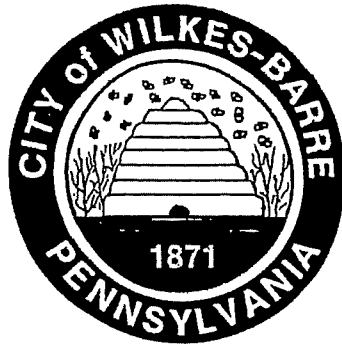


CITY OF WILKES-BARRE
PENNSYLVANIA



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 19, 2020

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCES

MINUTES

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

CITY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 19, 2020

RESOLUTIONS

Authorizing the execution and delivery of certain financing documents with Pension Funding Solutions, LLC or such other entity as may be deemed appropriate for the purpose of funding all or a portion of the city's unfunded actuarial accrued pension liability and authorizing proper officers to do all other things necessary or appropriate in connection with the foregoing.

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 the SHINE LC 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 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 the LCTA's new transit facility 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 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 the Emergency Operations Center 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 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 the City Hall Renovations project.

Recommending that City Council hereby adopt the Pension Fund Solutions, LLC Program for the benefit of the Aggregated Trust Fund and the City of Wilkes-Barre.

CITY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 19, 2020

ORDINANCES

FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 14 OF 2020 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 12-27 OF ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 12 OF THE WILKES-BARRE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED “GARBAGE AND REFUSE”. (FEE FOR RECYCLABLE NEWSPRINT, COMMINGLED RECYCLABLE ALUMINUM CANS AND RECYCLABLE FERROUS CONTAINERS) (FIRST READING)

FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 15 OF 2020 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 30 OF THE WILKES-BARRE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED “UTILITIES.” (ANNUAL RENTAL AND MAINTENANCE FEE FOR PERSONS WITHIN THE CITY) (FIRST READING)

MINUTES

Of the Zoning Hearing Board of September 16, 2020,

Of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority of September 15, 2020.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of October 22, 2020.

Of the Board of Revision of Taxes and Appeals of October 22, 2020.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of November 5, 2020.

CITY COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 19, 2020

The City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre met in Regular Session on November 19, 2020, at 6:30 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 conducted and streamed on YouTube for public viewing due to COVID-19)

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	- present
Barrett, Chairperson	- present

Also Present:

George Brown, Mayor
Maureen Collins, Assistant City Attorney
Butch Frati, Director of Operations/Deputy Administrator
Frank Hershberger, IT Director
Charles McCormick, City Administrator
Cathy Payne, Assistant City Clerk
Jim Ryan, City Clerk
Lisa Sanfilippo, Administrative Assistant

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

Mark, Wilkes-Barre, PA phoned in to ask Council to vote against the 2021 budget and the fee increases.

John and Mary Ann Bryan, Wilkes-Barre Township, PA phoned in to support the 2021 budget (Council's benefits and salaries).

Bob Kadluboski, Wilkes-Barre, PA phoned in relative to the 2021 budget (Council's healthcare and salaries).

Mr. Barrett said something needs to be done to make Council's healthcare uniform going into the next term of Council. He informed the residents that he does not take the healthcare or participate in the pension.

Mrs. McBride told Mr. Kadluboski that when she signed on to the city's healthcare plan, her family literally didn't have a choice. She said her husband came home from his new job with the benefit packet and it would have cost them \$400 per pay. She said she was eight months pregnant at the time and they couldn't afford it. She said she tried the Affordable Care Act to see if her family would qualify. She said her family didn't qualify because her employer (the City) offers healthcare. She said she has no problem changing the benefits for Council. She also said that the city needs to change the fact that city employees pay nothing for healthcare. She pointed out that Scranton just had someone come in to look at their healthcare cost and how they can reduce them, and that is something that Wilkes-Barre needs to do as well.

Mr. Marconi said he does not participate in the pension plan, he did not take the healthcare this year and is not planning on taking it next year either. He said he talked with Human Resources this week to finalize it. He said he is willing to pay for his eye and dental coverage in 2021.

Mayor Brown commended Mr. Marconi for giving back the \$3,600 buyout this year and for not taking it next year.

Jason Carr, Saylorsburg, PA phoned in relative to the pension plans and the 2021 budget (Council's salaries).

Mr. Barrett said there is pension reform being looked at on the State level. He spoke with the Mayor about pension calculations and how they are part of collective bargaining agreements. Collective bargaining agreements are very strong documents and not easily changed. Mr. Barrett said he agrees overtime and other things should not be factored into pension calculations. It is something that has to be bargained.

Bill Murtha, Wilkes-Barre, PA phoned in to support the Mayor's 2021 budget and the fee increases.

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA phoned in to speak against the 2021 budget and the fee increases and the pension.

Mr. Barrett said that the City is not passing a bond issue with the pension fund resolution. It is simply allowing the city's 205 funding to go to a collaborative organization for better investment purposes.

Mayor Brown reiterated that there is no liability on behalf of the city.

Mr. Ryan read the following emails sent to the City Clerk's Office:

From Jeremy Cook:

I'm not sure if you are aware of the fire on the corner of S. Franklin and Ross Streets at 0300 Wednesday 11/18. There wasn't much coverage in the media.

At the early morning fire yesterday your Wilkes-Barre Firefighters forced entry into the apartment and found heavy smoke and the unconscious victim.

We carried him from the 2nd floor to the outside and began treating him. The patient was rescued and receiving advanced medical care in our ambulance within 5 minutes of WBFD arriving on scene. The fire was contained to the apartment of origin and extinguished. Firefighters provided warm blankets for residents in the cold while crews vented smoke from the building, protected other apartments from water damage, and cleaned up after the fire.

I know that you understand the need for essential services. We have responded to over 75 calls for service since Tuesday, including COVID patients, CO alarms, car accidents, and this fire. This should be a staunch reminder to others as to why services cannot be cut.

From Travis Temarantz, Secretary, W-B Firefighters Union IAFF Local 104:

Over the past few weeks each of you have received commentary on Mayor Brown's proposed budget. Many of those comments have either supported or suggested voting against the budget. I also understand that at this point, many of you have your decision made as to whether you support this budget or do not.

For those of you that are against this budget, I am writing to ask that you take one final moment and consider the future impact of your decision. This is far from pointing fingers of who is to blame for the financial status of the city. By continuing with your decision to not support this budget you are placing the city in jeopardy, far more than just financially.

Proposed layoffs are on the table. While we heard, the number and from what department is not finalized, the potential to lose 30 city employees is certainly a possibility. Regardless of the department, this can affect the health, safety and well-being of every resident and visitor of this great city.

While I understand that no one on council wants to cut essential services, please understand that it is, unfortunately, part of the risk when it comes to layoffs. It simply may not be avoidable. The effect of laying off just one member of an essential service dramatically increases that health and safety risk for every single person in this city.

Aside from leaving vacancies in leadership roles, laying off one member of any department will lead to increased overtime. Someone will have to pick up the duties of that person's job. With increased overtime comes increased fatigue. We are in uncharted territory with the COVID-19 pandemic. The last thing anyone needs at this time is increased overtime, increased fatigue or doubling workload, when it is already at an all-time high. Every resident and every visitor deserve second to none service. By increasing overtime, fatigue and workload, that second to none service is in peril. While employees try their hardest to not let that play a role in their decision making and work ethic, there is only so much that can be asked of each employee, especially at such a critical time, when they are already giving as much as they can. As you know these increased risks are in addition to the daily tasks and routines that never ceased when COVID started.

So please, take a second to fully understand that while you may feel you are protecting your constituents financially, you will be putting them at a much greater risk affecting their safety, health and security. Thank you for your time and please understand the decision is yours.

From Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA:

Concerning consideration of the bond issue: I would like it explained to me, and I think all of the other taxpayers in the community would also be interested in knowing how there is little or no risk in the city floating this bond issue. I'm sure there are risks involved and I would like some council member or the mayor to elaborate on this to convince me and other taxpayers that this is the best route to go: shoring up the pension fund, in this traditional way. Isn't the city going to suffer in terms of its credit rating?

Even if this proposal passed, I think Council should act to establish an ad hoc committee or task force to study other ways, nontraditional ways of reinforcing the pension fund. For example, what about changing the formula, the current formula for figuring the pension which as I understand it, includes overtime, vacation days, and sick time, as the basis for the city's pension contribution to each employee. The time for true pension reform for the city of Wilkes-Barre is now! It is foolish to think that kicking the can down the road is going to settle the ultimate solvency problem of the pension fund.

As far as the budget goes, I urge Council to reject Mr. Brown's budget: the sacrifices asked of the taxpayers may seem insignificant to certain council members and him, but it is actually overwhelming to a great majority of Wilkes-Barre residents who are struggling to

survive, who are living on fixed incomes. How about the additional hardships that have come about because of the pandemic?

It is also unfair of the Mayor to characterize this budget as an either/or situation; In other words, to say that layoffs would result if the budget isn't passed is being disingenuous on the Mayor's part.

There are many alternatives both on the revenue and expense side of the budget such as I advocated last week. For example, why can't the Mayor seek some concessions in terms of healthcare from union and nonunion employees? The bottom line is that Council should reject this budget and send it back to the Mayor and have him think about or have him come up with alternatives to this drastic increase in fees. The budget as it stands now to me is a moral abomination.

From Lee Horton, Interim Executive Director, Luzerne County Transportation Authority:

LCTA is grateful for Council's reconsideration of our Local Share Account (LSA) application request. If awarded the opportunity, LSA funding will provide local cash match to 96.775% committed PennDOT and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding.

\$700,000 in LSA will ultimately leverage over \$48 million in committed funding for construction costs. The LSA is providing a much needed local match for this project. It is a great benefit and of key importance for the City that we are seeking to alleviate the burden of a significant local cash match with this grant request.

This project will guarantee the advancement of an important redevelopment project for Wilkes-Barre. LCTA and the City's new transit facility will redevelop the blighted former Murray Complex; when the building is completed, the LCTA organization will be moving over 150 jobs into the downtown area while providing transportation services which are vital for so many City residents.

The new transit facility project is a good fit for LSA funding. It is a request to fund infrastructure with measurable and clear outcomes.

We hope that the facts of LCTA's application proves the merit of our need. We have funding ready. The site is ready. The application is phrased so we can start whenever the LSA is awarded.

This is an important first step and we appreciate the work of Council to approve, and provide us and equal opportunity to gather the match funding we require for the project.

From Kevin Rhoades, Wilkes-Barre:

It just makes no sense whatsoever that Mayor Brown puts of \$900k in a budget for overtime pay. The first thing any company or city does that's looking to save money is cutting overtime hours. Several large companies in our area eliminated overtime hours to employees for this simple reason it's a financial killer that hurts businesses in stressful times and Wilkes-Barre City should treat overtime pay the same way.

My question to Mayor Brown is why would you rather lay off employees in these hard times instead of controlling the overtime hours? It makes no sense at all that you will pick overtime pay over instead of keeping a worker employed that supports a family.

Question to Mr. Barrett and Mr. Belusko around 2 years ago when Mayor Tony George wanted to increase the recycling fee \$10 a year you voted no. Please explain how now you can vote yes to a \$100 a year increase.

Mr. Barrett explained that he voted no to increasing the recycling fee by \$10 because at the time there were hundreds of residents that were not paying the fee. He said he wanted the Mayor to go after those people first, before raising everyone else's fee. This Administration has been aggressively going after persons that are behind in the fees, including putting liens on properties.

Mr. Barrett pointed out that in the not too distant past, the city made money on recycling; now it is just the opposite. The city pays quite a bit of money to dispose of recycling. This city is losing money on this service.

From Greg Griffen, Wilkes-Barre Area Citizens Blight Committee:

Our Blight committee members have been volunteering for the past 14 months donating their time, money and vehicles to clean up Wilkes-Barre neighborhoods.

We are extremely concerned that this budget impasse may result in layoffs of DPW employees and other City workers. We believe blight will increase if layoffs occur and city services are cut. If the majority of City Council disagree with Mayor Brown's budget, then that Council members must have a workable alternative to the Mayor's budget... do you have one??? voting down the Mayor's budget without having another realistic plan is irresponsible... voting down the Mayor's budget will, in our opinion, paralyze Wilkes-Barre... doom Wilkes-Barre to investors pulling out, and lead to a distressed city status. As our Blight time members pick up dumped trash across the city, we see firsthand that these dumpers do not care for the city. Citizens have to realize that the trash and sewage they create, costs money to dispose of and costs keep going up. If some residents do not want to pay their fair share of the fee increases that too, is irresponsible.

From Liza Dewitt:

I'm writing in concern of the increase in recycling and sewer fees. Mayor George Brown, you say it's only 1 dollar a week, do you realize that all adds up. There are so many people on a fixed income in this area, this increase will greatly hurt them. Please look at all options the council has to give. There has got to be some other option where so many people will get hurt. You will see rents go up and I like myself could not afford an increase in rent and neither can a great deal of the Wilkes-Barre area. Mr. Mayor please open your mind and listen to other suggestions. Thank you.

City Clerk Jim Ryan read the following statement:

I'm neutral, and I'm just imparting information regarding the subject of increased fees that should be considered. I'm bringing these items up because I haven't heard any other people bring it up, any other individual on Council, the Mayor or members of the public. Maybe they have, but I haven't heard it myself, so if you will please beg my indulgence, I'll continue. First of all, I would like to point out that last night on the news, Hazleton's Mayor stated that he is looking to enact a tax increase in the amount of an average of \$217.00 per home. That is an increase of \$117 over the fee increase proposed by Mayor Brown. All municipalities are facing the same problems. As the one caller said earlier, just as individuals have to face the same problems due to COVID-19, along with many other factors. Secondly, I'm neutral, I'm just imparting information, as I said. One of the primary roles of the City Clerk is to provide as much information to City Council as possible, in order to make not only informed decisions, but also the best decisions possible due to circumstances. We in this office always strive for that, and I believe we succeed. What I am about to say is in keeping with that role and that spirit. I'd like to bring your attention to a time in the city's recent history, approximately 16-17 years ago, when there were no or at the very least, very few traffic lights in center city, Wilkes-Barre. There were many vacant buildings and storefronts or vacant plots of land, where unique classic buildings stood, but were torn down with nothing put in their place. The South Main Street Redevelopment Project, which houses Movies 14, among others, was nonexistent. There was not very much to choose from by way of food establishments or entertainment venues in center city, as well as not very much to point to as a source of pride in Wilkes-Barre. Beth, you might be too young to remember this reality about our city, but I'm sure the rest of City Council will. I would think that Tony certainly could confirm it or Larry Newman, of the Diamond City Partnership also confirm it. In particular, it was a January night, during this period, when I attended a small celebration at one of the very few restaurants on South Main Street. I had to park down pass the intersection of South Main and East Northampton Street. When I left the celebration, heading to my car, the entire area looked, for what little light there was, remember the street light situation. It looked like a war-torn destitute section of a city in some other part of the country or even some other destitute country. There were any number of unsavory, rough looking individuals, to be kind, hanging around. I have no doubt multiple drug deals were being made. I actually witnessed one right before I got to my car. It took place in the dark at the central location and I witnessed several more before the area was redeveloped. It was to say

the least, a pretty bleak, dangerous looking, commercial neighborhood. Shortly after that night, within a week or so, as I recall, some fine upstanding citizen through a Molotov Cocktail pass the barricades on the sidewalk, into the entry way of what is now the Indian Restaurant that's there now. This condition I firmly believe was an obvious result of the city having no money in its coffers to prevent the urban decay that I just described. The city had no money, because as I recall, the City fathers, who were well meaning, I have no doubt about that, they were well meaning and concerned about the residents and as a result had not raised taxes and or fees in a very long time and if they did it was not enough to keep pace with every increasing costs. Nobody every wants tax or fee increases, just like no one wants the cost of food, housing, or vehicles, etc., etc., etc., to go up. The fact is, as we all know, the cost of everything always goes up, not down. As in any private business, if the city does not do what it has to do to pay the bills and does not have a thriving commercial and/or business space, where else could it get the funding from, but the taxpayers. I said that at a Council meeting when there was some kind of a similar impasse a couple of years ago and I also said if our funding shortfalls are not the fault or cause of any one person, as a gentleman caller said tonight. A series of multiple factors are the cause. Most recently, this year, it's COVID-19 to the tune of 4.5 million in loss revenue. Some people have tried to make increases in improvements in our tax structure statewide, citywide, etc., Most recently State Representative Pashinski's recent proposed State Taxing legislation was publicized in the paper, maybe three-quarters of a year ago or so. It was fair, but it's not going to go anywhere—(inaudible). If the City can't get funding from any sources it will regress and go backward, instead of forward, and improved and then it ends up with a situation that I just described, which was Wilkes-Barre 16 years ago. Municipal government cannot bail out, and I empathize completely with people who can't afford increases, even a dollar a day, but municipal government cannot bail our anyone financially and doesn't have the reserves to do it. And Wilkes-Barre isn't the only municipality in this situation. It wasn't ever designed for that purpose. If you want to help these residents who can't make ends meet, work to make the city attractive to industry and companies, --(inaudible)—and jobs. Increase the tax base, work with this Mayor as a partner, not adversaries. By the way, the Mayor did not put me up to this, we have not discussed any of this at all, nor have I with Charlie or any members of his Administration. And again, I'm being neutral, I'm not criticizing Council or the Mayor, just point things out. And he doesn't—(inaudible)—what I've observed personally from this Mayor is that he has been working since he started, since day one, very long hard hours trying to do what it takes to turn the city around. You, Council and this Administration together, need to work together to get it done. If you don't work together to reach an agreement on this budget, things will get worse, certainly not better. And finally, I just have one more comment, if I can find it...What I would like to do, and you could peruse it at your leisure. I came across an article in City & County magazine in October of 2016, it was a great article about how the, who that magazine chose as Municipal Leader of the Year, got things going in his small city. He worked out of the box and he worked tirelessly. He worked with Council, not against Council and Council worked with him, to turn their city around. It was to the point where the city was bankrupt and was in real danger of losing their Charter and they were going to be

absorbed by a neighboring, much larger city. This Mayor grew up and lived in the city. He didn't want it to happen and he got work. It's a great article, as far as what we need to do here. A couple of years ago I did give it to previous Administration, or a member of the previous Administration, and said at that time also, two years ago, this is what we need here. We need to bring in industry. We need to stop putting tax increases, fee increases, solely on the backs of our residents, but we have to have alternatives to that in order to stop doing that. So, this is just one example of what can be done, and how people can think out of the box in order to turn things around in municipalities.

Mr. Brooks said that Mr. Ryan is right when it comes to increasing industry and working together with the Administration. We need to increase our tax base, increase the jobs and increase our population, and as I said many times, I will work with the Mayor to do that.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. R0089-20

A Resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of certain financing documents with Pension Funding Solutions, LLC or such other entity as may be deemed appropriate for the purpose of funding all or a portion of the City's unfunded actuarial accrued pension liability and authorizing proper officers to do all other things necessary or appropriate in connection with the foregoing.

Whereas, the City of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania (the "City"), is a home rule charter city operating under the Home Rule Charter and Optional Plans Law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, the City desires to finance a project (the "Project") consisting of the funding of all or a portion of its unfunded actuarial accrued liability with respect to the pension funds of the City, computed in accordance with the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act, as amended ("Act 205"), being Act No. 205 of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, approved December 18, 1994, as amended; and

Whereas, the City has determined to finance the Project through the execution of certain financing documents (collectively, the "Financing Documents"), between the City and Pension Funding Solutions, LLC, or an acceptable party to be named therein (hereinafter referred to as the "Lender"); and

Whereas, moneys received by the City pursuant to Financing Documents will be used to pay the costs of the Project; and

Whereas, repayment of the moneys loaned to the City pursuant to the Financing Documents shall be made solely from funds received by the City pursuant to Act 205 and such loan shall not constitute a general obligation of the City; and

Whereas, in order to proceed with the Project and its financing, it is necessary for the City to authorize the execution and delivery of the Financing Documents; and

Whereas, the City has determined to authorize and approve all actions and to authorize the execution of all documents, agreements and certificates as shall be necessary and appropriate to facilitate the Project.

Whereas, the City has determined to authorize and approve all actions and to authorize the execution of all documents, agreements and certificates as shall be necessary and appropriate to facilitate the Project.

Whereas, the City has determined to authorize and approve all actions and to authorize the execution of all documents, agreements and certificates as shall be necessary and appropriate to facilitate the Project.

1. The City has determined to undertake the Project and in connection therewith shall enter into the Financing Documents, in such forms and containing such provisions as shall be approved by the Solicitor to the City and such officers of the City executing such Financing Documents. The Mayor, the City Controller or Assistant City Controller and the City Clerk or Assistant City Clerk of the City, as appropriate, are authorized and directed to execute, to attest, to seal, to acknowledge and to deliver the Financing Documents in form and substance approved by the Solicitor to the City and such officers of the City, the execution and delivery thereof to constitute conclusive evidence of such approval of the Financing Documents by the City.

2. The Mayor of the City is hereby authorized to approve the amount of the borrowing under the Financing Documents, the interest rate or interest rates under the Financing Documents, which may be variable or fixed, and the costs of issuance financed, and any and all other details of the Financing Documents and the selection of any counsel, professionals or consultants necessary or desirable in connection with the execution or delivery of the Financing Documents; provided, however, that repayment of the moneys loaned to the City pursuant to the Financing Documents shall be made solely from funds received by the City pursuant to Act 205 and such loan shall not constitute a general obligation of the City. The execution and delivery of the Financing Documents pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Resolution shall be conclusive evidence of the approval by the City of the Borrowing amount, the interest rates on, and the costs of issuance

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, as follows:

with respect to, the Financing Documents and the approval of any counsel, professionals or consultants.

3. The Mayor, the City Controller or Assistant City Controller and the City Clerk or Assistant City Clerk of the City, as appropriate, or other proper officers of the City are authorized and directed, jointly and severally (without limitation except as may be expressly set forth herein), to do any and all other things necessary to effectuate the financing of the Project and the execution and delivery of the Financing Documents, including the execution and delivery of any and all additional documents, representations, declarations, depositary agreements, debt service agreements, control agreements, deposit account control agreements, loan agreements, reimbursement agreements, security agreements promissory notes, intercreditor agreements, derivative and/or interest rate management agreements, escrow agreements, assignments, financing statements, certificates, authorizations, contracts, agreements, insurance binders and other papers as may be necessary or proper to effect the completion of the financing or the intent and purposes of this Resolution, and such execution and delivery shall be conclusive evidence of the authorization and approval thereof by the City.
4. If any section, paragraph, clause, or provision of this Resolution shall for any reason be held to be invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph, clause, or provision shall not affect any remaining provisions of this Resolution.
5. The City approves, ratifies and confirms all action heretofore taken by officers and other persons in the name or on behalf of the City in connection with the undertakings herein contemplated.
6. That this resolution shall become effective immediately.

Mr. Brooks moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Mr. Brooks explained the reason this Resolution was tabled was to explore it more, to learn it more and in that vein, he said he read through Chapter 4 of Act 205. He said he spoke with members of the Pension Board. He thanked Mark Lear for his

insightfulness and promised him that he would in advance of next year, come to the pension meetings, so he can understand more.

Nays none.

RESOLUTION R0090-20

Whereas, the establishment of the Mohegan Sun Casino and 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 \$410,000.00 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 Schools and Homes in Education (SHINE) Luzerne County program. It is a comprehensive educational and family outreach and attainment program that spans from pre-kindergarten through high school. SHINE LC provides home visits, afterschool and summer programming; promotion of parental involvement in the educational process; curriculum coordination with schoolteachers; and the ability to seamlessly move from one phase of the program to the next. This program has been extremely successful in Luzerne County, for the past 5 years, providing an array of various educational activities to students. It is a replication of the nationally recognized and highly successful SHINE program in Carbon and Schuylkill Counties. This is a learning opportunity for both parents and children that lay the foundation for more parental involvement throughout a child's education.

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 any 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 execute any and all appropriate agreements with the CFA, along with any and all other required project documents, related to the SHINE LC 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 yeas and nays vote:

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

Nays none.

RESOLUTION NO. R0091-20

Whereas, the establishment of the Mohegan Sun Casino and 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 \$700,000.00 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 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 and abandoned property in the city commonly known as the 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 project documents, related to the LCTA's new transit facility 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 Belusko, Marconi, Brooks and Barrett (Chairperson) – 4 – being a majority of the members elected to City Council.

Nays McBride – 1.

RESOLUTION NO. R0092-20

Whereas, the establishment of the Mohegan Sun Casino and 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 \$532,660 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 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 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 Operations Center will be located out of the flood zone and allow the city to continue operations during disaster events. The City will renovate and existing stone masonry building at Hollenback Park that is currently used for storage in the Emergency Operations 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 project documents, related to the Emergency Operations Center project, if the application is approved.

Mr. Marconi moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nays McBride – 1.

RESOLUTION NO. R0093-20

Whereas, the establishment of the Mohegan Sun Casino and 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 \$689,527.00 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 architectural services, selective demolition, HVAC system upgrades, stairwell ADA improvements, LED lighting, restrooms, floor/wall tile, restroom toilet fixtures, common area/office flooring, painting, plaster repairs and repairs to 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 project, if the application is approved.

Mr. Barrett moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nays Marconi and McBride – 2.

RESOLUTION NO. R0094-20

Whereas, the establishment of the Mohegan Sun Casino and 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 \$25,000.00 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 Virtual Programming Enhancement project, including outfitting a recording studio, adding new camera systems, lighting, and microphones to programming areas to reach people. In this way, the YMCA can provide virtual services promoting healthy living at home and combat senior isolation; 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 Virtual Programming Enhancement project, if the application is approved.

Mr. Belusko moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nays none.

RESOLUTION NO. R0095-20

Whereas, the establishment of the Mohegan Sun Casino and 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 \$375,000.00 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 Sherman Street Properties, LLC for improvements to their business center located at 221. N Sherman Street (formerly My Brother's Place) in Wilkes-Barre. The work to be completed will consist of preparing a stormwater management plan, construction of stormwater retention basin and other required stormwater mitigation along with paving of the parking lot area. Also, the project will rehabilitate a blighted property along N. Sherman Street in the city. Upon completion of the project, 10 full-time jobs will be created initially with the potential to create another 10-20 full-time jobs in the next 5 years. Sherman Street Properties, LLC has already invested \$1,500,000.00 into this project. The total cost of the project is \$3,000,000.00; 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 Sherman Street Properties, LLC business center improvement project, if the application is approved.

Mr. Brooks moved to adopt the Resolution.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Brooks 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.

ORDINANCES

FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 14 OF 2020 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 12-27 OF ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 12 OF THE WILKES-BARRE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED “GARBAGE AND REFUSE”. (FEE FOR RECYCLABLE NEWSPRINT, COMMINGLED RECYCLABLE ALUMINUM CANS AND RECYCLABLE FERROUS CONTAINERS) (FIRST READING)

Mr. Belusko moved to adopt the Ordinance.

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

Yeas Belusko and Barrett (Chairperson) – 2.

Nays Marconi, McBride and Brooks – 3 – being a majority of the members elected to City Council.

FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 15 OF 2020 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 30 OF THE WILKES-BARRE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED “UTILITIES”. (ANNUAL RENTAL AND MAINTENANCE FEE FOR PERSONS WITHIN THE CITY) (FIRST READING)

Mr. Barrett moved to adopt the Ordinance.

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

Yeas Belusko and Barrett (Chairperson) – 2.

Nays Marconi, McBride, and Brooks - 3 – being a majority of the members elected to City Council.

FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 16 OF 2020 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA ADOPTING THE MAYOR’S PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET. (FIRST READING)

Mr. Barrett moved to adopt the Ordinance.

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

Yeas Belusko and Barrett (Chairperson) – 2.

Nays Marconi, McBride and Brooks – 3 – being a majority of the members elected to City Council.

MINUTES

Of the Zoning Hearing Board of September 16, 2020.

Of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority of September 15, 2020.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of October 22, 2020.

Of the Board of Revision of Taxes and Appeals of October 22, 2020.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of November 5, 2020.

Mr. Barrett moved to adopt the minutes.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Belusko 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.

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Belusko said he did what he could to protect the city employees from layoffs. He is sorry the budget didn't pass.

Mr. Belusko wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Mr. Marconi read the following statement:

First and foremost, my colleagues and I want to assure everyone that we do not want any layoffs. We offered suggestions and met with the Administration as recently as this past Tuesday. It appears that the Administration is just not willing to budge. Our delinquent sewer and recycling fees as of November, as of early November, are approximately \$600,000; how are residents going to be able to afford an even higher fee? Also, why are we addressing this now? It should have been addressed sooner, as other fees and fines should be in a prompt timeframe. I said before, we need to work together and I'm willing to compromise some, as well as other parties are willing to as well. Overtime is approximately \$900,000; I urge the Administration to take a hard and close look at this. With that being said, I cannot raise fees by 100% on any resident in the city.

Mrs. McBride read the following statement:

First of all, I would just like to say so the public is aware, since we are the only ones on camera on this side of the rail, that immediately after we voted down the budget, the Mayor and his City Administrator and Assistant City Administrator decided to leave because they didn't agree with our vote. I just want the public to be aware that is the type of leadership we are dealing with right now.

I know that I made my stands on the budget abundantly clear, but there are some things that I want to share after our vote tonight. First, I want to share some statistics about Wilkes-Barre so that everyone can fully understand where I am coming from. The medium rent in our city is \$730.00, the medium homeowner class with a mortgage is \$1,020, the medium income is \$35,485.00. Twenty-seven-point five percent of our population are living in poverty. Luzerne County has one of the highest medium property taxes in the United States and is ranked 705th of the 3,143 counties in order of medium property taxes. The average yearly property tax paid by Luzerne County residents amounts to about 3.02% of their yearly income. This does not include additional fees that are leveled by individual municipalities. Now, I think that those who are elected to office and those that work for the local government can often find themselves surrounded by people in their friend group who also work for the local government. Of course, there is no way to actually quantify this information, but it has been my observation over the years that I have been following local politics, that once elected politicians have a tendency to do the opposite of what they said they would do. They have a

tendency to forget about who pays their salaries and those who have given them the opportunity to serve. Now back to those statistics that I have just mentioned. Once elected, politicians often forget about those statistics. They forget about every vote they solicited from the working class or those living in poverty. They forget about the kitchen tables they've sat around while canvassing. They forget about the neighborhoods that they only going in during campaign season. They forget that they were elected to represent all of their constituency and not just the privileged. Over the last few weeks I have had numerous constituents reach out to me with their concerns regarding the potential fee increase. I had one woman reach out to me because she received a delinquency notice on her recycling bill from the city for \$108.00 in which the notice said that a lien will be placed on her property if she did not pay the \$108.00. She had to pull from her child's Christmas money, but she did it to avoid the lien. I had another woman reach out to me whose husband in in hospice and she herself has to have surgery for breast cancer. They are suffering financially as a result. She begged me not to increase fees and stated that they are just trying to get by day to day as they have next to no income coming in. I can not justify raising fees at the height of a global pandemic and I will not balance this budget on the backs of the people who trusted me with their vote and representation. Thank you.

Mr. Brooks read the following statement:

In meetings with the Administration over the last week, I was asked to keep an open mind on the budget and I fully expect the same in return. There is an old quote that "truth is the glue that holds governments together, compromise is the oil that makes governments go". It seems to me that my City Council colleagues and I have been given a Sophie's Choice without compromise. Every suggestion has been rejected. It is a frustrating place to be. Currently there are so many people suffering, some quietly and some quite vocally, due to COVID. I speak to anywhere between five to ten constituents a day. Some days it is next to impossible to get off the phone and attend to my day job, but I know exactly what my constituents are going through. COVID has hit some people hard and some small businesses very hard. I hear about domestic problems because people are quarantined at home. I hear about drug addiction and unemployment and people unable to pay their bills, but the hardest stories are the ones that I hear about long time senior citizen homeowners who just can't make ends meet. You already heard me tell you about one of my constituents who lives on \$700 a month, which 17% goes to paying her real estate taxes and leaving her with only \$580 a month and we want to add \$8 a month to her expenses, not to mention other rising costs that she will occur that her 1.3 cost of living adjustment will not satisfy. I had another constituent tell me that she makes \$956 a month, which barely covers her monthly expenses, but not her taxes, which she pays out of her savings. Another gentleman, in his upper 70's told me that he has to work part-time just to make ends meet. Now, I fully understand that I may be in an echo chamber, hearing mostly from people who cannot afford the doubling of the proposed fee increase. I have had three calls from people supporting the budget, but they can all afford the increase. I represent some very poor sections of the city; many widows who had

dress factory jobs, people who had low-end jobs that were never paid enough to build up a savings account because they lived check to check their whole life. So many just live on whatever Social Security pays them. It is my observation that those whose monthly check is under \$1,000, people who live alone, can barely get by. They live on the edge, on the margin. Those that make above –(inaudible)—and closer to \$2,000 are better off, and those receiving above \$2,000 a month tend not to have as much worries. I'm sure all of us here would like a win-win situation. I have an open mind and I am willing to compromise. I read that Scranton has reduced its annual budget for 2021 and is exploring the use of its Workers' Comp Trust Fund to balance the budget. I suggested that as well, but was told no. I also see that Scranton has decided to rollover it's delinquent fees into its tax bills to better recoup delinquent fees. I suggest that Wilkes-Barre do the same to collect its \$600,000 in delinquent recycling fees. Scranton's rationale stated that it was easier to collect in a tax bill than a collection notice. In our budget there is an increase of \$400,000 in Workers' Comp and \$900,000 for overtime. I believe we can save a million dollars in these three areas and only have a modest increase in fees. Couple that with a discount program for our most vulnerable low-income senior citizen homeowners, based on the guidelines of the Pennsylvania Tax Rebate Program. This is my compromise; these are my suggestions. You know, people look at the world in two ways, through the lens of scarcity or abundance. People fight over scarcity, over the crumbs, but if we make the pie bigger, we can all share in the abundance. It doesn't have to be a – (inaudible). It's sad when we think that when someone else gets something that means you don't get it and that creates anxiety and fear, and that fear is the basis of our disfunction. People become bitter, resentful and revengeful. People get trapped in the scarcity mindset. We need to move to an abundant mindset. We need to increase the pie. Wilkes-Barre needs and deserves success. Sorry for being so philosophical this evening. I still have an open mind and am willing to compromise to make our government go.

Mr. Barrett said there will be ramifications to this evening's vote. He said he has concerns about getting through this year with a 4.5-million-dollar deficit. The City is not in a good place right now. Unfortunately, fees and taxes do incrementally need to be raised at some time to cover costs and expenses. The ramifications the city is looking at is decreased services, layoffs, and Act 47. He pointed out that a lot of great suggestions came from all of the Council members and the city has a lot of work ahead of it. He said he would just like to say no, but there is a 4.5-million-dollar gap and he hasn't heard anything that will make up that difference for next year.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Bob Kadluboski, Wilkes-Barre, PA phoned in relative to City Council making concessions in their salaries and benefits.

Mrs. McBride said that she took a 10% pay cut, does not take the pension, but does take the healthcare.

Mrs. McBride said if the city unions would like to offer some concessions now is the time to step up, because Council has been asking for that for the last month now. She said Council has been advocating for different things that the unions can do so that no one has to be laid off; and not just things that that union could do, but also different things that the Administration can cut back on as well. She said Council has offered several solutions and are willing to compromise.

Mrs. McBride discussed PFM being the city's financial advisors. She said she has been vocal about her concerns with them being the city's financial advisor in the past, as it is pretty much well known that they work at the will of the Administration and the Mayor. Mrs. McBride said that it would be worth exploring hiring another financial advisor so that Council can get an honest, unbiased look at our city's finances and different option available.

Mr. Belusko stated that at this point in time him doesn't intend on giving anything back. It is a compensation that has been supplied to him by the city.

Matt Scott, Wilkes-Barre, PA (DPW employee) phoned in relative to Mr. Marconi's statements to cut overtime and to do more with less, the number of employees in Public Works, layoffs and cut services.

Mr. Marconi responded that he did not direct the "do more with less" comment to anyone working for the City of Wilkes-Barre. He clarified that it was a directive from the company he works for. Mr. Marconi said he believes all of the city employees work hard, but he thinks the Administration needs to look at the \$900,000 in overtime that is budgeted.

Mrs. McBride said she was told this week by two separate people (a current city employee and a former city employee) that often times if a snowstorm occurs on a Saturday, DPW will wait to go out until after midnight; so that it is Sunday and they get double time. She said she was also told that it is routine for certain DPW workers to call off on a Friday and work a certain number of hours the following week, so that they can get excessive overtime and often double time as well. Mrs. McBride said so when Council is asking for concessions, we are not asking for obscene concessions. We are asking for things like this to stop, so that we can save the taxpayers money and hopefully City Council is never put in a position like this again.

Mark, Mayflower Section of Wilkes-Barre, PA phoned in to ask who will plow the city streets in the winter (now that the budget was voted down).

Mrs. McBride said if he is concerned who is going to plow the streets, to ask Mayor Brown since he is advocating for layoffs.

Linda Joseph, Wilkes-Barre, PA phoned in relative to the Mayor and his staff walking out of the Council meeting and Mr. Murtha's comments regarding the fee increases being a one-time increase.

Mr. Brooks told Ms. Joseph that he never heard that the increase was just a one-time thing. He said if he was told that it would have changed the level of negotiations and discussions.

Mrs. McBride said that if it was only going to be a one-time fee increase, it would again require a vote of Council to change the Ordinance back to the lower fee.

Bill Murtha, Wilkes-Barre, PA phoned in relative to his comments about the fee increase being a one-time increase (Council would have to vote again on next year's budget) and plan for plowing the city streets in winter.

Mr. Brooks said he is looking for a compromise with the Administration. He said he is willing to increase fees if there is a compromise. He said he made suggestions on how he thinks the city can pay for that compromise and we are getting nowhere.

Mrs. McBride asked Mr. Murtha when he has every heard of a municipality voting to lower a fee. She said it just doesn't happen, once it is raised it is raised.

Mrs. McBride added that she is representing her constituents and that will not change. She said she has been on Council for five years and she has been representing them everyday that she's been in office.

Mr. Marconi told Mr. Murtha that he too made a statement about compromising with the Administration earlier this evening. He said everyone needs to work together and he is willing to compromise. He along with Mr. Brooks and Mrs. McBride came up with several ideas and everything was turned down.

Patricia, Wilkes-Barre, PA phoned in to express her disappointment in the Council members who voted against the budget, DPW employees plowing streets on Sunday for double-time (management decision/proof).

Mr. Barrett said in his experience the DPW drivers don't decide when they come out to plow the streets, that is managements decision.

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA phoned in to congratulate the members of Council that voted against the budget and threats to Council members from city employees over the budget.

Mrs. McBride said she was threatened by a DPW employee and it is now in the hands of the police department.

Caller on behalf of DPW, phoned in relative to who will plow the city streets and the duties of DPW employees (Council come down and talk with the employees).

Jason Carr, Saylorsburg, PA phoned in to congratulate the Council members that voted down the budget, to apologize to Mr. Marconi (for being critical of some of his votes in the past) and to Mr. Brooks, raising fees on landlords, and overtime being included in pensions.

Mr. Barrett mentioned that Mayor Brown meets regularly with other Mayors from Luzerne and Lackawanna County. They are all dealing with the same concerns. He said he thinks it is a very progressive and forward move and they learn from each other's experiences and come up with solutions that work for everyone.

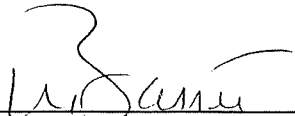
Mr. Marconi discussed the \$900,000 in overtime in the budget. He said he does realize that there has to be some overtime. He pointed out that he is not specifying cutting any particular departments overtime, he just wants the Administration to take a look at it.

City Clerk Jim Ryan read the following email submitted to the Clerk's Office for general business:

From Shy Rodriguez:

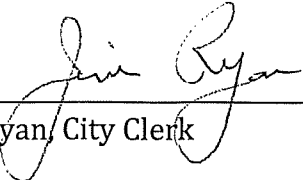
My name is Shy Rodriguez and I am the founder of The Child Poolers. I am a full-time mother, a part-time healthcare worker and an entrepreneur who is trying to make a difference. I just want to help people! I've been made aware of new Covid relief efforts and it has been recommended that I reach out. I have attached a letter that explains the highlights of my business with the intention to send a copy to Mayor George C. Brown with an application for appointment to a city of Wilkes-Barre authority, board, or commission - Citizen's Covid-19 financial assistance committee.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.



Bill Barrett, Chairperson

ATTEST:



Jim Ryan, City Clerk