

Minutes of the West Pittston Borough Council Meeting of March 4, 2026

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1st ORDER- CALL TO ORDER

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

3RD ORDER- EXECUTIVE SESSIONS- none were held

4TH ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

No public participation was given.

5TH ORDER- APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes from Minutes from February 4, 2026, as prepared, and to place them on file in the Borough Office, as corrected.

By: Valenti 2nd: Quinn Motion Carried

6TH ORDER- REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Reports, the Mayor's Report; and the Code Office's report, as submitted and placed on file in the Borough Office.

By: Valenti 2nd: Quinn Motion Carried by All

7TH ORDER- CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary O'Brien submitted the following correspondence for Council's review:

Letter of appreciation from Monsignor Sempa of Corpus Christi Parish concerning snow removal

Letter of Request for street closures from West Pittston Historical Society for June 28th for First to Fall event, an official America250PA event, from 12-5pm

Invite to the Luzerne County Boroughs & Townships Association Dinner on March 26, 2026

Letter of interest from Carmen Ambrosino to serve on the Opioid Commission

8TH ORDER- SOLICITOR- Attorney Burke

Attorney Burke prepared an amendment to Ordinance 630 concerning the Opioid Commission

9th ORDER-MAYOR- Mayor Angelo Alfano

Nothing to report.

Chief Turner gave his report on WARP activity. There were 306 calls total with 65 of them being in West Pittston. The DUI enforcement program that was in partnership with the Rotary did well. Rotary was able to donate breath tests. WARP also applied for Representative Bresnahan's grant for about \$3 billion for building remodel and equipment. They have been in conversations with Bresnahan's office to ensure compliance, asking for about \$2 million. The Chief is also asking for a letter of support from the Mayor. Most of the new cars are up and running, they have two more to finish. Two officers will be assigned to each car. These cars were from a grant through Cartwright. On March 20, Chief Turner will be having a meeting with representatives from DC and Representative Pugh about Kratom and its safety concerns.

10th ORDER-ADMINISTRATION

Motion to approve the Payroll for February 6, 2026, in the amount of \$17,965.23; and February 20, 2026, in the amount of \$16,009.19; totaling \$33,974.42

By: Quinn 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the General Fund prepaid bills totaling \$272,210.26; General Fund Bills totaling \$0.00

By: Quinn 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to Advertise bids for Neighborhood Accessibility Sidewalk Improvements CFA multimodal

By: Quinn 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to Advertise bids for Exeter Avenue Streetscape CFA Multimodal and CDBG

By: Quinn 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by all

Motion made to approve Microsoft Licensing quote for emails for Council members at \$99 per license per year, totaling 5 licenses at \$495.00

By: Quinn 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to ratify Verdantas Invoice 145017 for Levee scoping in the amount of \$15,660.00

By: Quinn 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the Gashi Invoice 1/23/2026 for \$9,025.00: trees on Philadelphia and Blackman

By: Quinn 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve Welby, Stoltenberg, Cimballa & Cook, LLC Invoice for \$2,480.00

By: Quinn 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve Amendment No 1 for one year extension of the Period of Performance for the FMA 2021 Grant Program from FEMA

By: Quinn 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the Stormwater Resolution (PennDOT-Wyoming x Susquehanna) 26-005

By:Quinn 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to Advertise Amusement Device Ordinance amendment

By: Quinn 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the Pay App 4 for Dunmore Roofing \$22,335.01 (final pay app for roofing)

By: Quinn 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve Reilly Associates Invoice 24045.00-4 for Armory Demolition from 8/31/25- 1/31/26 for \$11,051.33

By: Valenti 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the Roadway Lighting Agreement with PennDot (related to Bridge improvements)

By: Valenti 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the Roadway Lighting Resolution 26-006 (related to Bridge improvements)

By: Valenti 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the Sidewalk Agreement with PennDot (related to Bridge improvements)

By: Valenti 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the Sidewalk Resolution 26-007 (related to Bridge Improvements)

By: Valenti 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the America250 PA Resolution 26-008

By: Valenti 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to table presentation and request from Amy Bezak

By: Quinn 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by all

Motion made to Advertise Ordinance 630 Amendment- Opioid Commission

By: Valenti 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by all

There was discussion on multiple topics that could be applied for between Councilmember Quinn, Councilmember Pupali, and President Kearns.

Motion made to approve submission of three congressional funding grants: one of Exeter and Wyoming Avenue Streetscape project; one for levee preliminary design project; and the third related to fire protection for West Pittston Hose Company.

By: Quinn 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by all

11TH ORDER-CODE ENFORCEMENT & ZONING

Motion made to advertise Rental and Vacant Property Ordinances

By: Pupali 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to accept Floodplain Management Activities Annual Report submitted by Phil Prout

By: Pupali 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to accept the BIU monthly report for January 2026

By: Pupali 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve Barry Isett & Associates Invoice WV-208728 \$8,733.75

By: Pupali 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

12th ORDER- PUBLIC SAFETY

Motion made to accept West Pittston Hose Company Monthly Report for January 2026

By: Stevenson 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to accept Wyoming Area Regional Police monthly report

By: Stevenson 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to submit Eddi Kondraski as Emergency Management Coordinator to Governor’s office

By: Stevenson 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the resolution of previous employee grievances

By: Stevenson 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

13th ORDER-PUBLIC WORKS

Motion made to accept the Department of Public Works monthly report to keep it on file in the Borough Office.

By: Bugelholl 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to appoint Appointment of Neil Williams to West Side Council of Governments as West Pittston Borough representative

By: Bugelholl 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve Costar Salt Contract for 2026-2027

By: Bugelholl 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to table the motion to advertise for part-time laborer-driver at \$15.00/hour

By: Bugelholl 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to table the motion to advertise for Advertise for DPW Foreman at \$47,940.00/yearly salary

By: Bugelholl 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve Payment of James T. O'Hara Inc invoice for emergency snow removal in the amount of \$52,200.00

By: Bugelholl 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve a letter of support for West Side Council of Government grant application

Councilmember Quinn asked what the COG is requesting, President Kearns responded that it would be a letter of support for a training facility. Councilmember Quinn asked if they will be using a current facility or if they will be buying a new one. Secretary O'Brien said that it will be to buy or build a new facility.

By: Bugelholl 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Councilmember Stevenson asked Borough manager Bonita about the emergency snow removal and if Governor Shapiro declined our request. Bonita responded that it was not a PEMA declaration of an emergency, so everyone's was declined.

14th ORDER- PARKS & RECREATION

Motion made to accept the Letter of Resignation from Bradley Vile for term ending December 2028

Motion: Pupali 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to accept the Letter of Resignation from Alex Russin for term ending December 2029

Councilmember Quinn asked if both resignations were immediate. Councilmember Pupali responded with yes. President Quinn checked the letters and yes they are immediate as of this meeting.

Motion: Pupali 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

15th ORDER- SHADE TREE COMMISSION- nothing to report**16th ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION-**

Denisco made council aware of issue on Salem Street. There are empty properties and properties that are not being maintained, including snow removal, lawn maintenance and garbage. She had to remove garbage that had blown into her property. Councilmember Bugelholl mentioned that the Council is currently working on a Vacant Property Registration Ordinance. President Kearns mentioned that the Borough is moving forward. Councilmember Pupali mentioned the Borough's online complaint form that can be found on the Borough's website, this will allow better tracking of issues. If anyone needs help with it, please let the office know.

Denisco brought to Council's attention that she is worried about the construction happening around her house. The heavy construction vehicles are shaking the ground so much that she is worried about foundation issues and gas leaks. She is generally concerned about any damages.

Another resident, Rosati of 137 Philadelphia Avenue, asked if there was a plan for paying for any damages that might happen because of the project. He said that a prior project did not remediate properly, he has had grass issues since then. He asked if there is a collection process for complaints. President Kearns explained a lot of the process and to please call the office if there are any issues.

Polit of Susquehanna Avenue mentioned that there is a bridge sign on Wyoming Avenue that has to be removed or covered until the bridge reopens because drivers see that and make the turn but there is nowhere for them to go and it is causing issues. He also requested a stop sign at the end of Luzerne Avenue until the bridge reopens, to make that a 3 way stop intersection. He also suggested adding blinking lights to the current stop signs, he said that they can be found at Bassler equipment. He mentioned an altercation that happened because one driver ignored the stop sign and almost hit another driver. Councilmember Stevenson said that he was the other driver and that that intersection is an issue, but putting another stop sign there will not work if they are not enforced.

Barone, property owner on Luzerne Avenue, has sewer concerns where the sewer is backing up into the basement. He said it is causing issues for him to be able to conduct business, he had to convince his tenant to stay. Council asked for some clarifications on the issue. President Kearns asked if the recording from the cameras came in. Barone said that yes, and he will show any councilmembers what the issues are. President Kearns said that they will follow up with Reilly Engineering. Councilmember Pupali shared her feelings with ongoing concerns with engineering projects in town, President Kearns said that Council will gather more information to be able to determine what is going on.

President Kearns welcomed students from Wyoming Area School District to the meeting and had Alex Jacobs explain their assignment.

17th ORDER- ANNOUNCEMENTS

18th ORDER- ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by Bugelholl 7:14pm

Submitted,



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