

EXETER BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY January 7, 2025 • Exeter Borough Building. 7:00 PM

Chairman Pizano 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, Joseph Esposito, Carmen Marranca, Richard Murawski; Mayor Denise Adams, Solicitor Ray Hassey, Borough Manager Amy Huntington, Secretary Sharon Sorokin, Streets Department Vince Ninassi, Fire Department Doug Roberts and Ralph Dixon and Wyoming Area Regional Police Chief Turner.

Motion to Approve Dec. 3, 2024 Regular Council Meeting and Dec. 30, 2024 Special 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 Councilwoman DeAngelo; motion passed unanimously. Monthly checks total \$133,005.66.

Correspondence: Amy Huntington received Citizen Voice publication affidavits for: Dec. 30 Special Meeting; 2025 Regular Council Meetings (1st Tuesdays of month); 2025 Planning Commission Meetings (last Thursdays of month); Exeter Borough Sanitary and Storm Sewer Rehabilitation Project Jan. 14, 2025 bid conference and Jan. 31, 2025 bid opening dates; Exeter Borough Notice of Tax Levy Ordinance 2025; AND the following correspondence:

- 12/3/24 from Luzerne County EMA announcing upcoming Luzerne County Hazard Mitigation Plan meetings on December 16 (in person) and December 19 (virtual).
- 12/4/24, from Luzerne County Recycling regarding Municipal Meeting with administrators Beth DeNardi and Berit Case.
- 12/4/24, from Paul Foster, PowerRail, Inc. re: new economic development video on WVIA.
- 12/5/24, email from Alex Camaerei, Easy Cash Deal, notarized letter from KG Capital assuring "weather-tight" sealing within 5 months of closing at 299 Susquehanna Avenue.
- 12/6/24, from PA Labor Relations Board, copy of Nisi Order of withdrawal in Exeter Borough-Wyoming Valley Regional Police Commission, Case No. PF-C-23-86-E.
- 12/6/24, from Peoples Security Bank and Trust confirming loan closing of USDA sewer interim financing for Wyoming Avenue Sewer Improvement Project.
- 12/9/24, from PA State Association of Boroughs confirming completed 2024 Act 44 Disclosure for Entities Providing Professional Services to Pension Systems.
- 12/9/24, from PA Dept. of Environmental Protection confirming receipt of annual payment of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Chapter 92a invoice.
- 12/9/24, from PennEastern re: perc tests/test pit requirement for on-lot system for cabin construction on Handorf property in C-1 Zone, upslope Mount Lookout Mobile Home Park.
- 12/10/24, from McGowan Underwriters claim closing acknowledgement of West Pittston Borough lawsuit alleging breach of contract in relation to police pension fund costs.
- 12/11/24, from Rep-Elect Brenda Pugh requesting meeting to discuss Borough needs.
- 12/13/24, from WVSA re: 4th Quarter 2024 Exeter Borough sewer customer delinquency report, total \$152,787.85.
- 12/18/24, from PA Dept. of the Auditor General, General Bureau of County Audits examination report of 2023 Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.
- 12/20/24, from Stevens & Lee, electronic closing binder for Borough of Exeter \$8,777,000 General Obligation Note, Series of 2024.

- 12/20/24, from PennEastern Engineers, Addendum #1 to 2024 Exeter Borough Site Development and Parking Lots Improvement Project.
- 12/27/24, from USDA Rural Development, confirming receipt of Sanitary Storm Sewer Rehabilitation Project engineering plans and specs from PennEastern Engineers, LLC.
- 12/27/24, from Penn DOT confirming review of Transportation Impact Study (TIS) Determination and Scoping Meeting Application for Wyoming Avenue Development Group.
- 12/30/24, from PennEastern Engineers, letter of notice confirming completion of bid review, summary, and tabulation for 2024 Site Development and Parking Lots Improvement Project; and Dec. 30, 2024 Notice of Award Letter to Latona Trucking, in the amount of \$346,160.25.
- 12/31/24, from WVSA, correction of payment transfer errors of new credit card processor.

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

Refuse & Recycling Report was read by Sharon Sorokin, on file. December deposit total \$9,950.; Recycling weight of 37.04T, 459.07T YTD reported.

Report of Committees:

Police/Wyoming Area Regional Police (WARP): Chief Turner provided report, on file. 140 of 423 monthly calls were Exeter Borough; two officers are out; checking with Congressman-Elect Bresnahan re: grant money not yet received for body cams and dash cams.

Finance & Insurance (Grants) - Councilwoman DeAngelo reported ARPA/SLFRF U.S. Treasury funds fully obligated for Site Improvement and Pave Project before 12/31/24 deadline; Wyoming Avenue Sewer Improvement Project bid conference advertised for Jan. 14 at 10:00am, bid opening for Jan. 31 at 3:00pm.

Fire Department: Councilwoman DeAngelo read report, 34 total EMS calls received, report on file. Vice Chairman Morgan requested financials be included in monthly reports.

Streets/Recycling: Chairman Pizano asked Amy Huntington to list street paving schedule on conference room white board for Council review.

Parks & Recreation: Councilwoman DeAngelo noted confirmed dates August 30,2025 Paper Shredding; May 24,2025 Yard Sale; November 29, 2025 Turkey Trot.

WVSA: Vice Chairman Morgan reported 27 sanitary sewer checked, 18 flushed; report on file. He noted a meeting will be held with WVSA and Wildflower Village Homeowners Association to discuss a solution to sewer line backups. Also, he sadly announced the passing of WVSA Executive Director Jim Tomaine, recognized his 30 years service to the community, and Exeter Borough Council held a Moment of Silence in his memory. May he rest in peace.

Zoning: Councilwoman DeAngelo read December report, on file. Total deposit was \$2,441.62.

Hicks Creek: Councilman Balent reported tree removal at upper end, top of Schooley, is complete; area behind Byrd Street is now cleared.

Building and Grounds: No report at this time.

Council of Governments: No report at this time.

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

Mayor's Remarks: No report at this time.

Solicitor's Report: Ray Hassey requested approval to advertise a new Ordinance Providing For Inspection And Issuance Of Occupancy Permits of Residential and Non-Residential Structures Within the Borough of Exeter, as was previously recommended by Borough Council.

Vice Chairman Morgan made a Motion to Amend the Agenda; seconded by Councilman Marranca; the motion passed unanimously. Councilman Marranca made a Motion to Approve Borough Solicitor to Advertise *Ordinance Providing For Inspection And Issuance Of Occupancy Permits of Residential and Non-Residential Structures Within the Borough of Exeter*, as described in the Solicitor's Report to assist the Borough in occupancy permits and property management; seconded by Councilwoman DeAngelo; motion passed unanimously.

New Business

1. Motion to Adopt Ordinance #1 of 2025, Tax Levy Ordinance enacting 2025 Tax Rate for General Purposes, the sum of .020079 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation, or the sum of 2.0079 cents on each One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars of assessed valuation; Motion made by Vice Chairman Morgan; seconded by Councilman Marranca; motion passed unanimously.
2. Motion to Adopt Resolution #1 of 2025, Exeter Borough Duplicate Bill Fee for Tax Certifications, to charge \$10.00 per duplicate tax bill; Motion made by Councilwoman DeAngelo; seconded by Vice Chairman Morgan; motion passed unanimously.
3. Motion to Approve \$25.00 entry fee for Exeter Borough Streets Department to participate in 2025 Greater Pittston St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sat. March 1, 2025; Motion made by Councilman Balent; seconded by Councilman Marranca; motion passed unanimously.

Open to the Public

- Lance Anderson, Wildflower Village Homeowners Association President, made a formal request for a meeting with the Borough to resolve residents' sewer issues. Vice Chairman Morgan requested Amy Huntington arrange the meeting.
- Greg Kurtz and John DeCusatis of Advanced Code Consultants requested to be considered, when timing is appropriate, for 3rd party code and zoning services to the Borough and provided company information. Chairman Pizano requested Amy Huntington share the information with interested Council Members for future consideration.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Councilman Esposito at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Huntington, January 17, 2025.