

CITY OF WILKES-BARRE  
PENNSYLVANIA



# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

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CITY COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 9, 2021

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

RESOLUTIONS

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

CITY COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 9, 2021

**RESOLUTIONS**

Authorizing the proper city officials to prepare and submit the necessary \$140,000 grant application to the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Keystone Grant Program for the Osterhout Free Library's Roof, Windows and Flooring Improvement project.

Authorizing the proper city officials to take any and all necessary actions related to the sale of 773 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania and 116-122 Westminster Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania to PA Wholesale Supply Corp. (or its designee) for \$65,000.00.

Authorizing the proper city officials to take any and all necessary actions related to the sale of 120 Sambourne Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania to Darrell Steed (or his designee) for \$1,500.00.

Authorizing Emergency Management Coordinator Jay Delaney to execute for and on behalf of the City of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, a public entity established under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, all required forms and documents for the purpose of obtaining financial assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Public Law 93-288 as amended by Public Law 100-707).

Authorizing the proper city officials to take any and all necessary actions related to entering into an American Rescue Plan Sub-Recipient Agreement with the United Way of Wyoming Valley for distribution of up to \$1,100,000.00 in grant payments to eligible human service agencies.

Authorizing the proper city officials to take any and all necessary actions related to entering into an American Rescue Plan Sub-Recipient Agreement with the Commission on Economic Opportunity ("CEO") for the distribution of up to \$3,500,000.00 in stimulus payments to eligible households.

Authorizing the proper city officials to take any and all necessary actions related to entering into an American Rescue Plan Sub-Recipient Agreement with the Wyoming Valley Chamber of Commerce for the distribution of up to \$1,072,500.00 to provide economic development assistance to eligible applicants.

CITY COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 9, 2021

**RESOLUTIONS (CONTINUED)**

Authorizing the proper city officials to enter into an agreement with Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC to provide technical assistance and advice related to the policies, procedures, and accountability of the American Rescue Plan Act.

Authorizing the Wilkes-Barre Police Department to take any and all necessary actions related to liquidating the unusable and/or outdated equipment contemplated in the October 3, 2021 Memo from Police Chief Joseph Coffay.

Appointing Cathy Payne to the Wilkes-Barre Finance Authority.

Appointing Kevin Kundratic to the Wilkes-Barre Finance Authority.



CITY COUNCIL

November 9, 2021

The City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre met in Regular Session on November 9, 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	- present
Belusko	- present
Marconi	- present
McBride, Vice Chairperson	- present
Brooks, Chairperson	- present

Also Present:

George C. Brown, Mayor  
Joe Coffay, Police Chief  
Tim Henry, City Attorney  
Brett Kittrick, Finance Director  
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:

Linda Joseph, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Resolution regarding the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Keystone Grant Program for the Osterhout Free Library.

Jason Carr, Saylorsburg, PA appeared before Council regarding the Resolutions relative to the American Rescue Plan Funds.

Gretchen Greaves, representative for CEO, appeared before Council to explain the eligibility requirements to receive the stimulus payment.

Mr. Marconi asked where residents can find the eligibility requirements.

Ms. Greaves responded that once the final program is ready to begin, it will be published on the city's website and CEO's website.

**Ms. Payne stated that Council has agreed to vote on all Resolutions as part of a Consent Agenda, except for the Resolution concerning the Wyoming Valley Chamber of Commerce (which will be voted on separately).**

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

Resolution No. R0090-21 to and including R0099-21 appeared on the Consent Agenda (Resolution).

#### **RESOLUTION NO. R0090-21**

Whereas, the City of Wilkes-Barre is desirous of sponsoring a grant in the amount of 140,000.00 from the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Keystone Grant Program to assist the Osterhout Free Library with facility upgrades such as roofing system repairs, energy efficient windows and new flooring to improve conditions for both the library users and the book collection, as well as greatly enhance the energy efficiency of the facility; and

Whereas, the Osterhout Free Library's existing roofing system, windows and flooring have exceeded their useful lifespan and need to be replaced. The Library will realize energy savings, and the ability to provide better maintenance of their facility; and

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved by the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre that the actions of the proper City officials in preparing and submitting the necessary grant application to the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Keystone Grant Program for the Osterhout Free Library's Roof, Windows and Flooring Improvement project be, and hereby are ratified; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the appropriate agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Keystone Grant Program, along with any or all other project documents, related to the Osterhout Free Library's Roof, Windows and Flooring Improvement project, if the application is approved.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. R0091-21**

That, the proper city officials are hereby authorized to take any and all necessary actions related to the sale of 773 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania (PIN: I9NE1-020-003) to PA Wholesale Supply Corp. (or its designee) for \$65,000.00.

**RESOLUTION NO. R0092-21**

That, the proper city officials are hereby authorized to take any and all necessary actions related to the sale of 120 Sambourne Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania (PIN: H9SE4-013-100) to Darrell Steed (or his designee) for \$1,500.00.

**RESOLUTION NO. R0093-21**

DESIGNATION OF AGENT RESOLUTION

FOR: PENNSYLVANIA TROPICAL DEPRESSION IDA DR-4618

Be It Resolved by the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre that Emergency Management Coordinator Jay Delaney is hereby authorized to execute for and on behalf of the City of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, a public entity established under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, all required forms and documents for the purpose of obtaining financial assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Public Law 93-288 as amended by Public Law 100-707).

Passed and approved this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2021.

CERTIFICATION

I, Cathy Payne duly appointed City Clerk of the City of Wilkes-Barre, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a Resolution passed and approved by the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2021.

**RESOLUTION NO. R0094-21**

That, the proper city officials are hereby authorized to take any and all necessary actions related to entering into an American Rescue Plan Sub-Recipient Agreement with the United Way of Wyoming Valley for the distribution of up to \$1,100,000.00 in grant payments to eligible human service agencies.

**RESOLUTION NO. R0095-21**

That, the proper city officials are hereby authorized to take any and all necessary actions related to entering into an American Rescue Plan Sub-Recipient Agreement with

the Commission on Economic Opportunity (“CEO”) for the distribution of up to \$3,500,000.00 in stimulus payments to eligible households.

**RESOLUTION NO. R0096-21**

That, the proper city officials are hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC to provide technical assistance and advice related to the policies, procedures, and accountability of the American Rescue Plan Act. The fees for the accounting services will be billed hourly at the following rates:

Partner/Principal	\$250.00
Manager	\$185.00
Senior Accountant	\$125.00
Staff Accountant	\$100.00

**RESOLUTION NO. R0097-21**

Whereas, over the course time, equipment used by the Wilkes-Barre Police Department becomes unusable and/or outdated for continued use by the department;

Whereas, if the Department was able to liquidate this equipment by sale, it would recoup some of the original costs and have funds to expend on new equipment purchases;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre, that the Wilkes-Barre Police Department is hereby authorized to take any and all necessary actions related to liquidating the unusable and/or outdated equipment contemplated in the October 3, 2021 Memo from Police Chief Joseph Coffay (copy attached).

**RESOLUTION NO. R0098-21**

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 appointment:

Wilkes-Barre Finance Authority	Term Expiration
Cathy Payne 29 Slattery Drive	11-09-24



Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705

This appointment is being made to replace former City Clerk Jim Ryan

**RESOLUTION NO. R0099-21**

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 appointment:

Wilkes-Barre Finance Authority	Term Expiration
Kevin Kandratic 138 Brown Street Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702	11-09-24

This appointment is being made to replace former Mayor Tony George.

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

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

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

Nays none.

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION NO. R0100-21**

That the proper city officials are hereby authorized to take any and all necessary actions related to entering into an American Rescue Plan Sub-Recipient Agreement with the Wyoming Valley Chamber of Commerce for the distribution of up to \$1,072,500.00 to provide economic development assistance to eligible applicants.

Mr. Barrett moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nay none.

Abstain – McBride – 1.

### **PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Mr. Barrett thanked the United Way, CEO and the Chamber of Commerce for their willingness to help the residents with the American Rescue Plan funds.

Mr. Belusko provided Council with a copy of a list of streets and catch basins/replaced by the WVSA (for the entire year). He added that WVSA is now done working in Wilkes-Barre for the year, but if anyone has any catch basins that haven't been addressed to let him know.

Mr. Marconi thank the Administration for paving Austin Avenue today.

Mr. Marconi asked the United Way, CEO and the Chamber of Commerce that as soon as they have the information/qualifications for the American Rescue Plan funds to please get it out to the public.

Mrs. McBride asked Mr. Belusko if he could have the WVSA clean out the catch basin on the corner of Northampton and South Sherman.

### **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Nadine, Joe and Nick Dreier, Dallas, PA, appeared before Council relative to the River Commons Park (safety and clean up).

Ron Felton, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the recent Health Department vaccination clinic and vaccinations within the black and hispanic communities.

William Kvashay, Luzerne, PA appeared before Council relative to the Riverfront Park (safety and maintenance).

Danielle McGrogan, Adviser to the Seneca Nation of Indians, Luzerne, PA appeared before Council relative to the Kirby Park Natural Area (safety) and the Riverfront Parks Committee's advertisement on their website pertaining to the Kirby Park natural area.

Martin Dartoe, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to forming a People's Committee to address the needs of the people (stimulus, affordable housing, Spanish speaking police officers, hiring more officers, shooting in the city and rain tax).


Danny Lugo, President, Hispanic Association of PA, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to opportunities for Latin entrepreneurs looking to do business in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Patrick Quinn, Seneca Nation, Dunmore, PA appeared before Council relative to allocating funds for restoration of the riverfront.


Jason Carr, Saylorsburg, PA appeared before Council relative to the safety of the city, bilingual agenda, police presence, and graffiti.

Dr. Gere Reisinger, Seneca Nation, Kingston, PA appeared before Council relative to the Riverfront Park (trash, safety, using COVID money to restore it).

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

  
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Tony Brooks, Chairperson

ATTEST:

  
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Cathy Payne, City Clerk

