

CITY OF WILKES-BARRE
PENNSYLVANIA



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

RESOLUTIONS (SEE ATTACHED)

ADJOURNMENT

WILKES-BARRE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL SESSION – SEPTEMBER 22, 2021
MAYOR’S AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS:

Authorizing the proper city officials to submit the necessary application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Commonwealth Finance Authority (CFA), for the Local Share Account – Luzerne County program funds. 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 LCTA’s new transit facility part 2 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. 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 Facility’s Locker Rooms Renovations 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. 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 University’s Cannabis Certificate Program and Mass Spectrometer/CO2 Extractor Purchase 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. The Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the appropriate agreement with the CFA, along with any or all project documents, related to the City Hall Renovations – Phase II 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. The Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the appropriate agreement with the CFA, along with any or all project documents, related to the City of Wilkes-Barre’s Public Works Facility Upgrades 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. The Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the appropriate agreement with the CFA, along with any or all project documents, related to the City of Wilkes-Barre's Dual Stream Recycling Containers 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. The Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the appropriate agreement with the CFA, along with any of all project documents, related to the Emergency Operations 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. The Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the appropriate agreement with the CFA, along with any or all project documents, related to the Domestic Violence Service Center Expansion 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. The Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the appropriate agreement with the CFA, along with any or all project documents, related to the F.M. Kirby Center's HVAC and Façade 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. The Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the appropriate agreement with the CFA, along with any or all project documents, related to the Renovation of the Historic Wyoming Valley Art League Building Addition and Upgrades project, if the application is approved.



CITY COUNCIL

September 22, 2021

The City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre met in a Special Session on September 22, 2021, at 5:30 p.m., in City Council Chambers, City Hall, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, to consider Resolutions relating to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Commonwealth Finance Authority, for local Share Account-Luzerne County Program Funds.

The meeting was organized with Chairperson Tony Brooks in the Chair.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

The Prayer was read by Councilman Mike Belusko.

Roll Call:

Barrett	-Present
Belusko	-Present
Marconi	-Present
McBride, Vice Chairperson	-Present
Brooks, Chairperson	-Present

Also Present:

George C. Brown, Mayor
Charlie McCormick, City Administrator
Tim Henry, City Attorney
Butch Frati, Director of Operations/Deputy Administrator
Cathy Payne, City Clerk
Tracy Smith, Assistant City Clerk
Lisa Sanfilippo, Administrative Assistant

City Clerk Cathy Payne read a statement relative to Council's Rules and Procedures.

City Clerk Cathy Payne announced that there was an error on the original agenda posted on the city's website. An amount was inadvertently left blank on the Resolution regarding the Emergency Operations Center Project. Due to new requirements in the Sunshine Act, if there are changes to the agenda, a majority vote of Council is needed to approve the change. Ms. Payne said that Council will need to vote to add this Resolution to the agenda before it can be voted on.

Mr. Barrett moved to amend the agenda to include the Resolution for the Emergency Operations Center Project.

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

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

Nays none.

The Chairperson asked if there was anyone wishing to address Council on Pending legislation:

Jerry Lynott, Times Leader, appeared before Council with questions to the Resolutions for the LCTA Grant (cost of the project) and the Recycling Container Grant.

City Attorney Tim Henry told Mr. Lynott that the LCTA is applying for two separate grants, one with the City and the second with the County.

Butch Frati answered the container question by stating there are about 8,000 containers at DPW. That is not enough to supply the whole city for the new dual stream recycling program.

Lee Horton from LCTA confirmed the project numbers do change daily due to the shortage of supplies and higher costs of materials. Total project is estimated to be \$58 million but could go as high as \$65 million.

Mark Shaffer, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the proposed Resolutions for LSA grants (not consistent for the need to benefit the city and its residents).

John Suchoski, Almond Lane, Wilkes-Barre, PA, appeared before Council relative to the Resolutions for the LSA grants (Not benefiting the city or its residents).

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. R0069-21

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 the Account is designated for distribution to municipalities 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 \$350,000.00 grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through CFA, for the local Share Account-Luzerne County Program Funds. The funding will be used by the Luzerne County Transportation Authority (LCTA) for any construction phase of LCTA's new transit facility. The LCTA has outgrown their two present locations and does not have the ability to house permanent CNG fueling at these sites. The new facility will combine fixed route and shared ride divisions and accommodate all vehicle refueling, maintenance and storage needs for improved operational efficiency and greater capacity. This project redevelops an abandoned property in the city commonly known as Murray Complex. Additionally, this grant amount will be leveraged with other project funding. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) has committed to providing 96.775% of the project funding and this LSA request will provide the remaining 3.225% of the project funding. The total cost of the entire project is \$45,000,000.00; 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 LCTA's new transit facility part 2 project, if the application is approved.

Mr. Horton, from the LCTA appeared before Council to answer questions on the above Resolution.

Mrs. McBride confirmed that last year the LCTA received \$350,000 in LSA grants and federal, state and local subsidies. She asked Mr. Horton from the LCTA to explain the cost breakdown of the project.

Mr. Horton explained that a majority of the money is coming from state funding, a percentage from the federal government and also a local match for the entire project. He said LCTA put in for an LSA grant for the local match last year and again this year and will also go in front of County Council for a local match as well (for the balance of what is needed). Mr. Horton confirmed that the total funding will be \$58 million.

Mr. Frati said the amount of the project includes land acquisition, land testing, fencing, and construction. He added that due to COVID-19 material and labor is hard to come by. He said the LCTA will not know the final number until bids start coming in.

Mr. Frati told Council that the LCTA project will be beneficial to Wilkes-Barre and bring 170 jobs to the City.

Mr. Belusko moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

Yeas Barrett, Belusko and Brooks (Chairperson) – 3 – being a majority of the members elected to City Council.

Nays Marconi and McBride – 2.

RESOLUTION NO. R0070-21

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 the Account is designated for distribution to municipalities 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 funding will be used by the Greater Wyoming Valley Area YMCA for renovations of the Wilkes-Barre’s facility’s locker rooms—the central hub of YMCA. In 2019, the YMCA retained a consultant to complete a conceptual design for the renovation of certain key facilities. Recognizing that the locker rooms are the heart of the facility and must accommodate YMCA members of all ages, genders, family make-ups, abilities and income levels, it is necessary that the locker room remodel meet the existing and future needs of members. The facility renovation plan includes the creation of 6,000 square feet of men’s, women’s and universal locker room space; a whirlpool, steam room and sauna; and a massage and lounge area, allowing for improved accessibility and movement throughout the facility; 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 Facility’s Locker Rooms Renovations project, if the application is approved.

Jim Thomas, CEO of the Wyoming Valley YMCA, Marie Holland, GMS Finance Solutions and Lindsay Landas, Wilkes-Barre YMCA, appeared before Council to answer questions of the above Resolution.

Mrs. McBride said in 2018 the YMCA received \$50,000.00 for pool restoration and then in 2019 and 2020, \$74,974.00 and \$25,000.00. She stated she understood the need for locker room renovation but, asked for more details on the whirlpool, steam room, sauna and massage and lounge area.

Mr. Thomas said they are trying to modernize the locker rooms and it will be called a universal locker area. It will benefit young families and children and will be geared toward the safety of children using the facility. He said the area will have cameras. All of the spaces where they would use bathrooms, or showers, or changing area will be individualized for the children's safety.

Mr. Thomas pointed out that as a major daycare provider, the YMCA provides services to many different neighborhoods, so even though it is located in the city, a lot of the people served are low income families from different area.

Mrs. McBride agreed that the locker rooms are much needed but asked again for more details on the other areas they are planning to renovate.

Mr. Thomas said the current men's and lady's locker rooms have their own steam rooms, this will be brought out for family use and to be used as co-ed. Instead of having five plus locker rooms there will be one centralized for member use. Most facilities have this type of area built in by their pool deck but unfortunately, we are land locked and do not have the room for that.

Mr. Barrett moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

Yeas Barrett, Belusko, Marconi and Brooks (Chairperson) – 4 – being a majority of the member's elected to City Council.

Nays – McBride -1

RESOLUTION NO. R0071-21

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 the Account is designated for distribution to municipalities 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 \$350,000.00 grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the CFA, for the Local Share Account – Luzerne County program funds. The funding will be used by Wilkes University’s Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences in the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy to propose the first Cannabis Certificate Program at any university in northeastern Pennsylvania and request’s funding to purchase equipment that will be integral to the program’s curriculum, cannabis research, and local collaborative partnerships. Medical marijuana is a burgeoning local industry, and it is expected that recreational use will be legalized in the near future. The initiation of a Cannabis Certificate Program at Wilkes University will benefit a number of stakeholders including the university, the City of Wilkes-Barre and its residents, and the local and regional economies. The program alone will create three jobs at Wilkes University, and its expected that after recreational legalization, as many as 250 jobs may move to the region with just one company alone. Establishing this program with the state-of-the-art equipment, such as a mass spectrometer and CO2 Extractor, will provide our students with the advanced skills necessary to fill these jobs. Further, our faculty and students will also utilize the equipment to preform research that can inform basic science of cannabis and advance local economic efforts; 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 University’s Cannabis Certificate Program and Mass Spectrometer/CO2 Extractor Purchase project, if the application is approved.

Mr. Barrett moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

Yeas, Barrett, Belusko and Brooks (Chairperson) – 3 – being a majority of the members elected to City Council.

Nays – Marconi - 1

Abstain – McBride – 1

RESOLUTION NO. R0072-21

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 the Account is designated for distribution to municipalities 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 \$479, 965.00 grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the CFA, for the Local Share Account – Luzerne County program funds. The funding will be used for renovations to Wilkes-Barre City Hall. The building was built in 1893 and needs many improvements due to its age. The specific use of the grant funds will be for selective demolition, elevator replacement, front entrance upgrades, ADA side entrance upgrades, LED lighting in common areas, office flooring, and repairs to the exterior of the building; 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 City Hall Renovations – Phase II project, if the application is approved.

Mrs. McBride pointed out that the city received approximately \$322,000.00 in 2019 and 2020 for renovations. She asked what the additional grant money will be used for.

Mr. Frati, Director of Operations, responded that this will be used to repair the brick and mortar that is visibly falling down. It will also be used for entry way features, parking lot upgrades and HVAC system repairs. A new temporary ADA has to be built on the North Washington side of the building until the new elevator is completed and the whole building will be getting internal upgrades.

Mrs. McBride said that the LSA guidelines state that projects may not commence prior to the approval of LSA assistance. She asked if our application will be impacted since the new ADA ramp has already been started?

Mr. Frati stated we received an initial grant to cover that cost.

Mrs. McBride stated that she sees where the application is calling for painting and new LED lighting. She asked if that covers other areas of the building that we not renovated after the storm damage.

Mr. Frati said that he doesn't know the extent of the repairs that will allowed to be made, for example, new windows could mean new painting.

Mr. Marconi stated that he would rather see the LSA grants go to improving roads, equipment and creeks. Those type of items would benefit the city. Maybe grants can be used for more city projects.

Mr. Barrett reminded everyone that this grant money is not the City's money and that some of these applicants may never receive any money. He said that those applying are very worthwhile organizations, but they also run on a tight budget like the city does. Mr. Barrett said The Commonwealth Finance Authority makes the final determination, and he wishes all the applicants the best and no one should be denied the right to apply. Mr. Barrett added that these organizations have been in the city for decades and they need our support, especially during these times.

Mr. Belusko moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

Yeas Barrett, Belusko, Marconi and Brooks (Chairperson) – 4 – being a majority of the members elected to City Council.

Nays – McBride – 1

RESOLUTION NO. R0073-21

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 the Account is designated for distribution to municipalities 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 \$445,640.00 grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the CFA, for the Local Share Account – Luzerne County program funds. The funding will be used for upgrades to the City of Wilkes-Barre's Public Works Facility. The specific use of the grant funds will be for architectural design, selective demolition, rough-in plumbing, electrical repairs, insulation, sheetrock, LED lighting, plumbing fixtures, bathrooms, floors/wall tiles, carpeting, painting, doors, and HVAC system; 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 City of Wilkes-Barre's Public Works Facility Upgrades project, if the application is approved.

Mr. Barrett moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nays none.

RESOLUTION NO. R0074-21

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 the Account is designated for distribution to municipalities 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 \$59,000.00 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 purchase 4,000 residential 25-gallon recycling containers for the city's dual stream recycling program. Dual stream recycling keeps paper and cardboard products separate from glass and plastic containers and metal cans. Some of the benefits of dual stream recycling are less contamination, higher quality and more valuable recovered material, and lower costs to process the collected recyclables; 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 City of Wilkes-Barre's Dual Stream Recycling Containers project, if the application is approved.

Mrs. McBride asked if there was a high demand for the containers.

Mr. Frati stated every day people ask for containers. People are asking for them now because of the dual recycling program. This allows them to use a container for each week.

Mayor Brown stated when the program was first discussed, it was mentioned that separate containers would be beneficial.

Mr. Marconi moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nays none.

RESOLUTION NO. R0075-21

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 the Account is designated for distribution to municipalities 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 \$350,000.00 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 establish a permanent location for the city's Emergency Operations Center. In the past the city has used temporary locations as the Emergency Operations Center, however, these locations are no longer available for the city to use in times of emergency. Also, the logistical problems associated with not having 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 their proximity of the Susquehanna River. Therefore, in the event of a disaster, particularly flooding, the city must move all its operations out of the flood zone. The proposed Emergency Operations Center will be an addition to the Hollenback Fire Station, which is located out of the flood zone, and will allow the city to continue operations during disaster events; 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 Operations Center Project, if the application is approved.

Mr. Barrett moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nays none.

RESOLUTION NO. R0076-21

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 the Account is designated for distribution to municipalities 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 \$2,000,000.00 grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the CFA, for the Local Share Account – Luzerne County program funds. The funding will be used by the Domestic Violence Service Center (DVSC) to support construction for expansion to DVSC facility/emergency shelter to provide an expanded level of service, meet community capacity assessed need and health/safety guidelines for domestic violence victims. Currently, the emergency shelter is not able to meet the Counties shelter capacity demand with current shelter structure and new normal/safe social distancing guidelines. The expansion will add 6 shelter bedrooms, restroom, kitchen and living space, counseling rooms/conference rooms large enough that client counseling and group meetings can be held in a socially safe spaced environment. Separate office space will be created for the legal department/staff with internal access for shelter victims and a secure private entrance for non-residents; 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 Domestic Violence Service Center Shelter Expansion Project, if the application is approved.

Mr. Belusko moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nays none.

RESOLUTION NO. R0077-21

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 the Account is designated for distribution to municipalities 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 \$350,000.00 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 purchase a new HVAC roof top unit for the F.M. Kirby Center auditorium area. The new HVAC roof top units will provide better air purification along with total replacement of all coils in the separate air handling penthouse. Also, the funding will be used for exterior façade repairs to the historic building which is weathered and cracking causing a public safety concern; 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 F.M Kirby Center's HAVC and Façade Project, if the application is approved.

Drew Taylor, Director, F.M. Kirby Center and Brent Berger, Chairman, F.M. Kirby Center appeared before Council relative to the above Resolution.

Mrs. McBride stated in 2018 the F.M. Kirby Center received \$130,000.00 and in 2019 they received \$188,500.00, and also COVID relief money was received. She asked why additional money is needed for the HVAC system.

Mr. Drew Taylor, Director, responded that originally the project was to abide by the government regulations for freon and replace just five rooftop units. The auditorium unit was to be a retro fit, but unfortunately the engineering company discovered that the cooling coils in the unit would not stand up to the pressure with the new freon. So, the entire auditorium unit needs to be replaced, this estimate is \$430,000.00, much more than anticipated. If this is not replaced by next summer, there will not be any cooling system in that area and therefore no shows will be able to be presented. The COVID money was specifically designated to payroll, programming, marketing and general operating expenses.

Mr. Brent Berger, Chairman, spoke on the five rooftop units, they are 1986 vintage, and need to be upgraded. He said the grant money from 2019 was used to upgrade the dressing rooms in order to bring the acts and performers. He went on to state that they have a front façade issue and the marquee needs to be replaced/repared. F.M. Kirby is a non-profit and they have a mission statement and funding has been cut like many others.

Mr. Taylor spoke about having an economic impact study done in their fiscal year 2016-2017 and it was determined that the Kirby Center brings in \$6.3 million to Luzerne County, to places like Genetti's Hotel and local restaurants. He stated they are a huge part of Wilkes-Barre and would like to continue business here.

Mr. Barrett moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nays none.

RESOLUTION NO. R0078-21

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 the Account is designated for distribution to municipalities 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 \$850,000.00 grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the CFA, for the Local Share Account – Luzerne County program funds. The funding will be used for the Historic Wyoming Valley Art League Building upgrades such as meeting ADA handicapped requirements with accessible restrooms and the addition of an elevator to the existing building. These renovations will adequately equip the building to serve public visitors; 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 Renovation of the Historic Wyoming Valley Art League Building Addition and Upgrades Project, if the application is approved.

Don Armstrong, Board President of the Wyoming Valley Art League Building, appeared before Council relative to the above Resolution.

Mr. Armstrong, informed Council that the Art League has been in business for 67 years and they are an all-volunteer organization. Ten years ago, this October, the Art League purchased the Luzerne County Medical Society Building. There have been many improvements to the two galleries, which feature local and non-local artists. Mr. Armstrong said unfortunately, anyone with mobility issues is not able to access and view the works on display. There are 7 stairs from lower level to the mid-gallery and then another 20 stairs to the main gallery. Mr. Armstrong stated they are applying for this grant to put an elevator on the outside of the building. It's an all concrete and steel building so it cannot be placed inside and this in turn brings extra cost. There have been other LSA grants awarded to them which have enabled them to buy the adjacent property for the elevator since they are about 6 inches short of having enough room. The events that are featured bring people into the downtown area, whether it be their exhibits or art shows. They also started a project about a year ago, having different events to help raise private funds for the elevator project. Everything that is done there is for the interest of the community and not one person involved receives a salary.

Mr. Marconi wanted to reiterate the stairs and the levels and confirm there are only steps to access each level.

Mr. Armstrong stated yes, all steps. The basement is half exposed, so there are 7 steps to the basement, 7 stairs to the middle level and then 20 stairs to the top level gallery.

Mr. Barrett moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

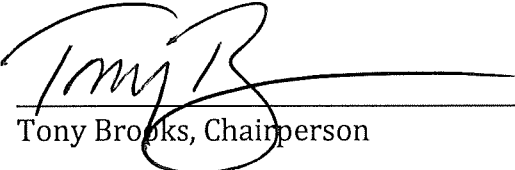
Yeas Barrett, Belusko, Marconi and McBride – 4 – being a majority of the members of elected City Council.

Nays none.

Abstain – Brooks (Chairperson) – 1.

Mrs. McBride said she does think the City needs to narrow their focus on the LSA grant applications. The Resolutions she voted in favor of she feels will benefit the city and its economy, which is the key factor of the LSA grants. Mrs. McBride stated that she didn't feel certain projects that were applied for fit that benefit. She knows that Council does not make the ultimate decision but that they vote for a reason. No project should be rubber stamped by any Council member and that every application should be considered individually. She thanked all those who came out in support of their application.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.


Tony Brooks, Chairperson

ATTEST:


Cathy Payne, City Clerk

