

**EXETER BOROUGH**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 4, 2024**  
**7pm- Exeter Borough Building and Zoom**

Call to Order: At 7pm, Chairman Pizano called the meeting to order; Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: PRESENT: Chairman Pizano, Vice Chairman Morgan, Council Members David Balent, Lori DeAngelo, Joseph Esposito, Carmen Marranca, Richard Murawski; Mayor Adams; Solicitor Hassey (via Zoom). Staff: Amy Huntington, Sharon Sorokin, Vince Ninassi, Ralph Dixon. Borough Engineer Harold Ash (via Zoom).

Person of the Month. None this month.

Treasurers Report: Amy Huntington read the Treasurer's report, on file. Vice Chairman Morgan made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as read; seconded by Councilman Balent; motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence: Amy Huntington read the following letters: May 13, 2024 certified letter from FEMA requiring the Borough to adopt the new floodplain management ordinance to avoid suspension from the NFIP, National Flood Insurance Program (*on today's agenda, in New Business below*); PennDOT Highway Occupancy Permit for the Diocese of Scranton Wyoming Area Catholic parking lot; Letter of Engagement from PA Auditor General, Bureau of Municipal Pension Audits for 2020-2023 Police Pension Plan and Non-Uniform Pension Plans audit commencing May 31, 2024; PA Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Frances Slocum Lake Dam Emergency Action Plan Notice, it will be posted publicly at the Borough Building; May 20 letter from WVSA regarding annual MS4 Stormwater Training; May 22 email from Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority announcing Exeter Borough Flood Protection Project; May 23 PennDOT email re: annual MS-965 report; May 30 email from WVSA regarding the delinquent Exeter Borough Sewer Maintenance Fee properties; May 30 proposal from FNCB Bank for USDA Sewer Loan Interim Financing.

Resident emails were received from Mr. Greg Ellis 458 Wilson Street re: 454 Wilson Street, residential property storing commercial vehicles and junk cars; Karen Coco, 336 Donna's Way re: requesting removal of dead tree and street paving; Randy Dunbar, 127 Grant Street re: a sinkhole, sidewalk damage from incomplete November 2023 sewer repair; Irene Pizzano, 113 Jean Street re: overgrown weeds at Jean & Warsaw Streets; Judith Stolodny, 285 Grant Street, sewage backup and sewer lateral filled with tree roots.

Citizen's Input (agenda items only): No comments were made.

Refuse and Recycling Report: Sharon Sorokin read the report, on file. Chairman Pizano thanked the office for the collection efforts and recommended citations be issued to delinquent accounts. Chief Turner requested a restitution fee be added to the citation for administrative time.

Councilman Murawski made a motion to amend the agenda to address the proposed restitution fee; seconded by Councilman Esposito; motion passed unanimously. Councilman Morgan made a motion to add a \$15.00 restitution fee per citation to cover Wyoming Area Regional Police administrative costs and authorize Solicitor Hassey to add the fee; seconded by Councilman Balent; motion passed unanimously.

Report of Committees:

Police: Chief Turner reported 243 of 433 calls in May 2024 were Exeter Borough, report on file. Chief thanked Councilman Murawski for fixing the outside lighting and noted National Night Out on Sunday August 11, 2024 from 3-8pm.

Finance and Insurance (Grants): Vice Chairman Morgan noted that LSA grants should be sought for the next phase of sewer and stormwater separation, and that Luzerne County, Representative Kaufer and Senator Baker should be contacted.

Fire Department: Vice Chairman Morgan reported that Senator Flynn's office indicated a possible funding issue with the Exeter Borough Fire Department.

Street/Recycling Departments: Vince Ninassi reported two trucks in the shop for repairs.

Parks and Recreation: Councilwoman DeAngelo asked the Streets Department to replace broken swings at Thomas St. and Wilson St. Parks, and noted that the picnic tables need to be varnished. She reported intern Drew Mruk is working on a Veterans Banners list.

WVSA report: Councilman Morgan read the WVSA report, on file, noting lines have been flushed on Valley, Cedar, Adams Court, Thomas and Orchard Streets.

Zoning: Councilwoman DeAngelo read the monthly Zoning Report, on file.

Hicks Creek: Councilman Balent and Murawski noted retention ponds need clearing and requested bids for upper and lower ponding areas.

Building and Grounds: Nothing to report at this time.

Council of Governments: Councilman Balent noted the bucket truck will be used to hang Veterans' banners and he will request use of the hotbox for paves.

NEPA Landbank: Councilman Balent announced next meeting is tomorrow, June 5, 2024.

Mayor's Remarks: Mayor Denise Adams provided a solemn reading of the report of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of “The Exeter Five,” five young girls who drowned in the currents of the Susquehanna River on June 28, 1944. The event will be commemorated online at [www.exeterborough.com/day-of-remembrance-for-the-exeter-five](http://www.exeterborough.com/day-of-remembrance-for-the-exeter-five).

Solicitors Report: Nothing to report at this time.

New Business:

1. Councilwoman DeAngelo made a motion to declare Friday, June 28th, 2024 as a Day of Remembrance on the 80th Anniversary of the Exeter Five.; seconded by Councilman Morgan; motion passed unanimously.
2. Councilman Balent made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 5 to amend the Exeter Borough Zoning Ordinance Article 13, to revoke in its entirety all of the existing provisions of ARTICLE 13- FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT and to replace with new Article 13 regulations to maintain compliance with the standards and regulations of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA); seconded by Vice Chairman Morgan; motion passed unanimously.
3. Vice Chairman Morgan made a motion to accept FNCB May 30, 2024 proposal letter offering interim financing of \$8.77M at 5.75% tax-free fixed rate, to satisfy Item #21 of USDA November 13, 2024 Letter of Conditions, pending Exeter Borough Ray Hassey’s review; motion seconded by Councilman Balent; motion passed unanimously.
4. Vice Chairman Morgan made a motion to inquire to Luzerne County about the availability of additional ARPA funding to replace and separate sanitary/stormwater lines on Susquehanna Avenue, from Lincoln to Orchard Streets in anticipation of the Exeter Borough Levee Project, that is currently in the design stage with Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority and Verdantas Engineering; motion was seconded by Councilwoman DeAngelo; passed unanimously.

Vice Chairman Morgan also asked Borough Engineer Harold Ash to explain the problem of the past and provide a scope of work of the new levee system to Luzerne County. Councilman Balent also asked Harold Ash about the status of the paving project schedule at the Borough Building parking lots.

Chairman Pizano requested that PennEastern Engineering provide a quote for the combined paving including the two parking lot areas on Lincoln and the empty lot owned by the Borough for the planned pavilion area, noting it needs to be contract before the end of the year. Borough Engineer Harold Ash indicated he would provide an update with a tentative start date for the four lots.

Open to the Public:

Jennifer Kraynak, 317 Memorial Street reported concern about unoccupied, dilapidated brown duplex in the alley at Pepe Court, doors are left open, yard is overgrown, gutters are down and children are entering basement. Chief Turner will visit and follow-up, and Borough will cite violations of the property maintenance act.

Councilman Murawski made the motion to adjourn at 8:02pm; seconded by Councilman Esposito; motion passed unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted by Amy Huntington and Sharon Sorokin, July 31, 2024.*