

EXETER BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY December 3, 2024 • Exeter Borough Building. 7:00 PM

Vice Chairman Morgan called the meeting to order 7:00 p.m.; Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Motion to Approve the November 12, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes was made by Vice Chairman Morgan; seconded by Councilman Marranca; motion passed unanimously.

Motion to Approve the Treasurer's Report, as read and on file, by Amy Huntington made by Vice Chairman Morgan; seconded by Councilman Balent; motion passed unanimously. Total checks paid \$114,697.54.

Correspondence was read from Post & Schell, PC Attorneys at Law, Harrisburg, PA letter to PA PUC re: approval to rebuild three existing transmission lines located in Luzerne County, PA (11/13/24); BHW notice of violation working without a permit at 4 Schooley Street (12/3/24); PennDOT e-Permitting Scoping Meeting Application Received for Wyoming Avenue Development Project (12/3/24); Letter from Councilwoman DeAngelo on behalf of Exeter Events Committee thanking Exeter Borough Council and Staff for the most successful Turkey Trot yet; RTK request from Alex Camaerei, Easy Cash Deal received and response provided.

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

Refuse & Recycling Report was read by Sharon Sorokin, on file. November deposit total \$270; Recycling weight of 35.78T, 422.03T YTD reported.

Report of Committees:

Police/Wyoming Area Regional Police (WARP): Chief Turner provided report, on file. 160 of 540 monthly calls were Exeter Borough; Shop-With-A-Cop Event is Saturday December 7th, 12-2pm; WARP is certified drop-off site for USMC Toys For Tots 2025 Collection; and squads are working 12h shifts, broken into 1A, B and 2A, B (night) shifts.

Finance & Insurance (Grants) - Councilwoman DeAngelo reported USDA Interim financing with Peoples Security Bank & Trust loan closes 12/6/24; CDBG FY21 grant funding will include one more pave from the Luzerne County approved list; and ARPA/SLFRF U.S. Treasury Funding reporting will be obligated and reported by December 31, 2024 deadline, may require Special Council Meeting to award the bid.

Fire Department: Councilman Murawski read the fire reports and noted second half of budget allotment \$7,700 check is being issued tonight.

Streets/Recycling: Councilman Balent thanked the Streets Department for continuing crack sealing and commended the Streets department for managing the first storm with only 3 staff members.

Parks & Recreation: Councilwoman DeAngelo announced 2024 Tree Lighting will be Sunday 12/24/24, and the following confirmed 2025 dates: August 30 Paper Shredding; May 24 Yard Sale; November 29 Turkey Trot and noted Scouts will collect canned goods between 12/7 and 12/14/2024.

WVSA: Vice Chairman Morgan reported 40 sanitary sewer lines flushed and pump station vacuumed; report on file.

Zoning: Councilman Murawski read November Zoning Report, on file. Total deposit was \$3,383.41.

Hicks Creek: Amy requested PennEastern Engineering to shoot the elevations to compare to the design grades to ensure proper amount of sediment removal.

Building and Grounds: No report at this time.

Council of Governments: No report at this time.

NEPA Land Bank: Councilman Balent next meeting is Wednesday March 26, 2025.

Mayor's Remarks: Mayor Adams thanked all Borough employees for their hard work in 2024 and wished everyone a very happy holidays.

Solicitor's Report: Ray Hassey reported BHW has permitted renovations to fire-damaged 299 Susquehanna Avenue property; he also noted costs should be considered to proceed with litigation regarding unsatisfactory work of Pennsylvania American Water Company subcontractors' paving of Sullivan Street, and that we ask Borough Engineers for assistance, to identify the list of deficiencies and what plan should be recommended for relief/repair.

New Business

1. Motion to Approve 2025 Exeter Borough Budget made by Vice Chairman Morgan; seconded by Councilman Marranca; motion passed unanimously.
2. Motion to Approve the Advertising of Ordinance #1 of 2025 Tax Levy Ordinance made by Vice Chairman Morgan; seconded by Councilman Balent; motion passed unanimously.
3. Motion to Increase Duplicate bill Fee for Tax Certifications from \$5 to \$10 made by Councilman Murawski; seconded by Councilwoman DeAngelo; motion passed unanimously.
4. Motion to Accept PA Labor Relations Board Nisi Order of Withdrawal of Unfair Labor Practice Charge, November 19, 2024 in Case No. PF-C-23-E, FOP Lodge 36 Wyoming Valley v. Exeter Borough made by Vice Chairman Morgan; seconded by Councilman Balent; motion approved unanimously.
5. Motion to Accept Confidential Settlement Agreement of U.S. District Court Civil Case No. 3:23-CV-0903 made by Vice Chairman Morgan; seconded by Councilman Marranca; motion passed unanimously.
6. Motion to Approve \$1,200 Maximum Funding for 30 cats at \$40 each via No Nonsense Neutering program made by Vice Chairman Morgan; seconded by Councilwoman DeAngelo; motion passed unanimously.

Motion to Amend the Agenda made by Councilman Murawski; seconded by Vice Chairman Morgan; motion passed unanimously.

Motion to Hire Ken Gilley to Exeter Borough Hose Co. #1 part-time fire driver staff at a rate of \$11.00 per hour. Motion made by Councilman Murawski; seconded by Councilman Marranta; motion passed unanimously.

Open to the Public

- Atty. Taroli spoke on behalf of Mr. Al Peters, requesting easement at 1109 Wyoming Avenue. Chairman Pizano explained property is a part of the anticipated Exeter Borough 2024 Site Improvement and Pave Project (ARPA/SLFRF Funds) and easement may be reconsidered at a later date.
- Mr. Kris Petrosky of Susquehanna Avenue expressed frustration about missed recycling and yard waste pickups on Pepe Court; Vice Chairman Morgan explained staff was short due to scheduled vacation and unscheduled sickness, and matter will be resolved tomorrow by Streets Department, and explained all pickups are at the residential street address as per Borough Ordinance.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Vice Chairman Morgan at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Huntington, January 6, 2025.