

EXETER BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY February 4, 2025 • Exeter Borough Building. 7:00 PM

Chairman Pizano called the meeting to order 7:00 p.m.; Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Chairman Pizano noted an Executive Session was held prior to the meeting to discuss employment contracts for Streets Department and Zoning Department.

Roll Call was taken, Present: Chairman Joe Pizano, Vice Chairman John Morgan, Council Members David Balent, Lori DeAngelo, Joseph Esposito, 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: Carmen Marranca.

Motion to Approve January 7, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes was made by Vice Chairman Morgan; seconded by Councilwoman DeAngelo; 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 \$185,899.77.

Correspondence: Amy Huntington provided the correspondence report, including:

- 1/6 from Kuharchik Construction re: Traffic Signal Maintenance prices.
- 1/13 from PSAB-Municipal Retirement Trust re: AG-385 report.
- 1/14 from Comcast re: Broadband Equity Access & Deployment (BEAD) grant program.
- 1/15 from Luz. Co Recycling re: special collections 2025.
- 1/16 from Nikolaus & Hohenadel, LLP, re: subordination of reversionary right- Bond 5LP.
- 1/17 from Luzerne County re: Food Recovery Infrastructure Grant (FRIG).
- 1/18 from Ted Kross, Exeter Borough Health Officer, re: 233 Sanovia Street inspected, no infractions; 309 Roosevelt Street inspected, property cited, cleanup in progress.
- 1/20 from Extra Mile re: 4- yr agreement for Wyo. Valley Run on Labor Day Sunday, 2025-28.
- 1/20 from Rainey & Rainey re: 2023 Audit and Financial Report (AFR) DCED-CLGS-30.
- 1/20 from PennDOT re: Transportation Impact Study, Wyoming Avenue Development Group.
- 1/21 from NEPA Alliance re: 2025-2029 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.
- 1/21 from PA Dept of Revenue, Public Utility Realty Tax (PURTA) reporting reminder.
- 1/21 from America 250 re: Capitol Display Unveiling on Feb 26, 2025
- 1/21 from Luz. County 911 re: approval of road name Valenti Subdivision, Mar Val Lane.
- 1/24 from Luz County Treasurer re: 2025 County/Municipal Real Estate Tax Bills issuing on Feb. 19, 2025, county tax rate remains unchanged at 6.3541 mills.
- 1/25 from Luzerne County EMS re: Hazard Mitigation Plan Risk Assessment Meetings.
- 1/25 from Luzerne County Recycling re: 2025 e-Recycling Program.
- 1/27 from McGowan Company, re: Closing Claim # 9410725038.
- 1/27 from Cablevision Lightpath LLC, New York, re: Right of Way Agreement Request.
- 1/27 from PA DCED re: survey for 2025 State Land Use & Growth Management Report.
- 1/27 from UGI Gas re: PUC rate increase request: 10.8% residential, 8.6% commercial, as of March 28, 2025, totaling \$110.4 million/year.
- 1/29 from Luzerne County Bureau of Elections re: Offices for 2025 Municipal Elections.
- 1/30 from USDA Rural Development, re: Compliance Review.
- 1/30 from Sean Vulvaney, Broad Street Contracting, re: removal from 349 Susquehanna Avenue home repair permit.
- 1/31 from PA One Call System, Inc., re: 2025 rates.

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- 2/2 from COSTARS re: 2026 Road Salt Contract participation.
- 2/2 from Luz. Co Boroughs & Twp. Assoc. re: Annual Dues and Annual Dinner.
- 2/2 from Ron Rome re: RTK Request for correspondence related to establishment of WAWA.
- 2/2 from U.S. Treasury re: Notice to Grantees re: Funding Pause Temporary Restraining Order, in federal court case of New York et al. v. Trump.
- 2/4 from BHW re: SOLOFRA parking lot violations at Scarboro and Sullivan Streets.

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

Refuse & Recycling Report was read by Sharon Sorokin, on file.

January deposit total \$205,121.00.; Recycling weight of 37.04T, 37.04T YTD reported.

Report of Committees:

Police/Wyoming Area Regional Police (WARP): Chief Turner provided report, on file. 171 of 533 monthly calls were Exeter Borough; Chief thanked Amy Huntington for the quick action to contact the property owner/minimize the hazards of structural siding blowing at 1089 Wyoming Avenue during the Friday night windstorm.

Finance & Insurance (Grants) - Wyoming Avenue Sewer Improvement Project bid opening was held on Jan. 31, 2025, but the lowest bidder cannot be awarded until bid review is completed by PennEastern Engineers and the Borough Solicitor, as per the USDA loan requirements.

Fire Department: Councilman Murawski read report, 42 total EMS calls received, report on file. Ending checking balance for January was \$21,727.17.

Streets/Recycling: Vice Chairman Morgan thanked Vince and the Streets Department for assisting WWSA with the emergency sewer repair at Schooley and Susquehanna Avenue.

Parks & Recreation: Exeter Events will meet Mon. 2/24 at 7pm to discuss upcoming Easter Bunny event and Turkey Trot Scholarship.

WWSA: Vice Chairman Morgan reported 15 sanitary sewer checked, 4 flushed; report on file.

Zoning: Councilwoman DeAngelo read December report, on file. Total deposit was \$229.00.

Hicks Creek: Nothing to report.

Building and Grounds: Amy Huntington thanked Vince Ninassi for replacing the light bulbs.

Council of Governments: No report at this time.

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

Mayor's Remarks: Chairman Pizano preempted the Mayor and announced today we are celebrating the Mayor's Birthday!! ***Happy Birthday, Mayor Adams!***

Solicitor's Report: Ray Hassey reported the Executive Session held prior to tonight's meeting was to consider Streets Department and Zoning Department employment matters.

New Business

1. Motion to Adopt Ordinance #2 of 2025, Ordinance Providing for Inspection and Issuance of Occupancy Permits of Residential and Non-Residential Structure with the Borough of Exeter, establishing fees at \$50 per residential dwelling unit and \$75 per commercial unit, and establishing a maximum fine of \$300 for each violation of the ordinance; Motion made by Vice Chairman Morgan; seconded by Councilman Balent; motion approved unanimously.

Open to the Public

- Birchwood Village resident Ann Carite made a formal request to Exeter Borough Council to support residents in resolving basic maintenance issues affecting normal living conditions, including the frequent and unscheduled water outages causing issues in the village during the busy holiday months affecting residents' work days, family holiday events, hospital recoveries, and other important life events. She also expressed concerns about thoroughness of repairs, digital water meters located under trailers impossible for residents to monitor, and the construction of 12 new trailers in the park that may worsen water issues in the community.

Vice Chairman Morgan emphasized the importance of ensuring Exeter Borough is informed of any/all outages for resident protection to secure adequate emergency management services, using the example of last year's unscheduled water shutoff situation, where, upon being notified, Exeter Borough expeditiously acquired water buffalo stations for the village residents, and immediately secured backup/on-call fire tanker services from the Back Mountain.

Councilman Murawski noted the infrastructure in the village is old and was built after Hurricane Agnes Flood of 1972, and explained because it is a private community, residents need to collectively petition the private property owners, ARX Communities for solutions, stating Exeter Borough will be as supportive as possible to ensure safe, habitable conditions.

Councilman Balent recommended Code Enforcement enforce the Property Maintenance Act and make citations if needed, and Vice Chairman Morgan recommended all future permits for the 12 new trailers be put on hold until water issue is resolved.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Vice Chairman Morgan and Councilman Murawski at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Huntington, February 10, 2025.