when that time arrives.

Councilmember Bob Perry thanked everyone for attending. Mr. Perry stated he was open for suggestions on other ways to increase the much needed revenue.

Councilmember Gina Smith thanked everyone for attending as well. She further stated the decision was not an easy one to make but the numbers don't lie. The additional funding is needed to keep providing the services required.

Councilmember Greg Middleton thanked everyone as well. He further stated much time was spent on preparing this Budget and it was not an easy decision to implement the tax. He stated he is always open for other suggestions to increase revenue.

Councilmember Jayson Payne thanked everyone for attending. He further stated he is not a big fan of taxes. Inflation is a major issue and much needed infra-structure repairs are needed. Mr. Payne further stated the tax revenue is needed and can be re-evaluated in the future.

Jeff Shipp stated he has recommended to Council numerous times to impose a Payroll Tax for much needed revenue. The City has now reached this point. There are lots of

entities in the City of Williamstown that are exempt from property taxes. Mr. Shipp stated he feels the tax is needed to operate effectively.

At this time, Mayor Christopher welcomed the public to speak at this time.

Mr. John Slone, Superintendent Williamstown Schools, stated he feels frustrated. Recently the school gave their employees a pay increase to draw the best teachers and staff retention. He further stated with the tax, it essentially eliminates the increase that was given.

Mr. Russell Wiggins introduced himself as a teacher at Williamstown School. He stated we all are experiencing inflation. He recommends to cut out the luxury's and questioned if this had been done.

Mr. Roy Osborne and Mr. Tim Beach were present to speak on behalf of the City Employees. It was stated the COLA was 6.5% and the City's COLA was to be 1.5%. With the implementation of the tax the increase would be zero.

Mayor Christopher stated the COLA was discussed in March and April. He stated the lower COLA was done in an effort to set the City up. At the time this decision was made, there was no talk of a Payroll Tax. The Payroll Tax was a major discussion issue in the many Budget Meetings with City Council.

Roy Osborne passed out a spreadsheet to all Council Members pointing out employee benefits. The spreadsheet presented did not include what the City pays for employees health insurance. He further stated retirement benefits have decreased for the Fiscal Year 23-24. Appreciation does not pay for the cost of inflation. Mr. Osborne feels a transient tax or other avenues for revenue should be considered.

Ronnie Maines, former Councilmember, stated there are other ways to increase revenue. The City needs more businesses.

Further discussion occurred.

#### **Superintendents' Reports to Council**

Council was presented a brief report from all the Department Superintendents.

#### **Adjourn**

Kim Crupper made the motion to adjourn. Bob Perry seconded the motion, and the vote was as follows:

John Coleman	yes	Kim Crupper	yes
Greg Middleton	yes	Jayson Payne	yes
Bob Perry	yes	Gina Smith	yes

All voted in favor. Motion carried.

**Signed:**

7-19-23  
DATE

Vivian Link  
Vivian Link  
City Clerk/ Treasurer

Mark Christopher  
Mark Christopher, Mayor  
City of Williamstown, Kentucky





