

### **1<sup>st</sup> ORDER - CALL TO ORDER**

The Meeting was called to order by President Quinn at the West Pittston Borough Building 555 Exeter Ave. West Pittston, PA.

President Quinn announced that the Stormwater Ordinance adoption will be tabled at this meeting because Council is considering additions and we have not made a final decision on those additions and we are in discuss at this time with Reilly Associates our Engineers as well as our solicitor Attorney Bufalino.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to TABLE the Stormwater Management Ordinance Amendment.

So we will remove that item from public participation as well. It will be voted on at our August meeting.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> ORDER – ROLL CALL**

Council: Mr. Bohn, Mr. Butera, Mr. Hood, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Judge, Mr. Stevenson, President Quinn, Mayor Alfano

### **3<sup>rd</sup> ORDER – EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Executive Sessions were held on June 22, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss legal issues and police personnel and on July 6, 2022 at 5:45 a.m.to discuss legal issues. Both were held at 555 Exeter Ave., West Pittston, PA.

### **4<sup>rd</sup> ORDER – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

President Quinn then announced that since the Stormwater Ordinance was on the agenda Council will accept public participation on this item.

Ryan Wasser, 4 Exeter Ave. – Commented on some issues he has with the Stormwater Management Ordinance. One is that an agent of the Borough can enter a property at a reasonable time. A reasonable time for you may not be reasonable for me. Second, concern regarding the penalties of this ordinance it does not specify what they will be and third concerns about the funding for this ordinance, no explanation how it will be funded. Also expressed concern he has heard from residents that there is a lack of communication between the constituents and Council. President Quinn responded that Council will take his issues under consideration.

David Chaump, Ledgeview Dr. – Concerned about the following items in the Stormwater Management Ordinance and the Stormwater Management Officer. One, it is a technical and

**4<sup>rd</sup> ORDER – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY  
(continued)**

complex ordinance with too much government overreach. Two you can be fined for washing car or draining pool into streets. Three allowing the Stormwater Management person, which will be Tony Scalzo, the right to come onto property at any time and how can we afford to assign all this complex work to the Street Dept. when they cannot even pick up cardboard anymore. He also quoted West Virginia vs EPA case stating the legal challenges of this type of ordinance and if Council even understands what their voting on. Also suggested having some public meetings regarding this ordinance.

Toni Valenti, Damon St. – I've had an in ground pool for 38 years where do you expect me to drain water in your yard. Asked how residents are supposed to drain their pools. President Quinn responded by saying the Stormwater Management Ordinance was enacted in 1986 this is an amendment to that ordinance. It was mandated by the Federal government and then the State became involved then of course Council got involved and then this amendment came from the County.

Kevin Lescavage, 321 Philadelphia Ave. – I am going to look into if it was Luzerne County Council that did this ordinance. Commented on not being able to wash car because of the Stormwater Management Ordinance then you should be putting something on road before putting salt down and suggested getting rid of comingle for recycling and go back to single stream.

Scott Snee, 844 Exeter Ave. - He said he does not see the Sidewalk Project on Luzerne Ave. on this meeting's agenda. Complained about the storm water that doesn't go into the storm drains but runs on his sidewalks with salt and grim in it and cracks his sidewalks. Asked why the Luzerne Ave. Sidewalk Project was not on this agenda? President Quinn responded because we are not ready to put it on the agenda. Mr. Snee said it was on the agenda last month and you said we will talk about it this month. President Quinn said we announced receiving the grant money for the sidewalks last month.

Kathy Nally, 116 Warren St. – asked if other Boroughs have to pass this ordinance and what has other boroughs done regarding the Stormwater Management Ordinance. President Quinn said that everyone in Luzerne County has to pass this ordinance and she did not know how other boroughs were voting. She has not reached out to other boroughs on it and that she is only concerned about West Pittston and only West Pittston. Council is looking at it and will continue to look at it with Tom Reilly the Borough Engineer.

**4<sup>rd</sup> ORDER – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY  
(continued)**

Russell Bott, 331 Wyoming Ave. – commented on the Stormwater Management Ordinance and his concerns on how it affects the residents.

Mr. Rosati, 137 Philadelphia – Concerned about the blighted properties in town and asked how to get something on the agenda. President Quinn said you can send your suggestion to the Borough Secretary for the Work Session agenda. Mr. Rosatr asked how he can contact the Borough Secretary to place item on the Work Session agenda. President Quinn asked Secretary to share the Borough phone number. Gloria Kijek, Borough Secretary asked Mr. Rosatr to email agenda suggestion information instead and she would write down her email address for him and give it to him after meeting.

**5<sup>th</sup> ORDER – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 7, 2022**

On motion of Mr. Bohn, second by Mr. Hood, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, accepted and approved the minutes as prepared and place them on file.

**6<sup>th</sup> ORDER – REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

On motion of Mr. Bohn, second by Mr. Hood, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, accepted the reports as prepared and place them on file.

**7<sup>th</sup> ORDER – CORRESPONDENCE**

Secretary Ms. Kijek reported the following correspondences have been placed on file in the borough office.

A. WVSA - monthly report

B. ISO, Laurel NJ – Building Code Grading Schedule Program

C. PA DCED – Grant Award Announcement \$160,000 Borough Bldg. Parking Lot & Road Project

D. Waste Reduction & Keystone Landfill – fuel surcharge increases

E. Lynn & Jack Cole, Susquehanna Ave. – DPW workers appreciation

F. PennDOT – regarding WP interest in becoming a consulting party on historical value of Ft. Jenkins & Water St. Bridges

**8<sup>th</sup> ORDER – SOLICITOR**

Resolution has been prepared for ratifying the closing of Warren St. at York & Susquehanna the weekend of July 1, 2022 requested by Paula Minichella.

**9<sup>th</sup> ORDER – MAYOR**

Mayor Alfano reported that at the next WARP meeting on July 14 a Police Chief will be appointed for the Wyoming Area Regional Police.

**10<sup>th</sup> ORDER – ADMINISTRATION**

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Judge, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to ratify payrolls of June 3, 2022 in the amount of \$28,011.34 and June 17, 2022 in the amount of \$23,339.78 totaling \$51,351.12.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to ratify General Fund prepaid bills totaling \$133,996.70.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Judge, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve General Fund bills totaling \$1,194.34.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to TABLE the Stormwater Management Ordinance Amendment.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve sewer payment arrangements for John Disaferdando, 128 Philadelphia Ave., in the amount of \$250 per month until it is paid in full.

.On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve payment to AFG 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2022 NUF Pension admin fees in the amount of \$364.84.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve payment to AFG 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2022 Police Pension admin fees in the amount of \$361.13.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Bohn, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to TABLE accepting the resignation of Attorney Michael Butera as Shade Tree Commission Solicitor.

**10<sup>th</sup> ORDER – ADMINISTRATION (continued)**

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve payment to Rubbercycle Invoice #149268 in the amount of \$78,637.00 for the Bainbridge Campbell Park rubber surface.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve Gloria Kijek attending the PSAB Quikbooks webinar at a cost of \$50.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to ratify the Resolution authorizing Paula Minichella's request for closing Warren Street at York and Susquehanna Ave. on July 1, 2, and 3, 2022.

**11<sup>th</sup> ORDER – CODE ENFORCEMENT/ZONING**

On motion of Mr. Bohn, second by Mr. Hood, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to accept the code enforcement/zoning monthly report and put on file in the Borough office.

On motion of Mr. Bohn, second by Mr. Hood, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve payment to Barry Isett and Associates Invoice #0167591 for May 2022 Code/Zoning Services, in the amount of \$4,377.50.

**12<sup>th</sup> ORDER – PUBLIC SAFETY**

On motion of Mr. Stevenson, second by Mr. Judge, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to accept the Public Safety monthly report and put on file at the borough office.

On motion of Mr. Stevenson, second by Mr. Judge, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve Handicap Parking Application of Susan Alaimo, 328 North Street.

On motion of Mr. Stevenson, second by Mr. Bohn, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to authorize purchase order of the West Pittston Fire Department 7 Motorola Radios in the amount of \$21,295.68 with funds coming from a LSA grant awarded in the amount of \$20,000.00 and from unreserved funds for the balance of \$1,295.68.

On motion of Mr. Stevenson, second by Mr. Judge, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve payment of the Arbitrator's Invoice for Police Dept. Hearing Days & Study in the amount of \$6,741.57.

**12<sup>th</sup> ORDER – PUBLIC SAFETY (continued)**

On motion of Mr. Stevenson, second by Mr. Judge, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve payment to the Wyoming Area School Invoice #21-22WPCG for the Constable Crossing Guard reimbursement in the amount of \$3,600.00.

On motion of Mr. Stevenson, second by Mr. Hood, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve hiring of Daniel J. Evancho, 27 Fairfield Drive, Laflin, PA as a part time police officer pending outcome of all mandatory testing required by the West Pittston Borough, at \$17.97 an hour.

On motion of Mr. Stevenson, second by Mr. Hood, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to appointment William Morgan, 828 Luzerne Ave., West Pittston, PA to the Civil Service Committee replacing Mr. Froshona with term expiring on 12/3/25.

**13<sup>th</sup> ORDER – PUBLIC WORKS**

On motion of Mr. Bohn, second by Mr. Hood, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to accept the Public Works monthly report and put on file at the borough office.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Bohn, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve the Stormwater Management Violation Warning Letter.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Hood, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to purchase 5 loads of Road Salt for West Pittston and 2 loads of Road Salt for Exeter, with the condition of Exeter reimbursing West Pittston for the 2 loads at the time of delivery.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to ratify the emergency repair to a sewer/sink hole by RLE on the corner of Susquehanna Ave. and Linden Street on July 1, 2022.

**14<sup>th</sup> ORDER – PARKS & REC**

On motion of Mr. Stevenson, second by Mr. Hood, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to appoint Barb Cardoni, 20 Elm St., West Pittston. PA to the Parks and Recreation Board replacing Ed Martin with term to expire 12/31/26.

**14<sup>th</sup> ORDER – PARKS & REC (continued)**

On motion of Mr. Stevenson, second by Mr. Hood, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to appoint Aldo Cardoni, 20 Elm St., West Pittston. PA to the Parks and Recreation Board replacing Tom Bubala with term to expire 12/31/26.

On motion of Mr. Stevenson, second by Mr. Hood, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to appoint Roxanne Arreguin, 800 Susquehanna Ave., West Pittston Pa to the Parks and Recreation Board replacing Lynn Burbank with term to expire 12/31/24.

**15<sup>th</sup> ORDER- WEST PITTSTON TOMORROW**

West Pittston Tomorrow business was called for none was given.

**16<sup>th</sup> ORDER – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Scott Snee, 844 Exeter Avenue – asked about the \$160,000 grant awarded to borough. President Quinn responded that it is for the Borough building parking lot paving and to pave the street on the side. Mr. Snee asked if it has anything to do with the grant for sidewalks. President Quinn explained it is two separate grants. Mr. Snee said you still want to start sidewalks at tracks when 2 years ago the Borough Manager knocked on my door and I was told sidewalks would start at other end. Why can't you put sidewalks on all of Exeter Ave.? Someone is lying and I'm sick of it.

John Disinfernand, 128 Philadelphia – commented on that did not agree to those sewer payment arrangements that were just voted on and to air my business out in public is wrong. Let's get to what's important. I hear we are not going to be having police officers on some shifts. We are vulnerable in the wee hours of the morning. Are we going to have police on at night? I don't think I've ever heard of this happening before. It's dangerous, it's scary. Where's the cops are we having cops here this weekend. President Quinn said Chief Turner is here I hope he will address this. President Quinn continued we did have the State Police cover over the weekend. This is something that is done when we have no police to cover. Council interviewed Mr. Evancho to hire for the Police Dept. over the weekend. It is very difficult right now to find police coverage and the other Boroughs are having the same problem. There are 3 people taking the police course at Lackawanna College. Mike will you please address this. Chief Turner said we are short staffed and it isn't just West Pittston Police department having this problem it's nationwide.

**16<sup>th</sup> ORDER – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (continued)**

Lisa Diorio, 15 Wyoming Avenue – Commented on the low pay West Pittston pays there police they should pay more with more benefits. Council should be ashamed of themselves and should all be removed from the board. Asked about new sidewalks and how did Mr. Stevenson's Mother get new sidewalks in front of her house? Mr. Stevenson said the reason the sidewalks were replaced at his Mothers were because they were not up to standards. Ms. Diorio then asked what ever happened to the money for the sidewalks that were supposed to go in front of her house. She filled out a paper regarding this. Mr. Stevenson said are you accusing me of wrong doing? If you feel that we've done something wrong you should go file a complaint with the Attorney Generals office. Ms. Diorio asked again where the money went for the sidewalks on her street it was a specific grant. President Quinn responded that the borough did not get that second grant. Ms. Diorio responded she is going to look into this and how about the garbage she has been asking to be picked up in empty lot. President Quinn responded we will get to it. Ms. Diorio said the lot by your sister's looks nice and clean. Mr. Stevenson responded because I take care of that lot and he will ask Mr. Scalzo to address the other lots.

Chief Turner commented again regarding the police coverage the other Boroughs are having the same problem and we are trying to help cover each other. He would rather the other boroughs cover rather than the State Police. If it was up to me I would pay officers \$25 an hour but it's not just the pay it's that no one wants to be a police officer anymore. Resident asked him why the female officer left the Borough. Chief Turner said she left for a full time position somewhere else.

President Quinn also commented that we are working on the police shortage and coverage. We are looking into hiring another full time officer. We had a vacancy on the Civil Service Board and just filled it. We are a Civil Service Police Department and need to hire full time Police that way. And in order to hire a fulltime officer we would need to reopen the budget and figure it out with the Borough Manger. There is a lot more that goes into hiring a fulltime officer.

Nick Carfora, 366 Race Street - commented that when one officer quits and if that leaves West Pittston vulnerable shouldn't council have a better plan. President Quinn responded we do not have a Civil Service list with anyone on it. We do not know anyone looking for a full time police position. We are working on it. Mr. Safora then commented on the police officers salary West Pittston Borough is paying and Duryea Borough hired an officer with a starting pay at \$45,000. He suggested paying more may increase the amount of officers applying. President Quinn responded that full time officers are under a Collective Bargaining Agreement and that the amount they are paid is set in that agreement.



**16<sup>th</sup> ORDER – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (continued)**

John Disinferdinand, 128 Philadelphia – does Council have a plan for this Police shortage. What are they doing? President Quinn responded we will call in the State Police to cover when we have no officers available. Chief Turner said we are trying to avoid this by using the other boroughs.

Michelle Demingis, 539 Luzerne Ave. – she talked about the cat rescue she runs and how the West Pittston police didn't respond to her requests for help to rescue an animal this past week. She could not get anyone to call her back. She even tried calling 911 and was told by an officer that she never called 911 she would be happy to get those records. My counsel called the boroughs counsel no return phone calls. She was told by West Pittston police they do not handle animal rescues. She talked to State Police and they said local police need to uphold all laws they can't pick and choose which laws to enforce. This cat was trapped in house for 18 days and could have been rescued in 2 hours. She would like to set up a meeting with the Mayor, Solicitor, Police Chief, SPCA, a Humane Officer and Council to discuss all these issues.

Resident, 21 Montgomery Ave. – Concerned about a robbery and the State Police response time when they are covering the town and how often does this happen. President Quinn said this is a very recent development. Resident then asked who sets the pay for the Police Officers. President Quinn says Council does.

Dion Fernandez, 509-511 Wyoming Ave. – commented on the resources available to cover West Pittston when there are no police officers available and what happens if the other town's police are not available and the State Police are not available. He said Council needs to make a motion and hire another full time police officer. This is an emergency situation.

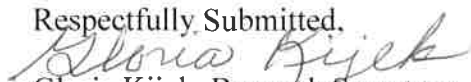
Andra Disinferdinand, 128 Philadelphia – doesn't it make sense to just hire a full time officer rather than all the part time officers.

John Disinferdinand, 128 Philadelphia – asked about the Police Regionalization meeting is it open to the public. Mayor said yes there is a meeting this Thursday at Exeter Borough.

**17<sup>th</sup> ORDER – ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Mr. Butera, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Gloria Kijek, Borough Secretary