

Minutes of the West Pittston Borough Council Meeting of December 17, 2025**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, Pennsylvania.

2nd ORDER- ROLL CALL

Roll Call was taken by Secretary Kendra-lee O'Brien: Bill Bohn, Mike Bugelhol, Jim Butera, Jared Jordan, Toni Valenti, President Ellen Quinn and Mayor Angelo Alfano. Attorney Bufalino was not in attendance. Ian Stevenson was late but in attendance.

3rd ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

No public participation was given.

**4th ORDER- COMMENTS AND PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENTS FROM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Valenti: Why did insurance go down. Savino said that a refund was given because we had few claims, one employee also dropped insurance halfway through the year. Discussion on why the employee dropped his insurance.

Jordan: there is no budget for EMA director. Can we include that in the budget, some compensation for that role. Bonita reviewed how the EMA appointment must be approved by the State. He also said that there is money that could be used for that. PQ said that a lot of the training is online. Bonita said that our current EMA resigned so there is a vacancy at the moment. Bonita did confirm that there was nothing budgeting last year, nor anything this year for the EMA director, but that there is money for it if decided.

Valenti: Question about an increase for the DPW employees. Bonita said that that raise was per the CBA. Bugelhol and Valenti confirmed with Bonita that there is money budgeted for a DPW foreman and part time employee.

PQ asked about Jordan and Stevenson's meeting with the Fire Department concerning the fire tax. They are asking for a second person to cover shifts, as well as a fire tax to cover a new truck. There is a lead time of 3 to 5 years for a new apparatus. The cost has increased significantly, 1.3-1.5 million for a current truck. Butera said that he would not support that without full transparency with the Fire Department financials. FD Treasurer Foy said that the Borough is welcome to review their finances. The fire department does have a quote. Another pumper would increase the ISO and lower insurance because of further and better coverage. PQ said that the fire tax must be used the year that it is collected. If the truck is not ready, the fire tax cannot be collected until the truck has actually been ordered. Bonita had clarifications on if the

fire department would be taking out a loan. Jordan said that up to .5 mil can be used to pay for staffing, and that the fire tax could be used to make payments on the truck prior to the truck being delivered. Stevenson mentioned actual issues with the building itself. Is there \$6000 allocated to maintain the current building? There is some work that needs to be done to the building, including no working shower (since 2006), as well as door and downspout issues with draining. Further conversation on what is allocated to the fire department. Bohn said that there is an audit for 2023, 2024, 2025 in January 2026. Stevenson said that there are fewer companies that build fire trucks so that the pricing is constantly increasing as well as requirements that increase the prices on every aspect of the fire department functioning. Jordan mentioned that turnout gear has increased, air packs are \$8,000 and the fire department cannot fund all of that just on fundraising at this point. PQ said that the fire department got a donation from the ambulance association as well as the Borough sponsored LSA grant for air packs this year. Bugelholl brought up that if the money has not been spent then there should be a build up of money to be able to use that excess to repair the fire department building. Bonita clarified that municipal budgeting doesn't work on line items that way but that there is money to be used to help fix some of the issues. He also said that Reilly Engineers were there to price out the repairs that needed to be done but that no copy was sent to the Borough. Bohn said that it is the Borough's building and that the Borough needs to make the repairs. Jordan requested that the proposed fire tax for 2026 be slightly over a quarter mil to cover salary for two shifts. PQ is asking Council if they would like to propose the fire tax for the salaries. Jordan suggested that that difference in the budget can be used to cover the rest of the budget. Savino also mentioned that the budget is based on 100% revenue collection. He also mentioned that the residents have been very good at paying their property tax so that has ensured that the Borough can budget appropriately.

President Quinn said that Council would like to see the proposed fire tax with the millage to cover \$62,400 in shift coverage.

Kearns suggested that Council wait to raise taxes until there is a clear picture of the finances on the fire department.

Motion made by Jordan to explore a fire tax at .335 millage to cover salaries for two shifts of drivers.

No second was made. Motion dies on the floor.

5TH ORDER- ADMINISTRATIVE

Motion made to approve Resolution 26-001 re-adoption of the 511 Taxes for 2026

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Roll Call

Bohn: Y Bugelholl: Y Butera: Y Jordan: Y Stevenson: Y

Valenti: Y Quinn: Y

Motion made to approve Ordinance 636-2026 fixing the tax millage for 2026 at 3.8951 mils for general purposes and 0.3999 for debt purposes for a total of 4.295 mils for each dollar of assessed

value.

By: Butera 2nd: Valenti Roll Call

Bohn: Y Bugelholl: Y Butera: Y Jordan:Y Stevenson: Y

Valenti:Y Quinn: Y

Motion made to approve Resolution 26-002 Salary Resolution for 2026

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Roll Call

Bohn: Y Bugelholl: Y Butera: Y Jordan:Y Stevenson: Y

Valenti:Y Quinn: Y

Motion made to adopt the 2026 Operating Budget for the Borough of West Pittston in the amount of \$9,911,556.40

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Roll Call

Bohn: Y Bugelholl: Y Butera: Y Jordan:Y Stevenson: Y

Valenti:Y Quinn: Y

6TH ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICI PATION

Re

7TH ORDER- ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned 7:23pm by Quinn

Submitted,



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