

CITY OF DUQUESNE
TUESDAY, April 19, 2022
6:30 PM
CITY COUNCIL MEETING/MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER (PLEASE MUTE YOUR PHONES)
MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
OPENING PRAYER
ROLL CALL

Councilperson Caldwell not present
Councilperson A. Adams present
Councilperson Washington present
Mayor R. Scott Adams present

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 3 minutes. Groups of people will be required to designate a spokesperson to represent them before the Council who may speak for a maximum of 3 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

1. Approval of Minutes/Consent Agenda – February 15, 2022
2. Bill list ending February 2022

Councilperson Washington made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson A. Adams to approve the March 2022 Consent Agenda/Bill list
(Motion passed 3/0)

PUBLIC SAFETY

1. Discussing gun violence reduction program with different personnel.
2. Met with Redevelopment Authority on 3/14. Moving forward with application process for residents to acquire abandoned properties and/or lots.
3. Attended Steel Rivers Council of Gov't annual dinner at end of March. Updates discussed about properties, Blight Program, taxes, etc.
4. Spoke with PennDOT concerning McKeesport/Duquesne Bridge work. Bridge will be closed on weekends upon notifications for construction work.
5. Spoke with Duquesne Light – Street lights can be installed and/or dismantled, however there is a cost associated with either choice. For example, dismantling lights costs \$109.00 and installing lights is free but costs \$13.00/month afterward. Residents are encouraged to call the city if they have concerns about streetlights.
6. Councilperson Washington made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Adams to install a streetlight located at 900 Liberty Street – Duquesne, PA. 15110
(Motion was passed 3/0)

7. Councilperson Washington made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Adams to appoint Derek P. Artim to city council to fill the vacant position of former Councilperson Tara Henderson-Murphy.
(Motion passed 3/0)
8. Motion was made by Councilperson Adams and seconded by Mayor R. Scott Adams to accept the appointments of Stephen Kracinovsky and Lee Zabelsky to the Planning Commission.
(Motion was passed 3/0)

PUBLIC WORKS

1. Report Submitted.
2. Attended meeting on April 5, 2022, with Paster Ewell, Denise Brownfield, Trenton, and Lisa Neal where we discussed 'A Community Clean Up Day' on June 4, 2022. Once schedule is created, we will inform and seek volunteers. Public Works Dept. has volunteered to assist.
3. Asking all Renters and Homeowners to PLEASE pick up trash outside of your yards. And to not put trash out before 6pm the day prior to trash pickup.
4. Working on solution to fix/repair pavilions and shelters and benches that are in bad condition throughout the city.
5. Councilpersons Washington and Adams will be interviewing candidates for the Public Works position of Laborer.
6. Councilperson Washington made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Adams to send required paperwork to COG to have the former Mayor's name removed from roles.
(Motion was passed 3/0)

WATER DEPARTMENT

1. Report Submitted.
2. Shut offs re-started in April 2022.
3. Some fire hydrants are being replaced and some are being bled throughout the city. This may cause some brown water to homes of residents. We will do our best to inform residents via website.
4. Water break located at Union Street will be repaired as soon as the weather permits.
5. Wants to have more discussion concerning Code Enforcement. Possibly hiring someone to deal with Code Enforcement exclusively may be the solution.
6. Residents are taking advantage of LIHWAP – over 50 participants this past month.
7. New water system in place for next billing period. Will affect May 2022 billing.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Dodgeball on Sundays @ Polish Hill starting May 15, 2022, from 10am – 6pm.
2. Tuesdays and Thursdays @ Polish Hill kickball and flag football league.
3. Adult Frisbee league on Wednesdays @ Polish Hill.
4. Myron will draft a letter for parents to sign waiving liabilities for the city.
5. Planning a Parade on August 6, 2022, starting at 11am from Grant Street to Polish Hill. Requesting fire trucks and police escorts.
6. Applying for a new grant for trails. Engineers just need to know where Council wants new trails placed.
7. Engineers submitted their report.
8. Trying to demolish 1036 Lincoln, however Duquesne Light will not cut off electricity. Trying to resolve.

ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE

1. Pension investments need corrected by CIM. We can also compare companies and determine the best course of action.

TREASURER

1. The Treasury Department apologizes for the mistake that was made on tax forms that went out and is thankful to the city residents for their patience in the handling of this matter. Discount period is extended through May 30, 2022.

CONTROLLER

1. No report

SOLICITOR

1. Met with the Mayor and the Acting Chief of Police and am working on the following:
 - a. Powers of Council and discipline of employees
 - b. New job description for City Manager position
 - c. Personnel issue related to previous Chief of Police
 - d. Salary increases for police officers.

CITY MANAGER

1. Looking into other companies that do animal control. Our current person David Collura is resigning May 15, 2022. The racoon and skunk problem is being addressed.
2. Working on having open Council meetings with limited person in chambers beginning May 2022 Council meeting. (Maybe 30 people maximum to attend public mtgs.)
3. Ham giveaways December 17, 2022 @ Memorial Park sponsored by Katie Care Daycare.
4. Submitting estimates for cameras to be installed in police department.
5. Working on posting signed minutes from last year's Council meetings.
6. Going forward we will supply Council with beginning and ending balances on all accounts.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

1. Going forward working toward providing monthly information in regard to shootings, calls, accidents, etc.
2. Two officers resigned.
3. Lt. Vance will be placing an ad for new officer hires as well conducting another testing.
4. Increasing officers' salaries is a serious concern related to hiring and keeping officers on staff. Will hopefully meet with the police union and try to determine the best course of action for handling this matter.
5. Talked about doing a recruiting drive to hire new officers.

ACT 47 COORDINATOR

1. DCED approves RFP for codifying ordinances. Will move forward with one of the proposed grants.
2. Bethany Williams has replaced Michael Foreman and wants to meet with Council and discuss "Home Rule" as well as a healthy exit plan for Act 47.
3. Pleased with city revenues and delinquent real estate and earned income taxes.

4. Want to assist with giving Council a condensed monthly financial report as was requested.
5. Also want to be included in discussion concerning increase in police salaries.
6. Update on Mary Louise Bittner's progress with creating manuals and flow charts for the city.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1. Recently certified in March 2022, for Rope & Rigging. This will help fire fighters going forward in all rescue efforts.
2. Councilperson Washington made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Adams to split the cost of new Fire Fighter equipment between the City and the Fire Department. Total cost each is \$3065.24.
(Motion was passed 3/0)

POLICE CITIZEN'S REVIEW BOARD

1. Debra Chaffin (see attached report, if not attached was not provided)

***Members of the Duquesne City Council will meet in Executive Session (if needed)

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Mr. Morgan in the place of Reverend Chaffin initiated discussion surrounding police misconduct from one officer. Mayor and police are investigating situation. Mr. Morgan also wants to meet with the Mayor concerning funds needed by their organization to sustain itself.

Ms. Pat – New flyer about the Egg Extravaganza to be held April 30, 2022. Concerned about the lights along Grant where streetlights use to be. And concerned about bridge reparations located where accident happened.

Tom Monlanick – Commented that the audio with the streaming of the meeting was difficult to hear. He also raised concerned about how and if resident earned income tax will be affected after exit of Act 47.

Rick Simon – He commented that he likes the current set up of water payments. It was determined that some issues may warrant a case-by-case decision, and the city will work with residents to arrange a payment plan.. It was explained to him that old damage meter will be replaced at no charge to the resident.

McGrail & Associates is working with the Redevelopment Authority to develop an application process for all person interested in acquiring properties and/or abandoned houses located in the City of Duquesne. Once completed the process will probably take 4-6 months from start to finish. Residents are encouraged to set aside \$2500 - \$3000 per location for fees associated with searches on properties.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilperson Washington made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Adams to call the meeting to adjournment.

(Motion was passed 3/0)

R. Scott Adams

Mayor/Vice-President

Kelly J. Robertson

City Manager