

CITY OF WILKES-BARRE
PENNSYLVANIA



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL

JUNE 9, 2022

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

RESOLUTIONS

CONSENT AGENDA (ORDINANCES)

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 9, 2022

RESOLUTIONS

Temporarily suspend the Ordinance pertaining to the open consumption of alcoholic beverages for the CASAblanca Event on September 22, 2022.

Authorizing the proper city officials to take any and all necessary actions to enter a contract with Panzitta Enterprises, Inc. to construct a permanent stage on Public Square for a price of \$548,000.00. (\$113,000 LSA Grant and \$435,000 American Recovery Funds).

CONSENT AGENDA (ORDINANCES)

FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 3 OF 2022 – AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF LAND FORMERLY KNOWN AS GRANT ALLEY IN THE CITY OF WILKES-BARRE”. (SECOND AND FINAL READING).

FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 4 OF 2022 – AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY’S TRAFFIC CODE, ORDINANCE 89 OF 1988, ESTABLISHING THE TRAFFIC PATTERN OF SHERIDAN STREET (BETWEEN SOUTH AND LEHIGH STREETS) AND LEHIGH STREET (BETWEEN SHERIDAN AND MEADE STREET).

CITY COUNCIL

JUNE 9, 2022

The City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre met in Regular Session on June 9, 2022, 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 Beth Gilbert McBride in the Chair.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

Councilperson Mike Belusko read the prayer.

Roll Call:

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

Also Present:

George C. Brown, Mayor
Joe Coffay, Police Chief
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.

Mrs. McBride discussed the Resolution relative to the construction of the Public Square stage. She said herself and some of her colleagues would like some more time to review the information.

Mrs. McBride made a motion to **pull the following Resolution from the agenda:**

Resolved, that the proper city officials are hereby authorized to take any and all necessary actions to enter a contract with Panzitta Enterprises, Inc. to construct a

permanent stage on Public Square for a price of \$548,000.00, along with any or all other project documents, related to the City's Public Square rehabilitation project.

Be It Further Resolved that payment be made from the following funding sources:

| | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| \$113,000.00 | LSA Grant |
| \$435,000.00 | American Recovery Fund |

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

Mr. Barrett said that he will be voting no because there were several individuals present that he thought Council should have listened to first before the Resolution was removed from the agenda.

Yeas Brooks, Marconi and McBride (Chairperson) - 3 - being a majority of the members elected to City Council.

Nays Barrett and Belusko - 2.

Chairperson Gilbert McBride asked if there was anyone wishing to address Council on pending legislation.

Bob Kadluboski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Resolution temporarily suspending the open consumption of alcoholic beverages for the CASAblanca Event (serving alcohol at City Council meetings).

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Resolution temporarily suspending the open consumption of alcoholic beverages for the CASAblanca Event.

Mrs. McBride told Mr. Troy that CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. Their mission is to recruit, train and support community volunteers, to serve as the voice of abused and neglected children in the Luzerne County Court system so that these children will be safe, secure and be given the opportunity to thrive. The event is their largest fundraiser of the year. The food will be catered, and beverages purchased by CASA and served by RAMP certified bartenders/servers provided by the caterer. They have insurance for the invite only event and the Sheriff's Department will be controlling it.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. R0056-22

Whereas, the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre hereby directs that the provisions of Section 20-4 of the Wilkes-Barre Code of Ordinances pertaining to the open consumption of alcoholic beverages be temporarily suspended and not enforced for the following events:

Event: CASAblanca Event
Sponsor: M & T Bank (main sponsor)
Designated Area: Luzerne County Courthouse (under a tent on the south lawn)
Dates: September 22, 2022
Time: 7 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Whereas, the invite event is the largest fundraiser of the year for CASA. Food will be catered and beverages by CASA and served by RAMP certified bartenders/servers provided by the caterer.

The within temporary suspension applies only to the above-referenced events and area. All other regulations related to intoxicating beverages in the City of Wilkes-Barre shall remain in full force and effect. A copy of this resolution shall be provided to the Wilkes-Barre Police Department.

Mr. Brooks moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nays none.

ORDINANCES

The following Ordinances appeared on the Consent Agenda (Ordinances):

FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 3 OF 2022 – AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF LAND FORMERLY KNOWN AS GRANT ALLEY IN THE CITY OF WILKES-BARRE”. (SECOND AND FINAL READING)

FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 4 OF 2022 – AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY’S TRAFFIC CODE, ORDINANCE 89 OF 1988, ESTABLISHING THE

TRAFFIC PATTERN OF SHERIDAN STREET (BETWEEN SOUTH AND LEHIGH STREETS)
AND LEHIGH STREET (BETWEEN SHERIDAN AND MEADE STREET). (FIRST READING)

Mrs. McBride moved to adopt the Consent Agenda (Ordinances).

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

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

Nays none.

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Barrett commented on Council pulling the Resolution relative to the Public Square stage. He said he believes Council acted in haste without listening to what the project actually involves. He said people came to the meeting ready to make a presentation and he was interested in what they had to say and find out more about the project. He said Council could have listened to them and then decided to pull it if they still needed more information.

Mr. Belusko distributed the monthly report from the Wyoming Valley Sanitary, which details the catch basins that were repaired/cleaned and street sweeping that was done in the city.

Mr. Belusko said he had a meeting with the WVSA and the city's Parking Enforcement relative to coordinating street cleaning. He said it was all taken care of and things should improve moving forward.

Mrs. McBride said she was looking for more information regarding the Public Square stage project and for more time to digest the information. She mentioned that she had a conversation with Mr. Newman and conveyed her concerns, so he knew about it prior to the meeting.

Mrs. McBride reported the following high grass:

1. The empty lot next to 8 South Empire Street.
2. The Empire Street Silk Mill.

Mr. McCormick said the silk mill was scheduled to be done this afternoon.

3. The old Stanton Lanes property.

Mrs. McBride reported that VPR continues to bring their trucks down Empire Street to Solomon's.

Mr. McCormick said he will reach out to Solomon's to discuss the issue.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Angela Czapla, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to spending American Rescue Plan Funds to build a stage on Public Square, use of ARP money for a city-wide cleanup and a temporary neighborhood policing unit, fireworks and street cleaning (signage).

Mr. Belusko informed Ms. Czapla that street cleaning signs were addressed at a recent meeting with the WWSA.

Jim Burden, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to a missing mirror on Taft Street, cars going the wrong way, the drainage problem on East Northampton Street and Park Avenue, gas station on East Northampton and Grant Streets (excessive amount of cars parked in lot), naming parks after people who never lived in the city and Council's salaries.

Mrs. McBride said she has been reporting the problem on East Northampton Street and Park Avenue for years.

Mrs. McBride also said that she is aware of the issue with the gas station on East Northampton and Grant Street.

Angel Mathis, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to street cleaning and HDC residents driving the wrong way on Dana Street.

Bob Kadluboski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the professionals that were in attendance to discuss the Public Square Stage not being allowed to make their presentation, violating his rights and City Council's healthcare.

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to a Citizens' Advisory Committee, Homestead Act, American Rescue Funds (hearing on how to spend the remainder of the money), Public Square stage, relief from city fees, taxes, the rain tax, Parking Authority (ARP money to fix elevators) and Council members serving on boards (conflict of interest).

Mr. Marconi said that he is on the Parking Authority; however, he was appointed two years prior to being elected to City Council.

Mayor Brown replied to some of Mr. Troy's concerns regarding the ARP Funds. He said the city gave 7.1 million dollars back to the citizens in the following way:

- \$300 Stimulus checks (the City sent out 8,100 checks)
- \$7,500 in closing costs to residents buying a home (approximately 20 homes)
- paying first years rent to new business owners (20 new businesses opening)
- \$7,500 to residents who want to remodel their homes (120 homes)
- \$1 million to social agencies to help underprivileged residents

Mayor Brown added that the city cut the price of garbage bags and parking meters and reduced the sewer and recycling fees.

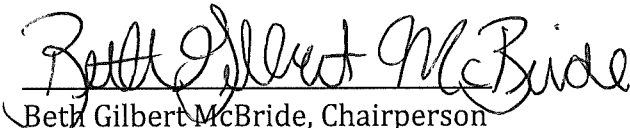
Mayor Brown said as far as a Citizens Advisory Committee, he feels that it's why there are Council members to address resident's concerns/issues.

Mr. Troy asked the Administration if they would be willing to reduce or eliminate the sewer and recycling fees for this year, since the city's financial position is now sound.

Mayor Brown said that the article in the newspaper relative to the city's finances was based on April's financials. He said the year is not over yet, so there is no way he can reduce fees.

Mrs. McBride said in terms of the Citizens Advisory Committee, she is in support of it. She said she hopes it is eventually revived, so the city can get input from the community.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.


Beth Gilbert McBride, Chairperson

ATTEST:


Cathy Payne, City Clerk