

CITY OF WILKES-BARRE
PENNSYLVANIA



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL

OCTOBER 18, 2018

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 18, 2018

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)

Reappointing Jessica McClay to the Traffic Committee.

Authorizing the proper city officials to make application in the amount of \$200,000.00 for an Early Intervention Program (EIP) Grant Phase III.

Authorizing the proper city officials to change the name of Charles Street Park in South Wilkes-Barre to Dr. George P. Moses Memorial Park.

Initiating a 45-day comment period on the Downtown Wilkes-Barre Business Improvement District commencing October 18, 2018 and ending December 3, 2018.

MINUTES

Of the Regular Session of City Council of October 4, 2018.

Of the Traffic Committee Meeting of September 27, 2018.

Of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority of July 17, 2018.

Of the Zoning Hearing Board of September 19, 2018.

CITY COUNCIL

OCTOBER 18, 2018

The City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre met in Regular Session on October 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., in City Council Chambers, City Hall, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania for the purpose of general business.

The meeting was organized with Chairperson Tony Brooks in the Chair.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

Roll Call:

Barrett	- present
Gilbert	- excused
Merritt	- present
Belusko, Vice Chairperson	- present
Brooks, Chairperson	- present

Also Present:

Maureen Collins, Assistant City Attorney
Cathy Payne, Assistant City Clerk
Lisa Sanfilippo, Administrative Assistant
Jim Ryan, City Clerk
Ted Wampole, Administrator
Joyce Zaykowski, Director of OCD

City Clerk Jim Ryan read a statement relative to Council's Rules and Procedures.

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

Angel Jirau, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council to speak in favor of the Resolution authorizing the renaming of Charles St. Park to Dr. George P. Moses Park.

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Resolution pertaining to the Early Intervention Program Phase III Grant.

Mr. Wampole said that the Administration believes that Phase I & II have helped the city. He said that Phase II brought the city 19 different recommendations and a lot of them have already been implemented. Some of the other things in the Phase II study that the city is

trying to implement, includes buying updated financial software for better reporting, studying the potential sale of Wilkes-Barre Municipal Golf Course and also talking about bringing in an economic development consultant. These three items from Phase II will be what Phase III will be about. He informed Mr. Troy that the city does have a 10% match, but the software alone cost approximately \$20,000 without the grant.

Jim Burden, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Resolution authorizing the renaming of Charles St. Park to Dr. George P. Moses Park (against).

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. R0095-18 to and including the minutes appeared on the Consent Agenda (Resolutions).

RESOLUTION NO. 0095-18

Whereas, Section 29-48 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Wilkes-Barre directs that (4) citizens of the city be appointed to serve on the Traffic Committee;

Whereas, it is the desire of the City of Wilkes-Barre to re-appoint the person referenced below to an additional term on the Traffic Committee:

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the following person is hereby reappointed as a member of the Wilkes-Barre City Traffic Committee:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Jessica McClay 463 N. Pennsylvania Avenue Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702	April 11, 2021

RESOLUTION NO. R0096-18

Whereas, the City of Wilkes-Barre will be undertaking a project under the Early Intervention Program identified as the City of Wilkes-Barre's Fiscal, Operational and Mission Management 5 Year Plan Phase III project and;

Whereas, the City of Wilkes-Barre wishes to participate in said project and;

Whereas, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) makes available grants-in-aid to such projects through the Early Intervention Program;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre hereby authorizes the proper City officials to make application in the amount of \$200,000.00 for such a grant on our behalf and;

Be It Further Resolved, that the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre hereby allocates local resources in the amount of \$20,000.00 to said project. Additionally, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the appropriate agreement with the DCED, along with any or all other project documents, related to the City of Wilkes-Barre's Fiscal, Operational and Mission Management 5 Year Plan Phase III project, if the application is approved.

RESOLUTION NO. R0097-18

Whereas, on August 7, 2018, the City of Wilkes-Bare said goodbye to life long city resident and renown surgeon Dr. George P. Moses;

Whereas, Dr. Moses truly loved his hometown and dedicated himself to helping others through his medical practice and his tireless efforts in local charitable causes;

Whereas, it is the desire of Wilkes-Barre City Council to memorialize Dr. Moses by re-naming a city park in his honor;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the proper city officials are hereby authorized to change the name of Charles Street Park in South Wilkes-Barre to Dr. George P. Moses Memorial Park.

RESOLUTION NO. R0098-18

WHEREAS, the Downtown Wilkes-Barre Business Improvement District ("DWBBID") was initially created in 2007, following the requirements of Pennsylvania law, to allow property owners to pool their resources to effectively address common concerns within Downtown Wilkes-Barre; and

WHEREAS, the DWBBID was reauthorized in 2012 by Wilkes-Barre City Council for a term extending to December 31, 2018, with provisions for renewal; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements of Pennsylvania law, the Diamond City Partnership developed a Preliminary Plan for the renewal of the DWBBID for a ten-year term beginning on January 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, that Preliminary Plan was previously sent to all benefited DWBBID property owners; and

WHEREAS, the Diamond City Partnership held two ratepayer meetings, on October 3 and October 4, 2018, to receive comment from benefited DWBBID property owners regarding the Preliminary Plan; and

WHEREAS, City Council convened a public hearing on October 16, 2018 for the purposes of receiving public comment from benefited DWBBID property owners regarding the Preliminary Plan; and

WHEREAS, following the public hearing, a Final Plan for the renewal of the DWBBID is being prepared and presented, via US Mail, to all benefited DWBBID property owners; and

WHEREAS, state law dictates that, following the public hearing and the subsequent presentation of the Final Plan, benefiting property owners within the DWBBID shall have 45 days from the presentation of the Final Plan to disapprove the Final Plan by filing objections with the City Clerk following the procedures outlined in the Final Plan:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre hereby initiates a 45-day comment period, commencing at 9:00 AM on October 19, 2018, and ending at 4:00 PM on December 3, 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre directs the City Clerk to record and tally all written objections received during the 45-day period from benefited DWBBID property owners, pursuant to the requirements outlined in the Final Plan.

MINUTES

Of the Regular Session of City Council of October 4, 2018.

Of the Traffic Committee Meeting of September 27, 2018.

Of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority of July 17, 2018.

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

The motion was seconded by Mr. Barrett and adopted by the following yeas and nays vote:

Yeas Barrett, Merritt, Belusko and Brooks (Chairperson) – 4 – being a majority of the members elected to City Council.

Absent – Gilbert – 1.

Nays none.

PRESENTATION BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Barrett asked the Administration to reach out to the owner of Pine Ridge one more time to discuss the future plans of the property.

Mr. Wampole said the Administration has reached out to him by phone and email, but nothing has worked. He said they will have to find another way to get in touch with property owner.

Mr. Barrett mentioned that Attorney Henry reviewed the deed and agreement for Pine Ridge. He said there is language in the agreement that references a reverter clause that is not in the deed. Mr. Barrett said he believes the agreement should stand by itself.

Mr. Wampole said that the Administration will send the owner a letter with a date for a meeting and request that he be there.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Jim Burden, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the sale of Park N' Lock East, the former Sterling Hotel site, taxes, commuter tax and the demolition of the building on the corner of East Northampton and South Grant Streets.

John Suchoski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to sale of Park N' Lock East, the former Sterling Hotel site and applying for an LSA Grant for the Church across from Irem Temple.

Mr. Wampole said it would be up to the owner of the church to submit an application for an LSA Grant.

Mr. Brooks said he will reach out (with his day job) to the church and encourage them to apply.

Tammy Tosline, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the status of Hollenback Dog Park.

Mr. Wampole explained that after a child was bitten at the park, the city realized that the people operating the park for the city had no insurance. He added that there are some people who expressed interest in running the park and they were told specifically what they need to do. If they can get insurance and name the city as an additional insured it can reopen.

Tom Dombroski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the city's financial situation, Phase I & II of the Early Intervention Program (helping the general fund balance), Tax Anticipation Note and consolidation with Kingston or Plains Township.

Mr. Wampole said with the financial position Wilkes-Barre is in no one is interested in consolidating with us.

Mr. Wampole explained that the city does exercise the Tax Anticipation Note every year. It is taken out in the beginning of the year before a lot of the revenue starts to come in. It is paid back at the end of the year. He said that as far as the general fund goes, it is down considerably because the end of the year is when all of the bills start to come due, such as the pension payment.

Angel Jirau, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to renaming Charles Street Park in honor of Dr. George P. Moses.

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the budget hearing (requesting that City Council schedule two), pension for Jim Hayward (passing an Ordinance to prevent it from happening again) and the increase in the recycling fee for 2019.

Bob Kadluboski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to a petition to audit the pension system, the parking lot at the former Sterling Hotel site and Patrolman Dan Duffy (being reinstated).

Angel Mathis, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to businesses putting advertising signs in the middle of the sidewalk, motorized vehicles on the sidewalk and adult cyclist riding on city sidewalks.

Officer Kirk Merchel said that he has cited people downtown for riding bicycles on the sidewalk. He said there is a law in the vehicle code for riding bicycles in a business district. He said he tries to be somewhat tolerant because a lot of people ride bicycles to get back and forth to work. He also pointed out that when he is walking the streets, and someone goes by on a bike it is almost impossible to catch them.

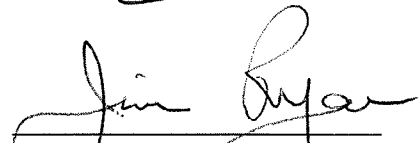
Mr. Brooks said the advertising signs should not be in the middle of the sidewalk. He told Miss Mathis to call him with the name of the businesses and he will pass it on to the appropriate department.

There being no further to discuss the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.



Tony Brooks, Chairperson

ATTEST:



Jim Ryan, City Clerk