

**Minutes of the West Pittston Borough Reorganization Meeting of
January 5, 2026**

Swearing in ceremonies were held prior to the meeting.

Mayor Angelo Alfano

Councilmember Ellen Quinn

Councilmember Jared Jordan

Councilmember John Kearns

Councilmember Ariane F. Pupali

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1st ORDER- CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Mayor Alfano 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: Mike Bugelholl, Jared Jordan, John Kearns, Ariane Pupali, Ellen Quinn, Ian Stevenson, Toni Valenti, and Mayor Angelo Alfano. Attorney Burke was also in attendance.

3RD ORDER- PROOF OF PUBLICATION

Filed and in the office.

4TH ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

No public participation was given.

5TH ORDER- CALL FOR NOMINTATIONS

Mayor Alfano opened the floor for nominations for president of Council.

Councilmember Stevenson nominated John Kearns for Council President, seconded by Pupali. Roll Call vote was called.

**Bugelholl: Y Jordan:Y Kearns:Y Pupali:Y Quinn:Y Stevenson:Y
Valenti:Y Motion Carried**

Mayor Alfano opened the floor for nominations for vice president of Council.

Councilmember Stevenson nominated Toni Valenti for Council Vice President, seconded by Bugelholl. Roll Call vote was called.

**Bugelholl: Y Jordan:Y Kearns:Y Pupali:Y Quinn:Y Stevenson:Y
Valenti:Y Motion Carried**

Mayor Alfano opened the floor for nominations for president pro temp of Council.

Councilmember Quinn nominated Ian Stevenson for Council Vice President, seconded by Jordan. Roll Call vote was called.

**Bugelholl: Y Jordan:Y Kearns:Y Pupali:Y Quinn:Y Stevenson:Y
Valenti:Y Motion Carried**

Mayor Alfano closed the floor for nominations and elections

President Kearns thanked everyone and promised to do his best in the position.

6th ORDER- APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Motion to table committee appointments.

By: Quinn 2nd: Bugelholl Bugelholl added that at the point there would not be a chair of the Public Works committee in case something went wrong, or if decisions had to be made before the next meeting. President Kearns suggested and asked if someone on that committee would like to chair it until the next meeting. Motion Carried

Motion to appoint Michael Bugelholl as interim Public Works Committee chair.

By: Stevenson 2nd: Jordan Motion Carried

Motion to appoint Ian Stevenson as interim Public Safety Committee chair.

By: Quinn 2nd: Bugelholl Motion Carried

Motion to table all other committee appointments other than the above stated temporary appointments.

By: Quinn 2nd: Bugelholl Motion Carried

7th ORDER- APPOINTMENTS AND ADOPTIONS

Motion to adopt Robert’s Rules of Order, governing the conduct of Council Meetings for Parliamentary procedures for 2026 and 2027

By: Stevenson 2nd: Jordan Motion Carried

Motion to appoint Attorney Joseph D. Burke, Jr. as solicitor for West Pittston Borough

By: Stevenson 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried

Motion to appoint Reilly Engineering & Associates as engineers for West Pittston Borough

Councilmember Bugelholl clarified how long this appointment is for, President Kearns said that there is no contract and it can be until Council chooses someone else.

**By: Stevenson 2nd:Bugelholl Bugelholl: Y Jordan:Y Kearns:Y
Pupali:Y Quinn:Y Stevenson:Y Valenti:Y Motion Carried**

Motion to appoint Savino Bonita as Borough manager

By: Stevenson 2nd: Quinn Motion Carried

Motion to appoint Kendra-lee O'Brien as administrative secretary for West Pittston Borough

By: Stevenson 2nd: Valenti
By: Stevenson 2nd:Bugelhoff Bugelhoff: Y Jordan:Y Kearns:Y
Pupali:Y Quinn:Y Stevenson:Y Valenti:Y Motion Carried

Motion to appoint Savino Bonita as Borough treasurer

By: Stevenson 2nd: Quinn Bugelhoff: Y Jordan:Y Kearns:Y Pupali:Y
Quinn:Y Stevenson:Y Valenti:Y Motion Carried

Motion to appoint Kendra-lee O'Brien as secretary to Council

By: Stevenson 2nd: Bugelhoff Bugelhoff: Y Jordan:Y Kearns:Y
Pupali:Y Quinn:Y Stevenson:Y Valenti:Y Motion Carried

Motion to appoint Savino Bonita as the Right to Know officer for West Pittston Borough

By: Stevenson 2nd: Quinn Bugelhoff: Y Jordan:Y Kearns:Y Pupali:Y
Quinn:Y Stevenson:Y Valenti:Y Motion Carried

Motion to table the Vacancy Board chairperson appointment

By: Stevenson 2nd: Valenti President Kearns clarified what that role is, and said that Council would like to open the role to others and then have a conversation at a work session.

Bugelhoff: Y Jordan:Y Kearns:Y Pupali:Y Quinn:Y Stevenson:Y
Valenti:Y Motion Carried

Motion to table the UCC Board of Appeals appointments.

By: Stevenson 2nd: Valenti Bugelhoff: Y Jordan:Y Kearns:Y
Pupali:Y Quinn:Y Stevenson:Y Valenti:Y Motion Carried

Motion to table the Property Maintenance board of appeals appointment for term ending December 31, 2028

By: Stevenson 2nd: Valenti Bugelhoff: Y Jordan:Y Kearns:Y Pupali:Y
Quinn:Y Stevenson:Y Valenti:Y Motion Carried

Motion to approve Resolution 26-003 Authorizing Check signers, as both John Kearns as Council President and Toni Valenti as Council Vice President

By: Stevenson 2nd: Bugelhoff Bugelhoff: Y Jordan:Y Kearns:Y
Pupali:Y Quinn:Y Stevenson:Y Valenti:Y Motion Carried by All

8th ORDER- ZONING HEARING BOARD

Motion to appoint Jim Brozena to the Zoning Hearing Board for the term that ends 12/31/2027

By: Quinn 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion to appoint Thomas Romanowski to the Zoning Hearing Board for the term that ends 12/31/2026

By: Quinn 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

9th ORDER- PLANNING COMMISSION

President Kearns said that at this moment the Borough uses Luzerne County Planning Commission. Manager Bonita stated that the Borough Code requires the Borough to have a planning commission. President Kearns said that we will table to discuss late.

Motion to table the appointments for the planning commission

By: Quinn 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

10th ORDER- PARKS & RECREATION

No appointments at this time

11th ORDER-SHADE TREE COMMISSION

No appointments at this time.

12th ORDER-PUBLIC WORKS

Motion to appoint Neil Williams as the Public Works Supervisor

By: Bugelholl 2nd: Jordan Motion Carried by All

Motion to appoint Scott Ellsworth, Frank Bartalotta, and Nicholas Ozack as full-time public works employees.

By: Bugelholl 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

13th ORDER-PUBLIC SAFETY

Motion to appoint John Hood of West Pittston Hose Company #1 as fire chief of West Pittston

By: Jordan 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion to appoint Edward Kondraski, Jr. as acting Emergency Management Coordinator

By: Jordan 2nd: Bugelholl President Kearns stated that there was a resignation and there was only one applicant, Council will open it to other applicants.

Motion Carried by All

14th ORDER-CORRESPONDENCE

Motion made to accept the correspondence submitted by Secretary O'Brien:

- Letter of request from West Pittston Hose Co for Council to consider a Fire Tax
- Letter of resignation from Em. Mgt. Director, Barry D. Hosier effective 12/31/25
- Letter of concern from Ecumenical Housing addressing dog park expansion
- Letter of interest from Jim Butera to serve as Vacancy Board Chairperson

By: Stevenson 2nd: Quinn Motion Carried by All

15th ORDER- ADMINISTRATIVE

Motion made to approve and accept the minutes from the December 3, 2025 Council meeting and place it on file in the Borough office.

By: Valenti 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve and accept the minutes from the December 10, 2025 Council Special Meeting and place it on file in the Borough office.

By: Valenti 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve and accept the minutes from the December 17, 2025 Budget Meeting and place it on file in the Borough office.

By: Valenti 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve payroll for 12/12/2025 in the amount of \$16,150.39; and 12/26/2025, in the amount of \$13,920.56; totaling \$30,070.95

By: Valenti 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the General Fund prepaid bills totaling \$94,703.37; General Fund Bills totaling \$0.00

By: Valenti 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the Mayor’s Report, Treasurer’s Report, and Zoning Office’s Report

By: Valenti 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve CO #2 for Armory Contract 2-Demo: additional time request 24 calendar days

By: Valenti 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by all

Motion made to approve the Barry Isett & Associates Invoice WV-206537 in the amount of \$5,440.00 for November 2025

By: Valenti 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the Verdantas invoice for Flood Mitigation-Scoping \$17,332.64

By: Valenti 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve Final Pay app for Minichi, Inc for Founders Park lighting \$9,367.00, to be paid from ARPA funds

By: Valenti 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to accept the BIU Inspections list for November 2025 and keep it on file in the Borough office

By: Valenti 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to accept West Pittston Hose Company Monthly Report for November 2025 and keep it on file in the Borough office

By: Valenti 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve AFG Authorization for Distribution for nonuniformed plan \$5,600.00

By: Valenti 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to accept the Barry Isett & Associates Zoning/ Floodplain Activity and keep it on file in the Borough office

By: Valenti 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to accept the DPW Monthly Report and place it on file in the Borough office

By: Valenti 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to accept the Wyoming Area Regional Police Monthly Report and place it on file in the Borough office

By: Valenti 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Chief Turner was in attendance to give a report on the Wyoming Area Regional Police and an overview of the year. The numbers are included in the report submitted to the office. They had two officers injured, both are doing well and will recover fully. The Wyoming Area Regional Police Commission will have its first meeting at the remodeled building on Thursday night at 7pm and an event on February 28th from 10-1pm open to 6th through 12th graders on impaired driving education partnered with the Pittston Rotary

16th ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Northeast Leadership was in attendance to inform Council and residents that the proposed area for the dog park expansion has been staked out. Council gave the go ahead to move forward with fundraising and the current plan.

Vice President Valenti thanked Jim Butera and Bill Bohn for their service all the years and that they will be missed. She also welcomed John and Ariane, and thanks Ellen for her service as President for 8 years.

Resident had a concern about the fire tax, they are worried about the cost to residents and how limited income is affected by increased taxes of any kind. President Kearns assured the resident

that there is no fire tax at this time, this letter is just the beginning of the conversation and Council will do all that it can to make sure that if it happens, that it is the right choice for everyone in the Borough. Taxes were not raised this year specifically because of Council's concern for its residents.

Resident asked if the microphones could be fixed so that they would be able to hear from the back of the room.

Resident added that the fire tax would provide important services and that the fire department is volunteer and that they are there for the residents no matter what, a fire tax would ensure that service is maintained and secure the safety of the borough.

Councilmember Pupali said that the goal is for the Borough to be transparent; more information will be coming and that this is just the very beginning of that conversation.

Resident also added that as a previous fire chief, that the fire department is a crucial service. He said that they don't do that work for a paycheck, the fire fighters go out no matter what.

President Kearns reiterated that there will be no fire tax this year, but any future conversations will have thorough discussion.

17th ORDER- ANNOUNCEMENTS

18th ORDER- ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned 7:19pm by Quinn

Submitted,



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