

CITY OF WILKES-BARRE
PENNSYLVANIA



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL

DECEMBER 7, 2023

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS/MINUTES)

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 7, 2023

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS/MINUTES)

RESOLUTIONS

Authorizing the proper city officials to take any and all necessary actions related to selling the Charles Street Lot, Parcel 73-H9SE1-004-026-000 to Richard Weidler, for the purchase price of \$250.00.

MINUTES

Of the Board of Revision of Taxes and Appeals of November 21, 2023.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of November 21, 2023.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of November 9, 2023.

Of the Traffic Committee Meeting of October 26, 2023.

CITY COUNCIL

December 7, 2023

The City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre met in Regular Session on December 7, 2023, 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 Vice Chairperson Bill Barrett in the Chair.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

Council member Bill Barrett read the opening prayer.

Roll Call:

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

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 Council on pending legislation.

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Resolution authorizing the sale of a lot on Charles Street (process).

Attorney Henry explained that the value of the property is set by City Assessor John Anstett. He told Mr. Troy that the city likes to sell these small parcels to adjoining property owners as often as they can.

Attorney Henry added that there is no benefit to the city owning these type of properties because they be must maintained, and we don't have the workforce to take care of all of them. Also, by selling the properties it puts them back on the tax rolls.

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS/MINUTES)

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. R0080-23

That, the proper City officials are hereby authorized to take any and all necessary actions related to selling the Charles Street Lot, Parcel 73-H9SE1-004-026-000 for the purchase price of \$250.00 to Rich Weidler.

MINUTES

Of the Board of Revision of Taxes and Appeals of November 21, 2023.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of November 21, 2023.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of November 9, 2023.

Of the Traffic Committee Meeting of October 26, 2023.

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

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

Yeas Brooks, Gilbert, and Barrett (Vice Chair) - 3 - being a majority of the members elected to City Council.

Nays none.

Absent - Marconi and Belusko - 2.

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ms. Gilbert said that a street sweeper came up East Northampton Street today, but the street was never posted.

Mr. McCormick said it was probably the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority sweeper.

Ms. Gilbert asked the Administration to please address the matter with them.

Mr. Barrett thanked the Administration for taking care of an issue he brought up on Tuesday regarding the fence on Scott Street.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

E. Francis Wallace, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council to ask if the city received money from the federal infrastructure bill.

Mr. McCormick explained that the infrastructure bill does not go to municipalities. The money is directed through the Department of Transportation and Wilkes-Barre is not a direct applicant nor do we receive any direct funds.

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the 2024 general fund budget, no Tax Anticipation Note, ARP money to balance the budget, mercantile tax, per capita tax (senior citizens exempt), and the stormwater fee (percentage back to the city).

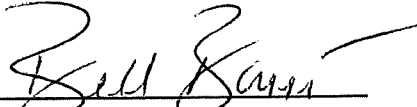
Mayor Brown mentioned that it is the second year that the city did not take a Tax Anticipation Note, which saved the city over \$120,000.00.

The mayor said the city is making sure that they provide the services they need to the residents and business owners and will be doing it without a tax or fee increase again this year.

Mayor Brown also addressed Mr. Troy's questions about the stormwater fee. He explained that it is a federal mandate. He told Mr. Troy that if he has an issue with it, he will have to talk with his congressman or senator.


Mr. Brooks said the reason that the city does not need a Tax Anticipation Note is because we have better cashflow.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.



Bill Barrett, Chairperson

ATTEST:



Cathy Payne, City Clerk