

CITY OF WILKES-BARRE
PENNSYLVANIA



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 27, 2020

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 27, 2020

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)

Appointing Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC to conduct the audit of the City's General Purpose Financial Statements and Single Audit for the year ending December 31, 2019.

Sell 50-52 Madison Street to Lony Gambino for a purchase price of \$1,500.00.

Reaffirming commitment to updating the original Emergency Operations Plan and the Notification and Resource Manual as part of the City's Emergency Response Plan.

Reappointing Ronald Felton to the Fire Civil Service Commission.

Appointing Jessica McClay to the Fire Civil Service Commission.

MINUTES

Of the Planning Commission of February 19, 2020.

Of the Zoning Hearing Board of January 31, 2020.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of February 13, 2020.

CITY COUNCIL

February 27, 2020

The City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre met in Regular Session on February 27, 2020 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.

Roll Call:

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

Also Present:

George Brown, Mayor
Maureen Collins, Assistant City Attorney
Charles McCormick, City Administrator
Cathy Payne, Assistant City Clerk
Lisa Sanfilippo, Administrative Assistant
Jim Ryan, City Clerk

Mayor Brown presented a proclamation to Greg Griffen recognizing and thanking him for his dedication to the cleanup of the City of Wilkes-Barre and for inspiring others to make an impact in their community.

Mayor Brown discussed the following:

1. Recent meeting with the Mayors of Scranton, Hazleton, Pittston and Nanticoke.
2. Public Meeting regarding the sewer system to be held March 18, 2020.
3. Grand Marshall announcement (Monday at 4:00 p.m.)

The City Clerk asked if there was anyone wishing to address Council on pending legislation.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution NO. R0007-20 to and including the minutes appeared on the Consent Agenda (Resolutions).

RESOLUTION NO. R0007-20

That, Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC is hereby appointed to conduct the audit of the City's General Purpose Financial Statements and Single Audit for the year ending December 31, 2019.

RESOLUTION NO. R0008-20

That, the proper city officials are hereby authorized to take any and all necessary actions related to the sale of 50-52 Madison Street (PIN: H10NW4-023-036) to Lony Gambino (or his designee) for a purchase price of \$1,500.00.

RESOLUTION NO. R0009-20

Whereas, the City of Wilkes-Barre remains prepared for natural and man-made disasters through the City of Wilkes-Barre Emergency Operations Plan as well as the Notification and Resource Manual.

Whereas, the Wilkes-Barre City Clerk's Office has retained the updated version of the EOP and NARMS dated January 16, 2020.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Wilkes-Barre City Council hereby reaffirms its Commitment to updating the original Emergency Operations Plan and the Notification and Resource Manual as part of the City's Emergency Response Plan.

RESOLUTION NO. R0010-20

Whereas, Article V, Section 5:08 of the City's Home Rule Charter provides that the Mayor shall appoint, with the advice and consent of City Council, members to Boards and Authorities.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre, that the City Council hereby accepts the recommendation of Mayor George C. Brown for the following reappointment:

Fire Civil Service Commission	Term Expired
Ronald Felton 25 Westminster Street	12-31-23

Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

RESOLUTION NO. R0011-20

Whereas, Article V, Section 5:08 of the City's Home Rule Charter provides that the Mayor shall appoint, with the advice and consent of City Council, members to Boards and Authorities.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre, that the City Council hereby accepts the recommendation of Mayor George C. Brown for the following appointment:

Fire Civil Service Commission	Term Expired
Jessica McClay 463 North Pennsylvania Avenue Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702	12-31-23

This appointment is to replace Theodore Wampole who resigned as a member of the Commission.

MINUTES

Of the Planning Commission of February 19, 2020.

Of the Zoning Hearing Board of January 31, 2020.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of February 13, 2020.

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

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

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

Nays none.

Chairman Barrett recognized newly appointed/reappointed members of the Fire Civil Service Commission Ron Felton and Jessica McClay.

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Marconi asked the Administration to please keep Council current on the landbank issue.

Mr. Marconi thanked Mr. McCormick for responding to all of his concerns over the last few days in a timely manner.

Mrs. McBride thanked the Mayor for speaking at the Residents Association meeting last night.

Mr. Brooks thanked the Administration for taking heed his recommendation on Tuesday concerning the website and implementing it within 24 hours.

Mr. Brooks discussed the hiring of three new police officers and said that he is glad that two of them live in the City of Wilkes-Barre.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Greg Griffen, New Roots Recovery Center, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council to thank Mr. Marconi and Mr. McCormick for having 5 mattresses and a couch removed from the parking lot of the former Valley Diner (near the mall), to discuss the upcoming clean up scheduled for Saturday (Pickering Avenue, alongside and underneath the South Street Bridge, Mundy Street across from Home Depot, Race Street, North Main Street and Wilkes Lane Park (near Service Electric), thank Jim Decker (Health Department) for taking care of the re-dumping on Arch Street and issuing citations and APlus Junk Removal for their help with junk removal.

Jason Carr, Saylorsburg, PA appeared before Council to thank the Mayor for everything he is doing for the city, to discuss limiting the amount of drinks at the Cherry Blossom Festival, the Emergency Response Center (waste of money), reform of Council's salaries and benefits, eliminating the rain tax and attending Mrs. Gilbert's Residents Association meetings to discuss the issues in District A.

Mrs. Gilbert told Mr. Carr that Council's salaries have been frozen for 21 years.

Mayor Brown said that he was the President of the South Wilkes-Barre Residents Association, and because of his new role, he doesn't have as much time available as he did when he was retired. He said the Residents Association will continue to do the special needs Christmas party and East Egg Hunt, but as far as the monthly meetings, they need someone to volunteer to take them over.

Mr. Marconi said that anyone new coming in to work for the city should not be entitled to a pension. He mentioned that the money he will receive for not taking the medical benefits will be donated.

Gordon Williams, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Rockin the River Event (SBC paying the County \$5,000 for the rights to serve their beer/difference between a sponsorship and a fee).

Mr. Barrett said he believes that the sponsorship monies are used to run the event. It pays for entertainment, the security, etc. Council's only role is to deal with the open container Ordinance and suspending it for the event. No monies come to the City or through the City.

Mayor Brown also stated that the City does not have anything to do with the Rockin the River Event, it is run by the County.

Mr. Williams said Council did not have all the information prior to making a decision.

Mrs. McBride said Mr. Williams raised a good point, that Council should have known about the payment because it may have influenced some of Council's votes.

Mrs. McBride asked if the city collects any vendor fees for the event.

The Mayor explained that the City is not involved at all with the event.

Mr. McCormick added that it is technically not the city's property.

John Suchoski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to land banks and the former Train Station property on Wilkes-Barre Boulevard (repurposing a grant).


Mayor Brown said he met with George Albert regarding the Station property and an RCAP Grant. He said they are still discussing what is needed to restore the building.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.



Bill Barrett, Chairperson

ATTEST:



Jim Ryan, City Clerk

