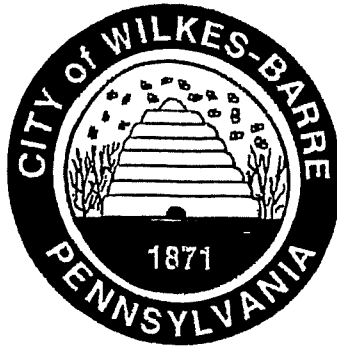


CITY OF WILKES-BARRE  
PENNSYLVANIA



# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

---

CITY COUNCIL

APRIL 13, 2023

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)

ORDINANCE

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

**CITY COUNCIL  
APRIL 13, 2023**

**RESOLUTIONS**

Temporarily suspending the Ordinance pertaining to the open consumption of alcoholic beverages for the Fine Arts Fiesta event (wine tasting area) on the Eastern corner of Public Square, May 18<sup>th</sup> to May 21, 2023.

Authorizing the proper city officials to sign all necessary documents related to awarding the Solomon Creek Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) application contract to the most qualified firm, Borton Lawson Engineering LLC., in the amount of seventy-six thousand five hundred dollars (\$76,500.00). Hanover Township will be responsible for its pro-rated share of the contract price and any reimbursable expenses incurred.

Authorizing the proper city officials to take any and all necessary actions related to the sale of 59-63 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania (PIN: H9SE2-021-001), to Bricklynn, LLC (or any named designee) for a purchase price of four hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$450,000.00).

Authorizing the proper city officials take any and all necessary actions related to selling Rear East Main Street (PIN: 73-G10SE1-002-01A-000) to AMGG General LLC, for a purchase price of \$5,000.00.

Authorizing the proper city officials to file a Business Plan and Application with Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, for a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant (RCAP) in the amount of \$500,000.00 for assistance with King's College Student Success Center Project and further that the proper city officials designate King's College to be the administrator/ Sub-Applicant and that the Cooperation Agreement will also stipulate that the City and College are obligated to comply with RCAP terms and conditions of this grant agreement.

Appointing Stanley Jackson to the Housing Authority.

**MINUTES**

Of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority of February 21, 2023

Of the Wilkes-Barre City Zoning Hearing Board of March 15, 2023

Of the Wilkes-Barre Parking Authority of March 21, 2023

Of the Regular Session of City Council of March 23, 2023

**ORDINANCE**

**FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 2 OF 2023**- AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2023 ACTION PLAN ENCOMPASSING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM, COVID-19 CDBG GRANT AND HOME PROGRAM BUDGETS FOR PROGRAM YEAR FORTY-EIGHT AND APPROPRIATING SPECIFIC SUMS ESTIMATED TO BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE PROGRAM ACTIVITES. (FIRST READING)

CITY COUNCIL

April 13, 2023

The City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre met in Regular Session on April 13, 2023, at 6:00, 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.

Councilman Barrett read the opening prayer.

Roll Call:

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

Also Present:

George C. Brown, Mayor  
Tim Henry, City Attorney  
Charles McCormick, City Administrator  
Cathy Payne, City Clerk  
Lisa Sanfilippo, Administrative Assistant  
Tracy Smith, Assistant City Clerk

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

The Chairperson asked if there was anyone wishing to address the Council on pending legislation.

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to having more time to speak on agenda items, the temporary suspension of the open consumption Ordinance (Fine Arts Fiesta), the selling price for 59-63 Public Square (being sold too cheaply), and King's College giving the city more tax money.

Mr. Belusko replied that the temporary suspension only applies to a tented area where wine could be sampled and purchased.

John Suchoski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Resolution regarding the RCAP grant for King's College, and the sale of 59-63 Public Square. (owners intentions).

## RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. R0021-23 to R0026-23 and the minutes were voted on as a Consent Agenda (Resolutions).

### **RESOLUTION NO. R0021-23**

Whereas, 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:	Fine Arts Fiesta (wine tasting area)
Sponsor:	Blue Mountain Vineyards
Designated Area:	Eastern corner of Public Square
Dates:	May 18, 2023, through May 21, 2023
Time:	3:00 p.m. until close
Limitation:	The suspension shall only apply to wine and not malted or brewed beverages or liquors.

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.

### **RESOLUTION NO. R0022-23**

Whereas, the City of Wilkes-Barre and Hanover Township are interested in having the Flood Plain studied in an area of Solomon Creek;

Whereas, one of the purposes of the study is to prepare a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) Application based upon the present-day, existing conditions on certain areas of Solomon Creek in the City of Wilkes-Barre and Hanover Township;

Whereas, this study, if successful, could benefit some homeowners in the studied area by effectuating changes to flood insurance requirements for residents in the affected area;

Now. Therefore, Be It Resolved by the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre that the proper City officials are hereby authorized to sign any and all necessary documents related to awarding the Solomon Creek Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) application contract to Borton Lawson Engineering, LLC., in the amount of Seventy-Six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$76,500.00);

Be It Further Resolved that Hanover Township will be responsible for its prorata share of the contract price and any reimbursable expenses incurred.

**RESOLUTION NO. R0023-23**

Resolved, that the proper city officials are hereby authorized to take any and all necessary actions related to the sale of 59-63 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania (PIN: H9SE2-021-001), to Bricklynn, LLC (or any named designee) for a purchase price of Four Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$450,000.00).

**RESOLUTION NO. R0024-23**

That, the proper City officials are hereby authorized to take any and all necessary actions related to selling Rear East Main Street, (PIN: 73-G10SE1-002-01A-000) to AMGG General LLC for a purchase price of \$5,000.

**RESOLUTION NO. R0025-23**

Whereas, the economic wellbeing of the Northeastern Region of Pennsylvania depends in large measure on an energetic and dynamic City of Wilkes-Barre; 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, in an effort to advance King's mission and increase student enrollment, retention, and graduation rates, the College will transform its Corgan Library into a 21<sup>st</sup> century Center for Student Success; and

Whereas, The King's College Student Success Center Project includes renovations of the lower level, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors of the D. Leonard Corgan Library; and,

Whereas, the project will create a centralized resource center, bringing together and enhancing services currently distributed across campus, to create a hub of mentorship that engage students through faculty, staff, and personalized support, academic and social; 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 Student Success Center 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 \$500,000.00 for assistance with King's College Student Success Center 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 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.

### **RESOLUTION NO. R0026-23**

Whereas, Section 5:08 of the City Charter of the City of Wilkes-Barre authorizes the Mayor, with the advice and consent of City Council, to appoint by members of Boards, Commissions and Authorities served by the City;

Whereas, it is the desire of the City of Wilkes-Barre to appoint the person referenced below to the Housing Authority of the City of Wilkes-Barre;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the following person is hereby appointed as a member of the Housing Authority:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Stanley Jackson 814 Lincoln Plaza Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702	April 13, 2028

## MINUTES

Of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority of February 21, 2023

Of the Wilkes-Barre City Zoning Hearing Board of March 15, 2023

Of the Wilkes-Barre Parking Authority of March 21, 2023

Of the Regular Session of City Council of March 23, 2023

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

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

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

Nays none.

Absent - McBride- 1.

## ORDINANCES

**FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 2 of 2023**- AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2023 ACTION PLAN ENCOMPASSING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM, COVID-19 CDBG GRANT AND HOME PROGRAM BUDGETS FOR PROGRAM YEAR FORTY-EIGHT AND APPROPRIATING SPECIFIC SUMS ESTIMATED TO BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES. (FIRST READING)

Mr. Belusko moved to adopt the Ordinance.

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

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

Nays none.

Absent – McBride – 1.

### **PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Mr. Belusko asked for an update on the much-needed wall repairs at Solomon Creek.

Mayor Brown replied they have had several meetings with Borton Lawson and they currently are prioritizing the wall repairs in order of safety. The next step will be Council approval of the repair amounts.

### **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

*Bob Kadluboski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the part time employees receiving a full-time pension (referenced previously distributed data from the HR department) and making an exception for those that may arrive late to a meeting to still be able to speak.*

Mr. Barrett replied that he did look over the information that Mr. Kadluboski distributed. He has never taken a pension, but that change would have to come from the Charter Laws. A change that would affect part-time employees would take years to change/modify. He said it is every Council member's discretion to partake in the pension and healthcare benefits that are offered. Mr. Barrett further concluded that maybe Mr. Kadluboski needs to address his concerns with the State Pension Board.

*John Suchoski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the King's College RCAP Resolution, (how does helping them benefit the City), and King's buying city property's and not paying taxes on them.*

Mr. Brooks stated one example is some of his neighbors own nearby apartment buildings which are rented out to the students during the school year.

Mr. Barrett said they cannot lose sight of the fact that this type of Resolution does not cost the city anything to approve. He said King's and Wilkes College are not going anywhere, they keep their properties well maintained and work with the city on various projects. He also would like to see an increase in the PILOT and those properties be taxable, but both colleges are non-profit entities and do not have to give us anything if they do not want to.

Mr. Marconi agreed that it is beneficial to work with both colleges, but he agrees the city should receive more money from the PILOT.

*Tony Thomas, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council to speak in favor of selling 59-63 Public Square (the plans for a commercial space), bringing more opportunities to visit*



downtown Wilkes-Barre, other developers hopefully investing in the city, and in favor of helping King's College with the RCAP grant (putting that money into our city).

Mr. Belusko said he agreed with Mr. Thomas on the King's College RCAP, that money must go somewhere so might as well be our city.

Mr. Marconi asked if the sale of 59-63 Public Square goes through is there a timeline on the construction start.

Mayor Brown said the plans are to bring in their construction team to start getting measurements and repairs completed. The new owners want to utilize the building as soon as possible.

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the access gate at Nesbitt Park (being closed after sunset), climate change, reducing carbon footprint, using some ARP money to have an energy audit study, the local colleges paying more in taxes and the need for a swimming pool in the city.

Brain Ferry, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to improving N. Pennsylvania Ave (from Market Street to Scott Street), utilizing grants to redesign it, and creating an urban park on Scott Street.

Mr. Marconi said those are some great ideas, but does he have a cost estimate.

Mr. Ferry said he would estimate that total cost to be approximately \$12 million, which would include the park. Without the park it would be about \$6 million. All of these projects could be done in phases.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.



---

Mike Belusko, Chairperson

ATTEST:



---

Cathy Payne, City Clerk

