

Minutes of the West Pittston Borough Council Meeting of February 12, 2024**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****1st ORDER- CALL TO ORDER**

The Meeting was called to order at 6:41 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 Bugelhoff, Jim Butera, Jared Jordan, Ian Stevenson, Toni Valenti, President Ellen Quinn, and Mayor Angelo Alfano. Attorney Bufalino was also in attendance.

3RD ORDER- EXECUTIVE SESSIONS-none were held**4TH ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**- none was given**5TH ORDER- APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve the minutes from Minutes from January 8, 2025, as prepared, and to place them on file in the Borough Office.

By: Bohn 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried

6TH ORDER- REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Reports; the Mayor's Report totaling \$0.00; and Code Office's report totaling \$7,029.50, as submitted and place them on file in the Borough Office.

By: Bohn 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

7TH ORDER- CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary O'Brien reported a letter of interest from Attorney Matthew Golden to join Parks & Recreation Board, a letter of consideration for lease application from Jean M. Baun and a letter from Angelo Recchia of Luca's Pizza, regarding inspection issues at 200 Wyoming Avenue

By: Butera 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

8TH ORDER- SOLICITOR- Attorney Bufalino

Nothing to report.

9th ORDER-MAYOR- Mayor Angelo Alfano

Nothing to report.

10th ORDER-ADMINISTRATION

Motion made to approve payroll for January 10, 2025, in the amount of \$15,147.07; and January 24, 2025, in the amount of \$10,920.90 totaling \$26,067.97

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the General Fund prepaid bills totaling \$93,354.99 and the General Fund Bills totaling \$0.00

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the Reilly Associates General Engineering for West Pittston January 1, 2024 - December 21, 2024, total of \$9,600.42

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to advertise to bid demolition of Armory)

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the Application for Payment #1 from M&J Excavating, Inc in the amount of \$208,809.47 for the 2024 Paving Project

By: Butera 2nd: Bohn Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the Brozena Consulting Services, LLC for professional services Invoice 2024015-04 for October 1 through November 30, 2024, \$4,725.00

By: Butera 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve to advertise amendment to Ordinance 164 pertaining to one way traffic on Race Street

By: Butera 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve ADA compliance contract with CourseVector for website \$500.00

By: Butera 2nd: Bohn Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the lease application for West Pittston Buyout Property from Jean Baun for 802 Susquehanna Avenue

By: Butera 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority Wyoming Valley Levee Raising Project Mitigation Program Application & agreement for financial assistance agreement

By: Butera 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the Interfund transfer of \$150,000.00 from Sewer Account #9861026228 to Sewer Account # 9012002792 on December 12, 2024 (correction from January meeting)

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion carried by All

Motion made to approve the Interfund transfer of \$50,000.00 from Sewer Account #9861026228 to Sewer Account #9019436876 on December 12, 2024 (correction from January meeting)

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the Amendment #9 for Buyout Program concerning the Armory demolition project

By: Butera 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

11TH ORDER-CODE ENFORCEMENT & ZONING- Barry Isett

Motion made to approve the Barry Isett & Associates Invoice #WV-196054 for December 1-December 31, 2024, totaling \$5,185.00

By: Bugelhol 2nd: Bohn Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the Barry Isett & Associates Zoning & Floodplain Activity Report for January 2025

By: Bugelhol 2nd: Bohn Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the BIU inspection report form October 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024

By: Bugelhol 2nd: Bohn Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the BIU Inspection report for January 2025

By: Bugelhol 2nd: Bohn Motion Carried by All

Motion made to advertise for the third party UCC inspector

By: Bugelhol 2nd: Bohn Motion Carried by All

12th ORDER- PUBLIC SAFETY

Motion made to accept the West Pittston Hose Copany #1 monthly report, as submitted and place it on file.

By: Stevenson 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to accept the Wyoming Area Regional Police monthly report, as submitted and place it on file.

By: Stevenson 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Chief Turner was in attendance. He reported that there were 533 calls in January and 10 traffic citation in West Pittston. He mentioned that there was another serious accident at Fort Jenkins intersection. He asked if Council would be interested in him writing a letter to PennDot/Reilly Associates in support of the signal installation and how necessary it is for the safety of the residents. President Quinn said yes, to please write the letter and send it to Reilly. Attorney Bufalino said that there will be a meeting about the Race Street change and asked if the Chief would attend a meeting with PennDot and Reilly Associates to explain his safety concerns. Chief Turner said that he would do the letter and would attend a meeting.

13th ORDER-PUBLIC WORKS

Motion made to approve the West Side COG Invoice #100 for annual dues and membership fee for equipment total \$4,300.00 (COG balance \$30,817.07)

By: Butera 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the West Side COG Invoice #100 Composting Association \$1,500.00 (COG balance \$4,418.84)

By: Butera 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the resolution authorizing an application to the PA Municipal Assistance program 01-2025

By: Butera 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the letter of certification for an application to the PA Municipal Assistance program

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the Back Forty Designs for truck decals invoice \$1,050.00

By: Butera 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

14th ORDER- PARKS & RECREATION

Motion made to accept the resignation of Beth Burke Davis from Parks & Rec Board

By: Valenti 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to appoint Attorney Matthew Golden to Parks & Recreation Board

By: Valenti 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

15th ORDER- SHADE TREE COMMISSION- nothing to report

16th ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resident brought up an issue with a burned property on Jenkins Street. She said the smell of the smoke permeates the neighborhood and it makes the neighborhood feel unsafe. She asked if Council could do anything to move the process along. President Quinn said that she will touch base with our Code Office and the fire chief about the property. The resident also said that between the burned properties and the empty homes on the street, the property values have been seriously affected.

Frank Colella of 200 Wyoming avenue addressed Council to advocate on behalf of Luca Pizza. They still cannot open because of inspection issues and they would like to know what the next steps are and how they can open after four month of back and forth with the inspector. President Quinn gave an update on what Council is aware of and that the decision is in the inspector's hands. Mr. Colella said that they are willing to hire a private inspector and he has a copy of the letter that they had a lawyer send to BIU. Attorney Bufalino suggested setting up a meeting between BIU, Luca and council to clarify and move forward with the opening.

Resident had a question about the Landlord Tenant Committee and President Quinn said that she will work on setting up a meeting to begin this process.

Resident said that there needs to be a light at the bridge intersection. They asked when and if there was supposed to be a light there already. President Quinn said that it is in the works and will hopefully be up this spring. Resident also asked about updates on the levee. President Quinn said that we have been awarded 2 grants for design and environmental studies and that the Borough has also been able to get grants for the matching funds requirements which has meant that the Borough has not had to pay out of funds for this part of the levee process.

17th ORDER- ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Quinn announced updates on the Storm and Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project: Wyoming, Mercer, Pacific, Baltimore, Atlantic, Second, Third, Fourth with estimated construction start date of June 7, 2025; ARPA H2O Funded; Reilly, Verdantas, Brozena on team handling the project. Work will occur overnight and will take approximately two months. Updates will be available on the Borough website as the project progresses. Attorney Bufalino added that this was funded by grants, the Luzerne County CDBG in the amount of \$187,500 and an LSA in the amount of \$400,000. \$750,000 and two million dollars

President Quinn also announced that Greater Pittston Regional Ambulance donation request has been sent out and for residents to consider it.

18th ORDER- ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned 7:17 by Valenti

Submitted,



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