

City of Duquesne Council Meeting Minutes

Date:

August 27, 2024

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: City Hall, Duquesne, PA

Call to Order

Meeting Start: 6:30 PM

Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Council members were asked to place their phones on mute or vibrate.

A moment of silence was held, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

- **Councilperson Washington** - Present
- **Councilperson Adams** - Present
- **Councilperson Artem** - Present
- **Councilperson Brownfield** - Present
- **Mayor Adams** - Present

Public Comments on Agenda Items:

No public comments were made on agenda items.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve the consent agenda, which included the bill list from August 27, 2024:

- **Motion by:** Councilperson Washington
- **Seconded by:** Councilperson Brownfield
- **All in favor:** Aye
- **Motion carried:** 5-0

Reports and Discussions:

Public Safety (Mayor Adams):

- **Crawford Avenue Parking Issues:** Discussion on installing no parking signs near bus stops to ensure children do not walk in the street during school hours. Mayor emphasized strict enforcement.
- **Collins Family Event:** Hillview will be closed on September 7th from noon to 8 PM for an event in honor of Ira Snow Collins. Public Works will assist with barricades.

- **Midget Football Field:** Mayor Adams reported that the Duquesne School District will allow the midget football team to use the field for three games, provided the team handles field lining and trash collection.
- **1050 West Grant Avenue:** A concern was raised about refurbishing a home at this address and coordinating with city inspectors.
- **Proclamations for Duquesne Residents:** Four proclamations were issued for Cheryl Jeffries Cozart, O'Neal Cozart, Mamie L. Underwood, and Kevin J. Underwood.

Public Works (Councilperson Washington):

- **Gaming Economic Development Tourism Fund:** Application submission due on August 21, 2024, for \$150,000-\$500,000 for various projects, including Polish Hill Park renovation and a new public works building.
- **Community Development Block Grant Program (Year 51):** Grant application submission due on September 13, 2024. Projects include public works building repair and demolition.
- **Local Share Account (DCD):** Grant application due on November 30, 2024, for projects including Center Street water line replacement and Public Works equipment.
- **Multimodal Grant Resolution:**
Motion to adopt Resolution 2024-04 requesting \$444,352.22 for reconstructing South Fifth Street (Kennedy to Priscilla) and South Second Street (Kennedy to Camp).
 - **Motion by:** Councilperson Washington
 - **Seconded by:** Councilperson Artem
 - **All in favor:** Aye
 - **Motion carried:** 5-0
- **Liquid Fuels Account Update:** \$650,000 is available. The city will use this for road reconstruction and purchase of equipment for demolition of vacant structures.

Water Department (Councilperson Adams):

- **Water Main Repairs:** Three or four water breaks occurred over the summer and were successfully repaired. No major issues were reported.
- **Water Quality Testing:** Recent tests came back clear with no concerns from the DEP. The CCR report must be posted on the city website, with a link included in water bills.
- **Water Distribution System Improvements:** The city rejected all bids for 2024 water distribution improvements due to high costs and will rebid the project.
 - **Motion to reject bids:**
 - **Motion by:** Councilperson Adams
 - **Seconded by:** Councilperson Washington

- **All in favor:** Aye
- **Motion carried:** 5-0

Community and Economic Development (Councilperson Brownfield):

- **Zoning Updates:** A lot consolidation plan and a special exception request for a daycare expansion at 12 Norman (old rectory of St. Joseph's) will be reviewed by the Zoning Hearing Board.
- **Property Maintenance Code Update:** Council will introduce an ordinance at the next meeting to update the Property Maintenance Code to the 2024 version.
- **Columbia University Urban Design Studio:** The city is considering participating in a study for the design of a new City Hall complex.
- **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations:** The city is in talks with Supernova EV to install charging stations at no cost to the city.
- **Tax Assistance Act (LERTA):** Councilperson Brownfield proposed the city pursue a Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance program (LERTA) to encourage property improvements by phasing in tax increases over 10 years.

Finance (Councilperson Artem):

- The city will begin working on the 2025 budget. The goal is to adopt the budget by the December 3, 2024, meeting.

City Engineer (Laura):

- **Small Water Sewer Grant:** Bids were rejected for the grant, and the project will be rebid.
- **Paving Projects:** Grant Avenue paving is complete. Reallocation of LSA funds will go toward paving Second Street and Library Court.
- **Grants and Demolition Projects:** The city is waiting for contracts from the county for several pending grants, including demolition funds.
- **MS4 Inspection:** The city passed its MS4 stormwater permit inspection.

Treasurer's Report (Ms. Strong):

- The city has collected \$1,462,117 of its \$2,020,020 goal, representing 72.3% of taxes collected for the year.

Solicitor's Report (Myron):

- **City Lease Property:** A substitution of name on a lease agreement for the McKee property is required following the passing of the leaseholder. The substitution will be ready for approval at the next meeting.

City Manager (Mr. Sample):

- The public hearing for dangerous structures is scheduled for September 3, 2024, at 6:15 PM.
- The Home Rule Charter town hall meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2024, with the location to be determined.

Public Comments:

1. **Mr. Williams (603 Richford Street):** Complained about street conditions on Richford Street, including sinking areas and the risk of accidents due to street damage.
2. **Mr. Burley (136 Ball Street):** Requested information on purchasing a vacant property.
3. **Mr. Milton (Sherman Avenue):** Raised concerns about dangerous structures at 1014 Sherman Avenue.
4. **Mr. Mackey (Potential Business Owner):** Presented plans to open a 24-hour laundromat at 1015 Duquesne Boulevard. The project requires zoning changes, which will be reviewed.


Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting:

- **Motion by:** Councilperson Artem
- **Seconded by:** Councilperson Washington
- **All in favor:** Aye
- **Meeting Adjourned:** 7:38 PM



Mayor R. Scott Adams



City Manager Douglas Sample