

**CITY OF WILKES-BARRE
PENNSYLVANIA**



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL

OCTOBER 20, 2016

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)

CONSENT AGENDA (ORDINANCES)

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 20, 2016

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)

Authorizing the proper city officials to sign any and all necessary documents related to the transfer of the following unimproved parcels of property to Sphere International, LLC, to be used for the development/construction of a Hotel-Convention Center: 55-55 ½ South Main Street, 57-59 South Main Street and 61 South Main Street.

Designating Mayor Anthony G. George and City Controller Darren Snyder, as the officials to execute all documents and agreements between the City of Wilkes-Barre and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant along with any or all other project documents, related to a Small Water and Sewer Project, if the application is approved.

Request that the Traffic Committee study and make any and all recommendations it deems necessary to attempt to curb the traffic increase and/or slow the traffic down in order to address the potential risk of accidents on West River Street.

MINUTES

Of the Planning Commission of August 17, 2016.

Of the Parking Authority of September 20, 2016.

Of the Regular Session of the City Council of October 4, 2016.

CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 20, 2016

CONSENT AGENDA (ORDINANCES)

FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 21 OF 2015 – AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN UNNAMED PRIVATE PARTY ALLEY IN THE CITY OF WILKES-BARRE”. (SPHERE INTERNATIONAL, LLC) (SECOND AND FINAL READING)

FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 15 OF 2016 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 29 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILKES-BARRE ENTITLED “TRAFFIC AND MOTOR VEHICLE”. (FOUR WAY STOP SIGN AT THE INTERSECTION OF HANOVER STREET, SOUTH FRANKLIN STREET AND OREGON STREET)

FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 16 OF 2016 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 29 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILKES-BARRE ENTITLED “TRAFFIC AND MOTOR VEHICLES”. (FOUR WAY STOP SIGN AT THE INTERSECTION OF FIRWOOD AND HORTON STREETS)

FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 17 OF 2016 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY’S TRAFFIC CODE ESTABLISHING THE TRAFFIC PATTERN ON BOTH WEST MAPLE AND WEST LINDEN STREETS DURING THE VERTICAL ADDITION TO GENERAL HOSPITAL. (SECOND AND FINAL READING)

CITY COUNCIL

OCTOBER 20, 2016

The City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre met in Regular Session on October 20, 2016 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
Brooks	- present
Gilbert	- present
Merritt, Vice Chairperson	- present
Barrett, Chairperson	- present

Also Present:

Ted Wampole, Administrator
Joe Coffay, Police Commander
Maureen Collins, Assistant City Attorney
Nicole Ference, Director of Human Resources
Bill Harris, Director of Planning and Zoning
Brett Kittrick, Finance Director
Alan Klapat, Deputy Fire Chief
Hank Radulski, Director Health of Service
Cathy Payne, Assistant City Clerk
Jim Ryan, City Clerk
Lisa Sanfilippo, Administrative Assistant
Kurt Sauer, Director of Community Development
Joyce Zaykowski, Capital Projects Program Manager
Asia Charles, Junior Council Member

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

Mark Shaffer, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to File of Council No. 17 of 2016 (Change traffic pattern on West Maple and West Linden Streets during the vertical addition to General Hospital).

Mrs. Zaykowski explained that the reason for making them two way streets is because of the enormous crane needed for the construction. She mentioned that it is only a temporary change.

Mr. Barrett asked the Administration to look and see if there is any alternate parking the hospital can provide the residents.

Mr. Wampole said he will get in touch with Mr. Shaffer tomorrow.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. R0091-16 to and including the minutes appeared on the Consent Agenda (Resolutions).

RESOLUTION NO. R0091-16

Whereas, the Parking Authority of the City of Wilkes-Barre (the "Parking Authority") has completed its Minor Subdivision of properties located on South Main Street;

Whereas, the Parking Authority is donating portions of the subdivided property to the City of Wilkes-Barre for use in the development/construction of a Hotel-Convention Center in downtown Wilkes-Barre;

Whereas, the City can now convey all parcels necessary for the Hotel-Convention Center Project;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the proper City officials are hereby authorized to sign any and all necessary documents related to the transfer of the following unimproved parcels of property to Sphere International, LLC to be used for the development/construction of a Hotel-Convention Center:

1. 55-55 ½ South Main Street (H9SE2-026-018A);
2. 57-69 South Main Street (H9SE2-026-019);
3. 61 South Main Street (H9SE2-026-020).

RESOLUTION NO. R0092-16

Be It Resolved, that the City of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County hereby requests a PA Small Water and Sewer Program grant of \$340,000.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the Solomon Creek Area Sanitary Sewer System Improvements project.

Be It Further Resolved by the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre to authorize the appropriate city officials to submit a \$340,000.00 PA Small Water and

Sewer Program grant application funded by Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the Solomon Creek Area Sanitary Sewer System Improvements project.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Applicant does hereby designate Anthony G. George, Mayor and Darren Snyder, City Controller as the officials to execute all documents and agreements between the City of Wilkes-Barre and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant along with any or all other project documents, related to the Solomon Creek Area Sanitary Sewer System Improvements project, if the application is approved.

I, Jim Ryan, duly qualified City Clerk of the City of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by a majority vote of the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre at a regular meeting held October 20, 2016 and said Resolution has been recorded in the minutes of the City of Wilkes-Barre and remains in effect as of this date.

In Witness Whereof, I affix my hand and attached the seal of the City of Wilkes-Barre, this 20th day of October, 2016.

RESOLUTION NO. R0093-16

Whereas, it has been brought to the attention of City Council that West River Street has seen a steady influx of vehicular traffic usage for some time; and

Whereas, no stop signs are installed on the street; and

Whereas, vehicles have been observed speeding the entire length of West River, creating a potential risk for serious accidents.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the City Council of Wilkes-Barre request that the Traffic Committee study this issue and make any and all recommendations it deems necessary to attempt to curb the traffic increase and/or slow the traffic down in order to address the potential risk of accidents on West River Street.

MINUTES

Of the Planning Commission of August 17, 2016.

Of the Parking Authority of September 20, 2016.

Of the Regular Session of the City Council of October 4, 2016.

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

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

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

Nays none.

CONSENT AGENDA (ORDINANCES)

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

FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 21 OF 2015 – AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN UNNAMED PRIVATE PARTY ALLEY IN THE CITY OF WILKES-BARRE”. (SPHERE INTERNATIONAL, LLC) (SECOND AND FINAL READING).

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Mr. Merritt moved to adopt the Consent Agenda (Ordinances).

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

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

Nays none.

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Belusko asked Mr. Wampole if Navient is up and running and if we are collecting money as of now.

Mr. Wampole said it is running, but he didn't know if any money was received yet. He said he will follow up on it tomorrow.

Mr. Barrett asked Mr. Wampole to let him know as well what the status is.

Mr. Brooks mentioned that last night the Rolling Mill Hill Residents Association had there meeting. They had the following concerns:

1. Problems with school buses on Jones Street.

The residents would like to look at making it a one way street. He asked if they should go to the Traffic Committee or if it was something Council could take care of.

Mr. Harris said to send it to the Traffic Committee.

2. Condition of the wall on Moyallen and Hazle Street.

Mr. Brooks asked that someone take a look at the wall structural issues.

Mr. Wampole informed Mr. Brooks that the city is working on the wall.

3. Community garden at city owned property on Andover and Spruce Streets.

Mr. Brooks asked what the process is.

Mr. Wampole said the Attorney's office may have to research it.

Mr. Brooks thanked Mr. Wampole and Mayor George for making appearances at the various resident association meetings throughout the city.

Mr. Brooks commended the Downtown Residents Association for raising \$10,000 for their group at a house tour last month.

Ms. Charles mentioned that Junior Council members will be participating in the community clean ups.

Ms. Gilbert thanked Patty Hughes for the great work she is doing as the Special Events Coordinator.

Ms. Gilbert discussed the Trick or Treat Event that will be held on Public Square. She suggested bringing more ideas like this one into the neighborhoods.

Mr. Merritt reported high grass at a city owned property on North Main Street (700 block – behind Dr. Olshansky’s office). He said he put a request in about a month ago to have it cleaned up, but nothing has been done.

Mr. Merritt said that the Mill Creek walls below the Sydney Street bridge down to West Beatty Street are following a part. He asked if the Administration would look at it and try to get something started.

Mr. Merritt asked if there is movement on the Brookside Bridge on North Washington Street.

Mr. Wampole said there has been nothing since the city met with PennDot.

Mr. Merritt asked Ms. Zaykowski to follow up with Mr. Frati on it and let him know where it stands.

Mr. Barrett mentioned the Budget Hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Barrett said he hopes that Mayor George will be in attendance to answer questions.

Mr. Barrett informed the public that the Council will forgo the sign in process for the budget meeting, allowing anyone to come in and speak.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Linda Joseph, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Rolling Mill Hill’s Trunk or Treat in conjunction with Dodson’s PTO on October 28th and the 2017 budget (collection of mercantile tax and recycling fees and bi-annual commercial property inspections (fines)).

Mr. Barrett asked if there is a list of businesses that haven’t paid the business privilege tax.

Mr. Kittrick said he can get one for Council.

Mr. Barrett said there should be some penalties that can be enacted for those that haven’t paid it.

Mr. Merritt suggested publishing the list.

Angel L. Jirau, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to Martin Luther King Day (closing City Hall or taking it into the neighborhoods).

Mr. Wampole explained that the city is currently in negotiations with three of the four unions whose contracts are up. He said part of the Mayor’s offer is to have Martin Luther King Day as an official city holidays, but it is a contract negotiation.

Samantha Chicchetti, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to problems with college students in her neighborhood.

Mr. Brooks asked the Administration to set up a meeting with the Code Enforcement Office and Wilkes University to discuss the problems and the Approved Housing program.

Mr. Brooks asked that Code Enforcement inspect 382-384 South River Street for violations/proper inspections.

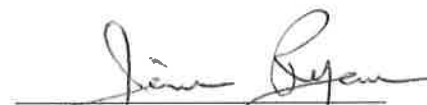
John Suchoski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Martin Luther King Day holiday and holding the budget hearing in an alternate facility to accommodate for a larger crowd

Bob Kadluboski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to Attorney Moses advising the Mayor, former Mayor Tom Leighton hiring PFM and raising city fees/taxes, positions created by the Mayor, Mayor's healthcare, and former Mayor McGroarty's role in the 2017 budget.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.


Bill Barrett, Chairperson

ATTEST:


Jim Ryan, City Clerk

