

CITY OF WILKES-BARRE
PENNSYLVANIA



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL

MAY 12, 2022

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)

ORDINANCE

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT



CITY COUNCIL
MAY 12, 2022

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)

Appointing Dr. Joseph J. Ridilla to the Board of Health

MINUTES

Of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority of March 15, 2022.

Of the Planning Commission meeting of April 20, 2022.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of April 28, 2022.

ORDINANCE

**FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 3 OF 2022 - AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN
ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF LAND FORMERLY KNOWN AS GRANT
ALLEY IN THE CITY OF WILKES-BARRE." (FIRST READING)**



CITY COUNCIL

May 12, 2022

The City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre met in Regular Work Session, Thursday, May 12th, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., in City Council Chambers, City Hall, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

The meeting was organized with Michael Belusko in the Chair.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

Opening prayer was read by Michael Belusko.

Roll Call:

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

Also Present:

George C. Brown, Mayor
Charlie McCormick, Administrator
Tim Henry, City Attorney
Cathy Payne, City Clerk
Tracy Smith, Assistant City Clerk
Lisa Sanfilippo, Administrative Assistant

Absent:

McBride, Chairperson

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

Mr. Belusko asked if there was anyone wishing to address Council on pending legislation.

John Suchoski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council in regard to the vacation of land to Wilkes University and the taxes on the building they plan on turning into apartments.

Mr. Henry responded that during the presentation from the Wilkes University representatives they indicated their plan for commercial and residential use. A portion of the property could potentially be taxable if they create apartments.

Jason Carr, Saylorsburg, PA appeared before Council regarding the purchase of land by Wilkes University and their purchase of properties in the city tax-free.

Bob Kadluboski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council questioning Wilkes University getting another property tax-free.

Mr. Henry replied that the transaction on today's agenda is un-developed city property with nothing on it. It is an old alleyway that is 12' wide and a portion of sidewalk area behind the alley. He said that Wilkes University owns property on both sides of this area that they are purchasing. Mr. Henry stated that although there were not definite plans for the building the potential use was to be luxury apartments which would be taxable.

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)

RESOLUTION NO. R0047-22

WHEREAS, Section 13-6 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Wilkes-Barre authorizes the Mayor, with the advice and consent of City Council, to appoint by resolution members of the Board of Health of the City of Wilkes-Barre.

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City of Wilkes-Barre to appoint the persons referenced below to the Board of Health of the City of Wilkes-Barre.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following person is hereby appointed as a member of the board of Health:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Dr. Joseph J. Ridilla 476 E. Northampton Street Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702	January 2026

MINUTES

Of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority of March 15, 2022.

Of the Planning Commission meeting of April 20, 2022.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of April 28, 2022.

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

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

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

Nays none.

Absent – McBride – 1.

ORDINANCE

FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 3 of 2022- AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF LAND FORMERLY KNOWN AS GRANT ALLEY IN THE CITY OF WILKES-BARRE.” (FIRST READING)

Mr. Barrett moved to adopt the Ordinance.

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

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

Nays none.

Absent – McBride – 1.

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Barrett thanked the Administration for their quick resolution to his email.

Mr. Brooks stated he received a complaint from a resident on McCarragher Street regarding the excessive amount of broken glass that was left behind from the recycling pickup.

Mr. Marconi thanked the Administration for taking care of the several issues he had emailed them about.

Mr. Marconi presented the following:

1. Complaints regarding a trailer sitting in front of 643 N. Main Street that has not moved in weeks.

2. High grass, weeds and leaves on the city owned side of the fence at Hollenback Golf Course.
3. Broken equipment at the parks in his district and the park areas needing new mulch.

Mayor Brown responded that Dave Lewis, Department of Public Works, is going to all 18 parks and making a list of damaged equipment. Then a plan will be put together to get all the parks cleaned up and upgraded.

4. An update on the traffic light for Exit 2 on the Wilkes-Barre Boulevard.

Mr. McCormick said they have not received a response from PennDot but he will send a follow up email.

Mr. Belusko reported a huge pothole in front of 326 Academy Street.

Mr. Belusko said a resident asked why does the telephone pole on Maffett Street have an antenna on top.

Mayor Brown replied it is Verizon Wireless installing their 5G network throughout the city. They are installing new poles with the antenna and removing the old poles. Mayor Brown said the City is receiving revenue from Verizon for all the work being done.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Gerald Reisinger, Kingston, PA appeared before Council to thank Mayor Brown and administration for the cleanup at Kirby Park, and the need for rowing to be brought to the Susquehanna River once the riverfront is cleaned up.

Mayor Brown replied that he will set up a meeting with Butch Frati, Director of Operations, Mr. Reisinger and himself to see what areas need to be cleaned up. Mayor Brown stated ATVs have been purchased which will make those wooded areas easier to access.

Martin Dartoe, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the cost of the Police Exam application.

Mayor Brown said the fees are set by the Police Civil Service Commission. They set the cost and that cost includes grading the tests and the written and athletic testing site fees. Mayor Brown said Mr. Dartoe can either email or call the commission with his concerns.

Mr. Barrett stated that the tests are created and graded by an outside entity and the city must pay for those. There is no profit being made by the City.

Jason Carr, Saylorsburg, PA appeared before Council relative to the solicitor for the Pension Board's salary, the City's \$2 million structural deficit and Council's pension.

Brian Ferri, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the City's urban design and planning, form-based code, better development in the City and the reopening of Kistler Pool to the public in the summer.

Mr. Belusko replied that the previous Administration had the pool open to the public but there were fights there almost daily and the money box was stolen a few times.

Bob Kadluboski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to his attendance at the City Pension Board meeting and City Employees pensions (calculated), part time employees getting full time pensions.

Angel Mathis, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the street cleaning signs having the times and days on them and rent control apartments in the City.

Mr. Belusko said that Parking Enforcement usually comes before the street sweeper blowing their horn to alert the residents to move their vehicles.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.



Michael Belusko, Vice-Chairperson



Cathy Payne, City Clerk

