

CITY OF WILKES-BARRE  
PENNSYLVANIA



# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

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CITY COUNCIL

MARCH 28, 2019

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

CITY COUNCIL  
MARCH 28, 2019

**CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)**

Temporarily suspending Section 20-4 of the Wilkes-Barre Code of Ordinances pertaining to open consumption of alcoholic beverages of April 27, 2019 and April 28, 2019 for the Cherry Blossom Festival.

Temporarily suspending Section 20-4 of the Wilkes-Barre Code of Ordinances pertaining to open consumption of alcoholic beverages on July 12, July 19 and July 26, 2019 for the Rockin' the River Event.

**MINUTES**

Of the Zoning Hearing Board of February 20, 2019.

Of the Parking Authority of February 19, 2019.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of March 14, 2019.

CITY COUNCIL

MARCH 28, 2019

The City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre met in Regular Session on March 28, 2019 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 Mike Belusko in the Chair.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

Roll Call:

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

Also Present:

Rick Gazenski, Administrator  
Maureen Collins, Assistant City Attorney  
Cathy Payne, Assistant City Clerk  
Jim Ryan, City Clerk  
Lisa Sanfilippo, Administrative Assistant  
Joyce Zaykowski, Director of OCD  
Robert Collegan, Intern (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.

*Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Resolutions on the Agenda regarding suspending the open consumption of alcoholic beverages at city events.*

*Ted Wampole, of the Luzerne County Convention and Visitors' Bureau, appeared before Council relative to the Resolution suspending the open consumption of alcoholic beverages for the Rockin' the River event.*

## RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. R0019-19 to and including the minutes appeared on the Consent Agenda (Resolutions).

### **RESOLUTION NO. R0019-19**

Resolved, that the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre hereby directs that the provisions of Section 20-4 of the Wilkes-Barre Code of Ordinances pertaining to the open consumption of alcoholic beverages be temporarily suspended and not enforced for the following event:

Event:	Cherry Blossom Festival 2019
Sponsor:	Hidden Creek Vineyard and Winery Inc.
Designated Area:	Kirby Park
Dates:	April 27, 2019 & April 28, 2019
Time:	11:00 am until 7:00 pm
Limitation:	The suspension shall only apply to win and not malted or brewed beverages or liquors.

The within temporary suspension applies only to the above-referenced event and area. All other regulations related to intoxicating beverages in the City of Wilkes-Barre shall remain in full force and effect. A copy of this resolution shall be provided to the Wilkes-Barre Police Department.

### **RESOLUTION NO. R0020-19**

Resolved, that the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre hereby directs that the provisions of Section 20-4 of the Wilkes-Barre Code of Ordinances pertaining to the open consumption of alcoholic beverages be temporarily suspended and not enforced for the following events:

Event:	Rockin' the River
Sponsor:	Luzerne County
Designated Area:	To be determined and clearly identified by the Luzerne County Convention and Visitors Bureau
Dates:	July 12, July 19 and July 26, 2019
Time:	5:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m.
Limitation:	The suspension shall only apply to the area specifically designated by the Luzerne County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The within temporary suspension applies only to the above-referenced events and area. All other regulations related to intoxicating beverages in the City of Wilkes-Barre shall remain in full force and effect. A copy of this resolution shall be provided to the Wilkes-Barre Police Department.

## **MINUTES**

Of the Zoning Hearing Board of February 20, 2019.

Of the Parking Authority of February 19, 2019.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of March 14, 2019.

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

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

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

Nays none.

## **PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBER**

Ms. Gilbert brought up the reoccurring issue with the generator running in the garage on Almond Lane (100 block). She said the police were called again yesterday. She said that she heard he is trying to set up an auto business in the garage. She told the Administration that the generator is running 24/7 at this point and the police have been called several times. She said if he hasn't been cited yet, then he needs to be. It is a nuisance for everyone on the block. She asked for the police departments help with this matter.

Mr. Belusko asked Administration to have a street sign installed on Ford Lane, between Division and Gregory Streets off of South Franklin Street. He said it is an alley, but there are no markings.

## **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

*Greg Griffen, Citizens Opioid Committee, Swoyersville, PA appeared before Council to give an update on the opioid epidemic.*

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to PennDOT roads (street sweeping agreement), creating a job corps for the youth, the budget and busing kids to neighboring pools.

Mr. Gazenski said busing children to neighboring pools would be a liability to the city.

Mr. Barrett responded to Mr. Troy's comments relative to PennDOT and the Street Sweeping Agreement. He said his concerns are that the city is doing a lot more than street sweeping. He wants to make sure that in the future the city is being compensated fairly for what we do. He said he voted for the agreement because he didn't want to hold up street sweeping.

Ms. Gilbert informed Mr. Troy that the County does run a program that buses kids to Francis Slocum, so they might be more willing to accommodate the request for bussing kids to pools, plus they have the resources with the LCTA.

John Suchoski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the homeless behind the former Murray Complex, parking spots in front of the Dollar Store (S. Main Street), LSA grant (ladder truck) and stray cats.

Mr. Gazenski said the homeless behind the Murray Complex is being addressed. Once construction begins there will be a barrier put all around the property.

Ms. Zaykowski informed Mr. Suchoski that the Traffic Committee agreed today that the three meters will be put back up in front the Dollar General. Loading zone signs will be put on the meter according to the Ordinance. They asked Officer Merchel to speak with the manager of the store about deliveries.

Susan Hall, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to Trap, Neuter and Release (cats) in the city.

JoAnn Zych James, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to Trap, Neuter and Release (cats) in the city and Animal Control not responding to phone calls.

Brenda Buckler, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to Trap, Neuter and Release (cats) in the city and Animal Control (difficult to work with).

Mr. Gazenski said he will be setting up a meeting with the Administration, the Volunteers and the Animal Control Officer to discuss the matter further and get everyone on the same page.

Jason Carr, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the storm water fee, Wilkes University and Kings College real estate taxes, city wage tax, pension system, hotel & convention center (S. Main Street), and city streets.

Mr. Brooks said that last night he had a conversation with a former City Attorney who said he had a buyer for that land on South Main and Northampton Streets (hotel and convention center). He approached the Attorney for the project who said it is not for sale, they are going to be breaking ground. He asked if the Administration had an update on the project.

Mr. Gazenski said there is a time limit to take the land back if they don't proceed with the project, but he wasn't sure what the time frame is.

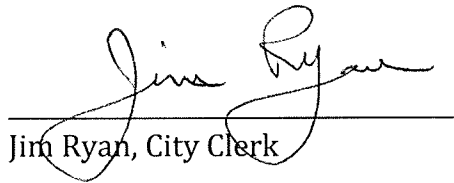
Mr. Gazenski informed Mr. Carr that the Mayor is in the process of fighting the storm water fee and has been talking to people in Harrisburg.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.



Mike Belusko, Chairperson

ATTEST:



Jim Ryan, City Clerk