

Minutes of the West Pittston Borough Council Meeting of March 1, 2023

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1st ORDER- CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 6:34pm by President Quinn at the West Pittston Borough Building, 555 Exeter Avenue West Pittston, PA.

President Quinn welcomed the new Administrative Secretary and Secretary to Council, Kendra-lee O'Brien. President Quinn also welcomed a group of students from Wyoming Area High School.

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. Also present: Attorney Mark Bufalino.

3RD ORDER- EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

President Quinn stated that executive sessions were held on January 27th, 2023, at 4:00pm to discuss personnel and legal issues, on February 1, 2023, after conclusion of West Pittston Council Meeting to discuss personnel and legal issues and on February 6th, 2023, to discuss personnel and legal 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 table the approval of previous minutes until the April Council meeting.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

6TH 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

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. Don Shearer-resignation letter from Parks & Recreation Board.

C. Pennsylvania American Water-email to announce project to identify service lines, initially through self-reporting by residence and then by Greeley and Hansen through in-person visits.

7TH ORDER- CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

D. Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick- request for ad space.

E. Greater Wyoming Area Little League- offering sponsorship opportunities.

F. Geisinger Health Foundation- request for fireworks permit for May 19th, 2023, for an event being held at The Banks venue in Pittston, PA.

G. UFCW Local 1776- announcement of their Spring Fling event held on Sunday March 26th, 2023 from 11am-1pm or 1:30-3pm.

H. Joseph Fox- Letter of Resignation, last day March 10th, 2023.

I. Rosalie A. Cullagh- request for use of a room in the Borough building to teach CPR/AED class on April 12th or 19th, 2023 from 5:00pm-8:30pm.

8TH ORDER- SOLICITOR

Attorney Buffalino reported a Resolution relative to the Armory purchase to allow Council President Ellen Quinn to execute all necessary documents for purchase.

9TH ORDER- MAYOR

Mayor Alfano shared that he has an Eagle Scout looking for a project to do in town and if anyone has any ideas to come see him.

10th ORDER-ADMINISTRATION

Council President Quinn noted that there was a mistake on the amount stated in the agenda for item B. General Fund Prepaid Bills and it should read \$75,759.40

Motion to ratify payrolls of February 10th, 2023, in the amount of \$14,265.49 and February 24th, 2023, in the amount of \$15,607.07 totaling \$29,875.56

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to ratify General Fund Prepaid bills totaling \$75,759.40

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

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

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion for the ratification of Inter Fund Transfers in the amount of \$200,000.00 from Sewer Account # 986126228 to Sewer Account #9012002792 on February 2, 2023, and \$75,000.00 from Sewer Account # 9861026228 to Sewer Account #9019436879 on February 2, 2023.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

10th ORDER-ADMINISTRATION (continued)

Motion to ratify the Corporate Resolution for Borough of West Pittston authorizing Council President Ellen Quinn to sign and execute any and all documents necessary for the purchase of the property at 1308 Susquehanna Avenue, West Pittston, PA 18643.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve the payment for the property at 1308 Susquehanna Avenue, West Pittston, PA 18643, also known as the Armory, which includes title insurance, for the sum of \$35,382.90 to be paid from the Reserve Fund Balance.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to ratify the Agreement by and between the County of Luzerne and the Borough of West Pittston Borough Amendment #6 that the Sub-recipient will incur all costs for funds budgeted under the County's Buyout Program no later than December 31, 2023.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

11TH ORDER-CODE ENFORCEMENT/ZONING

Butera states that the monthly report from Barry Isett & Associates has been accepted and is on file in the Borough Office.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve payment to Barry Isett & Associates Invoice #WV-174852 for Code Enforcement, Zoning, and Floodplain Services for \$5,950.00.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

12th ORDER- PUBLIC SAFETY

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

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve payment to Kuharchik Construction in regard to the Green Light Go Program for Payment Application No.2 in the amount of \$133,657.15, as recommended by Borton Lawson.

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Attorney

Bufalino noted to the public that those totals are not coming from the general fund, they are coming from grant funds. President Quinn noted that the Green Light Go grant was awarded prior to 2020 but the project was halted due to COVID and restated this year and that the traffic lights can be seen on the corner of Luzerne/Wyoming and Montgomery/Wyoming. Attorney Bufalino added that the grant was part of a project with the Commonwealth to use for community projects to help improve the municipality. Council Member Butera noted that this was a match grant. President Quinn added that all prices of materials have increased since the project began and so the size of the match has also increased.

12th ORDER- PUBLIC SAFETY (continued)

Motion to approve payment to Kuharchik Construction in regard to the Green Light Go Program for Payment Application No.3 in the amount of \$22,126.12, as recommended by Borton Lawson.

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve payment to Kuharchik Construction in regard to the Green Light Go Program for the Payment Application No. 4 in the amount of \$109,665.00, as recommended by Borton Lawson.

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

13TH 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 payment of COG Invoice 100 for \$1,200.00 for Compositing Association.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve payment of COG Invoice 100 for \$4,000.00 for Annual Dues and Membership fee for equipment.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Roll Call by the Secretary of all members present. Stevenson: yes; Butera: yes; Quinn: yes; Hood: yes; Bohn: yes; Judge: no; Yes: 5 No: 1. Motion carries.

President Quinn explained what the COG (Council of Governments) is and what services that they offer. Butera noted that there is over \$1million in equipment available for us to use and that we should make more use of it. Attorney Bufalino noted that COG allows multiple municipalities to defray the costs of offering services to the public, this is large equipment like the street sweeper.

Motion to accept the Resignation Letter of Joseph Fox.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to advertise two Union Department of Public Works positions.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

14TH ORDER- PARKS & RECREATION

Motion to accept the Resignation of Don Shearer.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Butera noted that the resignations are reluctantly accepted, that in the current economy it is difficult for boroughs to compete with businesses. Stevenson thanks Don Shearer for all his work and wanted to thank him for his time and efforts. President Quinn noted that he has run the Anthracite Race for 20 years and that he will be missed.

15TH ORDER- WEST PITTSTON TOMORROW

No representative was present to make comments or announcements.

16TH ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resident- Addressed to the Code Enforcement Officer, wanted to bring attention to the appearance of parts of town, especially on Boston Avenue on the West Pittston side. There are

certain properties that do not keep up with the cleanliness expected of residents. If the company cannot keep up, then the Borough needs to seek different enforcement.

Resident- stated to John Hood as a representative of the Fire Department that the yearly Letter Drive may be more successful if they give an option for electronic or online payments since many people do not write checks anymore, even with the cost of set up the Fire Department could bring in a lot more money. Hood responded that he would bring that up to the Fire Department Board meeting on March 14th. Resident also spoke to Mayor Alfano with a suggestion for the Eagle Scout project. There is a lack of garbage receptacles in town, especially around the Insalaco plaza, where a lot of garbage blows from the stores and parking lot into yards.

Resident- reported that the street sign for the corner of Liberty/Spring was stolen and who needs to know about it for it to be replaced. President Quinn replied that she will pass that information on to DPW. Resident also asked how Liberty Street can be added to the street sweeping rotation. President Quinn said that will be part of the MS4/WVSA street sweeping and that council will pass that message on.

Resident- asked if there were plans for the Armory property. President Quinn responded that the Borough wanted control over the property and does have a project in mind, gave an overview of why the property was up for sale and that the Borough will be razing the property. President Quinn said that as soon as the project is ready, it will be announced.

17TH ORDER- ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Quinn announced that the Water Street/Firemen's Memorial Bridge will not be reopening, as stated by PennDOT. Borough Engineer Tom Reilly added that Luzerne County has not come to a definite decision but will likely not reopen the bridge due to the cost of repairs being comparable to replacing the bridge. West Pittston Borough would like the County to pay for temporary traffic signals on Exeter Avenue to deal with the traffic change. Butera noted that Susquehanna should be north bound only and then right turn only. Stevenson noted that there was an incident on the Water Street Bridge with quads and motorcycles because the barriers are not sufficient to stop anyone from accessing the bridge, he will reach out to the county to request more substantial barriers for safety.

President Quinn announced that there will be a Tenant/Landlord Committee meeting with Code Enforcement on Monday, March 6th at 1:30pm at the West Pittston Borough Building.

18TH ORDER- ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:13pm by Hood.

Submitted,

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