

**1<sup>st</sup> ORDER - CALL TO ORDER**

The Meeting was called to order by President Quinn at the West Pittston Borough Building 555 Exeter Ave. West Pittston, PA.

**2<sup>nd</sup> ORDER – ROLL CALL**

Council: Mr. Bohn, Mr. Butera, Mr. Judge, Mr. Stevenson, President Quinn.

Members absent: Mr. Hood, Mr. Jordan, Mayor Alfano

**3<sup>rd</sup> ORDER – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Judy Aita, 300 York – asked about item 9 J on agenda. President Quinn responded that was for funding in the amount of \$706,066.00 for sidewalks in town where they are lacking them. Judy asked if they will be handicap access with sidewalks. President Quinn said yes. Judy then commented how does the handicap ramps fall into place when the DPW doesn't even pick up cardboard for the handicap.

**4<sup>th</sup> ORDER – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 6, 2022**

On motion of Mr. Bohn, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, accepted and approved the minutes as prepared and place them on file.

**5<sup>th</sup> ORDER – REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

On motion of Mr. Bohn, second by Mr. Judge, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, accepted the reports as prepared and place them on file.

**6<sup>th</sup> ORDER – CORRESPONDENCE**

Secretary Ms. Kijek reported the following correspondence have been placed on file in the borough office.

A. WVSA - monthly report

**7<sup>th</sup> ORDER – SOLICITOR**

Attorney Bufalino called in for this meeting and reported on the Proclamations that he prepared for the Eagle Scouts, Eli Harding, Logan Harding and Blaise Minnick.

**8<sup>th</sup> ORDER – MAYOR**

Mayor Alfano was absent from this meeting.

**9<sup>th</sup> ORDER – ADMINISTRATION**

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to ratify payrolls of July 1, 2022 in the amount of \$26,148.83, July 15, 2022 in the amount of \$26,193.15 and July 29, 2022 in the amount of \$22,435.63 totaling \$74,777.61.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to ratify General Fund prepaid bills totaling \$42,998.64.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve General Fund bills totaling \$1,269.01.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve the Sewer Maintenance Fund bills totaling \$10,959.00.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Bohn, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to accept the Stormwater Management Ordinance Amendment. .

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve the participation in the PennDOT Consulting Party Application regarding historical value of the bridges.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve payment to Barry Isett & Associates for Invoices #01684452 in the amount of \$127.50 for flood plain services.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to ratify the interfund Sewer Account transfer from acct.#9861026228 to account #9012002792 in the amount of \$300,000.00 on June 16, 2022.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve the Multi Municipal Covid-19 Limited Home Rehab Program Resolution, partnering with Pittston City and Pittston Redevelopment.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve the LSA Statewide DCED Grant Resolution in the amount of \$706,066.00 for the Neighborhood Accessibility Improvements Project.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve the Agreement of Sale for the Armory between the Commonwealth

**9<sup>th</sup> ORDER – ADMINISTRATION (continued)**

of PA General Services and West Pittston Borough in the amount of \$35,000.00 pending the title search.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to participate in the Land Banks purchase of 326 Franklin Street, West Pittston.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve the Title Search proposal from United One for the Armory in the amount of \$2,299.05.

**10<sup>th</sup> ORDER – CODE ENFORCEMENT/ZONING**

On motion of Mr. Bohn, second by Mr. Judge, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to accept the code enforcement/zoning monthly report and put on file in the Borough office.

On motion of Mr. Bohn, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve payment to Barry Isett & Associates for Invoices #0168453 in the amount of \$5,078.75 for code enforcement/zoning services.

**11<sup>th</sup> ORDER – PUBLIC SAFETY**

On motion of Mr. Stevenson, second by Mr. Butera, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to accept the Public Safety monthly report and put on file at the borough office.

**12<sup>th</sup> ORDER – PUBLIC WORKS**

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Judge, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to accept the Public Works monthly report and put on file at the borough office.

**13<sup>th</sup> ORDER – PARKS & RECREATION**

Parks & Recreation business was called for none was given.

**14<sup>th</sup> ORDER- WEST PITTSTON TOMORROW**

West Pittston Tomorrow business was called for none was given.

**15<sup>th</sup> ORDER – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Judy Aita, 300 York Ave. – was very upset about the butchering of the trees on tree lawn located by Antonio’s Pizza on Luzerne Avenue. She said those trees were part of a street scaping project and who did this to those trees. Those trees were planted as part of that project from grant money and recommended by Reilly Associates and approved by an Arborist. They could not have had a professional Arborist do this because a professional would not have done this to those trees.

There needs to be some sort of repercussion there are rules in this town. Council expects some residents to follow the rules and other residents get away with not following the rules and nothing is done. President Quinn responded Council was not aware of these trees being trimmed and we will look into it and get back you.

Rob Lemoncelli, 3 York Ave. – spoke about a neighbor who has a large dog that bit his pregnant wife and then mauled another lady a week ago. He has a 2 year old and is concerned about this dog. He was told by police there is nothing we can do. What can I do to protect my family from this dog? President Quinn responded that this is the first Council is hearing of it and we will look into this and get back to him.

Anthony Rosati, 137 Philadelphia Ave. – wanted to may sure the amount on item 9H of agenda wasn’t 3 million. President Quinn said no it is \$300,000. He also requested a copy of the report in item 10A on agenda, Code Enforcement Monthly Report. President Quinn gave him her copy.

John Disinferdinand, 128 Philadelphia Ave. – inquired about when the Regional Police department will be up and running. Police aren’t showing up and State Police aren’t showing up. He also had concerns about an incident that he said took place at 230 Liberty regarding guns and prostitutes. And asked if the Borough has anything in place to hold property owners responsible for who they rent to? President Quinn responded that this is the first we are hearing about this incident on Liberty and Mayor isn’t here to comment. Also, it is in the Borough Code Law that Police cannot share information with Council once an investigation is ongoing. Mr. Stevenson added that if it is an ongoing investigation we would not have information on it. Mr. Disinferdinand commented that on the jackets of the people that showed up at 230 Liberty it said D.A. President Quinn also commented that she has discussed with the Code Enforcement Officer about putting together a committee to look into a Rental Registration and having landlords have responsibility. West Pittston Borough Police is a Civil Service Police Department and Council plans on hiring another officer as soon as the Civil Service Committee is ready.

Jonathan Nelson, 34 Exeter Ave. - commented that he would like to volunteer to be on the committee for the rental registration if citizens are allowed. President Quinn replied that she has his contact information because they have talked on the phone. Jim Butera commented that the

**15<sup>th</sup> ORDER – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (continued)**

advantage of having Barry Isett doing code enforcement is they also work for other towns. Mr. Nelson then asked if that Stormwater Management Ordinance that was just passed the same one that was tabled at previous meetings. President Quinn said yes and Tom Reilly the Borough Engineer is here to explain the Stormwater Management Ordinance and answer any questions. Tom Reilly explained that the Stormwater Management Ordinance is not new it was passed in 2008 and amended in 2011. This recent one is just another amendment to the original. Mr. Nelson said he is concerned about the offensives and fines. Mr. Reilly responded that they aren't new. The ordinance said the fine could be \$1,000 but the borough changed it to \$500. He then explained thoroughly about the Stormwater Management Ordinance and that the borough and every borough in PA must pass this ordinance. PA. has to comply with it. The ordinance is a model template written by DEP not the Borough. Anyone can write a letter to DEP concerning the content. The Borough cannot change the words. West Pittston has partnered with WVSA to help with this Stormwater Management. He said you cannot put anything down the storm drains except stormwater. All the information regarding the Stormwater Management Ordinance is on the West Pittston Borough website. This current amendment has very light changes to the original 2008 ordinance. It is not a new ordinance. Mr. Nelson then asked about the enforcement of the ordinance. President Quinn responded that Mr. Scalzo, DPW Supervisor will be doing the enforcing and he is trained and took classes in Stormwater Management. Mr. Stevenson commented that he will speak with Mr. Scalzo about putting his photo on the Borough website so everyone knows what he looks like. President Quinn commented that the penalty and the 1 acre were changed in this ordinance and this ordinance was written for us it came to us from DEP we had no input.

Ryan Wasser, 4 Exeter Ave. – commented on when Tony Scalzo could go on properties and if Council had addressed this part of the Stormwater Ordinance. Tom Reilly commented again that the Borough cannot change the words of the Stormwater Management Ordinance and that Mr. Wasser can contact DEP in Harrisburg to suggest changes to their model ordinance and it is the same language that has been in the ordinance for years. President Quinn commented that we had no say in how this ordinance was written. It came to us this way. Mr. Stevenson commented that if someone would come on your property regarding Stormwater at 3 a.m. contact us and let us know. President Quinn added the DPW works 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. so Mr. Scalzo would be around those times not 3 a.m.

Anthony Rosati, 137 Philadelphia Ave. – said he has a suggestion about the committee that Council is putting together regarding bad tenants. President Quinn corrected him and said that is not what she said. The

**15<sup>th</sup> ORDER – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (continued)**

committee isn't about bad tenants but landlords with rentals. Mr. Rosati asked that blighted properties also be on this committee discussion. He talked about a blighted property near him pulling a permit but not doing any work on property. President Quinn said she will ask Jarett the Code Officer about this property and she is planning to ride around the town with the Code Enforcement Officer to see these blighted properties.

John Disinferdinand, 128 Philadelphia Ave. – he said Tony Scalzo can come to your property and knock on your door but we can't get a police officer to come to our door to investigate a hit and run. President Quinn commented that we are starting to repeat items and we hear you and we will look into.

Matt Klus, 405 Luzerne Ave. – reported that there are no crosswalk lines painted at Luzerne and Wyoming and there is no button to push to cross can we add these to this corner and the other corners. President Quinn responded we will look into this and there is a Green Light Go project that we can look into for funding for this.

Lynn Burbank reported that the Shade Tree Commission meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. and it is advertised in newspaper. Also she said the Shade Tree Commission was not aware or told about the trees that were hacked on Exeter Avenue. There are no wires in this area so those trees should have never been touched. They are young trees and would not need pruning for 3 to 5 years.

Judy Aita, 300 York Ave. – asked if the Shade Tree Ordinances can be enforced and if there are penalties for the trees that were hacked on Luzerne Ave. Lynn Burbank said yes \$300 a tree. President Quinn added that yes we enforce ordinances why have them if there not enforced.

**16<sup>th</sup> ORDER – ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Mr. Stevenson, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gloria Kijek, Borough Secretary

