

CITY OF WILKES-BARRE
PENNSYLVANIA



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL

April 28, 2022

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)

RESOLUTIONS

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

CITY COUNCIL
April 28, 2022

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)

Temporarily suspending the Ordinance pertaining to the open consumption of alcohol for the Rockin' the River event on July 15, 2022, July 22, 2022 and July 29, 2022. (Sponsored by the Luzerne County Convention and Visitors Bureau).

Authorizing the proper city officials to make any necessary arrangements for the equipment listed to be donated to Ukraine. Thirteen (13) MSA Firehawk SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatuses), 60 MSA air cylinders, three (3) sets of fire turnout gear and twelve (12) fire helmets.

Appointing David G. Wilson as both the Initial Board member and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Lower South Valley Land Bank.

MINUTES

Of the Wilkes-Barre Zoning Hearing Board of March 16, 2022

Of the Regular Session of City Council of April 12, 2022

RESOLUTIONS

Authorizing the proper city officials to take any and all necessary action related to the sale of a piece of property adjacent to Livingston Lane (PIN: H9SE3-004-002) to Wilkes University for a purchase price of \$22,000.00 and authorizing the City Attorney to take any and all necessary action in the Vacation of a 12-foot alley formerly known as Grant Alley to Wilkes University.

CITY COUNCIL

APRIL 28, 2022

The City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre met in Regular Session on April 28, 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.

Roll Call:

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

Also Present:

Maureen Collins, Assistant 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.

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

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Resolutions regarding the Rockin' the River event (sale of alcohol), the Lower South Valley Land Bank and the purchase of property by Wilkes University.

Mr. McCormick told Mr. Troy that the land bank is designed to get rid of blight, not to purchase properties, repair them and sell them on the market. It is not a money-making circumstance.

Bob Kadluboski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Resolution regarding the Rockin' the River event (sale of alcohol).

Jason Carr, Saylorsburg, PA appeared before Council relative to the Resolution regarding the Rockin' the River event (sale of alcohol and the protection of the people who attend the event).

Mr. Barrett said he has attended the Rockin' the River events in the past and they are very organized, heavily policed, very strictly controlled and monitored.

Mr. Barrett disagreed with Mr. Carr's insinuation that the city is a very dangerous place.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. R0043-22 to and including the minutes appeared on the Consent Agenda (Resolutions).

RESOLUTION NO. R0043-22

Resolved, that the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre hereby directs that the provisions of Section 20-4 of the Wilkes-Barre Code of Ordinances pertaining to the open consumption of alcoholic beverages be temporarily suspended and not enforced for the following event:

Event:	Rockin' the River
Sponsor:	Luzerne County Convention & Visitors Bureau
Designated Area:	To be determined and clearly identified by the Luzerne County Convention and Visitors Bureau
Dates:	July 15, July 22 & July 29, 2022
Time:	5:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.
Limitation:	The suspension shall only apply to the area specifically designed by Luzerne County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The within temporary suspension applies only to the above-referenced event and area. All other regulations related to intoxicating beverages in the City of Wilkes-Barre shall remain in full force and effect. A copy of this resolution shall be provided to the Wilkes-Barre Police Department.

RESOLUTION NO. R0044-22

That, the proper city officials are hereby authorized to make any necessary arrangements for the equipment listed below to be donated to Ukraine:

1. Thirteen (13) MSA Firehawk SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatuses); and
2. 60 MSA air cylinders.
3. Three (3) sets of fire turnout gear.
4. Twelve (12) fire helmets.

RESOLUTION NO. R0045-22

Whereas, the City of Wilkes-Barre wishes to establish, create, organize and operate a Land Bank, to be known as the Lower South Valley Land Bank, with seven (7) other local entities (Ashley Borough, Hanover Township, Nanticoke City, Newport Township, Plymouth Borough, Plymouth Township, and the Greater Nanticoke Area School District);

Whereas, the entities believe the establishment of the Land Bank will serve to create stronger communities by having an entity to deal with blighted, vacant, abandoned, or tax delinquent properties within their respective jurisdictions;

Whereas, pursuant to the Land Banks Act, it is necessary that the City appoint an Initial Board Member and a member to serve on the Board of Directors of the Land Bank;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre that the following individual shall serve as both the Initial Board member and as a member of the Board of Directors:

Initial Board Member

Term

David G. Wilson
15 Mallery Place
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

Not to exceed 90 days from date of appointment

Board of Directors

Term

David G. Wilson
Mallery Place
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

One (1) year from date of 15 appointment

MINUTES

Of the Wilkes-Barre Zoning Hearing Board of March 16, 2022.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of April 12, 2022.

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

The motion was seconded by Mr. Brooks 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.

RESOLUTION NO. R0046-22

That, the proper city officials are hereby authorized to take any and all necessary actions related to the sale of a piece of property adjacent to Livingston Lane (PIN: H9SE3-004-002) to Wilkes University for a purchase price of \$22,000.00.

Be It Further Resolved, that the City Attorney's Office is hereby authorized to take any and all necessary actions related to the Vacation of a 12-foot alley formerly known as Grant Alley located between two (2) properties currently owned by Wilkes University.

Mr. Belusko moved to adopt the Resolution.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Marconi 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 none.

Abstain – McBride – 1.

COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Barrett said it was mentioned at the last Council meeting that there are several basketball hoops on New Hancock Street in East End. He said there is an Ordinance on the books regarding this and would like the Administration to look into it further and come up with some relief for the residents.

Mr. Brooks said he sent the Administration some emails about potholes.

Mr. Marconi asked the Administration to contact the Municipal Authority about putting up the nets at Hollenback Golf Course.

Mr. McCormick replied that the nets were ordered, but they have not come in yet.

Mr. Belusko provided Council with reports from the WWSA relative to catch basins and street cleaning.

Mr. Barrett asked who he contacts about catch basins that need to be repaired or replaced.

Mr. Belusko told Mr. Barrett to send him an email with the location and he will contact the WWSA.

Mr. Brooks asked if they take care of catch basins on state roads.

Mr. Belusko said they do, but they take a while to get done.

Mrs. McBride asked if there is an Ordinance relative to utility companies marking up the road with spray paint. She asked if there is a time limit for how long they can keep the road like that before the city steps in and tells them to clean it up.

Mr. McCormick said he is not aware of an Ordinance, but he will check into it.

Mrs. McBride said that South Meade Street (between Dana and East Northampton Streets) is in rough shape. She asked the Administrator if it is on the paving list.

Mr. McCormick said he will check.

Mrs. McBride asked for an update on the Special Events Coordinator (hiring).

Mr. McCormick replied that it was posted, and interviews were being conducted.

Mrs. McBride asked if the fence at Mayflower Park baseball field could be replaced.

Mr. McCormick said he will check with Mr. Frati. He said he knows that they are systematically going through all the parks and finding out what needs to be done.

Mrs. McBride asked for the status of the \$300 stimulus checks.

Mr. McCormick said that the last batch should be going out this week to those people that are eligible.

Mrs. McBride asked if the city will be continuing with the garbage stickers.

Mr. McCormick said the Administration wants to try the stickers for a few months to see how they are working. Mr. McCormick added that there hasn't been any large-scale objections to them thus far. The Administration will be reviewing it and will have to come to Council with a long-term request to change the system.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Linda Joseph, President of the Rolling Mill Hill Residents Association, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Earth Day Cleanup Campaign, Spruce Street Park (equipment covered in graffiti, no cameras or sufficient lighting, and no garbage cans), the new park on Grove Street (garbage cans overflowing), DPW emptying garbage cans at parks, recycling pizza boxes, keeping the city clean, and goats in the Rolling Mill Hill section.

Mr. Barrett said there is an Ordinance banning livestock in the city.

Mr. Barrett asked the Administration to add Ms. Joseph's concerns about the parks to their list.

Mrs. McBride said she would like to see a separate Parks and Recreation Department within the Department of Public Works.

Bob Kadluboski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to his rights being violated, Council's healthcare and pensions, the City Clerk's salary and shootings in the city.

Mr. Barrett stated that he does not participate in the pension fund since he started on Council and he does not take any Council related benefits.

Mr. Barrett pointed out that it is perfectly legal for Council members to take health benefits and contribute to the pension fund.

Mr. Barrett stressed that Ms. Payne got a promotion, she did not get a raise.

Jason Carr, Saylorsburg, PA appeared before Council relative to their excessive benefits, garbage cans in city parks, graffiti, 24-26 Cherry Street (serious electrical hazards), city's structural deficit, use of ARP funds to balance the budget, Council's compensation, and Mrs. McBride's abstention from the Resolution for the Wyoming Valley Chamber of Commerce economic development assistance program.

Mrs. McBride explained that she abstained from the Resolution because the co-founder of her company is directly involved with the Wyoming Valley Chamber of Commerce program.

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to American Rescue Plan funds (input from the citizens on how the money is spent), Citizens Advisory Committee, Police Advisory Committee (have they ever met) and the (false alarm) incident on River Street.

Mrs. McBride pointed out that City Council had nothing to do with the Police Advisory Committee. She said she believes the purpose of the committee is to review procedures, but she will confirm that with the Administration.

Mr. Barrett said it is not the Police Advisory Committee's responsibility to review incidents such as the one on River Street. The committee is designed to foster relationships with the community and see what they can do to assist the police department in matters of policies and procedures from the city's end. Mr. Barrett informed Mr. Troy that the committee has met, and they are in the process of learning how the department actually functions and what their roll actually is and how they can help.

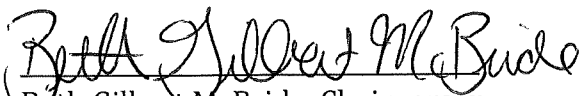
Mr. Barrett added that the police are investigating the River Street incident.

Mr. Brooks told Mr. Troy that he did research on the Citizens Advisory Committee. He stated that there is already a committee in the Code of Ordinances, and it was created back in 1973. It reads as follows:

The committee should be made up of sixteen people to represent every neighborhood in the city to deal with issues such as public finance, health, education and the welfare of the city. The membership and selection of the Citizens Advisory Committee rests with the Mayor. Their roll is to hear and advise the Mayor and City Council on development plans pertaining to the proper physical growth of the city, the character of the city and other missions which may be assigned from time to time.

Mr. Brooks said the committee just needs to be filled.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.


Beth Gilbert McBride, Chairperson

ATTEST: 
Cathy Payne, City Clerk

