

# **EXETER BOROUGH REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING**

**TUESDAY March 4, 2025 • Exeter Borough Building 7:00 p.m.**

## **MINUTES**

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

Roll Call was taken, Present: Chairman Joe Pizano; 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 Ralph Dixon and Wyoming Area Regional Police Chief Turner. Excused: Vice Chairman John Morgan.

Motion to Approve February 4, 2025 Regular 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 Vice Chairman Morgan; seconded by Councilwoman DeAngelo; motion passed unanimously. Monthly checks total \$115,104.07. Amy also reported 2023 Audit was completed by Rainey & Rainey and DCED reports were submitted.

Correspondence: Amy Huntington provided the correspondence report, including:

- 2/2 from Luzerne County EMA re: Hazard Mitigation Plan Public Open House on 3/10/2025.
- 2/5 from PA One Call re: 2024 annual member refund of \$115.02.
- 2/10, COSTARS re: Annual Contract, 175 Tons ordered for 8/2025 to 7/2026.
- 2/10, Luzerne County Historical Society zoning inquiry for St. Cecilia's Church.
- 2/11, DCED re: 2025 Land Use & Growth Management Report.
- 2/17, Reilly Engineering re: Major Subdivision Application, Exeter Commons, Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming Avenue Development Company..
- 2/18, Wyoming Area Class of 2025 Senior Parents re: June 5, 2025 Parade.
- 2/20, PA Public Utility Commission re: investigating UGI rate increase.
- 2/24, PennEastern Engineers bid review, confirming lowest bidder for Exeter Borough Sanitary and Storm Sewer Rehabilitation Project, Pioneer Construction Company, \$6,995,060.02.
- 2/24, PennDOT re: confirming 2025 traffic engineering data counts will take place on three streets: Warsaw btw Lincoln St and Jean St, and btw Mackin and Orchard; Holly btw. Packer Ave and Silver Bell; and Laird between Mackin and Orchard.
- 2/24, Thomas J. Anderson & Associates, Inc re: completing financial statements for the Exeter Borough Non-Uniformed Pension Plan and Police Pension Plan as of December 31, 2024.
- 2/25, DCED Audit and Financial Report confirmation, noting 355.04 Alcoholic Beverage License Fees and 310.70 Mechanical Device and 310.60 Amusement / Admissions amounts to be collected/reported.
- 2/25, Mr. James Roman, 216 Susquehanna Ave, re: backyard damage from vehicle tires.
- 2/27, Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority, Verdantas re: flood mitigation plans.
- 2/27 from PA American Water re: upgrading meters Feb 26 to May 2, 2025.

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

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

February deposit total \$284,017.; Recycling weight of 32.26T; 69.30T YTD reported.

Report of Committees:

Police/Wyoming Area Regional Police (WARP): Chief Turner provided report, on file. 150 of 548 calls were Exeter Borough; Chief reported donation was received to begin a bike patrol.

Finance & Insurance (Grants): Activity discussed under New Business.

Fire Department: Councilman Murawski read Fire Department report, on file.

Streets/Recycling: Councilman Balent will meet with Amy and Harold Ash to develop list of street pave priorities, identifying which are CDBG eligible, COG eligible, or General Fund.

Parks & Recreation: Councilwoman DeAngelo thanked Streets Department and Mayor Adams for participating in the Pittston St. Patrick's Day Parade; announced Fire Dept. will participate in WA Career Day at the high school March 5th; Exeter Events visit Easter Bunny is Saturday 4/12; Yard Sale is Saturday 5/24; Paper Shredding Day is Saturday 8/30. Turkey Trot Scholarship will meet soon. She also noted the Streets Department will be hanging Veterans Banners and requested assistance with Musto Park sign that fell over/is rotten.

WVSA: On behalf of Councilman Morgan, Amy reported 29 sanitary sewer checked, 23 flushed; 2 lines checked on camera, report provided by WVSA on file.

Zoning: Councilwoman DeAngelo read February report, on file. Total deposit was \$1,250.07.

Hicks Creek: Councilman Balent noted creek touch-up work needed.

Building and Grounds: Amy thanked Vince Ninassi for replacing Borough building light bulbs.

Council of Governments: Councilman Balent and Esposito explained COG administration seeking additional grants; 2025 meeting dates Mar 20, Apr 17, May 15, Jun 19, Jul 17, Aug 21, Sept 18, Oct 16, Nov 20, Dec 18; Location: Forty Fort Borough Building, 11am-12Noon.

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

Mayor's Remarks: Denise Adams thanked the Streets Department for doing Pittston St. Patrick's Day Parade; read Class of 2025 WA Senior Parents parade request.

Solicitor's Report: No report at this time.

New Business:

Councilwoman DeAngelo made a motion to amend the agenda, seconded by Councilman Balent; motion was approved unanimously.

1. Motion to approve WA Class of 2025 Senior Parade pending WARP approval, made by Councilwoman DeAngelo; seconded by Councilman Marranca; motion passed unanimously.
2. Motion to Authorize Solicitor Hassey to Advertise 2025 Bid for June 30, 2025 expiring contract for Exeter Borough Refuse Collection. Motion made by Councilwoman DeAngelo; seconded by Councilman Marranca; motion passed unanimously.

3. Establish and Advertise An Ordinance implementing House Bill 2265, Act 131 of 2024, establishing the maximum annual compensation for members of Council and the Mayor at \$4,190.00. Motion made by Councilwoman DeAngelo; seconded by Councilman Marranca; motion passed unanimously.
4. Motion to ratify Owner's Contract No. 1 Notice to Proceed, signed February 14, 2025 to commence **2024 Exeter Borough Site Development and Parking Lots Improvement Project**, between March 3, 2025 and September 2, 2025. Motion made by Councilman Esposito; seconded by Councilman Marranca; motion passed unanimously.
5. Motion to approve Resolution 2 of 2025, PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Reimbursement Agreement, **No. 04R319, for Susquehanna Avenue Improvement Project**, to Ashburn Advisors providing \$55,153 PennDOT MTF funds for project; Motion made by Councilman Balent; seconded by Councilman Murawski; motion passed unanimously.
6. Motion to approve Resolution 3 of 2025 PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Reimbursement Agreement, **No. 04R257 for Schooley Avenue Street Improvement Project**, to Ashburn Advisors providing \$572,293 PennDOT MTF funds for project. Motion made by Councilman Balent; seconded by Councilwoman DeAngelo; motion passed unanimously.
7. Motion to award **Wyoming Avenue/Schooley Avenue Sanitary and Storm Sewer Rehabilitation Project** to Pioneer Construction Company, Inc for \$6,995,060.02, the lowest responsible/responsive bidder, as recommended by PennEastern Engineers contingent upon the concurrence of Exeter Borough Solicitor and USDA Rural Development. Motion made by Councilman Esposito; seconded by Councilman Balent; motion passed unanimously.

Open to Public

1. PJ Pribula, 1299 Wyoming Ave, asked if permits were in order for renovations taking place at 2 Park Lane; Amy Huntington reported zoning and building permits were obtained and sent to BHW for review.
2. Darren and Susan Thentoski, Birchwood Village, reported reduction in property and yard space for vehicle parking, mobility scooters, etc. due to new fire lanes cut by ARX; Solicitor Hassey recommended property owners obtain legal council to advise them of their rights.
3. Randy Schoenberger, Birchwood Village, complained roads in park are terrible; second/back entrance should be opened for safety reasons. Chairman Pizano explained roads are privately maintained and back entrance belongs to West Wyoming Borough, not Exeter.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Esposito, seconded by Councilman Murawski; meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Amy Huntington, Exeter Borough Manager, April 1, 2025.*