

CITY OF WILKES-BARRE  
PENNSYLVANIA



# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

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CITY COUNCIL

OCTOBER 28, 2021

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

CITY COUNCIL  
OCTOBER 28, 2021

**CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)**

Authorizing the proper city officials to enter into an agreement that will allow the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority ("LCRA") in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) to upgrade the traffic control devices where Wilkes-Barre Boulevard crosses the railroad tracks of the Wilkes-Barre Secondary Line (DOT No. 853045M) and where North Main Street crosses the railroad tracks of the Wilkes-Barre Secondary Line (DOT No. 361572W).

Reappointing Brett Kittrick to the Wilkes-Barre Finance Authority.

Reappointing Tim Henry to the Wilkes-Barre Finance Authority.

Reappointing Darren Snyder to the Wilkes-Barre Finance Authority.

**MINUTES**

Of the Special Session of City Council of September 22, 2021.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of October 14, 2021.

Of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority of September 21, 2021.

Of the Zoning Hearing Board of September 15, 2021.

CITY COUNCIL

October 28, 2021

The City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre met in Regular Session on October 28, 2021, 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 Tony Brooks in the Chair.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

Roll Call:

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

Also Present:

Maureen Collins, Assistant City Attorney  
Charles McCormick, 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:

Angel Mathis, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Resolution authorizing the proper city officials to enter into an agreement with Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority to upgrade traffic control devices at railroad tracks (gates).

Mr. McCormick said they will be upgrading the crossings as per the National Transportation Authority.

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Resolutions appointing members to the Wilkes-Barre Finance Authority (open to public citizens).

Mr. Brooks said there are public citizens on the Wilkes-Barre Finance Authority. The appointments being made today are because there is city required positions on the board.

Mr. McCormick said the Finance Authority is a funding mechanism for businesses or other entities to use as a vehicle for bonds.

### **CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. R0086-21**

Whereas, as both projects referenced herein are located in the City of Wilkes-Barre, the Public Utilities Commission ("PUC") requires a Resolution from Wilkes-Barre City Council;

Whereas, both projects are federally funded and will be completed at no cost to the City of Wilkes-Barre;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre hereby authorizes the proper city officials to enter into an agreement that will allow the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority ("LCRA") in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation ("PennDOT") to upgrade the traffic control devices where Wilkes-Barre Blvd. crosses the railroad tracks of the Wilkes-Barre Secondary Line (DOT No. 853045M) and where North Main Street crosses the railroad tracks of the Wilkes-Barre Secondary Line (DOT No. 361572W).

#### **RESOLUTION NO. R0087-21**

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:

<b>Wilkes-Barre Finance Authority</b>	<b>Term Expiration</b>
Brett Kittrick 22 Carolina Drive Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705	10-28-24

**RESOLUTION NO. R0088-21**

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:

<b>Wilkes-Barre Finance Authority</b>	<b>Term Expiration</b>
Timothy Henry 214 N. Main Street Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702	10-28-24

**RESOLUTION NO. R0089-21**

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:

<b>Wilkes-Barre Finance Authority</b>	<b>Term Expiration</b>
Darren Snyder 216 S. Franklin Street Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701	10-28-24

**MINUTES**

Of the Special Session of City Council of September 22, 2021.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of October 14, 2021.

Of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority of September 21, 2021.

Of the Zoning Hearing Board of September 15, 2021.

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

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

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

Nays none.

Absent – Barrett – 1.

### **PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Mr. Marconi thanked Director of Community Development Joyce Zaykowski and Officer Kirk Merchel for attending the North End/Parsons/East End Crime Watch meeting.

Mr. Marconi thanked the Administration for having West Maple Street paved.

Mr. McBride asked the Administration for an update on 92 South Empire Street (the old silk mill).

Mr. McCormick said it has been through two different proposed developments, but nothing has ever been done. He said he will look into it and get back to her.

Mrs. McBride said she doesn't think there are any health concerns with the building, but she is interested to see if the building is structurally sound. She asked the Administration to send someone up to check it.

Mrs. McBride mentioned that people have been reaching out to her about the track area at Kirby Park. They are asking if the city could use American Rescue Plan money to give it a facelift.

Mr. McCormick said it is in consideration with a larger area of Kirby Park being rehabbed. There will be significant modification of the access areas, which will begin soon. Also, there is some funding for the parking lot (ADA accessible) and some discussion to upgrade the softball and track area.

Mrs. McBride asked when the Department of Public Works will be going out with the leaf vacuum.

Mr. McCormick replied that he thought it was scheduled to go out the second week of November, but he will verify it with Mr. Frati.

Mr. Brooks asked if the city has been considering green initiatives, particularly with solar panels, either on City Hall or the Department of Public Works.

Mr. McCormick said he will check with Mr. Frati.

## **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

*Rhonda Shimko, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to no follow-up response from the Health Department and Animal Control.*

*Mrs. Shimko said she has been calling for six months now to get a property cleaned up and it still has not been touched. (She provided Council with pictures of the property).*

Mr. Brooks told Mrs. Shimko to call him and he will come and take a look at the situation.

*Linda Joseph, Secretary/Treasurer of the Wilkes-Barre Preservation Society, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Rental Property Ordinance (how many unrelated people can live in a rental property).*

*Dr. Gere Reisinger, Seneca Nation of Indians, Sacred Site Committee, PA Advisor, appeared before Council relative to the Kirby Park Riverfront (safety, health and historical issues).*

*Bert Occulto, Seneca Nation of Indians, appeared before Council relative to Kirby Park Riverfront (safety and health issues).*

*Kamri Ramirez, Kingston, PA appeared before Council relative to Kirby Park Riverfront (safety).*

*Danielle McGrogan, Luzerne, PA appeared before Council relative to Kirby Park/Nesbitt Park (safety).*

*Jordan Ramirez, Susquehanna River Watch, appeared before Council relative to cleaning up the Kirby Park Riverfront and using the space to grow the city.*

*Angel Mathis, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to recycling bins, stray cats, driving under the influence of marijuana and squatters in the property on Sullivan and South Franklin Streets (behind Fine Wines & Good Spirits).*

Mr. McCormick explained that the city has received some recycling bins, but not the whole order. There is a request for an LSA Grant to purchase more. Once the city gets the entire order they will be distributed to the residents.

Mr. McCormick told Ms. Mathis that stray cats are an SPCA issue, he suggested she contact them.


Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to Nesbitt Park, electronic recycling, American Rescue Plan money (10% Administrative fee) and elimination of the sewer and recycling fees.

Mr. Brooks informed Mr. Troy that the 10% administrative fee was set by the Biden Administration and the federal government, not by the Mayor.

Mrs. McBride asked if City Council has to vote on awarding the contracts for the American Rescue Plan money.

Mr. McCormick replied that once the city receives the guidelines from the federal government, they will be presented to Council for a vote.


There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.



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Tony Brooks, Chairperson

ATTEST:



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Cathy Payne, City Clerk