

Minutes of the West Pittston Borough Council Meeting of December 6, 2023

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: William Bohn, Jim Butera, John Hood, Ray Judge, Ian Stevenson, President Ellen Quinn, and Mayor Angelo Alfano. Absent: Jared Jordan

3RD ORDER- EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

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 November 1, 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 and approve the Reports of Officers as submitted 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. Letter of street closure request for Borough Tree Lighting Event

C. Invitation from BIU for Christmas Luncheon on December 12, 2023

8TH ORDER- SOLICITOR

A. Attorney Bufalino submitted an invoice for services rendered between October 1, 2023 and October 21, 2023, totaling \$1,702.00

B. Attorney Bufalino submitted a request of payment for renewal of PA Borough Solicitor's Association for 2024 totaling \$250.00

9th ORDER-REILLY ASSOCIATES- No report given

10th ORDER- MAYOR- No report given.

11th ORDER-ADMINISTRATION

Motion to approve Payroll for November 3, 2023, in the amount of \$26,799.57, and November 20, 2023, in the amount of \$16,162.10, totaling \$42,961.67

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve General Fund Pre-paid bills totaling \$85,926.07

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve General Funds bills totaling \$2,394.56

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve Interfund sewer transfer from sewer account #9861026228 to Sewer Account #9012002792 in the amount of \$150,000.00 on November 16, 2023

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve interfund sewer transfer from sewer account #9861026228 to sewer account #9019436876 in the amount of \$50,000.00 on November 16, 2023

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to ratify the resolution for street closures for the Borough Winter Event on December 3, 2023- Event was cancelled due to weather.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve the advertising of the 2024 council meetings (the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30P M) and work sessions (the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM, unless otherwise noted)

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve Eastern Branch Payment application #9 (final payment) as recommended by Reilly Associates in the amount of \$40,254.44

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

The 2024 Operating Budget for the Borough of West Pittston was introduced, read, and explained by Borough Manager, Savino Bonita, for review by West Pittston Council and the public. The final reading and adoption is scheduled for December 18, 2023, at 6:30 PM at the West Pittston Borough Building. Budget is available in the office.

Bonita noted some highlights: the Borough was able to keep a balanced budget of \$4,520,204.00 and total millage of 4.295; does not increase taxes, and no change to the fund balance; maintains all current services and no layoffs. The only way to increase revenue is to increase property taxes.

Motion to approve invoice for services rendered by Attorney Bufalino between October 1, 2023, and October 21, 2023, totaling \$1,702.00

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by Al

Motion to approve payment for renewal of PA Borough Solicitor's Association for 2024 totaling \$250.00

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by Al

12TH ORDER-CODE ENFORCEMENT & ZONING

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 (October) Invoice # WV-183321 in the amount of \$7,012.50

By: Bohn 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

13th ORDER- PUBLIC SAFETY- Nothing to report

14th ORDER-PUBLIC WORKS

Motion to accept the monthly report, submitted by Tony Scalzo.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by all

Motion to accept the separation agreement between Anthony Scalzo and West Pittston Borough, including a severance pay of \$11,286 less applicable taxes and \$3,150 for 6 months of insurance reimbursement.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

15th ORDER- PARKS & RECREATION

Motion to approve the excavation quote from Hadley in the amount of \$2,500.00, pending review and approval from Reilly Associates.

By: Stevenson 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

The Borough Winter event has been rescheduled for December 17th, 2023 at Morris Park

16th ORDER- SHADE TREE COMMISSION

17th ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resident asked about levee development and if there is any new information. President Quinn gave an update on grants, levee scoping and design.

President Quinn thanked Councilmember Judge, Councilmember Hood, Borough Manager Bonita, and Attorney Bufalino.

Resident asked about the budget, how this year's budget compares to last year's budget. Bonita offered clarification, there is no change to the taxpayer.

Resident asked about the rental agreement and what updates there are for that committee and using the violations of that ordinance as income. President Quinn said that there were previous meetings and there will be new meetings in the new year. Resident also asked about compost and if residents can pick up compost from yard waste. It was explained that our yard waste is sent to Forty Fort and that a resident would have to contact them for information on that compost or if it is available.

President Quinn thanked Councilmember Hood and Councilmember Judge for their service. They chose not to run again, and she wanted to thank them for all that they have done for the community. Attorney Bufalino echoed the sentiment and thanked them for all that they have done. President Quinn also thanked Savino and Attorney Bufalino for all the work that they do for the Borough.

19th ORDER- ANNOUNCEMENTS

20th ORDER- ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM by Hood, 2nd by Judge

Submitted,

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