

CITY OF WILKES-BARRE
PENNSYLVANIA



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL

JANUARY 27, 2022

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

RESOLUTIONS

MINUTES

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT



CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 27, 2022
RESOLUTIONS

Authorizing the proper city officials to designate the playground area of Barney Farms as "The Nathan Gray Playground."

Authorizing the proper city officials to file a Business Plan and Application with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, for a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant in the amount of \$2,000,000.00 for assistance with King's College Times Leader Building Project.

Authorizing the proper city officials to enter into a lease-purchase agreement for two (2) new 2022 Mack 20 cubic yard Cobra Series Rear Load Garbage Packers. The equipment will be purchased from Triple Cities Mack through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania COSTARS Program for a total equipment cost of \$359,870.72.

MINUTES

Of the Wilkes-Barre Planning Commission of December 15, 2021

Of the Wilkes-Barre Zoning Hearing Board of December 15, 2021

Of the Regular Session of City Council of December 21, 2021

Of the Organizational Session of City Council January 3, 2022



CITY COUNCIL

January 27, 2022

The City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre met in Regular Session on January 27, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., 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 Beth Gilbert McBride in the Chair.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

Opening prayer was given by Mike Belusko.

Roll Call:

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

Also Present:

George C Brown, Mayor
Charles McCormick, City Administrator
Butch Frati, Director of Operations
Phil Bendsen, IT Support
Maureen Collins, Assistant City Attorney
Cathy Payne, City Clerk
Tracy Smith, Assistant City Clerk
Lisa Sanfilippo, Administrative Assistant

City Clerk Cathy Payne read a statement relative to Council's Rules and Procedures.

Mrs. McBride announced that the phone line was open for anyone wishing to address Council on pending legislation.

John Suchoski, Wilkes-Barre, PA phoned in relative to the Resolution authorizing the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant for assistance with King's College Times Leader Building Project.

Mr. Marconi responded that he agrees that both King's College and Wilkes University can both be giving the city higher contributions, and that hopefully the colleges can review their financials and decide on a higher amount.

Mrs. McBride stated that she also agrees with Mr. Marconi on a higher contribution amount from the colleges.

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA emailed in relative to the Resolutions for the purchase of the new garbage trucks, the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant for assistance with Kings College Times Leader Building project.

Mr. Barrett said that he agreed that \$100,000.00 is not a lot of money when it comes to King's College's operating budget, but that's not all they contribute to the city. Mr. Barrett continued that they employ hundreds of employees and thousands of students go there, they eat and shop in the city. Mr. Barrett also stated that these two financial institutions are bookends to the city. Mr. Barrett also wanted to remind everyone that the college contributions are voluntary.

Jason Carr, Saylorsburg, PA phoned in relative to the Resolution for the new garbage trucks and the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant for assistance with Kings College Times Leader Building project.

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)

Resolution NO. R0010-22 to R0011-22 appeared on the Consent Agenda (Resolutions).

RESOLUTION NO. R0010-22

Whereas, Nathan Gray, a local 8-year-old, recently lost his six (6) year battle with cancer;

Whereas, to honor the memory of Nathan, it is the desire and intention of the City of Wilkes-Barre to designate the playground area of Barney Farms Park the "Nathan Gray Playground;"

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre that the playground area of Barney Farms Park is hereby designated the "Nathan Gray Playground."

Be It Further Resolved that the proper city officials hereby authorized to take any actions necessary to effectuate the designation contained herein.

RESOLUTION NO. R0011-22

Resolved, that the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre hereby authorizes proper city officials to enter into a lease-agreement for two (2) new 2022 Mack 20 cubic yard Cobra Series Rear Load Garbage Packers. The equipment will be purchased from Triple Cities Mack through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania COSTARS program for a total equipment cost of \$359, 870.72.

And Further, the lease-purchase agreement will be funded by the City's General Fund Budget in an existing equipment lease line.

MINUTES

Of the Wilkes-Barre Planning Commission of December 15, 2021.

Of the Wilkes-Barre Zoning Hearing Board of December 15, 2021.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of December 21, 2021.

Of the Organizational Session of City Council January 3, 2022.

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

Nays none.

RESOLUTION NO. R0012-22

Whereas, the economic wellbeing of the Northeastern Region of Pennsylvania depends in large measure on the energetic and dynamic City of Wilkes-Barre; and,

Whereas, the City area has suffered from a great loss of retail and commercial businesses; and,

Whereas, King's College was founded in 1946 by the Congregation of Holy Cross from the University of Notre Dame; and,

Whereas, since its founding, the College has developed mutually beneficial and cooperative ties to the City; and,

Whereas, the College serves as an important economic and activity anchor for Downtown Wilkes-Barre; and,

Whereas, the College has been highly committed to the revitalization of the City by investing in major economic development initiatives designed to enhance the quality of life for the residents of the City; and,

Whereas, the College has undertaken a critical initiative that will be a transformational development for the College, the City, and the entire region; and,

Whereas, in an effort to advance vital strategic initiatives involving the expansion of in-demand academic programs and the improvement of the student experience, the College has purchased the Times Leader Building, located at 15 North main Street in the City; and,

Whereas, The King's College Times Leader Building Project includes the complete renovation of the facility, demonstrating the College's commitment to help establish a vibrant downtown, which benefits the College, the City, and the larger community; and,

Whereas, the project will create state-of-the-art academic space for the College's expanding Allied Health Program whose graduates are in demand and well-paid; and,

Whereas, in undertaking this project and contributing to the enhancement of the City, the College's commitment to the revitalization efforts of the City is evident; and,

Whereas, the City is supportive of the King's College Times Leader Building Project; and,

Whereas, one necessary component of the successful implementation of said project is the securing of adequate funding; and,

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has established a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program designed specifically for this type of project; and,

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the proper City officials be and are authorized to file a Business Plan and Application with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, for a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant in the amount of \$2,000,000.00 for assistance with King's College Times Leader Building Project; and,

Be It Further Resolved, that the proper City officials designate King's College to be the administrator/Sub-Applicant; and,

Be It Further Resolved, that the proper City officials be and are authorized to enter into a Cooperation Agreement with the College outlining the responsibilities of each organization; and,

Be It Further Resolved, that the Cooperation Agreement will also stipulate that the City and College are obligated to comply with RACP terms and conditions of the grant agreement.

Mr. Brooks moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

Yeas Barrett, Belusko, Marconi and Brooks - 4- being a majority of the members elected to City Council.

Nays - McBride - 1

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Barrett said he appreciated the public announcement from the administration in reference to the snow removal from resident's sidewalks. Mr. Barrett asked if anything was done to the residents who did not remove snow from the last storm.

Mayor Brown responded that there were 25 citations issued.


PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Gerald Reisinger, Kingston, PA phoned in relative to Kirby Park overgrowth, flooding at Solomon's Creek and requesting a meeting with the Mayor.


Mayor Brown said that there have been meetings with Vincent Coltrone, President of Riverfront Parks Committee and other wildlife experts. Mayor Brown said he will speak with Butch Frati, Director of Operations and see if he feels a tour with the Army Corps of Engineers is needed in the riverfront areas.

Jason Carr, Saylorsburg, PA phoned in relative to the beautification that is being done in Pittston City, more businesses have closed than opened in Wilkes-Barre City in 2021 and how much has been spent from the American Rescue Act funds.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.


Beth Gilbert McBride, Chairperson

ATTEST:


Cathy Payne, City Clerk

