

EXETER BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

September 5, 2023

7pm- Exeter Borough Building and Zoom Meeting

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

Roll Call was taken. Present: Chairman Joe Pizano, Vice Chairman John Morgan, Council Members David Balent, Lori DeAngelo, Joe Esposito, Carmen Marranca, Richard Murawski. Solicitor Ray Hassey, Mayor Denise Adams, and staff including Amy Huntington, Sharon Sorokin, Vince Ninassi, and WA Regional Police Chief Mike Turner.

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

Minutes: Vice Chairman John Morgan made a motion to approve the August 1st, 2023, Exeter Borough Council regular meeting minutes; seconded by Councilman Marranca; motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report. Report on file, reported by Amy Huntington. Vice Chairman Morgan made a motion to approve the report; seconded by Councilman Balent; motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence: Amy Huntington noted two communications, residents were present to read: 1) Mr. David Walsh reported sewage issues at 1201-1203 Wyoming Avenue properties, he is requesting flushing every two weeks until the Wyoming Avenue Sewer Improvement project is completed. 2) Ms. Patricia Doreskewicz, Sullivan Street, reported numerous residents' complaints of ponding issues on Sullivan Street and requested a pickle ball court at Wilson Street Park.

Citizen's Input (agenda items only) No input was made.

Refuse and Recycling Report: Report on file, read by Sharon Sorokin. Vice Chairman Morgan made a motion to approve the report; seconded by Councilman Balent; passed unanimously.

Report of Committees:

Police: Wyoming Area Regional Police Chief Turner reported 800 calls in August, 321 were for Exeter Borough including walk-ins. 117 business checks, 31 traffic, 18 arrests, 8 PFAs and 2 warrants were reported. Next WARP meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 14th at 7pm.

Finance and Insurance (Grants): Nothing to report.

Fire Department: Vice Chairman Morgan thanked Pittston, West Pittston, and Exeter Borough companies for the quick response to the fire on Sullivan Street on Labor Day weekend.

Street/Recycling Departments: Councilman Balent reported the Streets Department has been busy, Vince Ninnasi noted 6 cuts and 40-ton blacktop was poured.

Vice Chairman Morgan made a motion to amend the agenda to address street repairs; seconded by Councilwoman DeAngelo; motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chairman Morgan made a motion to approve the \$54,000 paving repairs for Park & Thomas Streets; seconded by Councilman Esposito; motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chairman Morgan made a motion to pay the approved cost \$136,875 to WARP and for Amy Huntington to pay contracted monthly amount going forward; seconded by Councilman Balent; motion passed unanimously.

Parks and Recreation: Councilwoman DeAngelo reported a successful 2nd shred event and noted Food Dignity pay-as-you-can produce stand was a welcome addition; she thanked the Streets Department for hanging banners; and noted Turkey Trot will be Sat. Nov. 25

WVSA Report: Vice Chairman Morgan reported 55 lines were flushed, 2 pump stations vacuumed; and street sweeping was completed last weekend.

Zoning: Report on file prepared by Zoning Officer Ron Mruk, read by Amy Huntington. Vice Chairman Morgan made a motion to approve the report; seconded by Councilman Balent; passed unanimously.

Hicks Creek: Nothing to report.

Building and Grounds: Nothing to report.

Council of Governments: Councilman Balent is attending the COG meeting, 3rd Thursday of the month.

NEPA Landbank: Councilman Balent is attending the Board Meeting in Pittston tomorrow night. (9/6/2023)

Mayor's remarks: Nothing at this time.

Solicitors report: Nothing to report at this time.

New business:

1. Vice Chairman Morgan made a motion was made to approve \$1,500 to pay Bennies Nursery, Tunkhannock, PA to mow the retention pond on Penn Avenue; seconded by Councilman Balent; motion passed unanimously.

2. Vice Chairman Morgan made a motion to approve \$74,542.60 to pay Joyce insurance renewal package; seconded by Councilman Marranca; motion passed unanimously.

3. Vice Chairman Morgan made a motion to amend the 2021-22 Pension Plan Financial Statements to reclassify \$7,870.63 from the employer to employee contributions, per the recommendation of Thomas J. Anderson administrators, and to authorize transfer of said funds; seconded by Councilman Balent; motion passed unanimously.

4. Councilwoman DeAngelo made a motion to approve the 2024 Monthly Minimum Obligation (MMOs) of \$1,340 for Police Pension Plan and \$23,000 for Non-Uniformed Pension Plan, as recommended by Thomas J. Anderson & Associates pension administrator, to comply with Act 205 Municipal Pension Reporting Program; seconded by Councilman Marranca; motion passed unanimously.

5. Councilman Balent made a motion to pass Resolution requesting Luzerne County CDBG in the amount of \$726,543 for roadway surface improvements to sections of Lincoln Street, Thomas Street and Grant Streets; seconded by Councilman Morgan; motion passed unanimously.

Open to the Public:

- Resident Brandon Borzell, Wilson St., reported a grass odor originating from the Exeter Borough Recycling Center, Vince Ninassi and Ron Mruk will investigate.
- Resident Ann Curry, Birchwood Estates, reported concern about a single entrance to the park, and about homeless, stolen mail, electricity, and water issues. Amy Huntington reported adjacent property owners are clearing brush and WARP Chief Turner reported criminal activity is being cited and codes enforced.

Councilman Esposito made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26pm; seconded by Councilman Marranca; motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted 10/2/2023, by Amy Huntington and Sharon Sorokin.