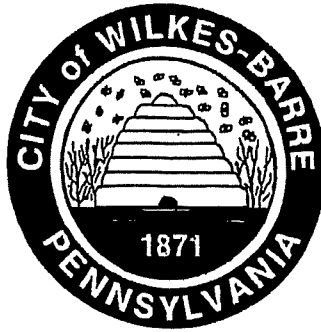


CITY OF WILKES-BARRE
PENNSYLVANIA



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

SPECIAL MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON PENDING LEGISLATION

RESOLUTIONS

ADJOURNMENT

CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

Request a Luzerne County Local Share Assessment grant of \$300,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be used for the Irem Temple Restoration project. The funding will be used for general restoration costs of the Irem Temple located at 62 North Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Request a Luzerne County Local Share Assessment grant of \$350,000.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be used for the Sherman Street Properties Business Center Roof Replacement.

Request a Luzerne County Local Share Assessment grant of \$900,000.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be used for the Wyoming Valley Art League Building Improvements. The funding will be used for construction of an elevator, handicap accessible restrooms, classrooms and other improvements as appropriate.

Request a Luzerne County Local Share Assessment Grant of \$300,000.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be used for the Little Theatre of Wilkes-Barre Roof Replacement and Exterior Improvements project. The funding will be used for the replacement of the roof and the repointing of the exterior brick facing on the building.

Request a Luzerne County Local Share Assessment Grant of \$131,000.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be used for the Osterhout Free Library New Restroom in the Children's Wing project. The funding will be used for construction of a safe, accessible, and family-friendly restroom that will serve over 16,000 visitors to the Children's Wing annually.

CITY COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

The City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre met in Special Session on September 22, 2023, at 12:00 p.m., in City Council Chambers, City Hall, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania,

The meeting was organized with Chairperson Mike Belusko in the Chair.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

The opening prayer was given by Bill Barrett.

Roll Call:

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

Also Present:

Tim Henry, City Attorney
Cathy Payne, City Clerk
Tracy Smith, Assistant City Clerk

Chairperson Mike Belusko asked if there was anyone wishing to address Council on pending legislation.

Ken Okrepkie, Regional Manager, Irem Temple Restoration Project, thanked the administration and staff for all their help on preparing the resolution for this restoration project. He asked for councils approval on this project which will revitalize one of Northeast Pennsylvania's most prestigious buildings, and bring it back to a premier entertainment venue. It is part of a historic preservation project but will also drive \$10 million in annual economic development. The project will bring the 36,000 square foot facility back to not only an entertainment venue but also a museum to represent the impact this community has had on the Industrial revolution. The amount requested will be used to install an elevator and new windows, making the facility totally ADA compliant. He concluded by saying they have already raised over \$3.2 million dollars for this project to date. This project will be completed as soon as possible to bring the full benefits to the city of Wilkes-Barre.

Mr. Brooks said the restoration of this building is imperative to the city. It is the only building of its kind in all of America, it is a one-of-a-kind architectural gem. He is grateful to the committee that has taken the initiative to get the building restored. It will be another great asset to bring people into the city.

Mr. Marconi asked how the amount of \$10 million to the economic drive was determined.

Mr. Okrepkie said when they put together the business plan for the project, they compared this venue to other venues in comparable size in this area. (ex. Masonic Temple in Scranton). The comparison uses many factors besides the revenue for the building, and also takes into consideration that most people will also go to dinner, possibly stay in a hotel.

Mr. Dale Parmenteri, Secretary and Treasurer, Irem Temple Restoration Project, said there was also a study that was done by the Institute of Wilkes, that estimated revenue for the F.M Kirby center was \$9.8 million, and they compared their project to that, also comparing the Sherman Theater and Pennsylvania Theater as well. One advantage they have is that this venue will have a flat open floor, which no other venue has, this will allow trade shows, weddings, and other events.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. R0067-23 to and including R0071-23 appeared on the Consent Agenda (Resolution).

RESOLUTION NO. R0067-23

Be It Resolved that the City of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, hereby requests a Luzerne County Local Share Assessment grant of \$300,000.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be used for the Irem Temple Restoration Project. The funding will be used for general restoration costs of the Irem Temple located at 62 North Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Be It Further Resolved that the Applicant does hereby designate George C. Brown, Mayor and Darren Snyder, Controller as the officials to execute all documents and agreements between the City of Wilkes-Barre and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant along with any or all other project documents, related to the Irem Temple Restoration project, if the application is approved.

Mr. Marconi moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nays none.

RESOLUTION NO. R0068-23

Be It Resolved that the City of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County hereby requests a Luzerne County Local Share Assessment grant of \$350,000.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be used for the Sherman Street Properties Business Center Roof Replacement. The business center currently provides warehousing, retail, distribution, food service & automotive repair spaces for 10 commercial businesses. The center was vacant for the 10 years prior to its purchase in 2020.

Be It Further Resolved that the Applicant does hereby designate George C. Brown, Mayor and Darren Snyder, Controller as the officials to execute all documents and agreements between the City of Wilkes-Barre and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant along with any or all other project documents, related to the Sherman Street Properties Business Center Roof Replacement project, if the application is approved.

Mr. Belusko moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nays none.

RESOLUTION NO. R0069-23

Be It Resolved that the City of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County hereby requests a Luzerne County Local Share Assessment grant of \$900,000.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be used for the Wyoming Valley Art League Building Improvements. The funding will be used for the construction of an elevator, handicap accessible restrooms, classrooms, and other improvements as appropriate.

Be It Further Resolved that the Applicant does hereby designate George C. Brown, Mayor and Darren Snyder, Controller as the officials to execute all documents and agreements between the City of Wilkes-Barre and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and

assist in obtaining the requested grant along with any or all other project documents, related to the Wyoming Valley Art League Building Improvements project, if the application is approved.

Mr. Brooks moved to adopt the Resolution.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Gilbert and adopted by the following yeas and nays vote:

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

Nays none.

RESOLUTION NO. R0070-23

Be It Resolved that the City of Wilkes-Barre of Luzerne County hereby request a Luzerne County Local Share Assessment grant of \$300,000.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be used for the Little Theatre of Wilkes-Barre Roof Replacement and Exterior Improvement project. The funding will be used for the replacement of the roof and the repointing of the exterior brick facing on the building.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Applicant does hereby designate George C. Brown, Mayor, and Darren Snyder, City Controller, as the officials to execute all documents and agreements between the City of Wilkes-Barre and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant along with any or all project documents related to the Little Theatre of Wilkes-Barre Roof Replacement and Exterior Improvement project, if the application is approved. if the application is approved.

Mr. Marconi moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nays none.

RESOLUTION NO. R0071-23

Be It Resolved that the City of Wilkes-Barre of Luzerne County hereby request a Luzerne County Local Share Assessment grant of \$131,000.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be used for the Osterhout Free Library New Restroom in the Children's Wing project. The funding will be used for construction of a safe,

accessible, and family friendly restroom that will serve over 16,000 visitors to the Children's Wing annually.

Be It Further Resolved that the Applicant does hereby designate George C. Brown, Mayor, and Darren Snyder, City Controller, as the officials to execute all documents and agreements between the City of Wilkes-Barre and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant along with any or all other project documents, related to the Osterhout Free Library New Restroom in the Children's Wing project, if the application is approved.

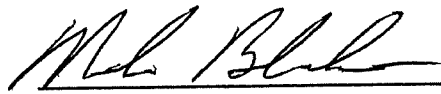
Mr. Belusko moved to adopt the Resolution.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Gilbert and adopted by the following yea and nay vote:

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

Nays none.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.



Mike Belusko, Chairperson

ATTEST:



Cathy Payne, City Clerk