

1st ORDER - CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order by President Quinn at the West Pittston Borough Building 555 Exeter Ave. West Pittston, PA.

2nd ORDER – ROLL CALL

Council: Mr. Bohn, Mr. Butera, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Judge, Mr. Stevenson, President Quinn.

Members absent: Mr. Hood, Mayor Alfano

3rd ORDER – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was held on August 24, 2022 at 8 p.m. to discuss legal issues and Public Works personnel.

4th ORDER – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Public Participation was called for. None was given.

5th ORDER – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 3, 2022

On motion of Mr. Bohn, second by Mr. Judge, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, accepted and approved the minutes as prepared and place them on file.

6th ORDER – REPORTS OF OFFICERS

On motion of Mr. Bohn, second by Mr. Judge, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, accepted the reports as prepared and place them on file.

7th ORDER – CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary Ms. Kijek reported the following correspondence have been placed on file in the borough office.

- A. WWSA - monthly report
- B. Laura Dennis - Trunk and Treat at Flack Field
- C. Ryan Wasser, 4 Exeter Avenue – concerns about the Storm water Management Ordinance
- D. Little Eric’s Foundation – permission to place bows along Luzerne and Wyoming Ave
- E. DEP – Drought Watch Voluntary Water Conservation
- F. Luzerne County Recycling Department – Tire Recycling Event

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8th ORDER – SOLICITOR

Attorney Bufalino had nothing to report at this time.

9th ORDER – MAYOR

Mayor Alfano was absent from this meeting.

10th ORDER – ADMINISTRATION

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Judge, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to ratify payrolls of August 12, 2022 in the amount of \$23,537.12, August 26, 2022 in the amount of \$21,809.81 totaling \$45,348.93.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Judge, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to ratify General Fund prepaid bills totaling \$135,399.00.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Judge, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve General Fund bills totaling \$9,118.89.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Judge, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to accept the SPCA Agreement with West Pittston.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Judge, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve Gloria Kijek attending the PSAB Fall Conference and Board Meeting October 14, 15 and 16, 2022.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve the contract with RCN Astound Cable Franchise Agreement with West Pittston.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve payment to Barry Isett & Associates for Invoices #0169721 in the amount of \$276.25 for flood plain services.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve the NUF Pension Plan MMO 2023 in the amount of \$14,948.00.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve the Police Pension Plan MMO 2023 in the amount of \$127,908.

11th ORDER – CODE ENFORCEMENT/ZONING

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to accept the code enforcement/zoning monthly report and put on file in the Borough office.

On motion of Mr. Bohn, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve payment to Barry Isett & Associates for Invoices #0169720 in the amount of \$4,016.25 for code enforcement/zoning services.

12th ORDER – PUBLIC SAFETY

On motion of Mr. Stevenson, second by Mr. Bohn, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to accept the Public Safety monthly report and put on file at the borough office.

13th ORDER – PUBLIC WORKS

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to accept the Public Works monthly report and put on file at the borough office.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to TABLE RFP's for Snow Removal during extreme snow conditions.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to TABLE the reimbursement for Tony Scalzo's covid tests purchase until proof of purchase and amount is provided.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Bohn, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to accept the resignation of DPW worker Jeff Nicholson.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Bohn, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to advertise for a fulltime DPW union laborer.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Bohn, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve CDBG Jenkin, Damon, Salem Project Change Order #3 (final) a decrease of \$13,120.00 by M&J Excavation and recommended by Borough Engineer. .

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Bohn, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve CDBG Street Improvements Project application for payment #3 (final) to M&J Excavation in the amount of \$48,246.55 and recommended by Borough Engineer.

13th ORDER – PUBLIC WORKS (continued)

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Bohn, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve 2021 Liquid Fuels Street Improvements Project Change Order #2 (final) an increase of \$4,758.00 by M&J Excavation recommended by Borough Engineer.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Bohn, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to approve 2021 Liquid Fuels Street Improvements Project application for payment #3 (final) to M&J Excavation for \$32,789.14.

14th ORDER – PARKS & RECREATION

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to accept the resignation of Ellen Quinn from the Parks & Recreation Committee.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Jordon, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to accept the resignation of Judy Stevenson from the Parks & Recreation Committee.

On motion of Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Stevenson, and by unanimous vote upon roll call of all members present, to appoint Mellanie Manno Franco, 608 Jenkins Street, West Pittston to the Parks & Recreation Committee term expires 12/31/2022.

15th ORDER- WEST PITTSTON TOMORROW

Lynn Burbank announced that West Pittston Tomorrow will meet on Monday at the West Pittston Library at 7 p.m. This will not be a virtual meeting it will only be an in person meeting.

16th ORDER – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resident - asked what is West Pittston Tomorrow? Lynn Burbank explained what the group does for the community and how it was formed after the flood.

Resident - asked why only one section of Jenkins St. was paved and not the other section? Residents are getting water in their basements on Jenkins St. President Quinn responded we will be doing paving in the spring.

Resident - thanked Mr. Hood for being the only Council member that showed up regarding a Salem St. property that should be condemned. We were told can't be condemned because it's a double block. The property owner is getting ready to rent and this property is a mess how can he

16th ORDER – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (continued)

rent it in this condition. Also complained the no one can get in touch with the Code Enforcement Officer and the property is full of garbage and smells has rodents and water in basement. Renters are moving in and out during the middle of night and some don't speak English. Council is not doing their job if these properties are in town. Mr. Butera said the reason Mr. Hood was there is because he is the Fire Chief. President Quinn responded Code Enforcement is aware of this property and it takes time to resolve and that there was another property in West Pittston that was a mess and it took months to resolve. President Quinn continued everyone has freedoms and we have to respect those freedoms. Mr. Stevenson said the broken window has been fixed at this property.

Resident - concerned about the company the Borough hired to do Code Enforcement and feels it is not working out, it is failing. A Code Enforcement Officer needs to go into these properties and have the owners held responsible for repairs immediately. President Quinn said the Code Enforcement Officer knows what he can and cannot do.

Resident – concerned about the dog attacks from his neighbor's dog attacking several people. Nothing is being done. Mr. Stevenson was nice enough to stop by. President Quinn responded that she called the Dog Warden and left a message and he has not gotten back to her and she looked up the dog attack and it happened in January and another incident was recently and it would be up to the Dog Warden to decide what to do. Resident also complained about a property which may be hoarders living there with stuff on the porch and they also put dog in the car in the winter. President Quinn said the hoarding is Code Enforcement but the dog is not. Mr. Butera said we will look into Code Enforcement options since there are problems.

Resident – it seems all these issues tonight have to do with Code Enforcement. President Quinn said if you see code issues call the Code Enforcement Officer and if you can't get in touch with him let us know and call the Borough Secretary and let her know.

Resident – said to President Quinn that she also called dog warden and was called right back so maybe President Quinn is not calling the correct number and she would be happy to share the number she called.

Resident – asked where is Council at with this committee that is supposed to be formed to address problem rental properties and thanked President Quinn for all she did when she was on Parks & Rec.

President Quinn said we are organizing a committee to address rental properties and she can put his name on list if he is interested.

16th ORDER – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (continued)

President Quinn – commented that she spoke to the Parks and Rec and if they don't want to participate in the Trunk and Treat her and the Mayor will do it. She also has heard we have not done a Trunk and Treat for a long time and this is not true.

Resident – asked if the reports mentioned on agenda could be posted on the website before a meeting? President Quinn responded we will look into it and discuss that at next Work Session.

Resident – asked what is wrong with the phone system and when will the new system be installed. Jim Butera said he talked to Savino the Borough Manager about it and he said the current phone system is working fine but the new system will have more capabilities and the problem is that people aren't leaving messages in the correct mailboxes and the Borough Manger also said that certain mailboxes were not being checked for messages. Mr. Butera said we found someone to install the new system and it will be installed within 60 days.

Resident – asked if West Pittston is committed to the Regionalization Police? President Quinn responded yes we are. Resident was concerned about what he said was 2 mils committed for Regional Police Department and with that much funds West Pittston can hire their own officers and keep the police in West Pittston. President Quinn replied that amount is not the budgeted amount. She would need to look it up for the updated numbers and they did budget by population and it may cost more at first but then eventually it will cost us less for the Regional Police Department. Resident responded that no matter what the cost why can't we at least try to keep our West Pittston Police Department and at least try to hire more officers. President Quinn said that the Regional Police Department will have 14 fulltime officers and West Pittston will have better coverage and right now Exeter and Wyoming are considering hiring addition officers for their towns. Resident then asked if we start seeing less coverage with the Regional Police can we get out of it then. President Quinn said yes.

Resident commented that Wyoming Area advertised for fulltime police officers and had 5 applicants. Mr. Butera asked if the officers were Civil Service tested. Resident replied yes. Mr. Stevenson asked the resident to share with them the applicants that weren't hired by Wyoming Area. Resident also complements the DPW for cleaning out the storm drains.

17th ORDER – ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. Butera, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gloria Kijek, Borough Secretary

