

Minutes of the West Pittston Borough Council Meeting of July 5, 2023

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1st ORDER- CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 6:32 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, Jared Jordan, Ray Judge, Ian Stevenson, President Ellen Quinn, Mayor Angelo Alfano.

3RD ORDER- EXECUTIVE SESSIONS-none were held

4TH ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Resident asked for clarification on the PA State Museum Letter. President Quinn explained that this was from an archaeological dig done on a Borough property and the Council had to decide if the Borough was going to donate the items to the State Museum or keep them.

Resident also asked about Founders' Park, since there are lights and a playground going in, are there any plans for benches for people to sit in the park. President Quinn said only the playground is on the agenda for tonight.

5TH ORDER- APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes from June 7, 2023, as prepared and to place them on file in the Borough Office.

By: Bohn 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2023, Special Meeting, 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 the reports of the Borough officers as prepared 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. WWSA - monthly report

B. Letter of request from the State Museum of PA concerning artifacts found during archeological dig of Susquehanna River

C. Letter from Jen Moran, West Pittston Library of 200 Exeter Avenue, requesting that September 12th be proclaimed “West Pittston Library Day”

D. Letter from Jeb Moran, Wet Pittston Library of 200 Exeter Avenue, requesting the installation of a 15-minutes parking sign in front of the Library on Warren Street to replace one that was lost in the 2011 flood, as well as two pedestrian crossing signs on both sides of Exeter Avenue –attached email from PennDOT

E. Email from residents about concerns on paving/plowing Foster Court

Motion to accept the correspondences and place them on file in the Borough Office.

By: Judge 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

8TH ORDER- SOLICITOR

Attorney Bufalino presented for Council’s consideration:

- A. an abeyance of the COVID-19 Personnel Policy
- B. Amendment to the Fireworks Ordinance
- C. Ratification of the street closure for the West Pittston Historical Society’s event
- D. Engage the expert services of Ron Hungarter in connection with the Pioneer Construction litigation in accordance with Mr. Hungarter’s fee schedule

9th ORDER-REILLY ASSOCIATES

Motion to table the monthly report since all members of Council did not receive the report.

By: Bohn 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

President Quinn reviewed and explained the signage for the bridge intersection, the signs will be temporary while waiting on the County for traffic signal installation. Councilmember Butera voiced some issues with the proposed signage and traffic concerns.

10th ORDER- MAYOR

Mayor Alfano reported that he had a meeting with the new Luzerne County Manager, Romilda P. Crocamo, Esq to discuss local topics including the traffic signal and improvements to the Forty Fort Airport.

11th ORDER-ADMINISTRATION

Motion to approve payrolls of June 2, 2023, in the amount of \$16,811.03; June 16, 2023, in the amount of \$13,749.65; and June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$13,202.68, totaling \$43,763.36.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve General Fund Prepaid bills totaling \$95,830.25

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve General Funds bills totaling \$1,194.34

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve Interfund Sewer Transfer from Account #9861026228 to Sewer Account #9012002792 in the amount of \$200,000.00 on June 8, 2023.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to adopt the amendment to the ordinance, prepared by Attorney Bufalino, regulating the use, sale, distribution, and possession of fireworks in the Borough

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve the payment of invoice #2223-002 from Wyoming Area School district for 2nd half of school year crossing guards in the amount of \$2,030.00

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion made to request the artifacts recovered by A.D. Marble Engineering during the excavation for road improvement project at state route 0011, section 350 of state route 2037 Susquehanna River and L& S Railroad including West Street/Firefighters Bridge from tax parcel #65-E11NE1-009-010-000 to be returned to the West Pittston Borough.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve the payment of the West Pittston Borough Non-Uniform Pension Plan Administrative Fee 2023 2nd Quarter invoice in the amount of \$364.13.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve the payment of the West Pittston Borough Police Pension Plan Administrative Fee 2023 2nd Quarter invoice in the amount of \$361.13

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to Reconsider Item H to reflect the correct amount.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve the payment of the West Pittston Borough Non-Uniform Pension Plan Administrative Fee 2023 2nd Quarter invoice in the amount of \$364.84

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve the Luzerne County ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Grant Agreement in the amount of \$2 million, for the sewer enhancement project in the southern part of West Pittston Borough.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve the Luzerne County ARPA Grant Matching fund requirement of 5% of \$2 million, which is \$100,000 that will come from the West Pittston Borough unreserved fund account.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to authorize the advertisement for an RFP for the professional services and advice for the West Pittston Borough sewer enhancement project to be funded by the \$2million ARPA grant

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to amend the July 5th West Pittson Council agenda

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to move Item D on the agenda under 8th Order to Item N under Administration.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to engage the expert services of Ron Hungarter in connection with the Pioneer Construction litigation in accordance with Mr. Hungarter's fee schedule.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

12TH ORDER-CODE ENFORCEMENT & ZONING

Motion to accept the monthly report, submitted by Barry Isett, to be kept on file in the Borough Office.

By: Bohn 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

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 Invoice # WV-178577 for Zoning/Code Enforcement in the amount of \$7,905.00

By: Bohn 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

13th ORDER- PUBLIC SAFETY

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

By: Stevenson 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to authorize Borough Manager, Savino Bonita, to obtain a quote for insurance for the Armory building and property.

By: Stevenson 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

14th ORDER-PUBLIC WORKS

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

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by all

Motion to approve the hiring of Cody Fink of 217 Main Street, Duryea, PA 18642 at the hourly rate of \$15.00 with a beginning date of July 10, 2023

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by all

Motion to table the request from Niel Williams for vacation days: April 28; May 5,12; June 9, 30; July 29; August 25; and September 15.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by all

Motion to table the request from Anthony Scalzo for vacation days: April 20, 21; June 23; July 3, 4; August 21, 22; September 25, 25; October 19, 20; November 23; and December 22, 26, 27.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by all

Motion to authorize Anthony Scalzo, the Recycling coordinator, to apply for the 2022 904 Recycling grant.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

15th ORDER- PARKS & RECREATION

Motion to accept the resignation letter from Mary Kearns of 24 Philadelphia Avenue from the Parks & Recreation Board effective July 5, 2023

By: Stevenson 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by all

Motion to approve PLR Installation LLC to install playground equipment with an estimated cost to install of \$6,853.00

President Quinn explained that this is from a private donation that came with instructions on how to use the funds. The initial quote was \$5,000 but with the headers and concrete the cost increased.

By: Stevenson 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

16th ORDER- WEST PITTSTON TOMORROW- no one in attendance

17th ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resident has issues with 212 ½ Salem Street property. There was police activity there on July 4th and the building was condemned at one point although the family moved back the next day. There are health concerns and there is a child there. There are general issues on the street with empty houses, garbage and nuisance properties

President Quinn said that Council is aware of some of the issues and that Code Enforcer has addressed it and it looks like it needs to be addressed again.

Resident also talked about how there is a huge safety concern with the child in the residence.

Councilmember Judge asked if there is a Child Safety department for Luzerne County.

Resident cited issues with quads and dirt bikes on Salem Street as well, have called the police but they are limited in their ability to react to it.

Chief Turner said that there are safety issues with pursuing ATVs, and they are using the railroad bridge to leave town when the police do get involved. The bridge is owned by

the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority, and they will be contacted to block the bridge. Chief Turner said that he will work with Attorney Bufalino and the Code Office to work on this issue,

Mary Portelli and Judy Aita of the West Pittston Historical Society presented their Marion Lorne Film Festival that will be held on August 11th and 12th at the Pittston Slope Amphitheater. The Historical Society will be hosting a photo contest, placing a life-sized cut out of Marion Lorne (nee MacDougal of York/Montgomery Avenues) throughout the town. For more information, go to the Historical Society's Facebook page.

Councilmember Butera thanked the Historical Society for their "First to Fall" event over the weekend.

18th ORDER- ANNOUNCEMENTS

19th ORDER- ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm by Hood, 2nd by Quinn

Submitted,

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