

**EXETER BOROUGH**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES • March 5, 2023**

Call to Order was taken at 7:16 p.m. by Chairman Pizano; the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Solicitor Hassey reported an Executive Session was held from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. to discuss litigation and personnel issues.

Roll Call was taken. Present: Chairman Pizano, Vice Chairman Morgan, Councilwoman Lori DeAngelo, Councilmen Carmen Marranca, Richard Murawski. Excused: Councilman Balent and Esposito. Also present: Solicitor Ray Hassey; Mayor Denise Adams; Borough Manager Amy Huntington, Borough Secretary Sharon Sorokin; Streets Department Supervisor Vince Ninassi.

No person of the month was named in March.

Amy Huntington read the Treasurer's Report on file, noting checks of \$143,813.38 written. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as read made by Vice Chairman Morgan; seconded by Councilman Marranca; approved unanimously.

Amy Huntington read the following Correspondence: Report from Cintas Fire that two boxes in the Council Chambers need electrical work; Letter to Mayor Adams from WA Senior Parents Association requesting letter of support for Class of 2024 Senior Parade on 6/13/24 6pm; Letter from Mr. Lee Taub re: PennDOT traffic count study on Venetz, Mason and Thomas Streets between March and November 2024; Letter from Mr. Brian Cooper, 48 Mt. Lookout, expressing concern about increase in garbage sticker prices for senior citizens. Letter from America250 regarding community grant opportunity; Letter from P.J. Pribula requesting assistance to ask Luzerne County to support funding Wyoming Area Catholic parking lot for community use; Letter from Residents Barbara and Andy Chackan, Chestnut Street, regarding the locust trees behind the basin.

No Citizen's Input was given on agenda items this month.

Sharon Sorokin read the Refuse and Recycling Report, on file, and she noted 75% of residential refuse stickers have already been sold. Motion to approve the report as read made by Vice Chairman Morgan, seconded by Councilwoman DeAngelo; motion passed unanimously.

Report of Committees:

- Police: Vice Chairman Morgan gave Chief Turner's monthly report, noting 351 were made to WARP last month, 178 from Exeter Borough, report on file.
- Finance and Insurance: No report this month.
- Fire Department: Councilwoman DeAngelo read reports submitted by the Exeter Borough Fire Department, on file. She noted she will find out about the smoke detector program, and will connect EBFD with the American Red Cross contact.

- Streets/Recycling Department: Vince Ninassi, Streets Department Supervisor, reported the trees behind Chestnut have been cut back and yard waste pickup will start next month.
  - Parks & Recreation: Councilwoman DeAngelo reported Exeter Events will sponsor the Easter Bunny Visit on Saturday March 23, 12p-2p in Musto Park; the Community Yard Sale will be Saturday May 25 8am to 1pm; Paper Shredding Day will be Saturday September 7, 9a-12p and the Exeter Lions are hosting a BINGO on April 13, 2024 at St. Anthony's.
  - WWSA: Vice Chairman Morgan gave the WWSA report, noting flushed 38 lines, report on file.
  - Zoning: Councilwoman DeAngelo read the Zoning report submitted by Ron Mruk, on file.
  - Hicks Creek: Streets Department Supervisor Vince Ninassi reported he will check the debris in the creek above Schooley.
  - Buildings and Grounds: No report this month.
  - Council of Governments: Councilman Balent reported a dam-up of debris from a tree causing a wash-out in Luzerne Borough.
  - NEPA Land Bank: No report this month.
- There was no Mayor's Remarks or Solicitor Report this month.

#### New Business:

Vice Chairman Morgan made a motion to amend the agenda to add two motions; seconded by Councilwoman DeAngelo; motion passed unanimously.

- Motion to approve the Wyoming Area Class of 2024 Senior Parade was made by Vice Chairman Morgan; seconded by Councilwoman DeAngelo; motion passed unanimously.
  - Motion to approve the Borough's support for St. Cecilia's parking lot was made by Vice-Chairman Morgan; seconded by Councilman Marranca; motion passed unanimously.
1. Motion to approve the February 2024 minutes made by Councilwoman DeAngelo; seconded by Vice Chairman Morgan; motion passed unanimously.
  2. Motion to approve Handicapped Parking Permit #1 of 2024 for 76 Penn Ave effective February 7, 2024 was made by Councilman Murawski; seconded by Carmen Marranca; motion passed unanimously.
  3. Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Michael Dziejczic from the Exeter Streets Department effective March 8, 2024 was made by Vice Chairman Morgan; seconded, with gratitude and regret, by Councilwoman DeAngelo; motion passed unanimously.
  4. Motion to send a letter of support from Exeter Borough Council to seek funding for a parking lot at Wyoming Area Catholic School that would jointly serve the needs of St. Barbara's Parish and the Exeter Borough community was made by Vice Chairman Morgan; seconded by Councilwoman DeAngelo; motion passed unanimously.

**5. LERTA Hearing: Borough Solicitor Hassey presented the Exeter Borough Council hearing on Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Program (LERTA) prior to the consideration of the motions:**

Solicitor Hassey explained that LERTA is a 10-year tax abatement program created by the Commonwealth to stimulate new development in distressed areas designed to incentivize redevelopment of aging or deteriorating properties.

The property being sought for LERTA is 16 acres on Wyoming Avenue across from Sabatini's Pizza, in front of Birchwood Village, which is an overgrown and blighted area, where there has been recent homeless encampment issues and crime. Borough Council would need to adopt an Ordinance to specify the property under consideration; an Ordinance to grant the LERTA tax exemption; and a Resolution to designate the properties as deteriorated areas under LERTA guidelines, and he reviewed each.

6. Motion to Approve **Ordinance No. 3 of 2024**, designating the real estate located along Wyoming Avenue, Exeter, identified as: 16-E10-00A12A-000; 16-E10-00A-21A-000; 16-E11SW1-002-01A-000; and 16-E10-A 12B-000, as deteriorated property for purposes of granting LERTA recognition to Wyoming Avenue Development Group, LLC under the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act guidelines was made by Vice Chairman Morgan; seconded by Councilman Marranca; motion passed unanimously.
7. Motion to Approve **Ordinance No. 4 of 2024**, granting a property tax exemption to Wyoming Avenue Development Group, LLC for New Construction in Deteriorated Areas under the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act for the properties on Wyoming Ave, Exeter identified as: 16-E10-00A12A-000; 16-E10-00A-21A-000; 16-EQQSW1-002-01A-000; and 16-E10-A 12B-000; was made by Vice Chairman Morgan; seconded by Councilman Marranca; the motion passed unanimously.
8. Motion to Approve **Resolution 2 of 2024**, designating the foregoing properties as Deteriorated Areas under LERTA to Wyoming Avenue Development Group, LLC.; was made by Vice Chairman Morgan; seconded by Councilman Murawski; the motion passed unanimously.

Open to the Public:

Resident Ann Carite, 401 Birchwood, reported 19 mobile homes were destroyed by ARX Property Management, and although a good thing for cleaning up, advanced notice was not given to residents, causing a possible health risk with insulation dust flying in the air, no sectioning or separating panels put between homes. She requested the Borough assistance in helping encourage the property managers to give advanced notice and better communication to residents for all issues, including water shutoffs, etc.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Marranca at 8:03 p.m., seconded by Councilman Murawski; meeting was adjourned.

*Respectfully Submitted by Amy Huntington, Borough Manager, 4/2/2024.*