

**City of Duquesne
City Council Minutes
Tuesday, April 2, 2024
6:30 pm**

Meeting being held in person and remotely using ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5251078707?pwd=Z01uVXlMMlZaYm5BazJnYmR4MWs1QT09#success>

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Adams at 6:30 PM.

Mayor Adams called for a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Manager Sample called the roll.

Present: Councilperson Adams, Councilperson Brownfield, Councilperson Washington, Councilperson Artim and Mayor Adams

Others Present: City Manager Douglas Sample, Engineer Laura Branthoover, and Solicitor Myron Sainovich

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

At this time, citizens may address the Council of Duquesne on any issue appearing on today's agenda. Only residents and taxpayers of the City of Duquesne will be permitted to address the Council. Comments on non-agenda items will be taken at the end of tonight's meeting. Speakers will be permitted to speak for a maximum of 5 minutes. Groups of people will be required to designate a spokesperson to represent them before the Council who may speak for a maximum of 10 minutes. Speakers are asked to use the microphone at the speaker's stand, clearly state their name and address for the record and keep comments brief and to the point. Please spell your name for the record and sign in on the sign in sheet.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Minutes – March 5th and 26th, 2024
- b. Bill List – April 2, 2024

Mayor Adams asked for a **motion to approve the April 2, 2024 Consent Agenda.**

First: Councilperson Washington **Second:** Councilperson Artim

Motion carried 5-0

NEW BUSINESS

1. Public Safety – Report by Mayor Scott Adams

Veterans Banners - Mayor Adams called the Flag Company for a status. They need an updated scanner. Should be complete by Memorial Day. Waiting to hear back

No Parking Ordinance- Overland Avenue between Clearview Avenue and Richford Street.

- Solicitor Sainovich is preparing an ordinance. Recommend that council look in to that prior to first reading and email if anything needs to be added
- Attended a press conference held by Lieutenant Governor at the Food Bank for the Nutritional Assistants Program.
- Toured facility at Catherine and Chestnut for possible purchase.
- Attended a Zoom meeting along with City Manager Sample and Pittsburgh Regional Transit concerning routes.
- Discussed possible purchase of cell phone tower with Motive Asset Partners.

2. Public Works – Report by Councilperson Elaine Washington

Steve Arbasak/ Public works: Addressed that they have maintained equipment and are going start to start cutting parks and empty lots, and cut back the alleys in the coming weeks.

3. Water Dept. – Report by Councilperson Aaron Adams

Nothing to report

4. Community & Economic Development – Report by Councilperson Denise Brownfield

Allegheny County Vacant Property Program – this program allows individuals/entities to acquire vacant and blighted properties. The City is required to 2 complete an Assessment of the Property being requested, confirm the applicant has no outstanding Code Violations at their primary residence, and pass a Resolution that subsequent disposition of the property would be in accordance with the comprehensive plan of the Municipality.

City Manager Sample stated that 122 Overland and 2 properties on Viola are in accordance with the Vacant Property Program Rules and Duquesne City Rules

Jamie Gatewood, 122 Overland (304-L-92)

City Manager Sample asked for motion to adopt Resolution 2024-001 authorizing the acquisition and subsequent disposition of parcel(s) 304-L-92 and would be in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan of City of Duquesne.

First: Mayer Adams

Second: Councilperson Adams

Motion carried 5-0

Mustard Seeds and Soil Properties, Viola Ave (305-M-308 and 305-M-309)

City Manager Sample asked for motion to adopt Resolution 2024-002 authorizing the acquisition and subsequent disposition of parcel(s) 305-M-308 and 305-M-309 and would be in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan of City of Duquesne.

First: Councilperson Artim

Second: Councilperson Adams

Motion carried 5-0

- a. Community Day Parade – August 3rd, 2024 starting at 10 AM on 4th and Grant and proceed upwards towards Polish Hill Park.
Next meeting is April 16, 2024 @ 6:00 located at the Brushberg Ministries.

5. *Accounts & Finances. – Report by Councilperson Artim*

Reviewed the bill list. Everything is in accordance with our monthly expenditures.

6. *Treasurer Dept. – Report by Maureen Strahl*

Absent

6. *Engineer – Report by Laura Branthoover*

GTRP Grant- Due end of May with 15% match. She is going to adjust and send

ARFA Grant- Requires a full program to help promote people to apply for Jobs, education and health monitoring. She does not feel that The City of Duquesne is at that stage with the community center (Catherine and Chestnut).

7. *Solicitor – Report by Myron Sainovich*

Preparing final draft of parking and storage Ordinance

9. *City Manager – Report by Douglas Sample*

- a. Home Rule Charter

Second and Third Reading of Ordinance No. 2024-02 –
Authorizing a Referendum on the question of creating a
Government Study Commission (GSC) of 7 Members to study the
existing form of government and advisability of adoption of a
Home Rule Charter.

Mayor Scott Adams asked to move to adopt Ordinance 2024-02
authorizing a referendum on the question of creating a Government
Study Commission (GSC) of 7 Members to study the existing form
of government and advisability of adoption of a Home Rule
Charter.

First: Councilperson Artim **Second:** Councilperson Washington

Motion carried 4-1 (Councilperson Adams)

Next Steps

1. Those running for GSC must obtain signatures of registered voters of at least 2% of votes cast in last gubernatorial election (will need 3 approximately 30-35 signatures to get on the ballot for the November 5th Election).
2. GSC will either recommend no change after 9 months of study or must produce report to DCED with proposed changes after 18 months.
3. Following review by DCED, the Home Rule Charter Adoption will be on the next regularly scheduled election to either accept or reject the charter as a whole. The earliest a Home Rule Charter could be on the ballot for the voters to decide would be General Election in November, 2026.

10. Police Dept. – Report by Chief William Shaw

See police report

11. Fire Dept. – Report by Chief Frank Cobb

Absent

12. Police Citizen Review Board – Report by Debra Chaffin

Absent

OLD BUSINESS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Upcoming Council Meeting** – Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 6:30 PM.
2. PRIDE (People Residing in Duquesne Equally), co-sponsor, along with the city and the Duquesne PartnerSHIP, the annual community Easter Egg Hunt celebration will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024 in Polish Hill Park from noon to 2:00 PM
3. **Council Meeting-** Moved to April 30, 2024 @ 6:30pm due to Election Day on April 23, 2024. Manager Doug Sample suggested to advertise the schedule change.

Mayor Scott Adams asked for a motion to advertise to move Council Meeting from April 23, 2024 to April 30, 2024.

First: Councilperson Adams **Second:** Councilperson Brownfield

Motion carried 5-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

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1. Jamie Gatewood: 107 Overland Ave

Asked for a copy of the resolution for 122 Overland Ave to be emailed to her.

2. Tom Molanick

Asked if the lot has to stay residential. Mayor Adams
Stated that yes, in fact the property was residential it stay residential.

Solicitor Sainovich stated that an appeal can be made to the zoning board to ask. For their permission to change the occupancy per zoning of that area. A recommendation needs to come from council and the zoning board will vote on that after. They cannot deny an Appeal.

Tom Molanick asked if he purchased the property could he park his construction vehicles on that property?

Councilperson Adams said if you Appeal and accepted, yes. If appealed and denied then, no.

Solicitor Sainovich said wait until the new Ordinance for Public Parking in Residential Area is done.

Tom Molanick asked to make the volunteers aware of the time and requirements for the Home Rule Charter.

Solicitor Sainovich said that there will be a memo going out that will detail all requirements for volunteers of the Home Rule Charter.

3. Charlotte Reckendorf : 1015 Hero St

Charlotte asked for 1006 Sherman, what is the timeframe for demolition?

City Manager Sample stated that we have yet to receive the paperwork but believes that it will be no time soon.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Adams asked for **motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:59pm**

First: Councilperson Washinton **Second:** Councilperson Adams
Motion carried 5-0

R. Scott Adams, Mayor

Douglas Sample, City Manager