

## **Minutes of the West Pittston Borough Council Meeting of December 7, 2022**

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> ORDER- CALL TO ORDER**

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by President Quinn at the West Pittston Borough Building, 555 Exeter Avenue West Pittston, PA.

#### **2<sup>ND</sup> ORDER- ROLL CALL**

Roll Call was taken by William Bohn. Council: William Bohn, Jim Butera, John Hood, Jared Jordan, Ray Judge, Ian Stevenson (arrived late), President Ellen Quinn, Mayor Angelo Alfano. Also present: Attorney Mark Bufalino

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Public Participation was called for. One resident brought up the ambulance service and was informed that this was a topic for later in the meeting since it was not an agenda topic.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> ORDER- APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve the Minutes from the previous meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

**By: Bohn 2<sup>nd</sup>: Stevenson Motion Carried by All**

#### **5<sup>th</sup> ORDER- REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

Motion to accept the reports as prepared and place them on file in the Borough Office

**By: Bohn 2<sup>nd</sup>: Stevenson Motion Carried by All**

#### **6<sup>th</sup> ORDER- CORRESPONDENCE**

Hood reported the following correspondences have been placed on file in the Borough office and made a motion to place them on file.

A. WWSA- monthly report

B. the Municipal Recovery increase of recycling commodities

C. Exeter Events request for street closure for the Turkey Trot

D. the West Pittston Parks & Recreations request for street closure for Tree Lighting Event

E. Cheryl Butera, West Pittston Ambulance Association

F. Dave Chaump, regarding election drop off boxes

**By: Hood 2<sup>nd</sup>: Judge Motion Carried by All**

#### **7<sup>th</sup> ORDER- SOLICITOR**

Attorney Buffalino reported the following:

A. Ratification of the street closures for the Turkey Trot

B. Ratification of the street closures for the Tree Lighting event.

### **8<sup>th</sup> ORDER- MAYOR**

Mayor Alfano reports that WARP (Wyoming Area Regional Police) is moving forward and that we have received 20 applications for full time officer positions. The chief will make suggestions to the committee and interviews will be this week. WARP goes live January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

### **9<sup>th</sup> ORDER-ADMINISTRATION**

Motion to ratify payrolls of November 4, 2022 in the amount of \$22,379.49 and November 18, 2022 in the amount of \$18,666.39 totaling \$41,045.88

**By: Butera 2<sup>nd</sup>: Hood      Motion Carried by All**

Motion to ratify General Fund Prepaid bills totaling \$123,960.90

**By: Butera 2<sup>nd</sup>: Hood      Motion Carried by All**

Motion to ratify General Funds bills totaling \$1,194.34

**By: Butera 2<sup>nd</sup>: Hood      Motion Carried by All**

Motion to approve the Public Right of Way Ordinance Amendment

**By: Butera 2<sup>nd</sup>: Hood      Motion Carried by All**

Motion to approve DCED grant application resolution for \$7,000,000.00 for Storm Water and Sanitary Sewer improvement project.

**By: Butera 2<sup>nd</sup>: Hood      Motion Carried by All**

Motion to approve employing Gloria Kijek for a temporary part-time administration position at the hourly rate of \$25/hour

**By: Butera 2<sup>nd</sup>: Hood      Motion Carried by All**

Motion to approve the advertising of the 2023 Borough Council Meeting Schedule for the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm for Council Meetings. Work sessions will be held on the third Wednesday at 6:30pm unless there are five Wednesdays in a month, then they will be held on the fourth Wednesday at 6:30pm at the West Pittston Borough Building.

**By: Butera 2<sup>nd</sup>: Hood      Motion Carried by All**

### **10<sup>th</sup> ORDER -CODE ENFORCEMENT/ZONING**

Bohn states that the monthly report from Barry Isett & Associates has been accepted and is on file in the Borough Office.

**By: Bohn 2<sup>nd</sup>: Hood      Motion Carried by All**

Motion to approve payment to Barry Isett & Associates Invoice #WV-172644 for Code Enforcement, Zoning, and Floodplain Services for \$5,015.00.

**By: Bohn 2<sup>nd</sup>: Hood      Motion Carried by All**

### **11<sup>th</sup> ORDER- PUBLIC SAFETY**

Motion made to accept the police report and put it on file in the Borough Office.

**By: Stevenson 2<sup>nd</sup>: Hood**

**Motion Carried by All**

Motion made to approve the two-month payment to Wyoming Area Regional Police for 2023 in the amount of \$79,083.00

**By: Stevenson 2<sup>nd</sup>: Hood**

**Motion Carried by All**

Motion made to approve the hiring of Michael Fuller of 130 John Street, Kingston as a part time police officer at the hourly rate of \$17.97, contingent on background checks and all West Pittston Borough mandatory testing.

**By: Stevenson 2<sup>nd</sup>: Hood**

**Motion Carried by All**

## **12<sup>th</sup> ORDER-PUBLIC WORKS**

Motion to accept the monthly report and put it on file in the Borough Office.

**By: Butera 2<sup>nd</sup>: Hood**

**Motion Carried by all**

Motion to authorize our solicitor to advertise the Ledgeview Street Dedication.

**By: Butera 2<sup>nd</sup>: Stevenson**

**Motion Carried by all**

Ray Judge presented honoring Terry Strubeck who worked 47 years for West Pittston Borough, thanking Terry Strubeck for the hours, days, and years that he committed to the Borough. Tony Scalzo thanked Council for honoring Mr. Strubeck and thanked Mr. Judge for spearheading the committee. "On behalf of West Pittston Borough, I present this plaque in appreciation of Terry Strubeck," which will be placed in the Department of Public Works building as well as one to the Strubeck family.

Motion to ratify the street closure for the Turkey Trot that was on November 26, 2022, from 9am-12pm from Erie Avenue north to Wyoming Avenue to Susquehanna Avenue.

**By: Butera 2<sup>nd</sup>:**

**Motion Carried by all**

Motion to ratify the street closure for the Tree Lighting event on December 4<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm. This includes Delaware Avenue from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to Wyoming Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Street from Philadelphia Avenue to Wyoming Avenue, and Wyoming Avenue from Erie Street to Montgomery Avenue.

**By: Butera 2<sup>nd</sup>:**

**Motion Carried by all**

2023 Proposed Budget Presented by Savino Bonita.

Totals \$3,818,711.27 with a projected fund balance of \$1,700,000.00 A copy of the finalized Budget will be available for the public to view in the Borough Office.

Motion to advertise final budget approval for 2023 on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 6:30PM

**By: Butera 2<sup>nd</sup>: Hood Motion Carried by All**

Motion to change the work session to December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**By: Butera 2<sup>nd</sup>: Hood Motion Carried by All**

## **14<sup>TH</sup> ORDER- PARKS & RECREATION**

President Quinn reported that the Holiday Event was very successful and thanked John Hood for organizing, Mayor Alfano, the Department of Public Works, Kuharchik electric for the lights, Officer Mike Turner, and Dion Fernandez for music and the Wyoming Area High School.

President Quinn also shared that the October Trick & Treat event was also very successful and thanked John Disanferdinand, who had donated a bike that Old Mill Pine exchanged for the correct size for the child who won the bike.

### **15<sup>TH</sup> ORDER- WEST PITTSTON TOMORROW**

Lynn Burbank said that the next West Pittston Tomorrow Meeting will be on December 12, 2023, at 7pm at the West Pittston Library.

### **16<sup>TH</sup> ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Resident has questions about ambulance service. She is concerned that the Borough does not have ambulance service, especially with Pittston so close who are both ALS and BLS. Resident shared concerns that it is not a priority of the Council to keep public safety in mind. If there is no other offer on the table, then why can't it be voted on tonight, waiting to vote will leave a gap in coverage. Resident feels that West Pittston will be no one's priority. If we sign a contract with Pittston, they will be able to hire more people to cover West Pittston. She also shares concerns that there will be a month before the decision is made and that this feels like a public safety concern.

President Quinn responded that Greater Pittston Ambulance Service will be at the December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting and assured residents that we are currently covered by 911 services.

Barry Hosier, as the Vice President of the West Pittston Ambulance Association, shared frustration. West Pittston does have coverage, Pittston ambulance does service West Pittston. Hughestown only has a Basic Life Support while Pittston has Advanced Life Support, so Pittston has always covered ALS for West Pittston.

Attorney Bufalino asked that residents refrain from addressing each other, not to interrupt, and to only address Council.

President Quinn stated that any ambulance department can present on December 19<sup>th</sup>, but only Pittston has reached out so far. This will be the hearing and voting will happen on January 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Borough Council Meeting.

Resident asked if Clear Spring Court is included in the Ledgeview dedication.

Attorney Bufalino explained what dedication means and that yes, Clear Spring Court is included and that it will be voted on during the January 3<sup>rd</sup> Borough Council Meeting.

Resident shared that they watched the Tree Lighting parade and enjoyed the lights, music, and the train. President Quinn said that there were about 300 people in attendance and the train was from McCarthy Tire.

John Lombardo, as Vice Chair of Luzerne County Council. Mr. Lombardo reported that the County Council is in possession of the application for a study for a potential new levee and that they are working on it. He also shared that Luzerne Council has received correspondence from

West Pittston residents concerning the ambulance service. Mr. Lombardo disclosed that he is a member of the Greater Pittston Ambulance service, but that they are very professional and provide some of the best service in the entire state.

Tony Scalzo, as department head of the Department of Public Works, asked Council if the Ledgeview dedication is official now. There are street concerns that he wants to share with Council about that neighborhood.

Resident reported that a neighbor has painted yellow lines on the street at 412 Luzerne Avenue. Lines are painted going out to the street. When someone parks on those lines, the neighbor calls the police. Recently, the neighbor parked in front of the resident's business, where she says there are 15 minutes parking signs, she called the police, but they never came. Mr. Scalzo added that the neighbor had contacted him about painting lines, and he was referred to the chief of police, he believes that the neighbor painted the lines themselves. Stevenson mentioned that we need to find out the cost to remove those lines. Chief Pace wants to investigate the sign ordinance for the 15 minutes parking as well as the lines. President Quinn thanked the resident for bringing this to their attention.

Resident asked about earlier conversation and when was the appropriate time to bring up questions. He felt that the concerns were dismissed. President Quinn stated that the beginning is Public Participation for agenda items only, the later Public Participation is the correct time.

Resident stated that he has not received the check for the damage done to his property nor has the punch list been completed for the sewer project on Luzerne Avenue from two years ago. He expressed frustration at not knowing where to go or who to talk to, to remedy the situation since it has been two years and he had to pay out of pocket for the fix with no reimbursement as of right now. President Quinn and Attorney Bufalino stated that it is still in litigation. Attorney Bufalino suggested that if the resident needs legal counsel, then the resident is entitled to do so but the Council cannot offer advice.

## **18<sup>TH</sup> ORDER- ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 7:30PM by

Prepared and Submitted by,

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