

EXETER BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 7, 2023
7pm- Exeter Borough Building and Zoom Meeting

Call to Order was taken at 7:00pm by Chairman Pizano and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call was taken: PRESENT: Joseph Pizano, Chair and John Morgan, Vice Chair;

Council Members David Balent, Lori DeAngelo, Joseph Esposito, Richard Murawski. Solicitor Ray Hassey; Mayor Denise Adams; Borough Staff Vince Ninassi, Bob Hyzenski and Amy Sorokin Huntington. ABSENT/Excused: Carmen Marranca.

Person of the Month. No person of the month was named in March.

Minutes: John Morgan made a motion to approve the March 7, 2023 Exeter Borough Council regular meeting minutes; seconded by Dave Balent; passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report. John Morgan made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as read; seconded by Lori DeAngelo; passed unanimously.

Citizens' Input. No citizen's input on the agenda items was added.

Correspondence: All correspondence was read. The Mayor thanked former Exeter Borough Chief Schlager for his service to Exeter Borough and gave best wishes for a healthy return to work at WARP on March 6, 2023. Ray Hassey explained the election integrity resolution was not necessary and there was consensus among Council to not enact as a Borough Ordinance as requested. A Zoning Hearing Board was scheduled for March 23, 2023 at Tiny Learning Learners Center's request. Notis The Gyro King established business on Wyoming Avenue across from Turkey Hill, in accordance with the Peddler's Ordinance. No action was taken on the SPCA letter and Whiskers World would be contacted about spaying/neutering needs. Ray Hassey explained that raising chickens is a gray area in the Borough.

Refuse Report. A total of \$37,677 of trash sticker placards were sold through March. 1,477 of 2,600 properties in the database have paid, the remainder will be reported as delinquent after March 31, 2023, adding a \$50.00 fine to the sticker price.

Recycling Report: A total of 82 tons were recycled YTD Feb 2023. Act 101 Recycling Report is in progress, waiting on a couple commercial properties to report. Paper Shredding event dates available are: May 6, May 27, August 26, Sept 2, and Oct. 21. May 27 and August 26 were selected based on Lori DeAngelo's availability to help with this endeavor.

Report of Committees

Police: Vice Chairman Morgan reported the regionalized police force is going well, with Exeter Borough having its own zone, and noted the WARP Commission will hold its monthly meeting the second Thursday of the month, here at Exeter Borough on Thursday March 9, 2023.

Finance & Insurance (Grants). No report.

Fire Department: Councilwoman Lori DeAngelo reported a Sabatini's fundraiser will be held on April 25, where Exeter Borough Fire Department will receive \$11.00 profit on each \$30 ticket sold. Ralph Dixon asked for permission to hold a Community Day, closing down Susquehanna Ave. between Barber and Traylor, sometime in the fall. Vice Chair John Morgan asked why the Exeter Borough Fire Department did not respond to the emergency on Packer Ave with a yellow Corvette, Ralph Dixon explained they were never dispatched. Also discussed was the need for a new roof and finding title for the engine being repaired in Lancaster; Amy to call Rep. Kaufer to find it.

Street/Recycling Department: Chairman Pizano asked that Vince Ninassi erect barrier poles be placed around the new shed, so no cars navigating the parking lot hit it. Dave Balent offered help with concrete. Amy Huntington noted the new Mack packer truck is ready and Vince Ninassi is picking it up on Thursday 3/9, and as soon as the lettering adhesive acknowledging the PA Department of Transportation funding is completed, the truck is ready for use.

Parks & Recreation: Councilwoman Lori DeAngelo reported on 3/26, the Exeter Easter Bunny will arrive at Musto Park, youth to age 10 are welcome, the organizers will convene at 11:30am, the Bunny will arrive at 12 noon, and the event should be done in an hour. The Wyoming Area elementary schools PTOs have been informed. The Exeter Events Scholarship Committee will meet on 3/20 to review entries to award (2) \$500 scholarships to Class of 2023 Wyoming Area Seniors who participated in the Turkey Trot. Also, the Exeter Lions will hold a bingo on 4/15 at St. Barbara's/St. Anthony's parish hall. Councilwoman DeAngelo also noted that 2024 is the 140th Anniversary of Exeter Borough, we should consider commemorative events to celebrate.

WVSA Report: Councilman John Morgan reported the flushing of 32 lines in February and noted street sweeping is about to begin. His report was assisted by John Hood of WVSA.

Zoning: A Zoning Hearing Board has been scheduled for Thursday March 23, 2023 with Gene Molino, Zoning Solicitor and Angela Hunsinger, Court Reporter. Frank Pizano has become Chairman due to the resignation of Steve Harmonos. Alternate Tony Doblosky has been called to fill the vacancy. See motions below for Zoning committee restructuring details.

Hicks Creek: Vice Chairman Morgan explained dredging is needed, and a quote should be obtained to remove sediment in the retention ponds to avoid future flooding. Vince Ninassi explained that tree branches have been removed from the creek, clearing up the foam, but that a professional service may be needed to remove the tree on Cherrywood.

Building & Grounds: Councilman Rich Murawski investigated the Borough Building roof and did not find a leak causing the staining of tiles in the executive council room, thinks it is a leak in the HVAC overflow trays causing the damage.

Mayor's Remarks: The Mayor did not have any additional remarks.

Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Ray Hassey did not have any additional report.

New Business:

1. Chairman Pizano called for a Motion to amend the agenda. Vice Chairman Pizano made the motion, seconded by Councilman Joe Esposito; passed unanimously.
2. Vice Chairman John Morgan made a motion to accept the resignation letters from Gloria Kijek and Brian Graham. Councilman Dave Balent seconded the motion; passed unanimously.
3. Vice Chairman John Morgan made a motion to hire Sharon Sorokin as Borough Secretary/Treasurer. Councilman Dave Balent seconded the motion; passed unanimously.
4. Vice Chairman John Morgan made a motion to hire Ron Mruk as Borough Zoning Officer. Councilwoman Lori DeAngelo seconded the motion; passed unanimously.
5. Vice Chairman John Morgan made a motion to retain BHW Construction to serve as a consultant to Ron Mruk, on an as-needed basis, for Exeter Borough Zoning services. Councilman Joe Esposito seconded the motion; passed unanimously.
6. Vice Chairman John Morgan made a motion to remove Ron Mruk from the Exeter Borough Planning Commission to serve as new Borough Zoning Officer. Councilwoman Lori DeAngelo seconded the motion; passed unanimously.
7. Vice Chairman John Morgan made a motion to appoint Brian Graham to the Exeter Borough Planning Commission; Councilman Joe Esposito seconded the motion; Councilwoman Lori DeAngelo abstained from the vote due to being related to Mr. Graham. All of Council, excluding Councilwoman DeAngelo, voted to approve the motion.
8. Councilman Dave Balent made a motion to update the printing of the Exeter Borough Zoning Ordinance spiral-binders, dated 10/4/2011 produced by John Varaly, to include the handwritten corrections dated 2012 on the copy in the executive conference room, to produce a most up-to-date, current version. Vice Chairman John Morgan seconded the motion; passed unanimously.
9. Vice Chairman John Morgan made a motion to rescind the \$150,000 spending cap previously set for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Covid-19 funding to improve the recreational grounds/park planned at the Borough Building, as the price of goods and materials have increased since the Council's vote. Councilman Dave Balent seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Open to the Public: Ant Marquis, independent entertainer, spoke to the Council about the need for a block party for teenagers in Exeter Borough, to provide age-appropriate activity to alleviate some of the problems facing our schools and community. Councilwoman Lori DeAngelo asked Mr. Marquis to forward her information about his ideas and the opportunity, and she recommended he contact Luzerne County to connect with additional municipalities. Amy Huntington provided him with the League of Women Voters' 2023 Government Directory, which contains email and phone contacts for every municipality in Luzerne County.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Sorokin Huntington, 4/3/2023.