

Minutes of the West Pittston Borough Council Meeting of September 6, 2023

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, PA.

2ND ORDER- ROLL CALL

Roll Call was taken by Secretary Kendra-lee O'Brien. Council: William Bohn, Jim Butera, John Hood, Jared Jordan, Ray Judge, Ian Stevenson, President Ellen Quinn, Mayor Angelo Alfano.

3RD ORDER- EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

An executive session was held on August 23, 2023, at 6:00 PM to 6:35 PM at the West Pittston Borough Building for the purpose of discussing employment for the Department of Public Works and litigation for the Wyoming Area Regional Police. All Council Members were in attendance as well as the Borough solicitor, Attorney Bufalino.

4TH ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

No participation

5TH ORDER- APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes from August 2, 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 Treasurer's Report as prepared and place it on file in the Borough office.

By: Bohn 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to accept the Mayor's Report as prepared and place it on file in the Borough office.

By: Bohn 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to accept the Code Officer's Monthly Report as prepared and place it 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. Paint Pittston Pink 2023 sponsorship request and event announcement

C. Little Eric's Foundation Request for gold bows along Luzerne Avenue and Wyoming Avenue to promote awareness for Childhood Cancer Month in September and an invitation to Council to attend the bow placing.

D. Letter from resident of Hitchner Building with concerns about railroad track maintenance.

E. Trunk or Treat invitation from Wyoming Borough Recreation for October 21, 2023

F. Bureau of Elections Polling Place Agreement

G. Handicap parking request for 333 Fremont Street

Motion to accept the Wyoming Valley Sanitation Authority report and place it on file.

By: Bohn 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

8TH ORDER- SOLICITOR

Attorney Bufalino stated that he prepared resolutions concerning the abeyance of the COVID-19 personnel policy and the destruction of recorded meetings.

9th ORDER-REILLY ASSOCIATES

Nothing to report.

10th ORDER- MAYOR

Mayor Alfano updated on the State Barracks, the state has passed a bill to help move forward on that purchase and hopefully by the spring that will be in process with renovations be able to move the Regional Police into those facilities.

- A.** Police Report: Chief Turner reported 159 calls to West Pittston. Wyoming Valley Run came through the town and all 18 officers were involved, very successful for our coverage area. Turner said that they have everything out of the old station except for the evidence that is locked up in the one office until they can move it to new building. President Quinn said that they need a key for that office and that the Borough is working on cleaning up and rekeying the building. Councilmember Jordan asked if the police are the only ones with access to the evidence room to make sure that the Borough is not liable for anything in there. President Quinn asked Turner to show Secretary how to use the camera system, Chief Turner said that he will give a call to Delisio to tie in the two systems into one system based out of the main office.

11th ORDER-ADMINISTRATION

Motion to approve payroll of August 11, 2023, in the amount of \$21,734.85; and August 25, 2023, in the amount of \$18,125.09, totaling \$39,589.94.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve General Fund Pre-paid bills totaling \$36,157.65

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve General Funds bills totaling \$1,384.56

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve the Bureau of Elections Polling Place Agreement.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to authorize Attorney Bufalino to remove the liens placed by the West Pittston Borough on 504 Wyoming Avenue to proceed with said property tax sale

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve a letter requesting pedestrian crossing signs at Warren and Exeter crossing for West Pittston Library and bus stop to PennDot. (President Quinn added that they are doing that because the letter must come from the municipality)

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to write a letter of support for Little Eric's Foundation gold bow request.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve the Kuharchik Construction Inc. Invoice #414725 in the amount of \$180.00 for Boston Avenue traffic light.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to ratify the Resolution #23-008 of West Pittston Borough Cable Franchise Agreement with RCN Telecom Services

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion for West Pittston Borough to donate the historical artifacts to the West Pittston Historical Society found during the archaeological dig done by AD Marble company during the road improvement and bridge project.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve Bassler Equipment Invoice #3313 in the amount of \$87.00, Invoice #3389 in the amount of \$125.00, Invoice #3396 in the amount of \$780.00, totaling \$992.00

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve the West Pittston Borough NUF Pension Plan Minimum Municipal Obligation 2024 in the amount of \$21,153.00

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve the West Pittston Borough Police Pension Plan Minimum Municipal Obligation 2024 in the amount of \$97,418.00

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

12TH ORDER-CODE ENFORCEMENT & ZONING

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 (July) Invoice # WV-180487 in the amount of \$9,668.75 and Flood Plain Management in the amount of \$106.24, totaling \$9,775.00

By: Bohn 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

13th ORDER- PUBLIC SAFETY

Motion to table the hiring of Cory Sienkiewicz for the West Pittston Fire Department Truck Driver, pending mandatory testing results.

By: Stevenson 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve the ARPA donation to the West Pittston Fire Department in the amount of \$35,100.00 to cover the costs of protective clothing from Municipal Emergency Services.

By: Stevenson 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Councilmember Stevenson noted that this amount will purchase 9 full sets of bunker gear for the fire department.

14th ORDER-PUBLIC WORKS

Motion to accept the monthly report, submitted by Tony Scalzo.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by all

15th ORDER- PARKS & RECREATION

The next meeting will be announced soon with plans to host a Halloween event and a winter event.

16th ORDER- SHADE TREE COMMISSION- Nothing to report

17th ORDER- WEST PITTSTON TOMORROW- Nothing to report

18th ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resident asked where to park during street sweeping if signs say no parking on one side of the street on one-way streets. Councilmember Hood said that it should alternate streets, Councilmember Jordan said that it is a one way road, so if our signs say no parking on one side and then WVSA signs say no parking on the other side, there is nowhere for residents to park. President Quinn asked Wyoming Area Regional Police and Councilmember Hood to look into it and find a solution.

Resident asked if there was bulk item pick up. Mayor Alfano responded that because residents are responsible for their own garbage, that the Borough does not offer this service and to contact your trash provider.

Resident asked about plans for the Armory property. President Quinn responded that there is a plan for the WVSA pump station to be moved to that property after the current Armory building is taken down. The Council is currently working on a revised budget to be able to take down the building and they are working with Jim Brozena and the Luzerne County Flood Development Authority to move the project forward.

Resident asked about poor sidewalks and who is responsible for their care as well as the intersection of Wyoming Avenue and Susquehanna because it is dangerous to cross there. Attorney Bufalino said that that is a state road, and it is in the works to help alleviate that congestion and ease the crossing.

Resident asked what is the intent for the Landlord/Tenant meeting. President Quinn responded that it is to help with absentee landlords, and general issue properties to help better the entire community.

19th ORDER- ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Landlord/Tenant meeting will be held on October 4th at 4:30 PM at Borough Building.

20th ORDER- ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM by Hood, 2nd by Quinn

Submitted,

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