

CITY OF WILKES-BARRE
PENNSYLVANIA



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL

AUGUST 11, 2022

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)

ORDINANCES

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 11, 2022

CONSENT AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS)

Endorsing AMERICA250PA and their mission to educate, preserve, innovate and celebrate every Pennsylvanian in every county.

Authorizing the proper city officials to sign any and all necessary documents related to awarding the contract to the lowest responsible bidder, Pennsy Supply, in the amount of \$3,254,919.00 for the American Rescue Plan Stormwater and Sewer Upgrades, Street Paving and ADA Accessibility Project Phase II. Payment to be made from the American Rescue Plan.

MINUTES

Of the Regular Session of City Council of July 14, 2022.

Of the Traffic Committee of June 23, 2022.

Of the Planning Commission of June 15, 2022.

Of the Zoning Hearing Board of June 15, 2022.

CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 11, 2022

ORDINANCES

FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 5 OF 2022 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILKES-BARRE, COUNTY OF LUZERNE, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH OTHER PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITIES OF LUZERNE COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF FORMING, ESTABLISHING, AND JOINING A LAND BANK TO BE KNOWN AS THE LOWER SOUTH VALLEY LAND BANK. **(SECOND AND FINAL READING)**

FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 6 OF 2022 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE III, DIVISION 2 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILKES-BARRE ENTITLED "EMPLOYEES' PENSION FUND". **(SECOND AND FINAL READING)**

FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 7 OF 2022 - AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILKES-BARRE, COUNTY OF LUZERNE, AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING THE 2022 ACTION PLAN ENCOMPASSING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM AND HOME PROGRAM BUDGETS FOR PROGRAM YEAR FORTY-EIGHT AND APPROPRIATING SPECIFIC SUMS ESTIMATED TO BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES." **(SECOND AND FINAL READING)**

FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 8 OF 2022 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SEC. 29-204 OF ARTICLE IV. OF CHAPTER 29 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILKES-BARRE ENTITLED "DESIGNATION OF STREETS FOR RESIDENTIAL PERMIT PARKING." **(FIRST READING)**

CITY COUNCIL

AUGUST 11, 2022

The City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre met in Regular Session on August 11, 2022, at 5:17 p.m., (immediately following the Work Session) 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.

Councilperson Mike Belusko read the prayer.

Roll Call:

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

Also Present:

George C. Brown, Mayor
Tim Henry, 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.

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

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to Council making an exemption for residents to have more time to speak on agenda issues, File of Council No. 6 of 2022 (pension), File of Council No. 5 of 2022 (land bank) and the Resolution relative to the stormwater and sewer upgrades, street paving and ADA Accessibility Project Phase II.

Mayor Brown explained that the City is utilizing American Rescue Plan monies to help correct some of the sewers and stormwater deficiencies in the city. He said the city has established what areas should be addressed in Phase II. The Mayor said that a third phase will be done after Phase II is completed.

The Mayor said the city will be partnering with other municipalities as part of the Lower South Valley Land Bank. The City of Wilkes-Barre has a blight plan that covers problematic houses throughout the city. The houses on this plan need to either be torn down or repaired because they are a danger to the neighborhood. The land bank will be an extra part of the blight remediation plan. The city will be working with other municipalities and will be able to apply for grant monies.

Jason Carr, Saylorsburg, PA appeared before Council relative to File of Council No. 8 of 2022 (adding Sterling Avenue – permit parking), File of Council No. 5 of 2022 (land bank – how will it be funded) and the Resolution relative to the stormwater and sewer upgrades, street paving and ADA Accessibility Project Phase II (reduce the maintenance fee/sewer maintenance account).

Mr. McCormick explained that there is not a specific sewer maintenance account. The money collected is placed in the general fund.

Mr. McCormick said that the Administration is anticipating that by using ARP funds to resolve some of the repair necessities of the water and sewer infrastructure should reflect in a lower cost and a lower expense ratio for a budget, but he said he doesn't know how that is going to come out on all of the city's other repairs of general roads. He added that these roads won't have to be repaired for some time, so the city won't have expenses on those streets (after they are repaired). This should result in a reduction.

Mr. Carr asked how the city and the Administration collect sewer maintenance fees and they are not delineated into a separate account. He asked how the city accounts for that money.

Mr. McCormick said there are vastly more expenses for road repairs, sewer replacement, etc., in all the general budget and they far out way the income that the city collects in fees. He said it is allocated in the general budget and it is included in repair work.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. R0069-22 to and including the minutes appeared on the Consent Agenda (Resolutions).

RESOLUTION NO. R0069-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WILKES-BARRE, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
SUPPORTING THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES
SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL (AMERICA250PA)

Whereas, the Pennsylvania legislature and the Governor created AMERICA250PA in 2018 to plan, encourage, develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States and Pennsylvania's integral role in that event and the role of its people on the nation's past, present and future; and

Whereas, AMERICA250PA hopes to engage ALL Pennsylvanians and ALL 67 counties through their many signature and officially recognized programs, project and events over the next four years by inspiring future leaders and celebrating all Pennsylvanians contributions to the nation over the last 250 years; and

Whereas, by adoption of AMERICA250PA's four pillars of EPIC, we hope to educate, preserve, innovate, and celebrate.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, and It Hereby Resolved, that the City of Wilkes-Barre hereby endorses AMERICA250PA and their mission to educate, preserve, innovate and celebrate EVERY Pennsylvania in EVERY county; and

It Is Further Resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Luzerne County legislative delegation and AMERICA250PA Commission.

RESOLUTION NO. R0070-22

Whereas, the City of Wilkes-Barre advertised for bid the American Rescue Plan Stormwater and Sewer Upgrades, Street Paving and ADA Accessibility Project Phase II on July 12, 2022 and July 13, 2022.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre that the proper City officials are hereby authorized to sign any and all necessary documents related to awarding the contract to the lowest responsible bidder, Pennsy Supply, Inc., in the amount of \$3,254,919.00, for the American Rescue Plan Storm Sewer Upgrades, Street Paving and ADA Accessibility Project Phase II.

Streets (or portions thereof) being paved are:

- Gordon Avenue (Willow Street to Barney Farms)
- Empire Street (New Market to E. Northampton Street)

- Elm Street (N. Franklin to N. Washington Street)
- Wilkes-Barre Boulevard (E. Market to Hazle Street)
- Academy Street (Carey to Old River Road)
- Irving Place (Riverside Drive to New Mallory Pl)
- Orchard (Susquehanna St. to Dauphin Lane)
- W. River Street (Academy St. to W. Ross Street)
- Conyngham Ave (Penn Ave to Scott Street)
- Austin Ave (RR Tracks to Scott Street)

MINUTES

Of the Regular Session of City Council of July 14, 2022.

Of the Traffic Committee of June 23, 2022.

Of the Planning Commission of June 15, 2022.

Of the Zoning Hearing Board of June 15, 2022.

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

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

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

Nays none.

ORDINANCES

The following Ordinances were voted on as a Consent Agenda (Ordinances):

FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 5 OF 2022 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILKES-BARRE, COUNTY OF LUZERNE, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH OTHER PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITIES OF LUZERNE COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF FORMING, ESTABLISHING, AND JOINING A LAND BANK TO BE KNOWN AS THE LOWER SOUTH VALLEY LAND BANK (SECOND AND FINAL READING)

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

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

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

Nays none.

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Marconi said that he has received complaints about a big box truck on West Maple Street. Mr. Marconi referenced the Ordinance that prohibits this type of vehicle to be parked on the street. He added that the truck is also parked in a permit parking area. He asked the Administration to have someone look into the matter.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Linda Joseph, President, Rolling Mill Hill Residents Association, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the condition of the rowhomes on Blackman Street.

Pamela Keefe, Wapwallopen, PA appeared before Council relative to the homeless, First Hospital closing, Substance Use Disorder and a drop-in day center.

Mrs. McBride said she thinks what is happening with First Hospital and the other behavior health services closing is horrendous. She hopes the city is prepared to handle what comes from those closings. She said she doesn't think people understand the magnitude of it or how many people go for treatment at those facilities.

Mayor Brown mentioned that he met last week with a property owner/contractor and we are looking at a place that will cost \$278,000.00. The city worked with Mr. Pashinski and wrote a grant and it was forwarded the same day to the state. It is currently under review. If the city gets the money, there will be a brand-new facility that people can go to and take showers, get meals and utilize a recreational area.

Mayor Brown added that the city has given a million dollars out through the American Rescue Plan to 24 agencies. That money is to be used for several things, including homelessness.

Ms. Keefe asked the Mayor who will be running the facility.

The Mayor replied that the city has had an agency offer to run it.

Chairperson McBride announced for those coming in late, that the Work Session began at 5:00 p.m. with the Regular Session to immediately follow. The meeting was properly advertised.

Kate Favata, Community Relations Liaison, Clean Slate Centers, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to the closing of First Hospital Community Counseling, substance use disorder and homelessness in the City and access to treatment.

Jason Carr, Saylorsburg, PA appeared before Council relative to the condition of the city, employees' overtime, City Clerk's salary/overtime, and Zoning Officer Bill Harris' overtime.

Mrs. McBride told Mr. Carr that the City Clerk and the Zoning Officer do not receive overtime.

Mr. Carr said that he will produce documents that show otherwise.


Mayor Brown reported that the City of Wilkes-Barre is having a record year for people coming into the city and purchasing properties.

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to forming a Citizens' Advisory Committee, lack of a public swimming pool in the city, and the City Controller being charged with abusing his dogs (Mayor and Council pressure Mr. Snyder to resign).

Robert Butka, Wilkes-Barre, PA appeared before Council relative to high grass at the city-owned lot next to his home at 1306 Scott Street.

Mayor Brown said he will get the information after the meeting and he will have it cleaned up.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.


Beth Gilbert McBride, Chairperson

ATTEST:


Cathy Payne, City Clerk

