

CITY COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

In accordance with Section 9:06 of the City Home Rule Charter a Public Hearing on the Mayor's 2023 recommended budget was held on Thursday, November 9th, 2023, at 5:00 p.m., in City Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, City Hall.

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:

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

City Clerk Cathy Payne said the purpose of the meeting was to solicit comments from the public related to the Mayor's 2024 General Fund Budget.

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council regarding his concerns over the budget, glad there was no property tax increase, high salary increases, giving senior citizens tax breaks, using ARP money to balance the budget and line items regarding the WVSA (sewer and rain tax and pensions).

Mr. Belusko stated the budget was put together by the mayor, the administrator, and the finance director. Mr. Belusko said the sanitary payment in the budget is from the sewer maintenance that gets sent to the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority for any repairs or replacements that are needed in the city.

Mr. McCormick corrected Mr. Belusko saying the line-item Mr. Troy is questioning refers to the Sanitary Authority having requirements that they will reimburse municipalities for certain projects that the city undertakes that benefits water infrastructure and sewage, up to a certain amount based on their intake. (this year should be \$325,000.00)

Mayor Brown replied to Mr. Troy regarding the raises that are built into the Collective Bargaining Agreement. They are part of the agreements that are between the city, administration and the four unions. He also informed Mr. Troy that he has not taken a raise over his first four years as Mayor. (no raise or benefits, totaling \$203,400.00).


Bob Kadluboski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council regarding his concerns over the budget, the budget meeting time being at 5 p.m., how much is allotted in the budget for council healthcare (can that be removed from the budget), can a line be added to the budget to hire an outside attorney (to explore what happened to a local businessman).

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.



Mike Belusko, Chairperson

ATTEST:



Cathy Payne, City Clerk