

Minutes of the West Pittston Borough Council Meeting of January 4, 2023

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1st ORDER- CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by President Quinn at the West Pittston Borough Building, 555 Exeter Avenue West Pittston, PA.

2ND ORDER- ROLL CALL

Roll Call was taken by John Hood. Council: Ray Judge, John Hood, Ian Stevenson, President Ellen Quinn, Mayor Angelo Alfano Absent: Jared Jordan Also present: Attorney Mark Bufalino

3rd ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Public Participation was called for. None was given

4th ORDER- APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to table approval of minutes from last meeting.

By: Stevenson 2nd: Bohn Motion Carried by All.

5th ORDER- REPORTS OF OFFICERS

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

By: Bohn 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

6th ORDER- CORRESPONDENCE

Council Member William Bohn reported the following correspondences have been placed on file in the Borough office:

A. WWSA- monthly report

By: Bohn 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

7th ORDER- SOLICITOR

Attorney Bufalino prepared the Ordinance accepting the dedication of Ledgeview Development streets to West Pittston.

Attorney Bufalino prepared the Subgrantee agreement between the Redevelopment Authority of Pittston City and West Pittston for the Home Investment Partnership.

8th ORDER- MAYOR

Mayor Alfano reported that the Wyoming Area Regional Police started as of January 1st, 2023, and they are using the West Pittston Station as their operating place, and they are operating in full.

9th ORDER-ADMINISTRATION

Motion to ratify payrolls of December 2, 2022, in the amount of \$26,744.61; December 16, 2022, in the amount of \$21,866.37; and December 30, 2022, in the amount of \$18,175.72 totaling \$66,786.70

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve General Fund Prepaid bills totaling \$69,203.01

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to ratify General Funds bills totaling \$17,348.71

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve the payment of the sewer maintenance bill for \$10,958.71

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to adopt an Ordinance of the Borough of West Pittston amending the Borough's previous Ordinance fixing the tax millage of 2023, by adding a new section, Section 2.1, effective failure to receive real estate tax notice pursuant to Act 57 of 2022, repealing a prior inconsistent ordinance and parts of ordinance providing for a severability clause and containing an effective date.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve the AFG non uniform pension invoice for the 4th Quarter of 2022 in the amount of \$364.84

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve the AFG police pension invoice for the 4th Quarter of 2022 in the amount of \$361.13

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to pay Barry Isset & Associates invoice #345322.00 in the amount of \$5,397.50

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve Ordinance accepting the dedication of Ledgeview Development streets to West Pittston.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve the Subgrantee agreement between the Redevelopment Authority of Pittston City and West Pittston for the Home Investment Partnership.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

10th PUBLIC SAFETY

Motion to approve Greater Pittston Ambulance to service West Pittston with ambulance service.

By: Stevenson 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

11th ORDER- PUBLIC WORKS

Motion made to accept the monthly report and put it on file in the Borough Office.

By: Bohn 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

12th ORDER- PARKS & RECREATION

Nothing to report

13th ORDER- WEST PITTSTON TOMORROW

Lynn Burbank- The next West Pittston Tomorrow meeting will be held on January 9th, 2023, at 7pm in the West Pittston Library

14th ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Greater Pittston Ambulance Service thanked Council for its vote of confidence. Shared that they are available for questions and that Council has contact information on hand.

Concerning a dog in the vicinity of Lacoe/Linden neighborhood:

Resident reported to Council that there is a problem dog at 48 Lacoe Street. The dog is dangerous and the owner cannot control the dog. Resident's son was bitten 3 years ago, and he reported it to the police. Resident has called the local police, the State Police, and Jim Spencer, the now retired County Dog Warden. Resident is frustrated with the lack of action from police and Animal Control. Resident said that this dog is terrorizing the neighborhood. Resident is asking that some action be taken before something worse happens.

Resident says that the dog is uncontrollable even while leashed and that they have to avoid the neighborhood because of the dog.

Resident says that two and half years ago the dog in question was on her front porch, loose. The dog owner is confrontational and cannot control the dog. Resident said that she spoke to Mike Turner and that he said that he had cited them, but this does not change her behavior long term.

President Ellen Quinn responded that it is up to the resident/individual to call the police and have the dog owner cited then to come before the magistrate. President Quinn has called the Regional Dog Warden and was told that Council cannot have the dog removed.

Resident asked what could be done? What can the Council do to help? Where are residents supposed to go?

Attorney Bufalino responded that the ordinance related to dogs refers to keeping the dog on a leash. When the dog is running free without a leash, then the police can cite, and as far as he knows, they have cited the owner. But regarding the dog being dangerous, the jurisdiction for that is the State Dog Warden. There are procedures that the Dog Warden used to deem a dog dangerous but it is not the jurisdiction of the Council. But that this is not within the powers of the Council. Attorney Bufalino said that they will follow up and find out who is going to be in the position of Dog Warden. He recommends that residents keep up with contacting the state officials, including the State Dog Warden, to do something about the dog.

Resident brought up a law that was passed in the PA State Assembly a law related to dangerous dogs, saying that it reads that the dog warden or the police may make up a complaint before the magistrate on behalf of the residents with record of the dog's history. According to the law the police or the Dog Warden could bring it before the magistrate. council could or is the new Dog Warden the one responsible to take it before the justice?

Attorney Bufalino said that Council has taken all the information that has been brought before them and will follow up with any avenues that they can. We need to have an answer to who is responsible for follow-up.

President Quinn reported that she has spoken to the Regional Warden's office and they are in the process of hiring a new dog warden, though the person at the office did not have the information on hand to see if this dog was on the list of things to attend to and she will follow up with the office regarding this issue.

Resident asked what the neighborhood is supposed to do in the meantime.

President Quinn responded that if anyone see the dog loose and unleashed, please report it to the police in the future. The police will then cite them and then it will be presented to the magistrate. Attorney Bufalino said that he will share the photos submitted with Chief Pace of the Wyoming Area Regional Police.

Resident asked if there was a limit to how many citations could be given before it was escalated. Attorney Bufalino said that there is not a limit on the number of citations, that the dog owner can be cited for as many times as there is a violation.

Resident asked if Spring Court was included in the addition of Ledgeview to the town's streets because the yard waste had not been picked up yet and she was told that Clear Spring Court was not part of West Pittston yet. Attorney Bufalino said that, yes, Spring Court was included as well as sanitary storm sewers and lights. Resident confirmed that yard waste will be picked up.

Resident asked for assurance that as of tonight, Ledgeview and its related streets and areas will be part of West Pittston in terms of maintenance including snow plowing, yard waste, leaf vacuuming. Council assured her that it would now be part of the Borough's maintenance.

Resident thanked Council for bringing the Ambulance situation to a very positive close for everyone and that it is nice to know that the town will be well taken care of.

18TH ORDER- ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:00PM by Hood.

Prepared and submitted by,

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

