

PLYMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING-FEBRUARY 14, 2023 at 6:00PM

Mr. Kobusky opens the work session with: Happy Valentines Day

Mr. Cunningham – read a letter he received from West Side Mutual Aid regarding the purchase of a used fire safety house. The cost is \$15,000.00 and they are looking for donations from surrounding towns, boroughs and fire companies. Explained the purpose of the safety house is for training and also used as a part of teaching kids about fire safety.

Mr. Kobusky – verified the cost of the safety house and that it is used, not new. Although Plymouth no longer has an elementary school, we do have kids who attend State Street School.

He asked Mr. Cunningham to reach out to the fire companies to see if they are donating. Feels it is worthwhile. Council can discuss it and see if we can also make a donation.

Mr. Cunningham – Thank you Mr. President. The Plymouth Historical Society and the Plymouth Historical Shawnee Cemetery will be hosting a fundraiser spaghetti dinner at the Happy Pizza Shawnee Room on March 19, 2023.

Mr. Hogan – Plymouth Rotary Club will be holding their annual Night at the Races on April 22, 2023. More information will be forwarded. County Council awarded Plymouth Borough 2.5 million dollars for the Coal Creek Project. It has been tabled. They are meeting tonight, and he wanted to voice his support.

Mr. Morehart – It was announced that Plymouth Borough would receive 2.6 million dollars but as you may have seen on television, the City Council is in turmoil over this money. Feels we should be safe. City Council should be voting on it tonight. He does have people at the meeting and as soon as he hears anything he will pass along.

Ms. Eroh – The Plymouth Planning Agency met on the 1st of the month. The website is live but is not quite ready for launch. We are still in need of calendars from organizations. Asked Mr. Dixon to reach out to the DPW dept to verify their information. Linda Johnston, a member of the Plymouth Neighborhood Watch left a calendar of their events here. The ones that they would like the Council to attend are highlighted and there are more copies that the public can have. It will be put onto the website.

Mr. Thomas – Happy birthday to Mike Thomas.

Mr. Dixon – next month, bids will be going out for the repair of the flood gate valve on Beade Street. There are a few streets that will be involved in the paving project. Residents will be advised on which streets will be included. Through the collaboration of council, there has been \$500,000.00 secured for street paving.

Discussed again the danger of putting anything into toilets other than toilet paper. Products that state they are flushable are in fact flushable, but they are not biodegradable. Explained the

consequences of flushing objects other than paper. The mains are in good condition, but some laterals are shared between houses. If anyone has any questions regarding their laterals, please contact the borough office. Mr. Dixon would be happy to come out and mark your laterals.

Mr. Kobusky – elaborated on the process of sewage and how it gets to the sanitation plant across the river. “Flushables” clog pipes and create problems. They are NOT biodegradable.

Ron continued; Barbara Dellario, our tax collector, submitted the tax office hours and they were read and will be posted. If you require a receipt, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with your payment. Cash is not accepted at the borough office.

The American Legion will be making fish dinners for Lent starting Ash Wednesday (2/22/23) and every Friday until Easter.

Pennsylvania American Water – received an email advising that they will going around throughout the state checking water pipes to determine what kind they are. They will go to every town and every resident. This is part of an initiative to clean up water.

Mr. Thomas – they are concerned about lead pipes.

Mr. Kobusky – he has never seen lead water pipes, only lead sewer pipes.

A delivery truck at the Dollar General knocked out the short pole with lights. The cost to repair it is about \$7,784.00 which of course is a part of the insurance claim. There is a police report and as soon as the parts come in the pole will be fixed. The bill will be forwarded to the for restitution.

Mayor Coughlin – very concerned about Wyoming Valley West High School. There were 257 police calls in January, the police are very busy. The mayor attended a board meeting last November and asked for a sit-down between the board and council and/or police. There was no response. There were 2 incidents of fights this past week where Officer Lewis was injured in the altercations. There is supposed to be one strike and the students expelled, not sure there is any follow through by the district. Expressed concern for the children, the teachers and support staff. There are gangs and trouble is coming. At least one if not two more officers are needed at the high school. Our officer, Officer Jeff Lewis, has been assaulted on more than one occasion.

Mr. Kobusky – there has been more and more manpower needed there. They need to act fast. It was bad last September but is twice as bad now. When our officer was assaulted, we had 4 or 5 officers there for several hours.

Sgt Thomas – elaborated on the Wyoming Valley West H.S.

Regular council meeting for February 14, 2023 was called to order at 6:00pm. The “Pledge of Allegiance” was recited and followed by a moment of silence.

Roll was called and all council members were present:

Present: Mr. Earl Cunningham, Ms. Alexis Eroh, Mr. Thomas Hogan, Mr. Adam Morehart, Mr. John Thomas, Mr. William Dixon, Mr. Ron Kobusky. *Also in attendance was Mayor Frank Coughlin

There were no Citizen’s requests and comments regarding agenda items.

There were no Citizen's requests and comments regarding general items.

AGENDA VOTING:

Motion made to approve Ordinance 1 of 2023: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF PLYMOUTH, COUNTY OF LUZERNE, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, PURSUANT TO SECTION 1104(E) OF THE BOROUGH CODE CONFIRMING THE HOLDING OF THE OFFICES SECRETARY AND TREASURY BY THE SAME PERSON.

ORDINANCE 1 OF 2023

WHEREAS, the Borough is required by law to have a Borough Secretary and a Borough Treasurer;

WHEREAS, in accordance with section 1104(e) of the Borough Code the position can be held by the same person if an Ordinance is passed allowing the same;

WHEREAS, the Borough wants to confirm the practice of combining the office of Borough Secretary and Borough Treasure to be held by the same person;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved and ordained by the Plymouth Borough Council as follows: That the Office of Borough Secretary and Borough Treasurer can be held by the same person as authorized by Section 1104(e) of the Borough Code. It is further confirmed that Gail Burdulis shall continue in the Office of Borough Secretary as well as Borough Treasurer until replaced. It is further resolved and ordained the future appoints to the Position of Borough Secretary and Borough Treasurer can be held by the same person as long as this Ordinance remains in effect and that future appointments can be continued to be made in accordance with this Ordinance by appointing the same person as Borough Secretary and as Borough Treasurer by a Resolution of Council and said appointment shall last until the person holding the offices is replaced by Resolution of Council.

*On the question: The Ordinance is so council does not have to reappoint every year. Gail will hold the office until council wants her there or she retires or leaves the position, at which time council will have to appoint someone else.

MOTION: Mr. Dixon
2nd: Mr. Cunningham
Motion passed: 7 Yes

ENACTED AND ORDAINED this 14th day of February 2023 at a Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Borough Council.

Motion made to approve Ordinance 2 of 2023: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF PLYMOUTH, COUNTY OF LUZERNE, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, PURSUANT TO SECTION 3104(A) OF THE BOROUGH DOES HEREBY APPOINT A HEALTH OFFICER.

ORDINANCE 2 OF 2023

WHEREAS, the Borough Code does hereby authorize the Borough Council to appoint a health officer under Section 3104(a)

WHEREAS, the Borough does in fact need a health officer;

WHEREAS, the Borough health officer shall have all the powers to and duties provided for under Section 3104 of the Borough Code;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved and ordained by the Plymouth Borough Council as follows: That Jerome Bolesta is hereby appointed as the Health Officer of Plymouth Borough and conferred with all the powers and duties provided for under Section 3104 of the Borough Code and any other law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania until replaced by a future Ordinance of Council.

MOTION: Mr. Morehart
2nd: Mr. Thomas
Motion passed: 7 Yes

ENACTED AND ORDAINED this 14th day of February 2023 at a Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Borough Council.

Motion made to pay two Crossin Insurance invoices for additional insurance in the amount of \$2,716.00 for the addition of the two new police Tahoe vehicles.

*On the question: Ron stated that he did not expect the amount to be that high. Maybe when we remove the older vehicles it will help bring it down.

MOTION: Mr. Thomas
2nd: Ms. Eroh
Motion passed: 7 Yes

A motion was made to appoint Devin Smith as a part time Crossing Guard. She would be hired 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 \$9.75 per hour and appointment shall start immediately.

MOTION: Mr. Cunningham
2nd: Mr. Dixon
Motion passed: 7 Yes

Motion made to pay AmTrust North America in the amount of \$17,016.00 for the 2021 workers compensation audit.

*On the question: I think this has to do with the hiring of new employees and not reporting them, therefore throwing off the number of employees for the audit. We will have to be more proactive in the future.

MOTION: Ms. Eroh
2nd: Mr. Dixon
Motion passed: 7 Yes

Motion made to accept the minutes from the regular rescheduled meeting for January 17, 2023.

MOTION: Ms. Eroh

2nd: Mr. Morehart
Motion passed: 7 Yes

Motion made to accept the January Fire and Police reports.

MOTION: Mr. Cunningham
2nd: Mr. Thomas
Motion passed: 7 Yes

Motion made to pay the monthly bills:

GENERAL FUND:	23-065GF – 23-174GF
LIQUID FUELS:	23-017LF – 23- 032LF
RECREATION FUND:	23-005RF – 23-007RF

MOTION: Mr. Dixon
2nd: Mr. Morehart
Motion passed: 7 Yes

*On the question: Mr. Thomas votes yes to pay all bills except his supplemental insurance which he has a personal interest.

*The mayor asked to speak, before we close for the evening, regarding Officer Lewis who had just entered the meeting. The mayor wanted to personally thank Officer Lewis for all that he has to put up with down at the school. He is the officer that was physically assaulted and injured twice at the high school this week. He is doing one hell of a job, thank you.

Motion to adjourn made by: Mr. Cunningham at 6:33PM

Respectfully submitted:

Gail Burdulis, Plymouth Borough Secretary

Approved March 14, 2023

