

CITY OF WILKES-BARRE  
PENNSYLVANIA



# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

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CITY COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 8, 2018

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)

ORDINANCE

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

CITY COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 8, 2018

**CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)**

Congratulating Harry McCarthy on his retirement from the Fire Department.

Authorizing the sale of a vacant lot located at 447 South River Street to Nathan Summerlin for a purchase price of \$1,000.00.

Execute any and all project documents related to awarding the contract to the lowest responsible bidder for the Spruce Street Park and Weissman Park Improvement Projects.

Execute any and all project documents related to the purchase of playground equipment for the Spruce Street and Weissman Park Improvement Projects from Recreation Resource Center.

Apply for a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation in the amount of \$250,000 for the repairs to the Strauss Lane Bridge.

Appointing Jay Delaney to the Housing Authority to fill the unexpired term of David Holloway.

Appoint Karen Komorek to the newly formed Parking Ticket Appeals Board.

Appoint Thomas Kosciolek to the Fire Civil Service Commission to replace Donald Fiorucci.

Reappoint Phillip Latinski to the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority.

Enter into an agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and Alfred Benesch and Company of Hazleton to conduct Bridge Inspections of all City owned bridges from 2018 to 2022.

CITY COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 8, 2018

**CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)**

**MINUTES**

Of the Traffic Committee of October 25, 2018.

Of the Planning Commission of October 17, 2018.

Of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority of September 25, 2018.

Of the Parking Authority of September 18, 2018.

Of the Public Hearing of City Council of October 16, 2018.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of October 18, 2018.

CITY COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 8, 2018

**ORDINANCE**

**FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 17 OF 2018** - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE X OF CHAPTER 7 OF THE WILKES-BARRE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED "VACANT/ABADNONED REAL PROPERTY REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION PROCEDURE AND CONDEMNATION/REHABILITATION PROPERTY POLICY FOR PROPERTIES LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY." (FIRST READING)

CITY COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 8, 2018

The City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre met in Regular Session on November 8, 2018 at 6:32 p.m. (immediately following the Public Hearing), 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	- present
Gilbert	- present
Merritt	- present
Belusko, Vice Chairperson	- present
Brooks, Chairperson	- present

Also Present:

Maureen Collins, Assistant City Attorney  
Cathy Payne, Assistant City Clerk  
Lisa Sanfilippo, Administrative Assistant  
Ted Wampole, Administrator  
Joyce Zaykowski, Director of OCD

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

Ms. Gilbert presented Harry McCarthy with a Resolution from Council congratulating him on his retirement from the Fire Department.

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

Bob Kadluboski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Resolution reappointing Phillip Latinski to the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority.

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Resolutions reappointing Phillip Latinski to the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority, selling the vacant lot on South River Street and Spruce Street Park and Weissman Park Improvements.

John Suchoski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Resolution regarding bridge inspections (hiring Alfred Benesch).

Nathan Summerlin, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Resolution authorizing the sale of 447 South River Street.

Becky Washburn, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Resolution authorizing the sale of 447 South River Street.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution No. R0099-18 to and including the minutes appeared on the Consent Agenda (Resolutions).

### **RESOLUTION NO. R0099-18**

That, the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre hereby congratulates Harry McCarthy on his retirement from Wilkes-Barre Fire Department.

### **RESOLUTION NO. R0100-18**

That, the proper city officials are hereby authorized to sell the vacant lot located at 447 South River Street (H9SE4-023-013) to Nathan Summerlin (or his designee) for a purchase price of \$1,000.00.

### **RESOLUTION NO. R0101-18**

Whereas, the City of Wilkes-Barre is advertising for proposals related to Contractor services for the Spruce Street Park and Weissman Park Improvement Projects.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre that the proper City officials are hereby authorized to execute any and all project documents related to awarding the contract to the lowest responsible bidder for the Spruce Street Park and Weissman Park Improvement Projects.

Payment to be made from OECD Budget and the Greenways, Trails; and Recreation Grant Program.

### **RESOLUTION NO. R0102-18**

Whereas, the City of Wilkes-Barre is desirous to purchase Playground Equipment through the PA Costars contract, for the Spruce Street and Weissman Park Improvement Projects.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre that the proper City officials are hereby authorized to execute any and all project documents related to the purchase of playground equipment for the Spruce Street and Weissman Park Improvement Projects from Recreation Resource Center.

Payments to be made from OECD Budget and the Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Grant Program.

**RESOLUTION NO. R0103-18**

Authorizing the proper city officials to apply for a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation in the amount of \$250,000.00 for the repairs to the Strauss Lane Bridge in the City of Wilkes-Barre; and

Further, that the remaining required funds for this project (\$107,142.85) will come from the Liquid Fuels account and or any other applicable grants as they become available.

Whereas, the total project cost is estimated at \$357,142.85.

**RESOLUTION NO. R0104-18**

Whereas, Section 5:08 of the City Charter of the City of Wilkes-Barre authorizes the Mayor, with the advice and consent of City Council, to appoint members of Boards, Commissions and Authorities served by the City;

Whereas, it is the desire of the City of Wilkes-Barre to appoint the person referenced below to the Housing Authority of the City of Wilkes-Barre to fill the unexpired term of David Holloway, who is retiring from the Authority on November 12, 2018;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the following person is hereby appointed as a member of the Housing Authority effective November 13, 2018:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Jay Delaney 275 Mayock Street Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705	September 10, 2019

**RESOLUTION NO. R0105-18**

Whereas, Section 5:08 of the City Charter of the City of Wilkes-Barre authorizes the Mayor, with the advice and consent of City Council, to appoint members of Boards, Commissions and Authorities served by the City;

Whereas, it is the desire of the City of Wilkes-Barre to appoint the persons referenced below as independent hearing officers to hear appeals related to parking violations;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the following person is hereby appointed for the term referenced below as a member of the newly formed Parking Ticket Appeals Board:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Begins</u>	<u>Term Expired</u>
Karen Komorek 62 Catlin Avenue Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702	November 9, 2018	October 9, 2020

**RESOLUTION NO. R0106-18**

Whereas, Section 5:08 of the City Charter of the City of Wilkes-Barre authorizes the Mayor, with the advice and consent of City Council, to appoint members of Boards, Commissions and Authorities served by the City;

Whereas, it is the desire of the City of Wilkes-Barre to appoint the person referenced below to the Fire Civil Service Commission of the City of Wilkes-Barre to replace Donald Fiorucci who recently retired;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the following person is hereby appointed as a member of the Fire Civil Service Commission of the City of Wilkes-Barre:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Thomas Kosciolek 63 Brookside Street Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705	December 31, 2020

**RESOLUTION NO. R0107-18**

Whereas, Section 5:08 of the City Charter of the City of Wilkes-Barre authorizes the Mayor, with the advice and consent of City Council, to appoint members of Boards, Commissions and Authorities served by the City;

Whereas, it is the desire of the City of Wilkes-Barre to re-appoint the person referenced below to the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority upon the expiration of his current term, which is set to expire on December 31, 2018;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the following person is hereby reappointed as a member to the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Phillip Latinski 20 Brazil Street Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705	December 31, 2023

**RESOLUTION NO. R0108-18**

To hereby authorize the proper city officials to enter into an agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and Alfred Benesch and Company of Hazleton to conduct Bridge Inspections of all City owned bridges from 2018 through 2022. Alfred Benesch & Company was selected using the PennDOT ECMS Program. This contract also allows the City to use Alfred Benesch & Company in other Engineering capacities as needed by the City of Wilkes-Barre. See attached documentation regarding procurement procedures.

And further, the allocation of funds for this Program are 80% Federal and 20% local with the local share coming from the Liquid Fuels Account.

**MINUTES**

Of the Traffic Committee of October 25, 2018.

Of the Planning Commission of October 17, 2018.

Of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority of September 25, 2018.

Of the Parking Authority of September 18, 2018.

Of the Public Hearing of City Council of October 16, 2018.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of October 18, 2018.

Ms. Gilbert moved to adopt the Consent Agenda (Resolutions).

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

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

Nays none.

### **ORDINANCE**

**FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 17 OF 2018** – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE X OF CHAPTER 7 OF THE WILKES-BARRE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED “VACANT/ABANDONED REAL PROPERTY REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION PROCEDURE AND CONDEMNATION/REHABILITATION PROPERTY POLICY FOR PROPERTIES LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY. (FIRST READING).

Mr. Belusko moved to adopt the Ordinance.

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

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

Nays none.

### **COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. Barrett asked for an update on the George Avenue Streetscape Project.

Mrs. Zaykowski replied that Mr. Barry is leading that project. She said she will check with him and get an answer for Mr. Barrett tomorrow.

Ms. Gilbert reported a stench coming from 50-52 North Meade Street. She said the Health Department was made aware of it, but it is still there.

Ms. Gilbert asked why the Wilkes-Barre Area School Districts payment for the use of fields has been zeroed out in the 2019 budget.

Mr. Wampole replied that the city is not sure if the school district is going to continue to use city fields. He said he spoke with Mr. Costello (WBSD) and he said if there is a chance that they will be using them in the spring, they will work something out.

Mr. Belusko asked if the Administration could have DPW clean up the property on Franklin Street (across from Schiel's Market).

Mr. Belusko announced that Mr. Wampole will be leaving the City and wished him well with his new County job with the Visitor Centers.

Mr. Brooks also wished Mr. Wampole good luck in his new position with the County.

### **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Simon Saba, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to issues with recent road work done on Bradford Street by the water company.

Greg Griffen, Chairman, Citizens Committee, Swoyersville, PA appeared before Council relative to the drug epidemic.

*Officer Merchel informed Mr. Griffen that the city has an officer that is assigned to the DEA and their agents are in and out of the Police Department on a regular basis. He said there is also an officer who is a liaison with the FBI.*

Angel Jirau, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council to thank them for renaming Charles Street Park in honor of Dr. George Moses (organizing a ceremony to dedicate the park) and to discuss diversity issues.

Bob Kadluboski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the police department, pensions (for part-time service), former Mayor McGroarty speaking to the Fire Department and the retirement of Jim Hayward from the Health Department (pension).

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the amusement tax, Wilkes University cutting down trees (on East Northampton Street between River and Franklin Streets), creating a Shade Tree Commission, gun buyback program and Johnson Controls.

Mr. Brooks informed Mr. Troy that Wilkes University had a public hearing regarding the trees. They removed 120 trees and planted 150 trees.

Officer Merchel told Mr. Troy that the gun buyback program is run by the County Sheriff's office. He said the guns that the city seizes and that are to be destroyed have to be turned over to the them.

*John Suchoski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the former Sterling Property (for lease sign) and a list of city-owned properties.*

Mr. Wampole said that the owners of the Sterling Lot are advertising for potential tenants.

Attorney Henry informed Mr. Suchoski that the city does not have a master list of city properties. Attorney Henry said there is just too many of them along with the way they are indexed at the Courthouse to have a complete list.

City Controller Darren Snyder said that one of the trends is that cities that have colleges and universities are doing much better in the long run, in a faster amount of time than the areas that don't have centers for higher education. He said he hears everyone saying that King's and Wilkes are buying up the city and taking the properties off the tax rolls and the city is losing money because of it. He said the fact is that having those institutions in Wilkes-Barre does have a very large impact on the overall health of the city.

Mr. Snyder said that the total estimated direct annual income that King's College has on the City of Wilkes-Barre is over \$109,000,000 per year. That number is based on the spending that the students do in the city that exceeds \$8,000,000. The institutional expenditures that the college does, spends over \$58,000,000. Visitor spending through the University is in excess of \$580,000.00 a year. The construction impact for the city is over \$13,000,000 a year and the indirect induced impact that the college has is just under \$29,000,000 a year. King's College employees 879 full-time employees and brings an estimate of 3,000 visitors to the city each year. A total tax of \$63,000,000, which includes \$11.3 million in federal taxes, \$4.8 million in state taxes and the non-exempt property taxes that are on the college are in excess of \$57,000.00, which is in addition to the \$100,000.00 that the school donates to the city.

Mr. Snyder mentioned that just for the 2018-2019 year alone, the purchase of the Spring Brook Water Company on Franklin Street, which sat vacant for decades, the capital investment that King's is making is \$7.8 million dollars, which is going to general state and local taxes of \$430,000.00 and the creation of 111 temporary jobs. Also, the Chapel of Christ the King on North River Street will have a capital investment in the city of almost \$5.5 million dollars, state and local taxes will be in excess of \$225,000.00 and 61 temporary job creations.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

  
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Tony Brooks, Chairperson

ATTEST:   
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Cathy Payne, Assistant City Clerk