

Minutes of the West Pittston Borough Council Meeting of August 2, 2023

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1st ORDER- CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 6:34 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: William Bohn, Jim Butera, John Hood, Ray Judge, Ian Stevenson, President Ellen Quinn, Mayor Angelo Alfano. Absent: Jared Jordan

3RD ORDER- EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

An executive session was held on July 19, 2023, at 6:00 PM at the West Pittston Borough Building concerning personnel issues and legal issues for the Department of Public Works and the Wyoming Area Regional Police.

4TH ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

No participation

5TH ORDER- APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes from July 5, 2023, as prepared and to place them on file in the Borough Office.

By: Bohn 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

6TH ORDER- REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Motion to accept the reports of the Borough officers as prepared and place them on file in the Borough Office.

By: Bohn 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

7TH ORDER- CORRESPONDENCE

Kendra-lee O'Brien reported the following correspondences have been placed on file in the Borough office:

- A. WVSA - monthly report
- B. Email from resident, Jennifer Healey, about flooding and standing water on the corner of Susquehanna and Ann- attached photos
- C. Email from resident, Lois Menichini, about Smith's Tires having cars parked and blocking the sidewalks making it unsafe to walk that part of Exeter Avenue
- D. 2023 Wyoming Valley Run (September 3, 2023) letter of Support from Mayor Alfano

E. Email from Lynn Burbank concerning handicap swing in Morris Park

F. Request for Street Closure of Baltimore Avenue between Wyoming Avenue and Fourth Street on August 19 between 4 and 9pm, submitted by Aren and Jose Gonzalez

G. Handicap parking sign for 126 Warren Street submitted by Dorothea Cienki

H. ARPA Donation request letter from the West Pittston Fire Department in the amount of \$35,100 for MES to purchase equipment

8TH ORDER- SOLICITOR

Nothing to report.

9th ORDER-REILLY ASSOCIATES

Nothing to report.

10th ORDER- MAYOR

Nothing to report.

Chief Turner reported 143 calls in West Pittston, having night shifts do building checks more regularly now that the department is staffed. An armed robbery occurred that is being actively investigated with the FBI. ICAT program cooperation resulted in the arrest of an individual from Monroe County. Narcotics executed a search warrant in Kingston, one of the first narcotics investigations for the Department, finding fentanyl and money.

11th ORDER-ADMINISTRATION

Motion to approve payrolls of July 14, 2023, in the amount of \$20,035.16; and July 28, 2023, in the amount of \$17,616.73, totaling \$37,651.89.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve General Fund Prepaid bills totaling \$174,423.15

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve General Funds bills totaling \$10,997.33

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve Sewer Maintenance fund bills in the amount of \$10,997.33

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve the street closure of Baltimore Avenue between Wyoming Avenue and Fourth Street on August 19 between 4 and 9pm, submitted by Aren and Jose Gonzalez.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve the payment of Borton Lawson Payment Application Number 7, totaling \$82,769.52 for the Traffic Signal Improvements project.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion made to hold in abeyance the COVID-19 personnel policy until further notice.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to request for an advertisement to open and amend the 2023 West Pittston Borough budget to reflect the increase in the union Department of Public Works salaries from \$16.88/hour to \$20.00/hour.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to declare the Proclamation of September 12 as West Pittston Library Day.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve a cost share commitment letter for the non-federal share of \$500,000 from reserve fund balance for West Pittston Levee scoping project.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

President Quinn: The commitment letter is about a grant that the Borough expects to receive from Senator Casey's office for \$1.5 million to further the activities of the levee and the scoping project. Once the Borough receives it, the Borough will seek funding for the \$500,000. Some options may be the State LSA grant, local LSA grant, and the Redevelopment Authority.

12TH ORDER-CODE ENFORCEMENT & ZONING

Motion to accept the monthly report, submitted by Barry Isett, to be kept on file in the Borough Office.

By: Bohn 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

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

By: Bohn 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve Barry Isset & Associates (March) Invoice # WV-1776608 for Zoning/Code Enforcement in the amount of \$5,971.25

By: Bohn 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve Barry Isset & Associates (June) Invoice # WV-179638 for Zoning/Code Enforcement in the amount of \$8,096.25

By: Bohn 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

13th ORDER- PUBLIC SAFETY

Motion made to hire William Wagner of 55 Mason Street, Exeter Pennsylvania 18643 for Fire Department Fire Truck Driver at \$15/hour

By: Stevenson 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

14th ORDER-PUBLIC WORKS

Motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between West Pittston Borough and the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local #76 concerning the increase for the union Department of Public Works employees.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by all

15th ORDER- PARKS & RECREATION

Nothing to report.

16th ORDER- WEST PITTSTON TOMORROW

Nothing to report

17th ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resident asked about the commitment letter and what the money will actually be going towards. President Quinn said that the money will be going towards the design and engineering work about the levee.

Resident said that some trees have covered some signs in the borough, especially at Blackman and Excelsior and can DPW take care of some of them.

Resident said that there is a tree growing out of the sewer in front of her house and who should she contact to get that taken care of. President Quinn said to contact DPW.

18th ORDER- ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements at this time.

19th ORDER- ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 PM by Stevenson, 2nd by Quinn

Submitted,

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