

PLYMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 14, 2021 at 6:00PM

Work session began at 6:00pm:

Mr. Alec Ryncavage wished everyone Merry Christmas. He then reminded all that the Reorganizational meeting would be held on January 3, 2022 at 6:00pm and the honorable Judge Whittaker would be present to swear newly elected members in to serve their terms.

Mr. Adam Morehart said that there were new flags at the Wyoming Valley West High School which were donated by the VFW. He also said that there are new procedures in place for the No Nonsense Neutering Trap Neuter Release (TNR) program and that vouchers would need an appointment and prior approval before they would be issued. Please call the administrative office with any questions. You can also call to report any new feral cat colonies. On a final note, Adam thanked No Nonsense Neutering for accepting back the unused vouchers and reissuing them with a new expiration date.

Mr. Earl Cunningham wished all a Merry Christmas and thanked the Neighborhood Watch and the Fire Companies for all of their help when Santa came to town.

Mr. John Thomas thanked all who worked so tirelessly on the budget.

Mr. William Dixon reported that after monitoring it daily, the Beade Street Flood project was complete. He then reminded citizens that walk their dogs that they are required to pick up their dogs business. The DPW workers are stepping in it and do not have time to clean up after these owners. In closing he wished all a happy, safe holiday.

Mr. Ron Kobusky said that Wyoming Valley West is plagued with dog poop problems as well. He said that the proposed Budget is done and has been posted. It is balanced with the surplus that is there. There may be amendments towards the end of the month.

Mayor Frank Coughlin said that he and Bill Dixon went to the Luzerne County Apartments on E Main Street to speak to the residents. They answered many questions from the residents. They are hoping to repeat the event in the future.

The mayor then administrated Oath of Office to the two new civil service members:

Ms. Denise Daley and Ms. Deborah Madrack.

Happy Holidays all!

At 6:14pm the meeting was called to order immediately following the conclusion of the work session by President of Council Ron Kobusky.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence.

The Roll was called:

Members present were: Mr. Earl Cunningham; Mr. Adam Morehart;
Mr. John Thomas; Mr. Alec Ryncavage; Mr. William Dixon;

and Mr. Ron Kobusky
Members not present: Ms. Alexis Eroh – excused

There were no citizens requests or comments regarding agenda items.

There were no citizens requests or comments regarding general items.

AGENDA VOTING:

Mr. Ron Kobusky made a motion to amend the agenda and add a motion. I hereby move to amend the agenda to include a Motion to approve the engagement of Eckert Seamans as special council to investigate three complaints regarding employee harassment. The reason this is being added is due to the need to have an independent Investigation of this matter as quickly as possible and further due the fact that the borough just received earlier today the engagement letter from Eckert Seamans in order to hire them to do the investigation.

MOTION: Mr. Ron Kobusky
SECOND: Mr. Earl Cunningham
VOTE: 6 YES Ms. Alexis Eroh – excused

Motion made to appoint the law firm of Eckert Seamans as per the terms and conditions of their engagement letter dated December 14, 2021, a copy attached, to conduct an investigation into all allegations of harassment and other improper conduct.

MOTION: Mr. John Thomas
SECOND: Mr. William Dixon
VOTE: 6 YES Ms. Alexis Eroh - excused

A Motion was made to approve Resolution 12 of 2021:

RESOLUTION 12 OF 2021 IS A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PLYMOUTH, LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPOINTING TWO MEMBERS TO THE PLANNING AGENCY FILLING UNEXPIRED TERM OF TWO VACANT POSITIONS.

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has adopted Ordinance 1 of 2020 creating a Planning Agency to advise council on the items specified therein, consisting of five (5) members;

WHEREAS, Council expanded that membership to seven members (six residents of the Borough and one council member) by amending Section 2 of Ordinance No. 1 of 2020 by adopting Ordinance No. 4 of 2020.

WHEREAS, Section 2 authorizes the Council to appoint the members of the Planning Agency by Resolution;

WHEREAS, due to the resignation of member Barbara Harvey, whose term expires on December 31, 2021, there is a vacancy

WHEREAS, due to the resignation of George Becker, whose term expires on December 31, 2023, there is a vacancy

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ADOPTED by the Borough Council of Plymouth, that the Borough hereby approves and appoints, as per Ordinance No. 4 of 2020, to the Planning Agency the following: Borough Resident Colleen Pall, is appointed to immediately fill the unexpired term of Barbara Harvey, which will expire on December 31, 2021. Also, Resident Stephanie Delveit, is appointed to immediately fill the unexpired term of George Becker, which will expire on December 31, 2023.

MOTION: Mr. William Dixon
SECOND: Mr. John Thomas
VOTE: 6 YES Ms. Alexis Eroh - excused

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted as a regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Plymouth, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, held on this 14th day of December, 2021.

A motion to appoint Ms. Alice Frantz effective immediately, as full-time probationary Clerk II, in the Administrative Office, at an hourly rate of \$15.00 per hour under the following terms and conditions as herein stated: Said Clerk II is to serve a probationary period of six month and under this probationary period can be terminated for any reason whatsoever and will have no right or claim to the grievance procedure or any other provisions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Plymouth Borough and Teamsters Local Union No. 401 covering the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, or any new Collective Bargaining Agreement entered into that becomes effective after December 31, 2021 and during the probationary period specified herein above.

MOTION: Mr. William Dixon
SECOND: Mr. Adam Morehart
VOTE: 6 YES Ms. Alexis Eroh – excused

Motion to appoint Mr. Jerome Bolesta as Health Officer for the Borough. This appointment is effective immediately. This position is an at will position with no benefits of any type. Mr. Bolesta will be paid an annual salary of \$2,000.00 and that payment will be made in monthly installments of \$166.66 less the required payroll deductions required by law.

*On the question: He filled in last year on a temporary basis.

MOTION: Mr. John Thomas
SECOND: Mr. Earl Cunningham
VOTE: 6 YES Ms. Alexis Eroh – excused

Motion to appoint Ms. Stephanie Dupras as a part-time school crossing guard, as an at will employee and shall receive no benefits of any type, including but not limited to; sick time, vacation

time, holiday pay or health insurance coverage. Said crossing guard shall be paid an hourly rate of \$8.75 and appointment shall start immediately.

MOTION: Mr. Earl Cunningham
SECOND: Mr. William Dixon
VOTE: 6 YES Ms. Alexis Eroh – excused

Motion was made to refund Plymouth Township Fire Protection in the amount of \$9,200.00.

*On the question: there was a billing issue. Over last 22 months there were some errors found and the Borough is making the needed adjustment.

*On the question: Alec said that moving forward Lori would be doing all billing. Plymouth Borough would receive the check and split with fire companies.

*On the question: John said in the future the breakdown would be 25% for each company and 25% for the Borough.

MOTION: Mr. Adam Morehart
SECOND: Mr. John Thomas
VOTE: 6 YES Ms. Alexis Eroh – excused

Motion to pay Central Square/Metro Alert for annual maintenance fee of \$2,360.45.

MOTION: Mr. Adam Morehart
SECOND: Mr. Alec Ryncavage
VOTE: 6 YES Ms. Alexis Eroh – excused

Motion to pay Stu Krasavage Concrete Construction in the amount of \$1,950.00 for repairs made to the catch basin in the Municipal Park.

MOTION: Mr. Earl Cunningham
SECOND: Mr. Alec Ryncavage
VOTE: 6 YES Ms. Alexis Eroh – excused

Motion to pay the monthly bills:

General Fund: 21-862GF – 21-927GF
Liquid Fuels: 21-160LF – 21-175LF
Recreation Fund: 21-047RF – 21-051RF

*On the question: John Thomas votes yes to pay all bills except bill #21-923GF-John Thomas, which is the payment for health insurance for retired police, of which there is a contractual conflict of interest.

MOTION: Mr. William Dixon
SECOND: Mr. Alec Ryncavage
VOTE: 6 YES Ms. Alexis Eroh – excused

Motion to adjourn made at 6:31pm by Ron Kobusky.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Burdulis". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gail Burdulis, Borough Secretary