

Minutes of the West Pittston Borough Council Meeting of May 1, 2024**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****1st ORDER- CALL TO ORDER**

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Quinn 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. Council: Bill Bohn, Mike Bugelholl, Jim Butera, Jared Jordan, Ian Stevenson, Toni Valenti, President Ellen Quinn, and Mayor Angelo Alfano. Attorney Bufalino called in.

3RD ORDER- EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

An executive session was held on April 17, 2024, at 5:30 PM and ending at 6:25 PM concerning legal issues with the public safety department and personnel in the Department of Public Works.

4TH ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

None was given.

5TH ORDER- APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve and accept the minutes from April 3, 2024, as prepared, and to place them on file in the Borough Office.

By: Jordan 2nd: Bohn Motion Carried

6TH ORDER- REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, the Mayor's monthly report totaling \$180.08, and the Code Office's monthly report totaling \$3,687.00 and place them on file in the Borough Office.

By: Jordan 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

7TH ORDER- CORRESPONDENCE-

Secretary O'Brien reported the following correspondence:

Letter from West Pittston Historical Society requesting street closure of Linden on June 30, 2024, from 12-5pm for First to Fall event

Invitation from West Pittston Library for their Silent Art Auction fundraiser on May 25, 2024 at 6PM

Letter from Luzerne County Planning and Zoning of their 2024 Congestion Management Process Plan (final plan available online and in Borough office)

Letter from PennDOT inviting West Pittston Council to a public meeting to discuss State Route 11, over State Route 2037, Susquehanna River, and Railroad project on May 8, 2024 from 6-8 PM at the Wyoming Area Secondary Center Auditorium

8TH ORDER- SOLICITOR- Attorney Bufalino had no report this month

9th ORDER-REILLY ASSOCIATES- No report, no one in attendance

10th ORDER- MAYOR

Mayor Alfano announced that the new Wyoming Area Regional Police building is still moving forward and the renovations are being worked on.

11th ORDER-ADMINISTRATION

Motion made to approve payroll for April 5, 2024, in the amount of \$14,243.12, and April 19, 2024, in the amount of \$11,610.88, totaling \$25,854.00

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the General Fund prepaid bills \$98,384.61

By: Butera 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the General Fund bills \$10,989.64

By: Butera 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the resolution for street closures for Cherry Blossom Parade on May 4, 2024, at 11 AM, for Exeter Avenue, Wyoming Avenue, Philadelphia Avenue, and Susquehanna Avenue

By: Butera 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the resolution for street closure for Cherry Blossom Festival on May 4th and May 5th for Susquehanna Avenue

By: Butera 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the Resolution for street closures for Memorial Day Parade on May 27, 2024, from 11:30 to 12:30

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the amended Floodplain Ordinance of 2024

By: Butera 2nd: Bohn Motion Carried by All

Motion to table signing the agreement with M&J

By: Butera 2nd: Bohn Motion Carried by All

Motion made to employ the services of Lightman & Welby concerning the uniform pension matter based on \$185.00 per hour rate

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

12TH ORDER-CODE ENFORCEMENT & ZONING (Barry Isett)

Motion to accept the monthly permit and case report for April 2024, submitted by Barry Isett, to be kept on file in the Borough Office.

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve Barry Isset & Associates (March 2024) Invoice # WV-187578 in the amount of \$6,672.50

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve BIU inspections list for March 2024 submitted by Dave Williams

By: Butera 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

13th ORDER- PUBLIC SAFETY

Report submitted by Chief Turner, reviewing 82 calls for West Pittston. He and Attorney Bufalino will be reviewing the handicap ordinance to submit a change to Council. WARP is moving forward with moving into the new building and the April 5 ribbon cutting ceremony was well attended and he thanked those that attended.

14th ORDER-PUBLIC WORKS

Motion to accept the April 2024 report submitted by Neil Williams.

By: Butera 2nd: Bohn Motion Carried by all

Motion to approve the hiring of Kevin Clocker, 361 Tripp Street Wyoming, as the Department of Public Works Supervisor at a salary of \$61,000

By: Butera 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion to amend the 2024 Salary Resolution for the Department of Public Works Supervisor.

By: Butera 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

15th ORDER- PARKS & RECREATION-

Motion to accept the resignation of Roxanne Arreguin from the term that expires December 31, 2024

By: Stevenson 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion to appoint Alexandra Russin of 119 Linden Street to serve on the Parks & Recreation Board to fulfill the end of the term that expires on December 31, 2024

By: Stevenson 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to appoint Ariane F. Pupali of 40 Exeter Avenue to serve on the Parks & Recreation Board for a 5-year term ending April 2029

By: Stevenson

2nd: Valenti

Motion Carried by All

16th ORDER- SHADE TREE COMMISSION- nothing to report

17th ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A group of residents attended the meeting to make the Council aware of an issue with a property on Franklin Street. There were five police calls this week alone, regular issues, violence, children on the property unsupervised, and two overdose incidents in the last five months. It is a safety concern and an eyesore for all the residents of the block and the adjoining properties.

Chief Turner addressed the situation that involves Code Enforcement and an active investigation. He wanted to address Council and attending residents to tell them that the WARP is aware of the situation and when more information is available, there will be a press release, but he cannot comment on an active investigation on. Chief Turner added to the conversation to ensure that the residents know the police are doing what they can and that he will contact the Code Enforcement office to follow up on any violations. He also recommended, and will follow up, with Children & Youth Services as well as the Truancy Officer for the Wyoming Area School District.

Resident brought safety and quality of life concerns to Council's attention of issue properties on Salem Street. There are Code issues that have not been addressed and she feels unsafe in her home. She also asked about where the Landlord/Tenant meeting has gone and why has that not been followed up or addressed so that there is more accountability from landlords.

Resident asked about where to get a handicap parking application and President Quinn explained that the application is available in the Borough office and on the Borough website.

19th ORDER- ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council received and opened Requests for Qualifications for Grant Project Management:

MRA Architects of Wyoming Avenue, West Pittston

Brozena Consulting of Luzerne Avenue, West Pittston

The Council acknowledges receipt of the above submissions and will announce and advertise the meeting.

Councilmember Valenti announced that the Cherry Blossom Festival will take place May 4 and 5, with the parade taking place at 11am on Saturday.

President Quinn also announced that the park clean-up on April 28, 2024, was successful and that the Junior Key Club will be doing another clean up on May 8, 2024.

20th ORDER- ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM by Butera, 2nd by Bugelhol

Submitted,

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