EXETER BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY November 12, 2024 • Exeter Borough Building. 7:00 PM

Vice Chairman Morgan called the meeting to order 7:01 p.m.; Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call was taken, Present: Vice Chairman John Morgan, Council Members David Balent, Joseph Esposito, Lori DeAngelo, Carmen Marranca, Richard Murawski; Mayor Denise Adams, Borough Manager Amy Huntington, Secretary Sharon Sorokin, Streets Department Vince Ninassi, Fire Department Ralph Dixon and Wyoming Area Regional Police Chief Turner.
Excused: Chairman Pizano and Solicitor Ray Hassey.

No Person of the Month was named for November.

Motion to Approve the October 1, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes and October 29, 2024 Special Council Meeting Minutes was made by Councilman Balent; seconded by Councilwoman DeAngelo; motion passed unanimously.

Motion to Approve the Treasurer's Report, as read and on file, by Amy Huntington made by Councilman Murawski; seconded by Councilman Balent; motion passed unanimously. Total checks of $155,849.18 paid.

Correspondence was read from:
• Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority re: Notices of Intent to Enter for flood protection surveys, engineering studies and soil test studies (10/1/24);
• PSAB re: Department of Labor and Industry 2024 Solvency Fee (11/4/24);
• Reilly Associates Engineers on behalf of Wyoming Avenue Development providing notice of 2024 PADOT Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Application for proposed project at Wyoming Avenue opposite Sullivan Street (11/4/24);
• PSAB re: Act 131 increasing maximum allowable compensation for borough council members and mayors for the first time since 1995 (11/5/24);
• USDA to People's Security Bank and Trust referencing Exeter Borough's request for interim financing and approving project costs for the Wyoming Avenue/Schooley Avenue Combined Sewer Separation Project (11/8/24);
• Camille Calvitti, 1794 Susquehanna re: open burning violations since April 2023 (11/11/24).

Citizens' Input (agenda items only): No input was given.

Refuse & Recycling Report was read by Sharon Sorokin, on file. October deposit total $4.615; Recycling weight of 39.85T, 386.25T YTD reported.

Report of Committees

Police/Wyoming Area Regional Police (WARP): Chief Turner provided report, on file. 137 of 432 monthly calls were Exeter Borough; Shop-With-A-Cop Event is Saturday December 7th, 12-2pm with City of Pittston; Grant funding is being secured for bodycam/dashcams; Chief thanked Mayor Adams for invitation to speak at Veterans Day Ceremony. Next WARP meeting is Thursday, November 14, 2024, 7pm.

Finance & Insurance (Grants) - Nothing to report.

Fire Department: Councilwoman DeAngelo reported the smoke detectors were received and the the department will begin smoke detector installations. ,

Streets/Recycling: Councilman Balent thanked the Streets Department for continuing to fill cracks; they are prepping for the first snowfall.

Parks & Recreation: Councilwoman DeAngelo thanked Mayor Adams and Amy Huntington for the successful Veterans Day Event; noted the November 30th Turkey Trot route maps are now printed and available and will be posted; announced Lions Club Holiday Tree Lighting is Nov. 24 at 6pm; and Parade of Trees registration for Wyoming Avenue businesses is underway.

WVSA: Vice Chairman Morgan reported 19 sanitary sewer lines flushed and 2 lines viewed on camera, WVSA report on file.

Zoning: Councilman Murawski read October Zoning Report, on file. Total deposit was $3,510.

Hicks Creek: Streets Supervisor Vince Ninassi noted that too much cutting will cause flooding; Councilman Murawski and Vice Chairman Morgan requested that Amy check with PennEastern Engineering to shoot the elevations and compare to the design grades, so we can accurately judge how much sediment we are removing.

Building and Grounds: No report at this time.
Council of Governments: No report at this time.
NEPA Land Bank: Councilman Balent reported Land Bank met Wed. November 6, 2024 and financials will be completed soon; next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 26, 2025.

Mayor's Remarks: Mayor Adams thanked the Exeter VFW Post 6518 and everyone for participating in the Sunday November 10th Veterans Day Program; Mayor read Governor Josh Shapiro's post-election remarks (attached) encouraging working together.

Solicitor's Report: No report at this time.

New Business

1. Motion to present the Second Reading of the Proposed 2025 Exeter Borough Budget made by Councilman Murawski; seconded by Councilwoman DeAngelo; motion approved unanimously, and budget read by Vice Chairman Morgan.

Open to the Public
• Resident JoAnn Teel, 20 Byrd St, thanked the Borough for cleaning Hicks Creek, requested Byrd Street be put on list for next street paving.
• Cindy Ruane, 27 Park Lane, reported high, unsightly piles of debris 12-15' above fence line at Pisano Fence, requesting code enforcement to address.
• Jeff Richards, 26 Exeter Ave, West Pittston, reported frustration with potholes in Exeter Borough's portion of Wyoming Avenue, comparing to smooth paving in Wyoming and West Pittston. Vice Chairman Morgan noted PennDOT paving twice postponed in anticipation of ripping up road for USDA sewer project.
• Donna Morgan, Sullivan Street requested water pooling on Sullivan Street be drained and repaired properly, is echoing same issue reported previously by John Hayduk; Vice Chairman Morgan requested Solicitor Hassey to file lawsuit against PA American Water Company and subcontractor who are responsible for the unsatisfactory work making for unsafe resident driving and walking conditions.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Councilman Esposito at 7:42 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by Amy Huntington, November 29, 2024.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, November 7, 2024

MEDIA CONTACT:

Governor's Press Office, ra-gvgovpress@pa.gov

Statement from Governor Josh Shapiro on the 2024 Election Results

Harrisburg, PA – Today, in response to the results of the 2024 General Election, Governor Josh Shapiro released the following statement:

"Pennsylvania is the birthplace of American democracy, and our Commonwealth once again held a free, fair, safe, and secure election. As I have always said, the will of the people must be respected – and the people of Pennsylvania have spoken, electing Donald Trump to be the next President of the United States along with other Republicans and Democrats for state and federal offices on the same ballot.

"I know the pundits will analyze every aspect of this election, but for my part, I'm going to continue to listen to the good people of Pennsylvania, show respect for their choices, and find ways to bring people back together and move the ball down the field to put points on the board for all of us.

"While votes are still being counted in some races, I congratulate all the candidates – from both parties, up and down the ballot, all across the Commonwealth – who have won their races and been given the opportunity to serve in public office. Serving Pennsylvania carries with it a profound responsibility to put the people first, and now that this election is over, it is time to govern – to work together, to compromise, and to get stuff done.

"The people of Pennsylvania know, as their Governor, I go to work every single day focused on how to make life better for Pennsylvanians and deliver results for our communities – rural, urban, and suburban. From creating jobs and economic opportunity to investing in education and public safety, I believe there's more that unites us than divides us – and we must work together to continue to get stuff done for Pennsylvania.

"Let me also make clear: I will never back down from standing up for the freedoms I was elected to protect. I will continue to defend our democracy, defend our fundamental rights, and ensure we continue the legacy of William Penn by building a Commonwealth that is warm and welcoming for all – and where all Pennsylvanians have the freedom to chart their own course and the opportunity to succeed."