Minutes of the West Pittston Borough Council Meeting of September 2, 2026

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1st ORDER- CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 6:38 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, Attorney Burke and Mayor Angelo Alfano. Jared Jordan was absent.

3RD ORDER- EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

An executive session was held on August 19th, 2026, from 6:00-6:30pm to discuss personnel and employment agreement in the administrative department.

An executive session was held on September 2, 2026, from 6:00-6:35pm to discuss employment in the administrative department and the Department of Public Works.

4TH ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY- none was given

5TH ORDER- APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes from Minutes from August 5, 2026, as prepared, and to place them on file in the Borough Office.

By: Valenti 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

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: Bugelholl Motion Carried by All

7TH ORDER- CORRESPONDENCE

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

Street closure request from West Pittston Historical Society for October 10, 2026
Luz County Boroughs & Townships Association dinner September 24
Street closure request for October 31, 2026, from 5-9pm
Wyoming Valley Run street closure request
Little Eric's Foundation ribbon request

By: Quinn 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

8TH ORDER- SOLICITOR- Attorney Burke

Attorney Burke prepared the following to Council's consideration:

Sewer Maintenance Ordinance update
Resolution 26-022 for street closure requests for Halloweentown

9th ORDER-MAYOR- Mayor Angelo Alfano

Mayor Alfano presented Savino Bonita with an appreciation of service plaque and thanked him for his many years devoted to the Borough and its well-being. Mr. Bonita thanked Council. President Kearns thanked Mr. Bonita for keeping the Borough financially stable for many years.

Chief Turner was in attendance and submitted the Wyoming Area Regional Police Monthly Report for August 2026. He said that they are updating their reporting system and with that came some adjustment with the numbers reported and available in the report. There were 193 calls in West Pittston. There was a fire at Wyoming Area Catholic school with first responders from West Pittston and the Regional police, all did a great job during the active fire. There is a run event going through the Borough on Sunday, please have patience while the streets are closed. Officers will be mandated to work on Halloween. Wilkes Barre police department allowed WARP to use their indoor firing range for training which saved time and money. Councilmember Pupali said that noise complaints are up in the area and asked if the Chief has noticed that. Chief said that if there is a noise complaint to call 911, the office will respond, but at this point he has not noticed a specific issue with that. Chief Turner asked about a follow-up on Delaware Avenue if code enforcement has been there. President Kearns said that Council will look into that.

10th ORDER-ADMINISTRATION

Motion to approve the Payroll for August 7, 2026, in the amount of $17,974.45 and August 21, 2026, in the amount of $12,523.94; totaling $30,498.39

By: Valenti 2nd: Pupali Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the General Fund prepaid bills totaling $34,095.24; General Fund $0.00
By: Valenti 2nd: Pupali Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the Workers Compensation renewal for 9/30/26-9/30/27 through Joyce Insurance
By: Valenti 2nd: Pupali Motion Carried by All

Motion made to adopt the Ordinance Amendment for Sewer Maintenance

By: Valenti 2nd: Pupali Motion Carried by all

Motion made to approve the LSA C000083229 Library grant change of scope letter
By: Valenti 2nd: Pupali Motion Carried by All

Motion made to table 846 Foundry Street demolition bid until a sufficient number of bids can be reviewed.

By: Valenti 2nd: Pupali Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve 846 Foundry Street abatement invoice $1,500.00 to be paid from fire escrow account

By: Valenti 2nd: Pupali Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the Resolution 26-022 for street closure requests for Halloweentown

By: Valenti 2nd: Pupali Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve hiring Elise Bloom of Pittston for full-time Administrative Assistant at a yearly salary of $40,000.00, pending background check and medical check

By: Valenti 2nd: Quinn Motion Carried by All

11TH ORDER-INFRASTRUCTURE

Motion made to accept WP Neighborhood Accessibility bid of Don E. Bower, Inc at $220,183.95 to be funded through grant

By: Quinn 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve Levee Scoping Project Verdantas invoice #156818 for March 28- June 26, 2026, for $10,576.00

By: Quinn 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve Levee Scoping Project Verdantas invoice #158219 for June 27- July 24, 2026 for $58,504.44

By: Quinn 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve Exeter Avenue Sewer Replacement Project: Pioneer Construction Co, Inc. for $132,465.50 to come from the unreserved fund

By: Quinn 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve Sewer Separation Project James T. O'Hara Change Order #4 $106,441.60

By: Quinn 2nd: Stevenson Roll Call:

Bugelholl: Y Jordan: Absent Pupali:N Stevenson: Y Quinn: Y Valenti: Y Kearns: Y

Motion Carries

Motion made to approve Sewer Separation Project Reilly Associates Invoice #10 Professional services June 21-August 1, 2026 for $25,273.80

By: Quinn 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve Sewer Separation Project James T. O'Hara Pay application in the amount of $467,534.11

By: Quinn 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to accept the Decorative Lighting Maintenance Bid of Kuharchik Construction, Inc for Monday-Friday 6am-7pm services at $128/hr, emergency services for $176/hr, truck service at $58/hr

By: Quinn 2nd: Pupali Motion Carried by All

Motion made to table Resolution #26-024 for application to Luzerne County LSA for Levee Design Project in the amount of $750,000.00 (Councilmember Quinn explained that the Borough already has two projects and using LSA grants for the match for those projects, so will not be submitting again but instead will be submitting for a sewer separation project in the flood zone, which will also work towards the levee and flood mitigation process.)

By: Quinn 2nd: Pupali Motion Carried by All

12TH ORDER-CODE ENFORCEMENT & ZONING

Motion made to approve BIA Invoice #0215049 for July 2026 in the amount of $8,372.50

By: Pupali 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to accept the Barry Isett & Associates Zoning/Floodplain activity report August 2026

By: Pupali 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Councilmember Pupali added that the Borough has hired NEIC as the new code enforcement company and they operate through complaints, so if there is an issue, a formal complaint form needs to be completed so that they can follow through on those concerns.

12th ORDER- PUBLIC SAFETY

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

By: Stevenson 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to accept Greater Pittston Regional Ambulance monthly report for August 2026

By: Stevenson 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the electric quote from Chesla Electric for Spring Street $4,100.00

By: Stevenson 2nd: Pupali Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the Resolution 26-023 for LSA application for Firehouse Improvements for $489,000.00

By: Stevenson 2nd: Pupali 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: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve the electric quote from Chesla Electric for lights in DPW for $350.00
By: Bugelholl 2nd: Stevenson Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve Bentley quote for hook truck repair up to $8,500.00

By: Bugelholl 2nd: Pupali Motion Carried by All

Motion made to hire Matthew McKnight of Wilkes-Barre for Department of Public Works full-time union laborer position at $21.80/hour with a start date of September 21, 2026, pending background check and medical check

By: Bugelholl 2nd: Valenti Roll call:

Bugelholl: Y Jordan: Absent Pupali:Y Stevenson: Y Quinn: Y Valenti: Y Kearns: Y Motion Carries

14th ORDER- PARKS & RECREATION

Motion made to approve swing set chain replacement $479.96, and for DPW to replace and install swings and chain in Morris Park

By: Pupali 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

Motion made to approve Gravel for dog park, up to $400, and for DPW to pick up and place gravel

By: Bugelholl 2nd: Valenti Motion Carried by All

15th ORDER- SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Mrs. Burbank said that they are working with the Parks & Recreation on a replacement tree and placing some cherry blossom trees in the old armory property.

16th ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resident had a complaint about high grass, a fiberglass shower stall, and garbage in a neighbor's yard on Salem Street. Councilmember Pupali recommended completing the complaint form. Mrs DeNisco followed up that complaint with supporting comments on some of the properties on Salem Street. Ms. Denisco also said that the empty property is unlivable.

There is a driveway concern with the sewer separation project. President Kearns said that there has been a formal complaint and Council will follow up, also with potholes on Fourth Street.

Lynn Burbank asked about the streetlight project. Mayor Alfano said that Kriger was awarded the bid, there should be a winter start date. Mrs. Burbank also said that the historical signs have been delivered to the Borough garage.

17th ORDER- ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Kearns announced that a CFA Multimodal grant was applied for $1,650,000.00 for sidewalks and streetscapes for Wyoming Avenue from Luzerne to Montgomery and Exeter Avenue from Wyoming to Parke Street and a Greenways, Trails, & recreation Program Grant was applied for $207,062 for improvements to Morris Park. There will also be a levee update at the next Council meeting on October 7th, 2026 at 6:30pm

18th ORDER- ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned 7:18pm

Submitted, 

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