

Minutes of the West Pittston Borough Council Meeting of June 7, 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, Ray Judge, Ian Stevenson, President Ellen Quinn, Mayor Angelo Alfano. Absent: Jared Jordan

3RD ORDER- EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

An executive session was held on May 17, 2023, at 7:30 PM at the West Pittston Borough building for Department of Public Works personnel issues.

4TH ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Public Participation was called for. None was given

5TH ORDER- APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes from May 3, 2023, 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 offices 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. WVSA - monthly report
- B. Email from Anthony Rosati with suggestions on hiring practices and additional safeguards.
- C. Luzerne Conservation District information about the Mosquito-borne Disease Control program
- D. Vincent Cotrone assessment on state grant purchased elm trees on Luzerne Avenue
- E. Street Closure request from Susquehanna Avenue between Wyoming Avenue and Luzerne Avenue on July 22, 2023, from 12-5 PM for a wedding, from John Ponzo

F. Letter of introduction from Jen Moran, newly appointed Director of the West Pittston Library celebrating their 150th Anniversary

G. Announcement of The First to Fall event on July 2, 2023, and street closure request from West Pittston Historical Society for Linden Street between Luzerne Avenue and Wyoming Avenue from 12-5pm on July 2, 2023

H. Email from Cassidy O'Donnell thanking Jared Goldner from Code Enforcement for assistance in ordinance questions

8TH ORDER- SOLICITOR

Attorney Bufalino clarified with Council their request to place the COVID-19 personnel policy into abeyance.

9th ORDER-REILLY ASSOCIATES

Motion to accept the report prepared and submitted by Reilly Associates.

By: Bohn 2nd: Hood Carried by All

10th ORDER- MAYOR- Nothing to report. President Quinn wanted to welcome Chief Turner back and thank him for all his hard work. Chief Turner then presented his public safety report, as well as asked Council for a meeting after the council meeting.

11th ORDER-ADMINISTRATION

Motion to approve payrolls of May 5, 2023, in the amount of \$16,828.44 and May 19, 2023, in the amount of \$13,289.73, totaling \$30,118.17.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve General Fund Prepaid bills totaling \$172,157.27

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve General Funds bills totaling \$1,144.56

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve invoice from Northeast Pennsylvania Land Bank Authority for 2023 Member Contribution in the amount of \$1,500.00

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to ratify the Multimodal Transportation Grant Fund Contract for \$200,000.00 with a match of 30% to be paid through reserve fund balance account.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve Borton Lawson payment application No.5 in the amount of \$185,191.04 and payment application No. 6 in the amount of \$49,599.32. *(incorrectly listed on payment cover sheet as payment application No.4 and No. 5; amounts are all correct)

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-177561 for Zoning/Code Enforcement in the amount of \$7,735.00 and for Floodplain Service in the amount of \$42.50, totaling \$7,777.50

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

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 Scott Ellsworth of 500 Schooley Avenue Apt #85 Exeter, PA 18643 at the hourly rate of \$16.88 during the 90-day probationary period and to have a starting date within the next two weeks.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by all

Motion to approve the hiring of Dustin Eyerman of 414 Stanton Street West Pittston, PA 18643 at the hourly rate of \$16.88 during the 90-day probationary period and to have a starting date within the next two weeks.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by all

15th ORDER- PARKS & RECREATION

Motion to appoint Estelle Campenni of 324 Damon Street, West Pittston, to the Parks & Recreation Board, filling the vacancy left by Mellanie Marino.

By: Stevenson 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by all

Motion to appoint John Kearns, of Philadelphia Street, West Pittston, to the Parks & Recreation Board, filling the vacancy left by Don Shearer.

By: Stevenson 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve the installation of cameras in the Bainbridge-Campbell Park. Funded by West Pittston Tomorrow.

By: Stevenson 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

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

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

16th ORDER- WEST PITTSTON TOMORROW

Lynn Burbank said that the next meeting will be on June 12th, 2023, at 7:00 PM. She also thanked the Department of Public Works for their help in hanging the Veteran's Banners.

Under the Sunshine Act Subsection 712.1, the Council accepts a request from Ron Gitkos submitted at 5:31 PM, for the Vettes for Vets event requesting the closure of Luzerne Avenue between Race Street and Wyoming Avenue on Sunday, June 11th, 2023, from 10:00 am to 3:00 PM.

Motion to approve the closure of the above stated streets

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

17th ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chief Turner gave his police report. There were 513 calls for the entire Region and 166 for West Pittston Borough. There were 6 motor vehicle accidents, one firearms violation that resulted in an arrest, four thefts, and he wanted to thank Jared from Code Enforcement for doing a great job. The police assisted while a house was condemned on Salem Street. Chief Turner requested a meeting with Council afterward. Councilperson Butera asked if the regionalization has changed any crime statistics. Chief Turner responded that they currently have 17 officers and have offers on the table for four more cadets, so a total of 21 officers, including two sergeants, two detectives, and a narcotics liaison. There is a rise in reports because there are more officers to respond to calls and incidents. They are working with a state agency on the juvenile issues occurring in the entire area. The incident at Bainbridge-Campbell Park has been followed through and Chief Turner will be in attendance at that hearing.

Jen Moran introduced herself as the new director of the West Pittston Library. She spoke on the importance of the library and that it is celebrating its 150th Anniversary. President Quinn added that the Borough helped secure a \$150,000 LSA grant for the Library, then mentioned the Library expansion. Moran mentioned that they have secured a site on Montgomery Avenue with the hopes to build and expand in a flood free area.

John Ponzio introduced himself and inquired after his request for the street closure on Susquehanna for July 22nd, 2023. Solicitor Bufalino explained how the process works.

18th ORDER- ANNOUNCEMENTS

19th ORDER- ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:57pm by Hood, 2nd by Quinn

Submitted,

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