

CITY OF WILKES-BARRE
PENNSYLVANIA



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 10, 2022

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

RESOLUTIONS

MINUTES

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 10, 2022

RESOLUTIONS

Authorizing the disposition of records from the Finance Office, as set forth in the Municipal Records Manual.

Reappointing Leon Schuster to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Reappointing Frank Majikes to the Police Civil Service Board.

Reappoint Phil Latinski to the Police Civil Service Board.

Appointing William Barrett to the Police Civil Service Commission.

MINUTES

Of the Traffic Committee of January 27, 2022.

Of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority of December 14, 2021.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of January 13, 2022.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of January 27, 2022.

CITY COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 10, 2022

The City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre met in Regular Session on February 10, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers, City Hall, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, for the purpose of general business. (The meeting was conducted and streamed on YouTube for public viewing due to COVID-19).

The meeting was organized with Vice Chairperson Mike Belusko in the Chair.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

Opening prayer was read by Mike Belusko.

Roll Call:

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

Also Present:

George Brown, Mayor
Charles McCormick, City Administrator
Tim Henry, City Attorney
Frank Hershberger, IT Director
Cathy Payne, City Clerk
Lisa Sanfilippo, Administrative Assistant

Absent:

McBride, Chairperson
Tracy Smith, Assistant City Clerk

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

Mr. Belusko announced that the phone line was open for anyone wishing to address Council on pending legislation.

Mr. Bob Kadluboski, Wilkes-Barre, PA phoned in relative to people not having the technology to view the meetings and stating the work session not available for viewing.

Ms. Payne stated that the work session is available on YouTube starting at 5:30 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION R0013-22

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, 2018 (as amended March 28, 2019).

Whereas, a Local Government Records Committee was created by Act 428 of 19368 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: Finance Office

<u>Box Number, Record title, dates</u>	<u>Cubic Feet</u>
General Fund Vouchers (see attached worksheet)	.54 x 69 boxes = 37.26
Posting & Check Registers (see attached worksheet)	1.26 x 8 boxes = 10.08
Property Taxes (see attached worksheet)	1.26 x 10 boxes = 12.60
Total	<u>59.94</u>

Mr. Marconi moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nays none.

Absent McBride – 1.

RESOLUTION NO. R0014-22

Whereas, Section 1401 of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Wilkes-Barre allows the Mayor, with the advice and consent of City Council, to appoint by resolution residents of the City of Wilkes-Barre to serve as members of the Zoning Hearing Board.

Whereas, it is the desire of the City of Wilkes-Barre to reappoint the person referenced below to the Zoning Hearing Board:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Leon Schuster 20 Wyndwood Drive Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705	January 24, 2027

Mr. Barrett moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nays none.

Absent – McBride – 1.

RESOLUTION NO. R0015-22

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

Whereas, it is the desire of the City of Wilkes-Barre to re-appoint the persons referenced below to the Police Civil Service Commission of the City of Wilkes-Barre;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the following persons are hereby re-appointed as members of the Police Civil Service Commission of the City of Wilkes-Barre:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Frank Majikes 52 Gordon Ave Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702	December 31, 2023

Phillip Latinski
20 Brazil Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705

December 31, 2023

The above members terms expired December 31, 2021.

Mr. Marconi moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Nays none.

Absent – McBride 1.

RESOLUTION NO. R0016-22

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 by 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 Police Civil Service Commission of the City of Wilkes-Barre.

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

Name	Term Expires
William Barrett 36 Wilcox Drive Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705	December 31, 2023

Mr. Barrett is replacing Joseph Moran who has retired from the Commission.

Mr. Belusko moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

Yea Brooks, Marconi, and Belusko (Chairperson) – 3- being a majority of the members elected to City Council.

Nays none.

Abstain Barrett – 1.

Absent McBride – 1.

MINUTES

Of the Traffic Committee of January 27, 2022.

Of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority of December 14, 2021.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of January 13, 2022.

Of the Regular Session of City Council of January 27, 2022.

Mr. Belusko moved to adopt the Minutes.

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.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

John Suchoski, Wilkes-Barre, PA, phoned in relative to the Genetti's Apartment Fire and if the apartments are current on their rental inspections.

Mr. McCormick stated they do not require a rental inspection, as they are considered a hotel, which does not get inspected on the normal two-year rental basis.

Bob Kadluboski, Wilkes-Barre, PA phoned in relative to the City Council's salaries and health coverage.

Mayor Brown replied that from what he has been informed by legal representative that the only way that could be changed is through the State Legislator. There is no one else that could decide or make changes to City Council's benefit package.

Gerry Reisinger, Kingston, PA phoned in relative to information that he sent to Council, meeting with the Army Corp of Engineers, his meeting with the Mayor of Kingston and concerns about Nesbitt and Kirby Park natural areas.

Mayor Brown told Mr. Reisinger that there was a meeting held yesterday with Chris Belleman, Executive Director, Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority, Jim Brozana, Consultant and the prior Luzerne County Engineer during the reconstruction of the levee system, Butch Frati, Director of Operations, Charles McCormick, City Administrator, Larry Newman, a Certified Urban Planner and Director of the Diamond City Partnership, John Mayday, Executive Director of the Riverfront Parks Committee and a Board Member on the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority, Mr. Caparal, State Game Warden. The conditions of the parks that Mr. Reisinger identified were discussed. It was determined the current growth buffers the levee system and the roots minimize erosion. The wild habitat for mammals and birds would be endangered by hanging their habitat. The Army Corp of Engineers incorporated the nature area into the overall reconstruction plan for the levee system during the \$200,000,000 levee raising project. Removing the overgrowth will not solve anything and it will not improve flood protection but will increase the threat of flooding. Also, the city will continue to clean the pathways, spray for knotweed and clean the trash as needed, as outlined and recommended by Vincent Catrone, Urban Forester at Pennsylvania State University.

Mayor Brown added that he did tour the area with Police Chief Coffay and there were no homeless people or signs of homeless people.

Jason Carr, Livingston, NJ phoned in relative to the Mayor's response to Bob Kadluboski, Council's salary and healthcare benefits, better access to participate in the virtual Council meetings and deplorable road conditions.

Mr. Belusko stated that the meetings can also be viewed on a cell phone.

Donald Belcastro, Wilkes-Barre, PA phoned in relative to City Hall's public access and the lack of parking.

Mayor Brown responded that there was a recent meeting to address public parking and additional spots are being identified, these will be marked with a Visitors Only sign.

Nicholas Wadas, Kingston, PA phoned in relative to the condition of Kirby Park (the whole park needing improvements).

Mayor Brown replied that there are several initiatives happening at Kirby Park. He mentioned the special needs playground that will be installed by August. He said several paved concrete walkways have been added and the main entrance into Kirby Park (off Market St), the parking lot and also the restrooms are all being upgraded to ADA compliance. Mayor Brown also said there will be other upgrades throughout Kirby Park in the near future.

Jim Burden, Wilkes-Barre, PA phoned in relative to the ice rink on Public Square and huge potholes by Coal Street Park and Casey Park.

Mayor Brown replied that he has seen multiple people using the ice rink. Next season there will be ice skate rentals available. Mayor Brown said he feels that the ice rink is an investment for the City. He stated that the rink being synthetic makes it easy to remove when the season is over. He told Mr. Burden that potholes are being addressed with a soft patch for now due to the weather.

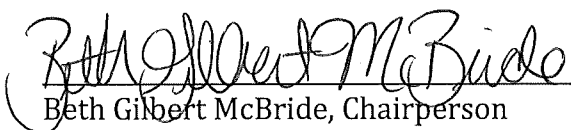
Steve Mocariski, Citizens Voice, phoned in relative to the Police Department new hires (are there eight vacancies or will they be retirees).

Mayor Brown responded that there will be some current retirements and also future retirements. He mentioned there will be a new Police Civil Service test this year to obtain candidates to fill vacancies.

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA emailed in regards to the use of the American Rescue Act monies, the non profit agencies taking 10% administrative costs, the forgiveness of the small business loans and allowing extra time for property tax payments.

Mayor Brown replied that \$7.1 million dollars has been allocated back to the residents and business's in the City from the American Rescue Act. He further stated that the 10% fee the nonprofit organizations receive is in the guidelines from the American Rescue Act. Mayor Brown said, that along with the \$300.00 stimulus that residents received, the home remodel program is also available for up to \$7500.00. He said there is available funds for residents who want to purchase a home in the City. Mayor Brown spoke about the parking meter fee that was reduced by a \$1.00 an hour. These initiatives are helping the City residents and new businesses.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.


Beth Gilbert McBride, Chairperson


Cathy Payne, City Clerk

