

Minutes of the West Pittston Borough Council Meeting of APRIL 3, 2024

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1st ORDER- CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Quinn at the West Pittston Borough Building, 555 Exeter Avenue West Pittston, PA.

2ND ORDER- ROLL CALL

Roll Call was taken by Secretary Kendra-lee O'Brien. Council: Mike Bugelholl, Jim Butera, Jared Jordan, Ian Stevenson, Toni Valenti, President Ellen Quinn, and Mayor Angelo Alfano, as well as Attorney Bufalino. Absent: Bill Bohn

3RD ORDER- EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

An executive session was held on March 20, 2024, from 7:45PM to 8:10PM discussing legal issues with the public safety department at the West Pittston Borough Building

4TH ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

None was given.

5TH ORDER- APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve and accept the minutes from March 6, 2024, as prepared, and to place them on file in the Borough Office.

By: Jordan 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried

6TH ORDER- REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Motion to accept and approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted and place it on file in the Borough office.

By: Jordan 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion to accept and approve the Mayor's Monthly Report, totaling \$403.57, as submitted and place it on file in the Borough office.

By: Jordan 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion to accept and approve the Code Officer's Monthly Report, totaling \$3,735.00, as submitted and place it on file in the Borough office.

By: Jordan 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

7TH ORDER- CORRESPONDENCE- Secretary O'Brien reported the following correspondence:

Letter of street closure requests from Cherry Blossom Festival Committee for Cherry Blossom Festival and street closure request for May 4, 2024: Exeter Avenue to

Wyoming, Wyoming to Philadelphia, Philadelphia to Susquehanna, and Susquehanna to Luzerne Avenue

Letter from Northeast Landbank Authority requesting appointment of Board Member

Letter from Meals on Wheels of Greater Pittston requesting donation

Letter from West Pittston American Legion requesting participation in Memorial Day parade

Resident request of service for sewer/sewage issue on Ann St and Susquehanna with picture

Letter from Wyoming Area Kiwanis and the West Pittston American Legion requesting street closures of Wyoming Avenue from Linden Street, and including Linden, to 1890 Wyoming Avenue, Exeter, with certificate of insurance.

8TH ORDER- SOLICITOR- Attorney Bufalino

Attorney Bufalino stated that he had nothing to report this month but noted that the resolutions for the street closures have been prepared and will be dependent on insurance.

9th ORDER-REILLY ASSOCIATES- Reilly & Associates

Motion to approve Damon, Salem and Borough parking lot project lowest bid from M&J Excavation, Inc of Bloomsburg for \$179,218.50, which will be funded by a Local Share Account (I.S.A) grant.

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

10th ORDER- MAYOR

Police Report given by Mayor Alfano. There were 411 calls in total for the Wyoming Regional Police, with 76 calls being in West Pittston. He also announced that as on Tuesday, WARP is the official owner of the previous PA State Police barracks in Wyoming. He also mentioned that the ribbon cutting ceremony will still be taking place on Friday at 1pm at the new building.

Motion made to accept the monthly public safety report and keep it on file.

By: Jordan 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

11th ORDER-ADMINISTRATION

Motion made to approve payroll for March 8, 2024, in the amount of \$14,486.19, and March 23, 2024, in the amount of \$11,569.62, totaling \$26,055.81

By: Butera 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the General Fund prepaid bills \$118,822.55

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the General Fund bills \$1,115.09

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the Interfund Sewer Transfer from Sewer Account #9861026228 to Sewer Account #9012002792 in the amount of \$150,000.00 on March 26, 2024

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the Interfund Sewer Transfer from Sewer Account #9861026228 to Sewer Account #9019436876 in the amount of \$40,000.00 on March 26, 2024

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to advertise the amended Floodplain Ordinance agreement

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the lawn maintenance contract to DeAngelo Landscape LLC of Taylor, PA, for 2024-2026, totaling \$15,540 each year.

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the AFG WPB NUF Pension Plan Administrative Fee- 1st Quarter 2024 \$364.84

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the AFG WPD Police Pension Plan Administrative Fee- 1st Quarter 2024 \$366.13

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion to authorize preparation of resolution for street closure of Susquehanna Avenue between Luzerne Avenue and Montgomery on May 4th and 5th, 2024 for Cherry Blossom Festival; and for Cherry Blossom Festival Parade on May 4, 2024: Exeter Avenue to Wyoming, Wyoming to Philadelphia, Philadelphia to Susquehanna, and Susquehanna to Luzerne Avenue

By: Butera 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the FiberTel Inc quote for phone services for \$492.96 and conference phone for 349.88, totaling \$842.84

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the Golden Business Machines, Inc computer updates and replacements for 6 computers quote, totaling \$8,952

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve payment of the West Side Council of Government composting association in the amount of \$1,500.00

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve payment of the West Side Council of Government annual dues in the amount of \$400.00 and annual membership fee for equipment in the amount of \$3,900.00 totaling \$4,300.00

By: Butera 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion to table the authorization of the Light Pollution Ordinance draft

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to appoint Judy Aita of 300 York Avenue for a 5-year term to the Northeast Landbank Authority representing West Pittston Borough.

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve payment for the 2024 yearly invoice from Course Vector in the amount of \$649.20 for West Pittston website services

By: Butera 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to authorize drafting of the resolution for street closures of Linden and Wyoming Avenue for Memorial Day Parade on May 27, 2024, from 11:30 to

12:30p

By: Butera 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

12TH ORDER-CODE ENFORCEMENT & ZONING (Barry Isett)

Motion to accept the monthly permit and case report for March 2024, submitted by Barry Isett, to be kept on file in the Borough Office.

By: Jordan 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve Barry Isett & Associates (February) Invoice # WV-1866071 in the amount of \$5,780.00

By: Jordan 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to accept the BIU Inspections report for February, as submitted by BIU, to be kept in file in the Borough Office

By: Jordan 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

13th ORDER- PUBLIC SAFETY- see also Mayor's report and Fire Chief's report

Motion made to approve hiring Adelio Merlino of 500 Exeter Avenue for part-time fire truck driver at a rate of \$15.00 per hour, both drug test and background check complete, with an immediate effective date

By: Stevenson 2nd: Jordan Motion Carried by All

Motion made to authorize Attorney Bufalino to prepare a resolution for a proposed Opioid Settlement Program commission. (Attorney Bufalino noted that the legal counsel involved in the Opioid Settlement Program will need to be involved in the resolution and commission)

By: Stevenson 2nd: Jordan Motion Carried by All

Motion made to establish an Opioid settlement program commission

By: Stevenson 2nd: Butera Motion Carried by All

14th ORDER-PUBLIC WORKS

Motion to accept the March 2024 report submitted by Neil Williams.

By: Stevenson 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by all

Motion to table hiring of DPW supervisor

By: Stevenson

15th ORDER- PARKS & RECREATION

The 2024 Meeting schedule for the Parks & Recreation Committee has been advertised and is available in the Borough office or on the Borough website.

Motion made to accept the letter of interest from Ariane F. Pupali to serve on the Parks & Recreation Board for a 5-year term ending April 2029

By: Stevenson 2nd: Butera Motion Carried by all

Motion made to accept the letter of interest from Alexandra Russin to serve on the Parks & Recreation Board to fulfill the end of Roxanne Arreguin's term that expires December 31, 2024

By: Stevenson 2nd: Bugelhol Motion Carried by all

16th ORDER- SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Motion to accept the March 12, 2024, monthly report and minutes as submitted by the Shade Tree Commission and keep it on file in the office.

By: Stevenson 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

17th ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resident (Maria Paulino of 319 Blackman Street) brought to the Council's attention an issue with her housing, in that the other half of her duplex has a different owner and its condition is affecting her home. Attorney Bufalino recommended legal counsel and stated that the Borough cannot give legal counsel but that it is noted and will be discussed with the Code Officer.

Resident of Salem Street brought up safety concerns with four empty homes on her street, she said that one of the homes had been condemned last year and she believes that there are people living in one of the empty homes. Attorney Bufalino asked Mayor Alfano to request WARP to add that street to their regular patrols.

Resident suggested that meetings be streamed so those who can't come physically to the meetings can still be aware of what is going on. He also suggested/requested that there be street side cardboard pick up. He also asked where the records are kept that residents can have access to.

19th ORDER- ANNOUNCEMENTS

20th ORDER- ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM by Valenti, 2nd by Quinn

Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kendra-lee O'Brien". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kendra-lee O'Brien, Borough Secretary and Secretary to Council