

**City of Duquesne**  
**Council Agenda** *minutes*  
Tuesday, May 7, 2024  
6:30 pm

Meeting being held in person and remotely using ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5251078707?pwd=Z01uVXlMMlZaYm5BazJnYmR4Mw51QT09#success>

**Mayor Adams:** Call to Order at 6:30pm  
(PLEASE MUTE YOUR PHONES)  
MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
ROLL CALL

**Present:** Councilperson Elaine Washington, Councilperson Aaron Adams, Councilperson Denise Brownfield, Mayor R. Scott Adams

**Others present:** City Manager Douglas Sample, City Engineer Laura Branthoover, Solicitor Myrone Sainovich

**Excused:** Councilperson Derek Artim, Treasurer Maureen Stahl

**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.*

- No public comments on agenda items

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approval of Minutes – April 30, 2024 Council Meeting: **Not available**
- b. Bill List – May 7, 2024

**Mayor Adams requests a motion to approve the May 7, 2024 Consent Agenda.**

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

**Motion carries: 4-0**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Public Safety – Report by Mayor Scott Adams**

**a. Hiring of Police Officer(s)**

**Mayor Adams requests a motion to move to hire Caleb Black as a City of Duquesne Police Officer.**

**First: Councilperson Adams      Second: Mayor Scott Adams**

- b. First Reading of Ordinance No. 2024-01 – Parking Regulations regarding the following: 1) No Parking on Grant Avenue (Adjacent to School) and 2) Restrictions regarding Recreational and Commercial Vehicles. The ordinance will be voted on at the June 4, 2024 meeting.**

**2. Public Works – Report by Councilperson Elaine Washington**

**a. Public Works Building Condition Assessment**

**Councilperson Washington request a motion to authorize City Engineer and Manager to solicit funding opportunities for the repair/replacement of the Public Works Building.**

**First: Councilperson Washington      Second: Councilperson Adams**

**Motion carries: 4-0**

- o Clean-up on 837: There was scheduled a major cleanup on 837 for overgrowth coming out of walls and sidewalks working in coordination with the Fire Department, Police Department and Penn Dot. That needed to be rescheduled due to Penn Dot emergency. Councilperson Washington will update when there is a rescheduled date.**

**3. Water Dept. – Report by Councilperson Aaron Adams**

- o Councilperson Adams: Referenced the water main break on Center Ave.**

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

- a. Project Administration Agreement w/ Steel Rivers Council of Government (SRCOG) – pursuant to the administrative requirements for the administration of a formal agreement is needed by the SRCOG act as an agent and administer said projects on behalf of Duquesne. This is a standard agreement that SRCOG has with its other member municipalities.**

**Councilperson Brownfield requested a motion to enter into the Project Administration Agreement with the Steel Rivers Council of Governments for the administration of grant projects.**

**First: Councilperson Adams      Second: Councilperson Washington**

**Motion carries: 4-0**

- b. Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT) – PRT will be applying to the Federal Transit Administration’s current round of funding for Safe Streets and Roads for All. PRT’s application seeks funding to implement the Homestead to McKeesport Corridor plan and request supplemental planning funds to solidify the link between this plan and PRT’s ongoing University Line BRT project. The plan emphasizes pedestrian infrastructure improvements at intersections with high turn movements and pedestrian crossings to create safer conditions, focusing on reducing injuries and deaths for people who are walking or rolling.

**Councilperson Brownfield request a motion to move to authorize the City Manager to submit a letter of support for the Pittsburgh Regional Transit funding request to implement the Homestead to McKeesport Corridor Plan.**

**First:** Mayor Scott Adams                      **Second:** Councilperson Adams

**Motion carries: 4-0**

- c. Duquesne Children’s Business Fair – request use of Polish Hill Park on Saturday, July 27 from 11 AM to 4 PM for the 3rd annual Duquesne Children’s Business Fair. The event is being hosted by the Duquesne by Acton Children’s Business Fair and How to HR.

**Councilperson Brownfield request a motion to move to allow the Duquesne Children’s Business Fair to use Polish Hill Park on Saturday July 27<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM to 4 PM.**

**First:** Councilperson Washington                      **Second:** Councilperson Adams

**Motion carries: 4-0**

- d. Daevion's Place of Resilience – request to use Grant Street Park to host a Gun Violence Prevention Day on Saturday, June 15, 2024 from 1 to 4 PM. This event is a call to action for parents, guardians, men, women, children, churches, and organizations to join together for a day of fun and healing. The primary goal is to provide resources to families that will aid in ending community violence.

**Councilperson Washington request a motion to move to allow Daevion’s Place of Resilience to use Grant Street Park on Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 4 PM.**

**First:** Councilperson Washington                      **Second:** Councilperson Adams

**Motion carries: 4-0**

- e. Community Day Parade – plans are being finalized for the parade on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 starting at 10 AM on 4th and Grant and proceed upwards towards Polish Hill Park.

**5. Accounts & Finances. – Report by Councilperson Artim (EXCUSED)**

**6. Treasurer Dept. – Report by Maureen Strahl (UNAVAILABLE)**

**7. Engineer – Report by Laura Branthoover**

- o Nothing to report

**8. Solicitor – Report by Myron Sainovich**

- o **Parking Ordinance:** Incorporated parking will be prohibited along or opposite of any excavation or obstruction of stopping, standing or parking which would obstruct traffic on any road, highway, street, alley, parkway or any part thereof. Also incorporated that there shall be no parking permitted on Grant Ave. between the hours of 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm on weekdays due to Loading and unloading of school students. A sign will designate where this pertains to.
- o A report for the Home Rule Charter was emailed out for review.

**9. City Manager – Report by Douglas Sample**

- a. Steel Rivers COG US Steel Mon Valley Works Letter – for our communities to survive, the US Steel Mon Valley Works must remain open AND owned by a responsible steel maker who will invest in each facility to upgrade them to meet our Nation’s industry goals for 2030 and 2050.
- b. Home Rule Charter
  - i. 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 approximately 30-35 signatures to get on the ballot for the November 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

- Spoke to County Elections Division- A date has yet to be set for the petitions. But it will take 3-week period in the beginning of August. City Council Sample has copies to hand out of what the petition looks like available.

**10. Police Dept. – Report by Chief William Shaw**

- See report
- Officer Caleb Black starts on April 26, 2024

**11. Fire Dept. – Report by Chief Frank Cobb**

- Nothing to report

**12. Police Citizen Review Board – Report by Debra Chaffin (NOT PRESENT)**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. **Upcoming Council Meeting – Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 6:30 PM.**
2. **Home Dedication of Earl “Fatha” Hines at 600 Pricilla Avenue June 18<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM –**  
Fatha was born in Duquesne on December 28, 1903 (passed away on April 22, 1983). He was an American jazz pianist, bandleader, and composer whose unique playing style made him one of the most influential musicians in jazz history.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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**Jamie Gatewood: 107 Overland Ave**

- **Has questions about what the parking ordinance says.**  
Solicitor Sainovich provided Gatewood with a copy of the ordinance. Informed Gatewood if she has any questions to reach out to City Manager Sample after the meeting. And that formal adoption will not take place until the second reading June 07, 2024.  
This ordinance will apply to everyone equal. Not to just one area. Residential and commercial zones will have different requirements. And that everything prior to this ordinance will be null and void and they will have to reapply.

**Connie Lucas: 127 Crawford**

- **Wanted to address that the hillside/ retaining wall behind the Duquesne Shopping Center is crumbling and unsafe.**

**Mayor Scott Adams** is going to reach out to the owner of the building.

- Asked to be reminded of what the tour was about at the Boys and Girls Club. **Mayor Scott Adams** and Mr. Vogel (Head of Allegheny Housing Authority) and City Manager Sample discussed terms of possible purchase of that property. Will possibly be discussed next workshop in depth with his offer and possibly a counter offer.

**Candice Butler: 132 South 5<sup>th</sup> St.**

- **Wants to get a fence and was inquiring whom she needs to speak to.**  
**Mayor Scott Adams-** See City Manager Sample

**Pat Bluet:**

- **Have you ever thought of starting a Recreational Board in the City of Duquesne?**  
**Mayor Scott Adams** said that he will take that into consideration.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Adams asked for **motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:02pm**

**First:** Councilperson Adams    **Second:** Councilperson Washington

**Motion carried 4-0**

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**R. Scott Adams, Mayor**

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**Douglas Sample, City Manager**