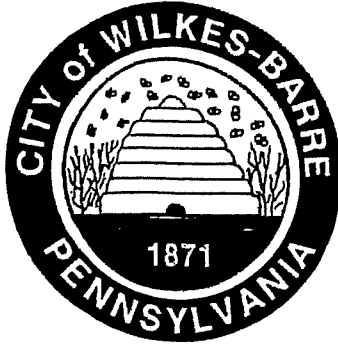


CITY OF WILKES-BARRE  
PENNSYLVANIA



# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

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CITY COUNCIL

OCTOBER 27, 2022

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)

CONSENT AGENDA (ORDINANCES)

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

CITY COUNCIL  
OCTOBER 27, 2022

**CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)**

Authorizing the proper City officials to sign any and all necessary documents related to awarding the contract to the lowest responsible bidder, James T. O'Hara, Inc. for the 2022 Laurel Run & Mill Creek Channel Wall @ Various Locations in the amount of \$1,050,100 (one million, fifty thousand, one hundred dollars and zero cents).  
Source of funds – FEMA

Authorizing the proper city officials to take any and all necessary actions related to entering an agreement with Highmark to provide health insurance services to the City of Wilkes-Barre for calendar year 2023 for a contract price of \$7,808,919.68.

**MINUTES**

Of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority of September 20, 2022.

Of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority of October 4, 2022.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of October 13, 2022.

**CONSENT AGENDA (ORDINANCES)**

**FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 10 OF 2022** – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 30 BY REPEALING SEC. 30-17 OF THE WILKES-BARRE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED “TAPPAGE FEES.” (SECOND AND FINAL READING)

**FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 11 OF 2022** – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA AMENDING CHAPTER 10 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILKES-BARRE ENTITLED “FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION” BY REPEALING ARTICLE V. ENTITLED “CONSUMER FIREWORKS” AND REPLACING IT WITH A NEW ARTICLE V. ENTITLED “CONSUMER FIREWORKS.” (SECOND AND FINAL READING)

CITY COUNCIL

OCTOBER 27, 2022

The City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre met in Regular Session on October 27, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., in City Council Chambers, City Hall, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, for the purpose of general business.

The meeting was organized with Chairperson Beth Gilbert McBride in the Chair.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

Councilman Mike Belusko read the prayer.

Roll Call:

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

Also Present:

George C. Brown, Mayor  
Tim Henry, City Attorney  
Charles McCormick, City Administrator  
Cathy Payne, City Clerk  
Lisa Sanfilippo, Administrative Assistant  
Tracy Smith, Assistant City Clerk

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

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

*Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the healthcare Resolution.*

Mr. McCormick explained that the requirements of the healthcare are determined by Collective Bargaining Agreements, which were negotiated by a prior Administration, which lasts through this year. He said depending on the CBA there are deductibles and premium

copays. He said that this Administration is currently negotiating contracts with all four unions.

Mr. McCormick continued by saying that the RFP was put out and there were only two proposals returned, one from Highmark and one from Benticon. They included, pursuant to the RFP, a broker's commission. They came in at 7% and Risk Strategies negotiated it down to 3.2%. He added that whatever the brokerage fee was that was between those two parties and had no effect on the premium.

Angel Mathis, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the healthcare Resolution (contract length).

Mayor Brown told Ms. Mathis that this contract is for one-year. Next year the city will go out for another RFP.

Jason Carr, Saylorsburg, PA appeared before Council relative to the healthcare Resolution (broker).

## RESOLUTIONS

### **RESOLUTION NO. R0091-22**

Whereas, the City of Wilkes-Barre advertised for bids for 2022 Laurel Run & Mill Creek Channel Wall @ Various Locations on September 20, 2022. Source of funds – FEMA.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre that the proper City officials are hereby authorized to sign any and all necessary documents related to awarding the contract to the lowest most responsible bidder, James T. O'Hara, Inc. for the 2022 Laurel Run & Mill Creek Channel Wall @ Various Locations in the amount of \$1,050,100 (one million, fifty thousand, one hundred dollars and zero cents).

Mr. Brooks moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nays none.

### **RESOLUTION NO. R0092-22**

Whereas, the City issued a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) for health insurance services for calendar year 2023.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the proper city officials are here by authorized to take any and all necessary actions related to entering an agreement with Highmark to provide health insurance services to the City of Wilkes-Barre for calendar year 2023 for a contract price of \$7,808,919.68.

Mr. Belusko moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nays McBride – 1.

### **MINUTES**

Of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority of September 20, 2022.

Of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority of October 4, 2022.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of October 13, 2022.

Mr. Marconi moved to adopt the minutes.

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

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

Nays none.

### **CONSENT AGENDA (ORDINANCES)**

**FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 10 OF 2022 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 30 BY REPEALING SEC. 30-17 OF THE WILKES-BARRE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED “TAPPAGE FEES.” (SECOND AND FINAL READING)**

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

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

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

Nays none.

**PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Mr. Barrett said he was happy to see the Resolution referencing the Laurel Run and Mill Creek walls. He said there is a lot of unfinished work up there and he is hoping that some of the money can be used to address the problems at Laurel Run Creek near Motorworld. There is some erosion and creek wall issues in that area.

Mr. Barrett asked that a center line be painted on the newly paved Laird Street.

Mr. Barrett asked for an update on the therapy ducks on Stucker Avenue in Parsons. Mr. Barrett said there is also trash on the property and the city needs to get a handle on it.

Mr. Barrett said there is a month-old pave cut that needs to be addressed in the area of 1300 Scott Street.

Mr. Marconi said that residents in the area of the Mill Creek wall reached out to him and they are very pleased that the wall is going to be getting some attention.

Mr. Belusko thanked the Administration for taking care of the permit parking issue on Sterling Avenue.

Mrs. McBride asked for an update on the water issue at the corner of Northampton Street and Park Avenue.

Mrs. McBride said there was some utility work done on East South Street and South Sherman Street. She said it still hasn't been paved and it is really rough to drive on. She asked if the Administration can find out if there is a timeframe for when they are going to pave it.

Mayor Brown told Mrs. McBride that the Administration has been in contact with the utility companies. He hopes that it will be paved within the next week or two.

## **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Greg Griffen, Chairman of Luzerne County Citizens Blight Committee, Swoyersville, PA appeared before Council to give an update on litter cleanups and the City's Block Captain Program.

Mrs. McBride thanked Mr. Griffen for organizing litter cleanups and helping to keep the city clean.

Mr. Marconi also thanked Mr. Griffen for all that he does for the city.

Angel Mathis, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to squatters at 442-450 South Franklin Street, street cleaning/leaf pick up notices, and parking meters in turning lanes.

Mayor Brown told Ms. Mathis that the South Franklin Street properties are part of the city's Blight Remediation Plan.

Jason Carr, Saylorsburg, PA appeared before Council relative to the response from police when his car was hit on Oak Street and the city allowing someone to live in a house without heat and hot water.

Mr. McCormick said the property without heat and hot water is owned by Mr. Carr and it was posted by the city. The city does not have the jurisdiction to remove people from the property. The tenant is now out of the property and staying at a hotel with help from a social service agency.

Mr. McCormick explained that the process is, if the owner of the property has a problem with someone being inside their property and didn't know they didn't have gas for a year (but were still taking the tenants money) the owner has to call the police to have the person removed.

Bob Kadluboski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to City Council's healthcare and State Representative Eddie Day Pashinski.

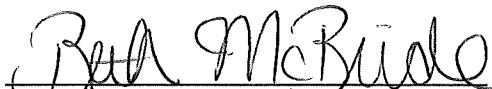
Mrs. McBride told Mr. Kadluboski that his topic was not city business and it was inappropriate for a City Council meeting. She said it is not the time or place for a campaign speech.

Delmar Guziewicz, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the LCTA benches, and public transit.

Mrs. McBride asked if the LCTA is removing the current benches and replacing them.

Mr. Guziewicz said to the best of his knowledge there is some legal question over ownership of the benches; they have no interest in removing the benches entirely if the LCTA does have authority over that.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

  
Beth Gilbert McBride, Chairperson

ATTEST:

  
Cathy Payne, City Clerk