

CITY OF WILKES-BARRE
PENNSYLVANIA



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL

DECEMBER 3, 2020

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

RESOLUTIONS

MINUTES

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 3, 2020

RESOLUTIONS

Authorizing the proper city officials to open a new checking account with PNC Bank for the administration of all Health Department grants.

Authorizing the proper city officials to take any and all necessary actions related to the sale of 219-223 East Northampton Street (PIN: H9SE3-025-021 to Lisette Navarro (or her designee) for a purchase price of \$3,500.00

Authorizing the issuance of a Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note, Series of 2021 in the principal amount of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) to the lowest responsible bidder.

MINUTES

Of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority of October 20, 202.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of November 5, 2020.

Of the Public Hearing of City Council of November 12, 2020.

CITY COUNCIL

DECEMBER 3, 2020

The City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre met in Regular Session on December 3, 2020, at 6:12 p.m. (immediately following the Work Session), in City Council Chambers, City Hall, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. for the purpose of general business. (The meeting was conducted and streamed on YouTube for public viewing due to COVID-19)

The meeting was organized with Chairperson Bill Barrett in the Chair.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

Roll Call:

Belusko	- present
Marconi	- present
Gilbert McBride	- present
Brooks, Vice Chairperson	- present
Barrett, Chairperson	- present

Also Present:

George Brown, Mayor
Tim Henry, City Attorney
Frank Hershberger, IT Director
Charles McCormick, City Administrator
Cathy Payne, Assistant City Clerk
Jim Ryan, City Clerk
Lisa Sanfilippo, Administrative Assistant

The City Clerk asked if there was anyone wishing to address Council on pending legislation.

Jason Carr, Saylorsburg, PA phoned in relative to the Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note (taking out a 5 million TRAN instead of 3 million).

Mr. Brooks said that he and Mrs. McBride looked at some legislation relative to Tax Anticipation Notes and the ability to use it to cover expenses and the payback program was later. Mr. Brooks asked Mr. McCormick if he read the legislation.

Mr. McCormick said it hasn't been passed, but there is limitation by statute that's determined by the three highest months of deficit. So, it is tied to the budget, it's not tied to

discretionary issues that Council or the Mayor can pick. It is a statutory requirement. It is not general borrowing for general borrowing purposes. The city can't borrow more than those three composite months show as a deficit.

Mr. Brooks said he understands how the TRAN works, but there is legislation that has expanded the definition of how we can use it related to COVID and covering expenses because we will have a deficit from our tax revenues.

Mr. Brooks suggested pulling the Resolution related to the TRAN until the next meeting, so this can be researched. He said maybe it is something the city can use to their advantage to offset the loss of revenues that the Mayor's budget is projecting.

Mrs. McBride agreed with Mr. Brooks relative to pulling the Resolution. She said in the legislation (House Bill 2536) they enable municipalities to push back the maturity date of the TRAN. She said it may benefit the city to look into it.

Mr. Brooks asked if Mr. McCormick would explore it on Council's behalf.

Mr. McCormick said he will look into it.

Mr. Marconi agreed with pulling the TRAN Resolution from the agenda.

Mr. Brooks said he completely agrees with the TRAN, but maybe this is something that will help the city's budget for next year.

Mr. Barrett said his concerns have to do with time.

Mr. McCormick asked Attorney Henry if there are advertisement requirements for the TRAN.

Attorney Henry said he would have to check with Mr. Kittrick, because he is not normally involved with the TRAN.

Attorney Henry said one option Council may consider is passing tonight's Resolution and if the city finds out they can borrow more; we can just do an amended Resolution on the December 17th.

Mr. Barrett said he would like to pass this Resolution tonight and amend it if needed.

Mr. Brooks agreed with Attorney Henry's suggestion. He said he does not want to jeopardize the TRAN, he just wants to make sure the city explores every opportunity.

Mr. Belusko agreed to move forward with the Resolution before Council and if it needs to be amended it can be done on December 17, 2020.

City Clerk Jim Ryan read the following email submitted for pending legislation:

From Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA:

Concerning the TAN: Was a request for proposal issued to see what bank might offer better terms or a better interest rate for the note? Has the city shopped around to see if a different bank could offer those better terms? Or is this city locked into getting the TAN from the same bank every year?

What interest rate is the city going to be paying for this particular TAN? Is it possible that the city could be granted a longer term to repay the note because of the pandemic? These are serious questions that should be addressed by council now and explained to the public now since the city is in the midst of its worst fiscal crisis ever.

Question for Mr. Henry: Does the city's charter obligate it to issue an RFP for this TAN every year?

Mayor Brown said the RFP was put in both newspapers and emailed directly to six or seven different banks. The RFP was also posted on the City's website. The interest rate is 0.825%. PNC Bank ended up having the lowest overall cost to the city. Mayor Brown said the city does not have more time to pay it back because of the pandemic; it has to be repaid in the same year it is issued (deadline is December 31, 2021). Mayor Brown said the city is not obligated by the Charter to issue an RFP, but the city does it anyway.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. R0096-20 to and including Resolution No. R0098-20 appeared on the Consent Agenda (Resolutions).

RESOLUTION NO. R0096-20

Resolution authorizing the proper city officials to open a new checking account with PNC Bank for the administration of all Health Department grants.

RESOLUTION NO. R0097-20

That, the proper city officials are hereby authorized to take any and all necessary actions related to the sale of 219-223 East Northampton Street (PIN: H9SE3-025-021) to Lisette Navarro (or her designee) for a purchase price of \$3,500.00.

RESOLUTION NO. R0098-20

AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A TAX AND REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTE, SERIES OF 2021 IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF THREE MILLION DOLLARS (\$3,000,000); PROVIDING FOR THE DATED DATE, INTEREST RATE, MATURITY DATE, PAYMENT AND PLACE OF PAYMENT IN RESPECT OF THE NOTE; ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL FOR THE

PURCHASE OF THE NOTE; NAMING A SINKING FUND DEPOSITARY/PAYING AGENT; AUTHORIZING THE PROPER OFFICERS OF THE CITY TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER THE NOTE AND CERTAIN OTHER DOCUMENTS AND CERTIFICATES IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; IF APPLICABLE, DESIGNATING THE NOTE AS A "QUALIFIED TAX-EXEMPT OBLIGATION" UNDER SECTION 265(b) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986, AS AMENDED; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE PREPARATION, CERTIFICATION AND FILING OF THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA; SETTING FORTH A FORM OF THE NOTE.

WHEREAS, City of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania (the "City"), anticipates receiving taxes and other revenues during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021, which taxes and other revenues are currently uncollected; and

WHEREAS, the City has estimated, on a monthly basis, its expected taxes, revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021, and has determined that during a portion of such fiscal year it will experience a "cumulative cash flow deficit" as such phrase is defined in the regulations promulgated under Sections 103 and 148 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"); and

WHEREAS, the City has determined to borrow monies for the purpose of funding, in part, such cumulative cash flow deficit by issuing a note to be repaid from the anticipated taxes and revenues, all in accordance with the Local Government Unit Debt Act of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Act 53 Pa.C.S., Chapters 80-82, as reenacted and amended (the "Debt Act"); and

WHEREAS, the City has received an acceptable proposal for the purchase of its Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note as hereinafter described; and

WHEREAS, as required by Section 8126 of the Debt Act, officials of the City have heretofore made an estimate of the taxes and revenues to be received during such fiscal year ending December 31, 2021, and, by their execution of a certificate with respect thereto dated this date, have certified to such estimate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania (the "Council"), in lawful session duly assembled, as follows:

Section 1. For the reasons and purposes recited above, the City hereby exercises its power and authority to borrow money and authorizes the issuance and sale of its Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note, Series of 2021, in the principal amount of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) (the "Note") in anticipation of the receipt of current taxes and revenues during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021, such Note to be issued, sold and delivered as hereinafter provided.

Section 2. The Mayor and City Controller of the City, attested by the City Clerk, are hereby authorized and directed, in the name and on behalf of the City, to prepare

and file with the Department of Community and Economic Development of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania a certified copy of this Resolution, a certificate setting forth the taxes and revenues to be collected in the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021, and a true copy of the accepted Proposal (hereinafter defined) for the purchase of the Note, all as set forth in and required by Section 8128 of the Debt Act. The Mayor and City Controller of the City, attested by the City Clerk, are also hereby authorized and directed, in the name and on behalf of the City, if applicable, to prepare and verify a certificate, in accordance with Sections 103 and 148 of the Code and the regulations applicable thereto, setting forth the anticipated use of the proceeds, to prepare and deliver to the Purchaser of the Note the certificate required by Section 8127 of the Debt Act relating to the total amount of the City's tax and revenue anticipation notes outstanding on the date of delivery of the Note, and to take any and all other action, and to execute and deliver any and all other documents and instruments, as may be necessary, proper or desirable to effect the issuance and sale of the Note as contemplated herein. The certification made on the date of adoption of this Resolution by the aforementioned officials of the City, relating to the amount of taxes and other revenues remaining to be collected by the City in the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021, is hereby ratified and approved.

Section 3. The Note shall be designated "City of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note, Series of 2021", shall be in registered form, without coupons, shall be prepayable prior to maturity, shall be in the denomination of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000), shall be dated the date of issuance, shall bear interest at the rate of interest set forth in the Proposal from the date of delivery until maturity, shall mature on December 31, 2021, and shall be payable as to principal and interest at the place and in the manner and be otherwise in substantially the form set forth in the form of Note attached as Exhibit "A" hereto and the Proposal attached as Exhibit "B" hereto or such other Proposal as may be selected in accordance with Section 8 of this Resolution.

Section 4. The Note, when issued, will be a general obligation of the City. If applicable, in accordance with the provisions of Section 265(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), the City hereby finds, determines and designates the Note as a "qualified tax-exempt obligation" as defined in Section 265(b)(3)(B) of the Code, for the purposes of such Section 265(b) of the Code. If applicable, the City determines that it and all entities with which it is aggregated under Section 265(b)(3)(E) of the Code have not issued, and do not reasonably expect to issue, tax-exempt obligations which, in the aggregate, exceed or will exceed Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000) during the calendar year 2021. If applicable, the City also determines that it will not engage in any action or inaction which will or may cause the Note to fail or cease to constitute a "qualified tax-exempt obligation" under Section 265(b)(3) of the Code.

Section 5. The Note shall be executed by the Mayor and City Controller of the City, shall have the corporate seal of the City affixed thereto, and shall be duly attested by the City Clerk. The Mayor and City Controller of the City are further authorized and directed to deliver the Note to the Purchaser hereinafter named upon the terms and conditions hereinafter provided and to execute and deliver such other documents and

instruments, attested to by the City Clerk, and to take such other action as may be necessary or appropriate to effect the issuance and sale of the Note in accordance with this Resolution and the Debt Act. The execution and delivery of the Note in accordance with Section 9 hereof and this Section 5 shall constitute conclusive proof of the approval of the final terms and provisions of the Note by the City.

Section 6. The Note, together with any other tax and revenue anticipation notes issued, or to be issued, by the City during the City's fiscal year ending on December 31, 2021, shall, upon issuance thereof, be equally and ratably secured by a pledge of, security interest in, and a lien and charge on, the taxes and other revenues to be received by the City during the period when the Note is outstanding; and the Mayor and City Controller of the City, attested by the City Clerk, are hereby authorized and directed to prepare and file, or to have filed, such financing statements as may be necessary to fully perfect such pledge, security interest, lien and charge pursuant to the Pennsylvania Uniform Commercial Code and Section 8125 of the Debt Act.

Section 7. If applicable, the City hereby covenants that it will not make any use of the proceeds of the Note or do or suffer any other action which, if such use or action had been reasonably expected on the date of issuance of the Note, would cause the Note to be an "arbitrage bond" or a "private activity bond" as such terms are defined in Section 148 or Section 141 of the Code and the regulations applicable thereto and further covenants that it will comply with Section 148 and Section 141 of the Code, and with any regulations applicable thereto, throughout the term of the Note, including without limitation, any requirements relating to a rebate of certain excess earnings pursuant to Section 148(f) of the Code of any regulations applicable thereto now existing or promulgated hereafter. In connection therewith, the Mayor and City Controller of the City, attested by the City Clerk, are hereby authorized and directed to execute and to deliver, in the name and on behalf of the City, any and all documents or other instruments which Stevens & Lee, P.C., Bond Counsel, may reasonably request to provide its opinion that the Note is not an "arbitrage bond" or a "private activity bond" within the meaning of Section 148 and Section 141 of the Code and the regulations applicable thereto, if applicable.

Section 8. The proposal of the lender identified therein, presented to the Council is attached hereto as Exhibit "B", or such other proposal and lender, and with such other terms and provisions, as may be selected by the Mayor of the City (such proposal selected in accordance with this Section 8 being hereinafter referred to as the "Proposal" and such lender selected in accordance with this Section 8 being hereinafter referred to as the "Purchaser"), is hereby accepted and the Note is hereby awarded to the Purchaser at a private sale for the purchase price of \$3,000,000. The terms of the Proposal are incorporated herein by reference with the same effect as if set forth in full at this place. The Mayor and City Controller, attested by the City Clerk, are hereby authorized and directed to, accept the Proposal, in the name of and on behalf of the City, by executing the City's acceptance on an original copy of the Proposal, to deliver a copy of the same to the Purchaser and to file the original with the records of the City. The Mayor and City Controller are hereby authorized to deliver the Note to the Purchaser upon receipt of the full principal amount of the purchase price for such Note and upon compliance with all conditions precedent to such delivery as required by the Debt Act, this

Resolution and the Proposal; and such Mayor and City Controller, attested by the City Clerk, is hereby authorized and directed to prepare, verify and deliver to the Purchaser concurrently with the delivery of the Note, the certificate required by Section 8127 of the Debt Act, a copy of which certificate shall be retained with the records of the City until all tax and revenue anticipation notes issued by the City during the fiscal year ending on December 31, 2021, shall have been paid in full.

Section 9. The form of the Note shall be substantially as set forth and attached hereto as Exhibit "A," which form is hereby incorporated by reference and adopted as it fully recited at length herein and said form is hereby approved by this Council. The form of the Note as submitted to the City is hereby approved in substantially such form, with such changes, insertions and variations as are necessary or appropriate to reflect the final terms, including, but not limited to, taxable or tax-exempt interest rates, principal amounts, the name or designation and redemption or prepayment provisions, of the Note and whether the Note is issued as a taxable or tax-exempt interest rate note, all as determined by the Mayor of the City upon delivery of the definitive Note in accordance with the provisions of this Resolution and such other changes as the Mayor of the City may approve, such approval to be evidenced by such officer's execution and delivery of the Note.

Section 10. The proper officers of the City are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to contract with a bank or bank or trust company authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (the "Paying Agent") for its services as paying agent and sinking fund depository in accordance with the terms of the Proposal, this Resolution and the Debt Act. The proper officers of the City are hereby authorized to establish a sinking fund for the Note with the Paying Agent for the benefit of the holder of the Note. The City Controller or other proper officer of the City is hereby authorized and directed to make deposits to the sinking fund to be held for the payment of principal and interest on the Note no later than the date of final maturity thereof.

Thereafter, the Paying Agent shall, without further authorization or direction from the City or any of its officials, withdraw moneys from the sinking fund and apply such moneys to the payment of principal and interest then due on the Note. Deposit by the City into the sinking fund of the full amount of such money shall satisfy in full the obligation of the City to pay principal and interest with respect to the Note.

Section 11. Stevens & Lee, P.C., is hereby appointed Bond Counsel to the City in connection with the issuance and sale of the Note.

Section 12. The City Controller or other proper official of the City is hereby authorized and directed to pay at, or subsequent to, the closing for the issuance of the Note, all costs and expenses incurred by or on behalf of the City or required to be paid by the City in connection with the issuance and delivery of the Note to the Purchaser.

Section 13. The Mayor, City Controller and City Clerk of the City and all other proper officers of the City are hereby authorized, jointly and severally, to do any and all

other things necessary to effectuate the issuance, execution, delivery and sale of the Note, including the execution and delivery of any and all additional documents, representations, declarations, depositary agreements, debt service agreements, loan agreements, reimbursement agreements, security agreements, promissory notes, escrow agreements, assignments, financing statements, certificates, authorizations, contracts, engagement letters, agreements, insurance binders and other papers as may be necessary to effectuate any of the foregoing, and such execution and delivery shall be conclusive evidence of the authorization and approval thereof by the City.

Section 14. If any provision, section, sentence, clause or part of this Resolution shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect or impair any remaining provision, section, sentence, clause or part of this Resolution, it being the intent of the City that the remainder of this Resolution shall remain in full force and effect. The City reserves the right to amend this Resolution or any portion hereof from time to time as it shall deem advisable in the best interest of the promotion of the purposes and intent of this Resolution, and the effective administration hereof.

Section 15. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon approval.

Section 16. All resolutions or parts of resolutions, insofar as the same shall be inconsistent herewith, shall be and the same expressly hereby are repealed.

Mr. Belusko moved to adopt the Consent Agenda (Resolutions).

The motion was seconded by Mr. Brooks and adopted by the following yea and nay vote:

Yeas Belusko, Marconi, McBride, Brooks and Barrett (Chairperson) - 5 - being all of the members elected to City Council.

Nays none.

MINUTES

Of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority of October 20, 2020.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of November 5, 2020.

Of the Public Hearing of City Council of November 12, 2020.

Mr. Marconi moved to adopt the Minutes.

The motion was seconded by Mrs. McBride and adopted by the following yea and nay vote:

Yeas Belusko, Marconi, McBride, Brooks and Barrett (Chairperson) – 5 – being all of the members elected to City Council.

Nays none.

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Marconi told the Administration that Council is still willing to work with them on the budget and willing to meet half-way. He said he was surprised that the budget wasn't on tonight's agenda for a vote.

Mrs. McBride addressed the budget negotiations that have been on-going between the Administration and Council's leadership. She thanked Vice Chairman Brooks for his efforts in conveying Council's requests and assuring that their voices were heard during the negotiations.

Mrs. McBride made the following statement:

We owe it to the public to explain why the budget isn't on the agenda tonight.

I am disappointed that there hasn't been a compromise for the sake of the residents of Wilkes-Barre. Time and time again, both in front of the public and in private, my colleagues and I have stressed the importance of compromise and how willing we are to make this budget work for all of the people of Wilkes-Barre. Suggestions we made to approach the unions and work with them were shot down. We couldn't even get the heads of our unions to attend or call into our Council meetings to address our concerns. Pay freezes for one year were shot down. Modest increases in the rental inspection fees were shot down. Cuts in overtime were shot down. Most importantly, and I want the public to really think about what this means, the plea to meet us half-way so that the Administration only has to come up with a 1.2-million-dollar gap, rather than a 2.4-million-dollar gap was shot down. We are willing to meet halfway, if the city made other serious cuts. We are not being unreasonable by asking for a compromise. My colleagues and I have done our part. We are pleading with the Administration to work with us, not against us. The in-fighting and the blame game needs to stop here. The need for change within our city budget needs to become a reality sooner rather than later, before the city does end up with the State coming in and being under Act 47. I've been on Council for 5 years now, and all that is a relatively short time, it's long enough to be able to see certain patterns in our local government. During the time that I've been on Council, as well as prior to that, we have heard conversations about the city's financial status and distress. As recently as 2018 we have had discussions on a State level regarding our financial status. When we were denied Act 47 status in 2018, we only met 2 of the 11 criteria to qualify for distress status, recurring deficits and expenses exceeding revenues for 3 years or more. I bring this up because I want to point out that our city's financial issues will not be solved –(inaudible)—fee increases and tax increases. Our financial issues are deeper than the COVID-19 crisis or the increase in the cost of recycling. Our problems are structural and if we don't take them seriously now then I am afraid that we never will. Changes in the structure of

our government through compromise is the only way that things will change this year. I implore the Administration to strongly consider our request for the residents of our city. Thank you.

Mr. Brooks stressed that Council has again frozen its wages and will not be taking the 3% increase. He said this is the 21st year that Council has done this.

Mr. Brooks said that this is the time that everyone needs to come together, not grow apart. Council is willing to work with the Mayor. He said Council has offers on the table and he is still willing to compromise.

Mr. Barrett thanked the Administration for meeting with Council on the budget. He said all the ideas that Mrs. McBride mentioned were all discussed at some point in the meetings. He said he appreciates all of the information the Mayor brought to Council and was hopeful that the budget, in its current or reasonably close to its current form, passes. Mr. Barrett said he is very apprehensive about the alternatives.

Mr. Barrett said he doesn't like increasing fees or taxes. He said he thinks that this proposed budget has been a very workable template for the city. He said it was reasonable, it was equitable. He said he has been hearing from different people who share the same concerns he does about staffing and about services. He said he knows that the city can't go very far into 2021 without a realistic budget in place, with real numbers in place, or we are going to find ourselves in a very serious position in the not too distant future.

Mr. Barrett added that there were a lot of great ideas that were discussed during the meetings, but it won't be enough to close the 2-million-dollar gap.

Mayor Brown said that the Administration looked at every suggestion Council had and gave the following breakdown:

1. Wage freezes – Mayor Brown said he doesn't have the power to create wage freezes, it is something that has to be done with the unions. He said he met with the leadership of all four unions and asked if there were considerations that could be made.
2. PILOT Programs - He said he can't mandate any PILOT, they are voluntary. Until the state legislature changes the program, he can't do anything but ask them for money.
3. LST – Cannot be done unless the city is an Act 47 city.
4. Overtime/Positions – the Administration is looking at cutting both. The Administrator has been approving/monitoring all overtime and the city has two positions open that won't be filled.

Mayor Brown said since his original offer of raising fees \$1.00 a week, he has made

two other offers, one was ninety cents a week and the most recent was .eighty-five cents a week. He said he still hasn't gotten approval for it. He said he has tried to work with Council, but he cannot run the city on fifty cents a week. He cannot pay the bills, make payroll, or pay for healthcare coverage. He said even at .85 a week, other decisions have to be made.

Mayor Brown said that today the Mayor's Committee met, and they are all in the same situation. The only difference is that Scranton and Hazleton are Act 47, but we all have the same shortfall revenue wise. He mentioned that at the press conference today, we asked the Federal Government for help. We are getting nothing, except money for PPE.

Mayor Brown informed Council that he is creating a COVID-19 Relief Committee and has had several good candidates apply for it.

Mr. Ryan explained to City Council the particulars as far as adopting a budget. He pointed out that Council must pass a balanced, fully funded budget by December 31, 2020. The Ordinance will require two readings, with seven days between the first and second reading, and normally it becomes effective 10 days after adoption.

Mr. Belusko asked if Council was to vote on the Ordinance at the next meeting, would Council have to hold a special meeting for the second reading.

Mr. Ryan said an additional meeting would need to be scheduled.

Attorney Henry said Council might have to hold a special meeting before the next Regular Session in order to get it passed on time.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Bob Kadluboski, Wilkes-Barre, PA phoned in relative to Council cutting their salaries, giving up healthcare, buyouts and pensions and part-time DPW workers not receiving healthcare.

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA phoned in relative to the TRAN (RFP), trees cut down on South Pennsylvania Avenue by PennDOT (compensate the city so more trees can be planted), and the city's fiscal crisis.

The Mayor said the city didn't decide what trees were to come down on South Pennsylvania Avenue. The LCTA project is a County project.

Mayor Brown informed Mr. Troy and Council that a tree will be planted in the new park in the Rolling Mill Hill section to honor the healthcare workers.

Jason Carr, Saylorsburg, PA phoned in relative to the 2021 budget, raising property tax and lowering/eliminating Council's salaries and benefits.

Mrs. McBride told Mr. Carr that she will be introducing legislation to eliminate Council's benefits by early next year.

Mrs. McBride said that the only way she will vote for a modest fee increase is if there are significant concessions from the unions. She said she knows the Mayor doesn't have direct control over a wage freeze. She said she had hoped the union reps would have called into the Council meeting so questions could be asked.


Mrs. McBride said if there is going to be a fee increase that there needs to be some financial help for people who can't afford it, specifically low and middle income people and those on a fixed income.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.



Bill Barrett, Chairperson

ATTEST:



Jim Ryan, City Clerk