

CITY OF WILKES-BARRE  
PENNSYLVANIA



# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

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CITY COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 8, 2024

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

**CITY COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 8, 2024**

**RESOLUTIONS**

Authorizing the proper city officials to sign all necessary documents related to awarding the Contract to the lowest responsible service, M. Mayo Stripping, in the amount of \$50,735.00 per year for the Line Painting and Marking Maintenance Service Contract within the boundaries of the City of Wilkes-Barre. The Contract to start as of February 9, 2024.

Authorizing the proper city officials to enter into an agreement in the amount of \$24,500.00 with Alfred Benesch & Company to provide engineering and design services for the Traffic Signal Infrastructure Improvement Project. The project will be funded through the PennDOT Green Light Go grant program and the City's Liquid Fuels account.

**MINUTES**

Of the Wilkes-Barre City Zoning Hearing Board of December 20, 2023

Of the Wilkes-Barre Traffic Committee Meeting January 25, 2024

Of the Regular Session of City Council of January 25, 2024

CITY COUNCIL

February 8, 2024

The City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre met in Regular Session on February 8, 2024, 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.

Council member Tony Brooks read the opening prayer.

Roll Call:

Belusko	- present
McClay	- present
Mirin	- present
Brooks, Vice Chairperson	- present
Barrett, Chairperson	- present

Also Present:

Tony Thomas, City Controller  
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 Line Painting and Marking Maintenance Service Contract and the Traffic Signal Infrastructure Improvement Project.

Mr. McCormick explained that the money for the line painting contract comes from Liquid Fuels and the reason it is contracted out is because there are PennDOT requirements for certain expertise that must be met.

Attorney Henry said that the traffic signal infrastructure improvements will be at ten locations in the city, two of which will have cameras installed, which is recommended for ADA compliance.

**CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS/MINUTES)**

Resolution No. R0012-24 to and including the minutes appeared on the Consent Agenda (Resolutions).

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. R0012-24**

Whereas, the City of Wilkes-Barre advertised proposals for 2024-2025 Line Painting and Marketing Maintenance Service Contract within the boundaries of the City of Wilkes-Barre on December 7, 2023 & January 5, 2024.

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 service, M. Mayo Striping, in the amount of \$50,735.00 per year for the Line Painting and Marking Maintenance Service Contract. Contract to start as of February 9, 2024.

**RESOLUTION NO. R0013-24**

Whereas, Michael Baker International (“MBI”), a traffic consultant under contract with PennDOT, has completed an extensive traffic study throughout the entire City;

Whereas, MBI has recommended the City upgrade its pedestrian pushbuttons to be ADA compliant at ten (10) locations in the City;

Whereas, MBI has further recommended that cameras be installed at two (2) of the ten (10) intersections.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the proper city officials are hereby authorized to enter an agreement in the amount of \$24,500.00 with Alfred Benesch & Company to provide engineering and design services for the Traffic Signal Infrastructure Improvement Project. The project will be funded through the PennDOT Green Light Go grant program and the City’s Liquid Fuels account.

**MINUTES**

Of the Wilkes-Barre City Zoning Hearing Board of December 20, 2023.

Of the Wilkes-Barre Traffic Committee Meeting of January 25, 2024.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of January 25, 2024.

Mrs. McClay moved to adopt the Consent Agenda (Resolutions).

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

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

Nays none.

### **PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Mrs. McClay asked the following:

1. An update on the proposed BBQ Restaurant (former silk mill) near Schiel's Market (Hanover Street).

Mr. McCormick said that it is his understanding that they closed on the property, and they have a surveyor that is laying out the area.

2. If Council could get monthly or bi-monthly reports from the Police, Fire and Parking Departments.

Mr. McCormick said that he would run it by the mayor.

3. For a list of city-owned properties.

Attorney Henry said that there isn't a list because the city has acquired many properties over the last decade and they are not all indexed the same way at the Courthouse. He said they have tried in the past, but it has been difficult to get a list that has everything.

4. Graffiti on the former Philly Subs on North Washington Street. Mrs. McClay pointed out that the Ordinance says that it needs to be cleaned up within 15 days.

Mr. McCormick said he will follow up on it.

5. Damaged car parked on Bowman Street near the former Ziggy's Pub and Grub.

Mr. McCormick said he will send Parking Enforcement down to check it out.

Mr. Mirin said he received a few calls about potholes in his district. He said he believes the new pothole patcher will save the city money in the long run because it is a more permanent fix.

Mr. Mirin asked the Administration for a copy of the traffic study that was done pertaining to the traffic lights.

Mr. Brooks said he has been inundated since Tuesday with calls about signs on poles and trees throughout the city. He said there is an Ordinance on the books that says, "no person shall post or affix notices, posters, or any device calculated to attract the attention of people on lamppost, public utility poles and shade trees." The fine is \$1,000.00. He said he will report some of the signs to Code Enforcement.

### **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Angel Mathis, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the fire on Empire Street, updating the building code (firewalls), and a squatter house on South Franklin Street.

Mr. Barrett said that before someone converts a single-family home into apartments, they must follow the building codes before it is issued an occupancy permit.

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to city issues/problems, a Controller's Report, Taxpayer Relief Fund, and the pension funds.


Mr. Barrett said that there are things that the city is addressing (with the pension funds) as a result of the Auditor General's Report.

Jason Carr, Saylorsburg, PA appeared before Council relative to the pension funds.

Mr. Barrett said that the pension funds are funded, in large part, by the city and, in large part, by the individual contributors (employees). Mr. Barrett explained that there are five funds and some of them have increasing liabilities because there are more people drawing pensions than contributing (the older funds). He said the Administration is working hard, because some of the concerns are concerns that deal with collective bargaining agreements (which supersede the 3<sup>rd</sup> Class City Code). Some of the awards were made under former Administrations. The current Administration is working to correct some of the awards through negotiations.

Mrs. McClay said that it is her understanding that calculating overtime in pensions has stopped for new hires.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

  
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Bill Barrett, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Cathy Payne  
Cathy Payne, City Clerk



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