

Minutes of the West Pittston Borough Council Meeting of April 5, 2023

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1st ORDER- CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 6:32pm 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.

President Quinn welcomed Representative James Haddock to the meeting. Representative Haddock took over in December for the now 118th District, his office is in Hughestown at 42 Center Street, and they are open 8-4 pm. He worked with the Borough on the two successful grant opportunities. Haddock also announced that while he knows that the Firemen's Memorial Bridge is a concern, there will be another meeting on Monday, April 10th with Luzerne County and PennDot to discuss the bridge, safety concerns, and the deficiencies in the report.

3RD ORDER- EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

President Quinn stated that an executive session was held on March 22, 2023, at the West Pittston Borough Building at 6:00 pm to discuss legal issues and personnel issues. An executive session was held on April 5, 2023, at the West Pittston Borough Building at 6:00 pm to discuss legal issues.

4TH ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Public Participation was called for. None was given

5TH ORDER- APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes from March 1, 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 reports as prepared and place them 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. WWSA- monthly report

B. Memorial Day Parade request by Kiwanis

C. Cherry Blossom Parade application for 2023 for the participation for Council Members

8TH ORDER- SOLICITOR

Attorney Buffalino submitted a draft Resolution for street closures for the Memorial Day parade for Council consideration.

9th ORDER-REILLY ASSOCIATES

Motion to accept the report prepared and submitted by Reilly Associates.

By: Bohn 2nd: Hood Carried by All

10th ORDER- MAYOR

Mayor Alfano shared that Officer Michael Turner will be returning to lightwork duty as of April 10th, 2023

11th ORDER-ADMINISTRATION

Motion to approve payrolls of March 10, 2023, in the amount of \$16,656.90 and March 24, 2023, in the amount of \$15,741.17, totaling \$32,398.07

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve General Fund Prepaid bills totaling \$117,661.84

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve General Funds bills totaling \$1,144.56

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve the payment of the AFG Non-Uniform pension invoice for the 1st Quarter of 2023 in the amount of \$498.84

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve the payment of the AFG Police Pension invoice for the 1st Quarter of 2023 in the amount of \$486.13

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve the agreement between Luzerne County Borough of Election and West Pittston Borough to use the West Pittston Municipal building for the primary on May 16, 2023 and the general election on November 7, 2023

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve the Opioid Litigation Settlement: Wave 2 Settlements including pharmaceutical companies Teva, Allergen, and pharmacies CVS, Walmart, Walgreens and the Mallinckrodt Bankruptcy

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to ratify the Designation of Agents resolution naming Ellen Quinn, president of West Pittston Borough Council, to sign all required forms and documents for the purpose of obtaining financial assistance for flood mitigation assistance programs.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Carried by All

Motion to approve the time limit for public participation during Borough Council Meetings to 3 minutes per attendee.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Carried by All

Motion to ratify the agreement with Brozena Consulting and to amend the completion date of the CDBG program professional services agreement contract #7 to December 31, 2023

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Carried by All

Motion to approve the 2022 West Pittston Borough Audit Agreement with Prociak & Associates

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Carried by All

Motion to approve a letter to the Wyoming Area School District for the 2023 Graduation Parade effective with the proper insurance certificates.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Carried by All

Motion to table the approval of replacement of water fountain in the Borough Building pending quote on purchase and installation.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Carried by All

12TH ORDER-CODE ENFORCEMENT/ZONING

Motion to approve payment to Barry Isett & Associates Invoice #WV-174889 for Code Enforcement and Zoning in the amount of \$4,653.75 and Floodplain Services in the amount of \$340.00, totaling \$4,993.75.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

Motion to accept the monthly report from Barry Isett & Associates and to file it in the Borough Office.

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

13th ORDER- PUBLIC SAFETY

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

By: Butera 2nd: Hoof Motion Carried by All

Motion to approve invoice #8281506810 in the amount of \$845.74 and invoice #8281553837 in the amount of \$20,119.91, totaling \$21,295.68 for handheld radios for the West Pittston Hose Company based on an LSA Grant

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

14th ORDER-PUBLIC WORKS

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

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by all

Butera announced that an advertisement has been placed on the West Pittston Borough website and in the Times Leader for two Union Department of Public Works positions.

Butera announced that the West Pittston Borough Council DPW Committee met and is working on a recommendation to evaluate DPW work salaries.

15th ORDER- PARKS & RECREATION

Motion to accept the Resignation of Melanie Franco from Parks and Recreation Committee

By: Butera 2nd: Hood Motion Carried by All

16th ORDER- WEST PITTSTON TOMORROW

Lynn Burbank announced that the next meeting will be April 10th, at 7pm at the West Pittston Borough Building.

17th ORDER- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resident asked for clarification on 3-minute rule, if this meant it was per person per topic

Resident asked if there has been any movement on traffic signal at the Fort Jenkins Bridge intersection. President Quinn responded that this is a county road under jurisdiction of PennDOT and that would be through them. Resident asked what the ARPA money will be used for. President Quinn responded that it was initially a \$11 million ask that was denied and then approved but for \$2 million and when that is finalized, the County will send a request for a project budget and the Borough will make plans then, it will be for stormwater projects. Resident then asked if one of the grants was for Exeter Avenue, President Quinn said that the Borough is still waiting on that, the current grant is for Damon Street. Resident then suggested that the Borough investigates a Light Pollution ordinance.

Resident noted that the Wyoming Area Regional Police Department is doing well and asked Representative Haddock to clarify the Bridge issues.

Representative Haddock spoke on the bridge concern, stating that there is a meeting on Monday to help further clarify the issues between Luzerne County and PennDOT. There was an issue with an underlayment that needs specific attention and that was included in the original report and is part of the safety concern. He also expressed concern and support for the flooding issues and the levee project.

Resident shared concerns about traffic from Fort Jenkins Bridge intersection, he understands that the bridge needs to be closed but the traffic issues caused by it are also dangerous.

John Symmons of West Pittston DPW shared concerns about safety from being understaffed and about a meeting with Union representative and Council. Attorney Bufalino replied that that concern is being actively worked on and all other concerns must go through the Union representative.

Resident shared concerns about holes in Wyoming Avenue. President Quinn responded that that project is still on-going and the holes will be taken care of at the finish of the project.

Chief Pace presented information about the Wyoming Area Regional Police. West Pittston received approximately 100 calls over the last month, with no red flags, some domestics and animal complaints. There have been some concerns with children at the Insalaco shopping center. The police, the businesses, and the property owner are all working together to remedy that issue. The property owner will be paying for a police car to be at the shopping center from 2-6 pm, that will be overtime police hours and will not be coming out of WARP funding or the

Borough. WARP held its first aggressive driving detail to stop vehicles for traffic law violations, which was paid for through state grants. They are also looking at federal funding for additional equipment like vehicles and traffic control signals. Resident asked about pedestrian signage at the Ft Jenkin's intersection, and Bufalino reiterated that that is a PennDOT request. Resident asked if a police car could be stationed there at least during rush hour. Pace said that he will add that to the roll call. Council Member Judge asked Chief Pace if the school is aware of the issues, Pace replied that yes, they are aware and working with the police, he also said that it is a small group of children causing the issues. A resident asked if there was a correlation between the recent bike/scooter thefts and this group of children. Chief Pace said that they are taking that all into consideration, but the Police cannot take action unless those thefts are followed through with pressing charges or getting involved. Resident thanked Chief Pace for getting involved and taking care of this matter.

18th ORDER- ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Quinn announced that the grants have already been covered during the meeting, those mentioned by Representative Haddock.

19th ORDER- ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm by Hood, 2nd by Stevenson

Submitted,

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