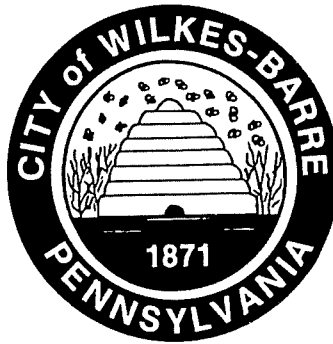


CITY OF WILKES-BARRE
PENNSYLVANIA



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL

JANUARY 25, 2024

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS/MINUTES)

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 25, 2024

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS/MINUTES)

RESOLUTIONS

Proclaiming the month of April 2024 as "Fair Housing Month".

Authorizing the proper City officials to sign all necessary documents related to awarding the contract to the lowest responsible bidder for the Kirby Park Sewer Remediation Project. The total cost of the project not to exceed \$90,000 (ninety thousand dollars).

Reappointing Vaughn Koter to the Housing Authority of the City of Wilkes-Barre.

MINUTES

Of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority Board Meeting of the December 12, 2023.

Of the Wilkes-Barre City Traffic Committee Meeting of the December 28, 2023.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of January 11, 2024.

CITY COUNCIL

January 25, 2024

The City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre met in Regular Session on January 25, 2024, 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 Bill Barrett in the Chair.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

Council member Tony Brooks read the opening prayer.

Roll Call:

Belusko	- present
McClay	- present
Mirin	- present
Brooks, Vice Chairperson	- present
Barrett, Chairperson	- present

Also Present:

George C. Brown, Mayor
Tony Thomas, City Controller
Maureen Collins, Assistant City Attorney
Charles McCormick, City Administrator
Cathy Payne, City Clerk
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 Kirby Park Sewer Remediation Project.

Mayor Brown said that Wilkes University will be paying \$60,000 of the total cost (\$90,000) of Kirby Park Sewer Remediation Project and 75% of the yearly sewer maintenance bill. The city's portion will be paid out of the general fund.

Vaughn Koter, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared relative to his reappointment to the Housing Authority.

Resolution No. R0009-24 to and including the minutes appeared on the Consent Agenda (Resolutions/Minutes).

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. R0009-24

Whereas, Fair Housing is a right emphasized by the U.S. Congress beginning with the Civil Rights Act of 1968 and most recently the amendments of 1988 to the Fair Housing Act; and

Whereas, this is the 56th anniversary of the enactment of the civil rights act of 1968, as amended and strengthened in 1988; title viii of which guarantees the right to be free from housing discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, and disability (including AIDS/HIV).

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the City Council of Wilkes-Barre hereby proclaims the month of April 2024, as "Fair Housing Month" in the City of Wilkes-Barre and encourages its citizens and organizations to celebrate diversity and value the harmonious communities of neighbors to support the goal of equal opportunities for all people.

RESOLUTION NO. R0010-24

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 contract to the lowest responsible bidder for the Kirby Park Sewer Remediation Project. The total cost of the project not to exceed \$90,000 (ninety thousand dollars).

RESOLUTION NO. R0 R0011-24

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 all members of Boards, Commissions, and Authorities served by the City;

Whereas, it is the desire of the City of Wilkes-Barre to re-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 reappointed as a member of the Housing Authority:

Name

Term Expires

Vaughn Koter
73 West Ross Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

January 25, 2028

MINUTES

Of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority Board Meeting of the December 12, 2023.

Of the Wilkes-Barre City Traffic Committee Meeting of the December 28, 2023.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of January 11, 2024.

Mr. Belusko moved to adopt the Consent Agenda (Resolutions/Minutes).

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

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

Nays none.

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mrs. McClay said she spoke with Planning/Zoning Director Bill Harris today regarding the parking lot that was discussed on Tuesday (Lion's Brewery). Mr. Harris said it is zoned correctly, but they need to file an application. There is no variance needed.

Mr. Brooks discussed the way people drive throughout the city. He said they are driving too fast, too close and going down one-way streets the wrong way.

Mr. Brooks said that he received an email today regarding a mass residence notification system. He suggested the Administration look into it.

Mr. Barrett said last week someone knocked over the traffic light on the corner of George Avenue and Washington Street. He said he can't believe how quickly the city has been able to respond to the situation. Temporary stop signs were erected, and the lights are currently being worked on.

Mr. Barrett reported a drainage issue at the lower end of Bowman Street (behind the former 112 Tavern). He said it appears that the storm drains are higher than the roadway and it fills up with about a foot of water during heavy rain and then it freezes. He asked the Administration to have someone look at it and see if there is something that can be done.

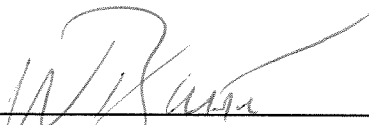
PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Sam Troy, Wilke-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to a lack of transparency, WVSA (financial position, sewer tax and rain tax), and the Sterling Project.

Mr. Belusko said the city cannot use the money that they are allotted from the WVSA for sewer maintenance, only stormwater.

Mr. Belusko addressed the WVSA's financial position. He said the \$14.40 a quarter that the residence pay for the rain tax is at the minimum.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.



William Barrett, Chairperson

ATTEST:



Cathy Payne, City Clerk