

CITY OF WILKES-BARRE
PENNSYLVANIA



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL

DECEMBER 5, 2019

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

RESOLUTIONS

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 5, 2019
RESOLUTIONS

Authorizing the proper city officials to submit a \$1,256,687.00 H2O PA grant application funded by Commonwealth Finance Authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania along with any or all project documents for the Mill Creek and Laurel Run Creek Flood Restoration Project.

Authorizing the proper city officials to prepare and submit the necessary application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA), for the Local Share Account – Luzerne County program funds. Further, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the appropriate agreement with the CFA, along with any or all other project documents, related to the Renovation of the Historic Wyoming Valley Art League Building Project, if the application is approved.

Authorizing the proper city officials to prepare and submit the necessary application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA), for the Local Share Account – Luzerne County program funds and that the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the appropriate agreement with the CFA; along with any or all other project documents, related to the Children’s Service Center Parking Improvement Project, if the application is approved.

Authorizing the proper city officials to prepare and submit the necessary application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA), for the Local Share Account – Luzerne County program funds and that the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the appropriate agreement with the CFA, along with any or all other project documents, related to the Emergency Response Center Project, if the application is approved.

Authorizing the proper city officials to prepare and submit the necessary application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) for the Local Share Account – Luzerne County program funds and that the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the appropriate agreement with the CFA, along with any or all project documents, related to the Kirby Park Multi-use Storage Facility Project, if the application is approved.

Authorizing the proper city officials to prepare and submit the necessary application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA), for the Local Share Account – Luzerne County program funds and that the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the appropriate agreement with the CFA, along with any or all project documents, related to the Wilkes-Barre YMCA’s Safety and Security Project, if the application is approved.

Authorizing the proper city officials to prepare and submit the necessary application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA), for the Local Share Account – Luzerne County program funds and that the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the appropriate agreement with the CFA, along with any or all other project documents, related to the Volunteers of America Pennsylvania (VOAPA) Housing project, if the application is approved.

Authorizing the proper city officials to prepare and submit the necessary application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA), for the Local Share Account – Luzerne County Program funds and that the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the appropriate agreement with the CFA, along with any or all other project documents, related to the Wyoming Valley Challenger Baseball (WVCB) League Fencing Project, if the application is approved.

Authorizing the proper city officials to prepare and submit the necessary application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA), for the Local Share Account – Luzerne County Program funds and that the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the appropriate agreement with the CFA, along with any or all other project documents, related to the Community Dek Hockey Rink Project, if the application is approved.

CITY COUNCIL

December 5, 2019

The City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre met in Regular Session on December 5, 2019, at 6:15 p.m. (immediately following the Work Session), 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.

Roll Call:

Brooks	- present
Gilbert McBride	- present
Merritt	- present
Barrett, Vice Chairperson	- present
Belusko, Chairperson	- present

Also Present:

Darren Snyder, City Controller
Rick Gazenski, City Administrator
Maureen Collins, Assistant City Attorney
Cathy Payne, Assistant City Clerk
Lisa Sanfilippo, Administrative Assistant
Jim Ryan, City Clerk

Mr. Ryan said based on the number of speaker requests received, Council asks that those that are here to support their organization's application for an LSA Grant pick a spokesperson to address Council.

Mr. Ryan asked if there was anyone wishing to address Council on pending legislation.

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the LSA Grant Resolutions (monitoring where the money goes).

Mr. Gazenski explained that the Resolution comes before Council for a vote and then it is sent to the State and they make the determination as to where the money goes.

Jason Carr, Saylorsburg, PA appeared before Council relative to the LSA Grant Resolutions (in favor of the Children's Service Center Parking Improvement Project).

George Brown, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to non-profit organizations.

John Suchoski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the LSA Grant Resolutions (will there be more Resolutions presented to Council in the future/vote on them all at once).

Mr. Brooks asked Mr. Gazenski if there were any applications that the Mayor did not forward to Council.

Mr. Gazenski replied that they were all given to Council.

Mrs. Gilbert McBride asked when the deadline is to apply for LSA Grants.

Mr. Brooks responded that they have to be in Harrisburg by December 31, 2019.

Mike Hopkins, Children's Service Center, appeared before Council to discuss the LSA Grant they applied for.

Mr. Hopkins informed Council that Children's Service Center has invested approximately 9 million dollars in the 300 block of South Franklin Street over the last ten years. He said they appreciate the LSA grants, but they have put a lot of their own money into the campus as well. He said that CSC doesn't really pay a PILOT because they are tax-exempt. He said they make a contribution to the city to thank them for all they do (police, fire, streets). He added that any time they acquire property they increase the amount of the contribution.

Jason Jerecki, General Manager, Toyota Sportsplex, appeared before Council to discuss the LSA Grant they applied for.

Mr. Jerecki explained that the Penguins don't own the Toyota Sportsplex or Coal Street Park. It is a public resource. The Penguins were hired in 2009/2010 to serve as the management company. The ice rink operates at break even now, so there are not millions of dollars flowing through there. The Dek project is the next extension of what we set out to do ten years ago, to revitalize the rink, revitalize the park and give something back to the community.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. R0086-19

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Wilkes-Barre of Luzerne County hereby requests a H2O PA grant of \$1,256,687.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the Mill Creek and Laurel Run Creek Flood Restoration Project; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant does hereby designate Anthony George, 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; AND

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre to authorize the appropriate city officials to submit a \$1,256,687.00 H2O PA grant application funded by Commonwealth Financing Authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania along with any or all project documents for the Mill Creek and Laurel Run Creek Flood Restoration Project if the application is approved; AND

I, Jim Ryan, duly qualified City Clerk of the City of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, PA, hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by a majority vote of the Wilkes-Barre City Council at a regular meeting held December 5, 2019 and said Resolution has been recorded in the Minutes of the City of Wilkes-Barre and remains in effect as of this date.

Mr. Brooks moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nays none.

RESOLUTION NO. R0087-19

WHEREAS, the establishment of the Mohegan Sun Casino at Pocono Downs (Casino) has resulted in revenue from this facility allocated to a Local Share Account—Luzerne County (Account) administered by the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA); AND

WHEREAS, money in this Account is available for distribution to municipalities in Luzerne County; AND

WHEREAS, revenue in this Account is designated to improve the quality of life of citizens in the City of Wilkes-Barre and other municipalities in Luzerne County; AND

WHEREAS, the City of Wilkes-Barre is desirous of applying for a \$650,000.00 grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the CFA, for the Local Share Account- Luzerne County program funds. The funds will be used for the Historic Wyoming Valley Art League Building upgrades such as meeting ADA handicapped requirements with the addition of an elevator and accessible restrooms. Also, HVAC improvements along with gallery lighting and acoustics improvements will occur. These renovations will adequately equip the building to serve public visitors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the CITY OF WILKES-BARRE that the proper City officials are hereby authorized to prepare and submit the necessary application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the CFA, for the Local Share Account- Luzerne County program funds; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the appropriate agreement with the CFA, along with any or all other project documents, related to the Renovation of the Historic Wyoming Valley Art League Building 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 Gilbert McBride, Merritt, Barrett and Belusko (Chairperson) – 4 – being a majority of the members elected to City Council.

Abstain – Brooks – 1.

RESOLUTION NO. R0088

WHEREAS, the establishment of the Mohegan Sun Casino at Pocono Downs (Casino) has resulted in revenue from this facility allocated to a Local Share Account—Luzerne County (Account) administered by the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA); AND

WHEREAS, money in this Account is available for distribution to municipalities in Luzerne County; AND

WHEREAS, revenue in this Account is designated to improve the quality of life of citizens in the City of Wilkes-Barre and other municipalities in Luzerne County; AND

WHEREAS, the City of Wilkes-Barre is desirous of applying for a \$175,000.00 grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the CFA, for the Local Share Account- Luzerne County program funds. The funds will be used by Children’s Service Center (CSC) to raze an unoccupied building located at 350 South Franklin Street as well as pave the property for use as a parking lot. The need for additional parking is necessary based on the CSC’s tremendous growth in clients served. Since 2015, the number of clients ages 18 and under has increased by 61%. For that same period, the number of adults served has increased by more than 500%. Since 2017, the number of clients using Drug & Alcohol Services has increased by 400%. By years end, CSC will have served more than 10,000 individual clients

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the CITY OF WILKES-BARRE that the proper City officials are hereby authorized to prepare and submit the necessary application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the CFA, for the Local Share Account- Luzerne County program funds; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the appropriate agreement with the CFA, along with any or all other project documents, related to the Children's Service Center Parking Improvement project, if the application is approved.

Mr. Brooks moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nays none.

RESOLUTION NO. R0089-19

WHEREAS, the establishment of the Mohegan Sun Casino at Pocono Downs (Casino) has resulted in revenue from this facility allocated to a Local Share Account—Luzerne County (Account) administered by the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA); AND

WHEREAS, money in this Account is available for distribution to municipalities in Luzerne County; AND

WHEREAS, revenue in this Account is designated to improve the quality of life of citizens in the City of Wilkes-Barre and other municipalities in Luzerne County; AND

WHEREAS, the City of Wilkes-Barre is desirous of applying for a \$544,586.65 grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the CFA, for the Local Share Account- Luzerne County program funds. The funding will be used to establish a permanent location for the city's Emergency Response Center. In the past the city has used temporary locations as the Emergency Response Center; however, these locations are no longer available for the city to use in times of emergency. Also, the logistical problems associated with not have a permanent location were many (moving computer servers, computer equipment and other essential items to keep the city operational was time consuming and inefficient). Wilkes-Barre City Hall, Fire Headquarters, Police Station and the Health Department are all located in the flood zone due to its proximity to the Susquehanna River. Therefore, in the event of a disaster, particularly flooding, the city must move all of its operations out of the flood zone. The proposed Emergency Response Center will be located out of the flood zone and allow the city to continue operations during

disaster events. The city will renovate 4,249 square feet on the second floor of the city-owned DPW building that is currently used for storage into the Emergency Response Center; AND

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the CITY OF WILKES-BARRE that the proper City officials are hereby authorized to prepare and submit the necessary application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the CFA, for the Local Share Account- Luzerne County program funds; AND

FURTHER, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the appropriate agreement with the CFA, along with any or all other project documents, related to the Emergency Response Center project, if the application is approved.

Mr. Belusko moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nays none.

RESOLUTION NO. R0090-19

WHEREAS, the establishment of the Mohegan Sun Casino at Pocono Downs (Casino) has resulted in revenue from this facility allocated to a Local Share Account—Luzerne County (Account) administered by the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA); AND

WHEREAS, money in this Account is available for distribution to municipalities in Luzerne County; AND

WHEREAS, revenue in this Account is designated to improve the quality of life of citizens in the City of Wilkes-Barre and other municipalities in Luzerne County; AND

WHEREAS, the City of Wilkes-Barre in partnership with the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority (LCFPA) is desirous of applying for a \$549,443.21 grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the CFA, for the Local Share Account-Luzerne County program funds. The funding will be used to constructing a multi-use storage facility in Kirby Park. The new facility would serve as the city's Kirby Park's recreation maintenance building and also serve as a secure facility to house the LCFPA's trailers that contain the Market Street Bridge Floodgate closure structure components. The design of the building would mimic a hangar-like facility which would allow for a direct enter and exit of vehicles and equipment through the building. The location of the facility in Kirby Park, only a quarter mile from the Market Street Bridge, would further reduce the

Authority's flood fighting response time by several hours in comparison to trailer deployment from the Authority's Laird Street warehouse.; AND

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the CITY OF WILKES-BARRE that the proper City officials are hereby authorized to prepare and submit the necessary application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the CFA, for the Local Share Account- Luzerne County program funds; AND

FURTHER, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the appropriate agreement with the CFA, along with any or all other project documents, related to the Kirby Park Multi-use Storage Facility project, if the application is approved.

Mr. Brooks moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nays none.

RESOLUTION NO. R0091-19

WHEREAS, the establishment of the Mohegan Sun Casino at Pocono Downs (Casino) has resulted in revenue from this facility allocated to a Local Share Account—Luzerne County (Account) administered by the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA); AND

WHEREAS, money in this Account is available for distribution to municipalities in Luzerne County; AND

WHEREAS, revenue in this Account is designated to improve the quality of life of citizens in the City of Wilkes-Barre and other municipalities in Luzerne County; AND

WHEREAS, the City of Wilkes-Barre is desirous of applying for an \$75,000.00 grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the CFA, for the Local Share Account- Luzerne County program funds. The funding will be used to support the Wilkes-Barre YMCA's Safety and Security project, including installation of a new camera system, a new door at the lobby entrance, the addition of an external canopy and upgraded swipe entry access; AND

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the CITY OF WILKES-BARRE that the proper City officials are hereby authorized to prepare and submit the

necessary application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the CFA, for the Local Share Account- Luzerne County program funds; AND

FURTHER, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the appropriate agreement with the CFA, along with any or all other project documents, related to the Wilkes-Barre YMCA's Safety and Security project, if the application is approved.

Mr. Brooks moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nays none.

RESOLUTION NO. R0092-19

WHEREAS, the establishment of the Mohegan Sun Casino at Pocono Downs (Casino) has resulted in revenue from this facility allocated to a Local Share Account—Luzerne County (Account) administered by the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA); AND

WHEREAS, money in this Account is available for distribution to municipalities in Luzerne County; AND

WHEREAS, revenue in this Account is designated to improve the quality of life of citizens in the City of Wilkes-Barre and other municipalities in Luzerne County; AND

WHEREAS, the City of Wilkes-Barre is desirous of applying for a \$300,000.00 grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the CFA, for the Local Share Account- Luzerne County program funds. The funds will be used by Volunteers of America Pennsylvania (VOAPA) to rehabilitate a deteriorating building on the 100 block of East Division Street in Wilkes-Barre. The project will convert the vacant and blighted property into 6 units of one-bedroom and efficiency style independent living spaces for low income individuals. The VOAPA, as a social service provider, will provide in home and community support services as needed to the residents. Also, the VOAPA has employed a similar and successful housing model to serve the community at another location within the City of Wilkes-Barre.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the CITY OF WILKES-BARRE that the proper City officials are hereby authorized to prepare and submit the necessary application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the CFA, for the Local Share Account- Luzerne County program funds; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the appropriate agreement with the CFA, along with any or all other project documents, related to the Volunteers of America Pennsylvania (VOAPA) Housing project, if the application is approved.

Mr. Brooks moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nays none.

RESOLUTION NO. R0093-19

WHEREAS, the establishment of the Mohegan Sun Casino at Pocono Downs (Casino) has resulted in revenue from this facility allocated to a Local Share Account—Luzerne County (Account) administered by the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA); AND

WHEREAS, money in this Account is available for distribution to municipalities in Luzerne County; AND

WHEREAS, revenue in this Account is designated to improve the quality of life of citizens in the City of Wilkes-Barre and other municipalities in Luzerne County; AND

WHEREAS, the City of Wilkes-Barre is desirous of applying for a \$84,894.00 grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the CFA, for the Local Share Account- Luzerne County program funds. The funds will be used by the Wyoming Valley Challenger Baseball (WVCB) league for renovations to the Bog public park on Dewy Lane in Wilkes-Barre. The improvements include replacement of antiquated fencing (40 to 50 years old) that does not meet safety standards or ADA requirements. Being chartered, the Wyoming Valley Challenger Baseball (WVCB) league, has made these renovations a priority so they can continue to provide a safe environment not only for the thrill of our special needs children of playing baseball, but also gives them the opportunity to engage with each other while developing socialization skills and camaraderie amongst each other. Also, the project will allow the Wyoming Valley (WVCB) Challenger Baseball league to host opportunities for special needs children and adults to participate in league events and offer a stable environment at one single location rather than traveling around the area to multiple venues to participate. This will create familiarity and decrease anxiety amongst the participants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the CITY OF WILKES-BARRE that the proper City officials are hereby authorized to prepare and submit the

necessary application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the CFA, for the Local Share Account- Luzerne County program funds; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the appropriate agreement with the CFA, along with any or all other project documents, related to the Wyoming Valley Challenger Baseball (WVCB) league Fencing project, if the application is approved.

Mr. Brooks moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nays none.

RESOLUTION NO. R0094-19

WHEREAS, the establishment of the Mohegan Sun Casino at Pocono Downs (Casino) has resulted in revenue from this facility allocated to a Local Share Account—Luzerne County (Account) administered by the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA); AND

WHEREAS, money in this Account is available for distribution to municipalities in Luzerne County; AND

WHEREAS, revenue in this Account is designated to improve the quality of life of citizens in the City of Wilkes-Barre and other municipalities in Luzerne County; AND

WHEREAS, the City of Wilkes-Barre is desirous of applying for a \$250,000.00 grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the CFA, for the Local Share Account- Luzerne County program funds. The funds will be used to assist the Wilkes-Barre/ Scranton Penguins along with the City of Wilkes-Barre to build a community dek hockey rink, to be located adjacent to the Toyota Sportsplex ice rink, in Coal Street Park. This project would be a unique opportunity for the City of Wilkes-Barre, the Pittsburgh Penguins and the WBS Penguins to partner together in a project that will directly benefit the local community. Dek hockey is a cost-effective way to get children and adults involved in physical activity that is similar to ice hockey.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the CITY OF WILKES-BARRE that the proper City officials are hereby authorized to prepare and submit the necessary application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the CFA, for the Local Share Account- Luzerne County program funds; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the appropriate agreement with the CFA, along with any or all other project documents, related to the Community Dek Hockey Rink project, if the application is approved.

Mr. Belusko moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nays none.

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Brooks told the residents if they want to change the process that Harrisburg has given us for LSA grants then they should lobby the Representative and Senators and ask them to change the rules.

Mr. Brooks added that City Council should not be gatekeepers to which non-profit is more deserving than other non-profits, when there are professional people at the Commonwealth Finance Authority in Harrisburg that review all the LSA grants.

Mrs. Gilbert McBride said she would like to work with the future Administration to see if the city could get some of that money for projects within the City of Wilkes-Barre (such as paving roads). She said while a lot of the non-profits are worthy of getting LSA money, it would also be helpful if the city could get some of that money as well.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mayor-Elect George Brown, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to PFM's presentation on the city's sewer system (hold the meeting in a larger venue/change the time).

Mrs. Gilbert McBride asked if PFM is going to have the proposals ready for December 17, 2019.

Mr. Gazenski said the Administration is not sure if they will have it ready for the 17th, but he will find out tomorrow morning.

John Suchoski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to LSA Grants and the Washington Street Bridge.

Jason Carr, Saylorsburg, PA appeared before Council relative to LSA Grants, city issues and rental properties (records).

Mrs. Gilbert McBride said it has been an issue in the past with the city not knowing what properties are rentals, not properly document what properties have been inspected, numerous properties that people have moved out of and should be inspected again, etc. She said she hopes moving forward the new Administration will look into this issue and start properly documenting what is going on with different properties. Mrs. McBride said the city is losing revenue on these inspections.

Brian Ferry, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to improving the city, urban planning and developing the parking lot next to Emmanuel D. Pons Engineering across from the Osterhout Library (subdivide and sell / turning the lot into townhomes).

Jodina Hicks, Executive Director, Volunteers of America PA, appeared before Council relative to VOAPA's LSA grant application/project.

Mr. Brooks asked about VOA's homeless initiative.

Samantha, Volunteers of America, appeared before Council to discuss the homeless initiative.

She told Council that since March 1st, they have seen over a 131 people out on the streets. With that being said, it doesn't mean that those individuals all wanted to get an assessment and except the services. Out of the 131, 86 individuals accepted services. VOA placed almost half into permanent housing, some into rehabs, some into transitional housing and shelters and some have been sent home with bus tickets to get back to the state they need to be.

Jason Carey, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the sale of the city's sewer system.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.



Mike Belusko, Chairperson

ATTEST:



Jim Ryan, City Clerk