

CITY OF WILKES-BARRE
PENNSYLVANIA



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL

MAY 26, 2022

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS/MINUTES)

RESOLUTION

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

CITY COUNCIL
MAY 26, 2022

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS/MINUTES)

Authorizing the disposition of records from the Health Department.

Authorizing the disposition of records from the Accounts & Finance Office.

Authorizing the disposition of records from the Bureau of Operations/Administration.

Authorizing the proper city officials to take any and all necessary actions related to the conveyance of 43 Monroe Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania (PIN: H9SE4-034-23) to the United NEPA Alliance (or its designee) for \$1.00.

Authorizing the proper city officials to take any and all necessary actions related to the conveyance of a vacant lot on Monroe Street (adjacent to 43 Monroe Street), Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania (PIN: H9SE4-034-022) to the United NEPA Alliance (or its designee) for \$1.00.

Authorizing the proper city officials to donate 17,000 3M Cool Flow 8511 N95 masks to Ukraine.

Designating the Coal Street Community Playground and related areas to be named in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

MINUTES

Of the Wilkes-Barre Traffic Committee of April 28, 2022.

Of the Wilkes-Barre Zoning Hearing Board of April 20, 2022.

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

RESOLUTION

Authorizing the proper city officials to take any and all necessary actions related to the transfer of \$1,300,000.00 to the Parking Authority to be used for the repair and/or replacement of five (5) elevators and related maintenance to its downtown parking facilities. (American Rescue Plan Act).

CITY COUNCIL

May 26, 2022

The City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre met in Regular Session on May 26, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., in City Council Chambers, City Hall, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, for the sole 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.

The opening prayer was given by Michael Belusko.

Roll Call:

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

Also Present:

Charlie McCormick, Administrator
Maureen Collins, Asst City Attorney
Cathy Payne, City Clerk
Tracy Smith, Asst City Clerk
Lisa Sanfilippo, Administrative Assistant

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

Chairperson Beth Gilbert McBride asked if there was anyone wishing to speak on pending legislation.

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council to speak in favor of the United NEPA Alliance purchase of the vacant lot at 43 Monroe Street and spoke against the Resolution for using the American Rescue Act money for the Parking Authority.

Mrs. McBride responded that she is not one to spend money, but feels that the repairs needed to the parking structures would be beneficial for downtown.

Bob Kadluboski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Resolution regarding the Parking Authority (tabling it).

Brian Ferri, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Parking Authority Resolution (the ADA requirements, liquidate redundant parking, sell empty parking lots to developers to generate revenue).

Mrs. McBride asked if Council members were still good to vote on the Parking Authority Resolution tonight.

All Council members agreed to keep the Resolution on the agenda.

Denise Acosta, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council to offer her thanks to the administration and Council members for working with the United NEPA Alliance and for all the help they always provide to her.

Mr. Brooks thanked Ms. Acosta for all her involvement in the City organizations, like the Kirby Family Center.

Mr. Marconi also thanked Ms. Acosta for her involvement in the organizations.

Maryann Valez, United NEPA Alliance, appeared before Council to read a letter from a resident speaking in favor of the organization and the good they do for the city residents.

Mrs. McBride thanked Ms. Acosta and Ms. Valez for the tremendous amount of change they are making in the community.

Mark Shaffer, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Resolutions for 43 Monroe Street and the Parking Authority.

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)

RESOLUTION NO. R0048-22

A Resolution of the City Council, of the City of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania declaring its intent to follow the schedules and procedures for the disposition of records as set forth in the Municipal Records Manual approved December 16, 2008 (as amended March 28, 2019).

Whereas, a Local Government Records Committee was created by Act 428 of 1968 and empowered thereby to make rules and regulations for records disposition; and

Whereas, the Municipal Records Manual was approved by said committee on December 16, 2008; and

Whereas, the City of Wilkes-Barre desires to dispose of records according to statutory requirements;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the City Council of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, that it intends to follow the schedules and procedures for disposition of records as set forth in the Municipal Records Manual approved on December 16, 2008 (as amended March 28, 2019).

Office/ Department: Health Department

<u>Box Number, Records title, dates</u>	<u>Cubic Feet</u>
(No box number) 2006 General Files/Misc	1.26
(No box number) 2006 Patient Records	1.26
(No box number) 2006 Return to sender mailings/ Certified Stub returns	<u>1.26</u>
Total	<u>3.78</u>

RESOLUTION NO. R0049-22

A Resolution of the City Council, of the City of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania declaring its intent to follow the schedules and procedures for the disposition of records as set forth in the Municipal Records Manual approved December 16, 2008 (as amended March 28, 2019).

Whereas, a Local Government Records Committee was created by Act 428 of 1968 and empowered thereby to make rules and regulations for records disposition; and

Whereas, the Municipal Records Manual was approved by said committee on December 16, 2008; and

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Office/Department: Accounts & Finance

<u>Box Number, Record title, dates</u>	<u>Cubic Feet</u>
TO-24 2018 Tax Bills	1.26
Total	<u>1.26</u>

RESOLUTION NO. R0050-22

A Resolution of the City Council, of the City of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania declaring its intent to follow the schedules and procedures for the disposition of records as set forth in the Municipal Records Manual approved December 16, 2008 (as amended March 28, 2019).

Whereas, a Local Government Records Committee was created by Act 428 of 1968 and empowered thereby to make rules and regulations for records disposition; and

Whereas, the Municipal Records Manual was approved by said committee on December 16, 2008; and

Whereas, the City of Wilkes-Barre desires to dispose of records according to statutory requirements;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the City Council of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, that it intends to follow the schedules and procedures for disposition of records as set forth in the Municipal Records Manual approved on December 16, 2008 (as amended March 28, 2019).

Office/ Department: Bureau of Operations/ Administration

<u>Box Number, record title, dates</u>	<u>Cubic Feet</u>
OP-14 – 2007 General Files	1.26
OP-17 – Planning and Zoning Land Development	1.26
Adm-24 -Intermodal Transportation Center (FTA Files)	<u>1.26</u>
Total	<u>3.78</u>

RESOLUTION NO. R0051-22

THAT the proper city officials are hereby authorized to take any and all necessary actions related to the conveyance of 43 Monroe Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania (PIN: H9SE4-034-023) to the United NEPA Alliance (or its designee) for \$1.00.

RESOLUTION NO. R0052-22

THAT the proper city officials are hereby authorized to take any and all necessary actions related to the conveyance of a vacant lot on Monroe Street (adjacent to 43 Monroe Street), Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania (PIN: H9SE4-034-022) to the United NEPA Alliance (or its designee) for \$1.00.

RESOLUTION NO. R0053-22

WHEREAS, the City received a large shipment of N95 Cool Flow Respirator masks at no cost to the City:

WHEREAS, the masks were not suitable for use by the City during the COVID-19 Pandemic:

WHEREAS, the masks would be suitable for serving the existing needs of the people of Ukraine.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the proper city officials are hereby authorized to donate 17,000 3M Cool Flow 8511 N95 masks to Ukraine.

RESOLUTION NO. R0054-22

BE IT RESOLVED that the Coal Street Community Playground and related areas are hereby designated to be named in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper city officials are hereby authorized to take any actions necessary to effectuate the designation contained herein.

MINUTES

Of the Wilkes-Barre Traffic Committee of April 28,2022

Of the Wilkes-Barre Zoning Hearing Board of April 20, 2022

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

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

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

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

Nays none.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. R0055-22

WHEREAS, the Parking Authority of the City of Wilkes-Barre ("Parking Authority") operates several parking facilities in downtown Wilkes-Barre;

WHEREAS, for many years the Parking Authority has had difficulty in operating the elevators in its parking facilities due to their age and scarcity of replacement parts;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused the Parking Authority to sustain severe financial difficulties due to the reduction of customers using its parking facilities;

WHEREAS, due to the financial difficulties, the Parking Authority has been unable to make necessary repairs to its parking facilities;

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan Act allows municipalities to provide financial assistance to Municipal Authorities which have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the City of Wilkes-Barre and the Parking Authority recognize the importance of well-kept, operational parking facilities to a vibrant downtown business district;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City council of the City of Wilkes-Barre that the proper city officials are hereby authorized to take any and all necessary actions related to the transfer of \$1,300,000.00 to the Parking Authority to be used for the repair and/or replacement of five (5) elevators and related maintenance to its downtown parking facilities.

Mr. Belusko moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nays none.

Abstain – Marconi – 1.

COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Barrett spoke about the traffic study that was done for the Cross Valley, Exit 2, onto North Wilkes-Barre Boulevard. He noticed Penn Dot replaced the stop sign post with reflectorize signs. He said this is not enough to control the traffic situation. There have been multiple fatal motor vehicles accidents at that exit and there needs to be a permanent traffic light installed. Mr. Barrett stated he will continue to push this issue with Penn Dot and the need for a traffic light.

Mr. Marconi said that he agrees with Mr. Barrett and they will continue to push for the permanent traffic light.

Mr. Barrett wanted to remind residents of the Memorial Day parade in the Parsons section starting at the Anthracite Café.

Mr. Brooks spoke about economic development, land use planning and compressive planning and how these are essential to the revitalization of the city. He spoke of a planning map he found from 2006 for the downtown area and there were 29 projects planned and 27 have been done as of today. Mr. Brooks said this type of plan needs to be done throughout the whole city, this will make the most economic use of our city's land. He pointed out there is an empty Advisory Committee in the Planning Department and is asking for the administration to try and have this committee filled to work towards an economic comprehensive plan.

Mr. Marconi presented the following:

1. A resident had called in a complaint regarding a property on Madison Street where college kids have moved out and left behind litter on the street.
2. High grass, weeds and garbage (mattress's, TVs, etc) on the city owned lots next to 46 Madison Street.
3. Multiple unit at 104 Madison Street has approximately 15 garbage bags piled up alongside the house.
4. Asked for an update on the pothole procedures.

Mr. McCormick said the pothole call-in line was created to organize the problem streets, so a list can be prepared and then the crews will be sent out to each section. Along with the city's work crew there will also be a contractor assisting due to the number of potholes throughout the city. There will be a meeting next week with the Director of Operations and the contractor to review the list and start sending out the crews.

5. Status of the Sphere Hotel project.

Mr. McCormick said they have had monthly meetings with the management of the hotel project and Sphere has a final closing on their financing. The foundation and footers are expected to be started in the next two months.

6. Update on the Railway Study.

Mr. McCormick responded that the contact person at PennDot had some concerns about the proposal, but a meeting is pending to be scheduled.

7. Fireworks asked if guidelines could be posted in the newspaper and the city website.

Mr. McCormick replied they will post a reminder about the firework guidelines in the newspaper and on the website.

Mr. Belusko reported high grass and a couch in the yard at 174 Wood Street.

Mrs. McBride asked if the second half of the American Rescue Funds have been received.

Mr. McCormick stated they have not been received yet, but the funds should be distributed by the middle of June, 2022.

Mrs. McBride asked if the Health Department could drive around the neighborhoods and notate the problem properties, ie. High grass, weeds, garbage.

Mr. McCormick replied that there was a meeting with the Health Department and that at least two days a week they will be driving through the neighborhoods and preparing a list.

Mrs. McBride reported that on the corner of East Northampton and South Meade Street they are installing car stereos on the street. The resident's concerns are they are playing the music loud to test the stereos and they are also blocking parking spaces with the extra vehicles coming in to be serviced.

Mr. McCormick said he will notify the Parking Department supervisor to stop and speak with the homeowner regarding the concerns.

Mrs. McBride reported potholes on the corner of Lehigh Street and South Meade Street.

Mrs. McBride reported that there is an empty lot with high grass and weeds next to Park Avenue Towers on Park Avenue.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Bob Kadluboski, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Council's healthcare and pension and his rights being violated.

Brian Ferri, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the benefits of a Built Environment within our City, the phycological effects of isolation, Dutch Design Principal and planning and development in the City.

Mr. Marconi asked for Mr. Ferri to email Council members the information and data he has gathered.

Mark Shaffer, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to a grant his organization, Wilkes-Barre Worker Bees, received, asked for suggestions on areas to plant trees, and how often the vacuum truck cleans the sewer grates.

Mr. Marconi asked how many trees are going to be planted.

Mr. Shaffer said with the grant money they received they plan on planting at least 100 trees and work will be done by volunteers.

Mr. Brooks suggested Mr. Shaffer reach out to Diamond City Partnership for suggestions on areas that could use trees.

Mrs. McBride suggested planting trees in the tree lawn section on South Sherman Street between Lehigh Street and Metcalfe Street.

Mr. McCormick said the vacuum truck is working in the South Wilkes-Barre section and all 600 streets will be completed.

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the Plaque for the tree that was planted on Public Square, the need for a Citizens Advisory Committee, list of bills that the City pays each month, and a sign stating No Guns allowed in City Hall.

Mrs. McBride replied that there is a state law that prohibits hanging a No Gun sign in City Hall. She stated her support of the state restricting gun access in public buildings and a gun buyback program. She said she will be meeting with administration to further discuss the program.


Mrs. McBride said a Citizens Advisory Committee would be a great benefit to the City.

Mrs. McBride said she will speak to the Controller's office to see if a monthly City report of out going payments can be created.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.


Beth Gilbert McBride, Chairperson

ATTEST:


Cathy Payne, City Clerk