

City of Duquesne Council Meeting Minutes

Date: September 24, 2024

Time: 6:30 PM - 7:03 PM

Location: City Hall

**Meeting held in person and remotely using Zoom

1. Call to Order

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

A moment of silence was observed for a recent unfortunate incident on South Seventh Street. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

- **Present:** Councilpersons Artim, Brownfield, and Mayor Adams
- **Excused:** Councilpersons Washington (medical leave), Adams (vacation)
- **Public Comments:** No public comments from those in attendance or via Zoom.

3. Consent Agenda

- **Approval of minutes:** July 2, August 27, and September 3, 2024
- **Approval of the bill list:** September 2024
Motion Passed: 3-0

4. New Business

- **Ordinance 2024-03 (First Reading):** No parking zones established on Crawford Avenue between South Fifth Street and Mifflin, and Overland Avenue between Richmond and Clearview Avenue.
Second and third readings scheduled for October 1, 2024.
- **Act 152 Demolition Grant:**
 - Requested \$87,800 for the demolition of properties at 1213, 2023, 27, and 29 Irwin Street.
Motion Passed: 3-0
 - Resolution 2024-707 identifying these properties as blighted.
Motion Passed: 3-0

5. Public Works

- **Demolition Grant Update:** Doug reported on the demolition grant and ongoing public works activities. No additional items were discussed due to Councilperson Washington's absence.

6. Water Department

- **No Updates:** Councilperson Adams was excused. Updates are expected at the next meeting.

7. Community and Economic Development

- **Ordinance 2024 (First Reading):** Adoption of the 2024 Property Maintenance Code. **Second and third readings scheduled for October 1, 2024.**
- **Zoning Change for Property on 837:**
Myron discussed the possibility of allowing a laundromat in an R2 zoning area. Council agreed to hold a hearing on this topic.
Motion Passed: 3-0
- **Wayfinding System and Partnership with Duquesne School:**
A study will be conducted to implement a wayfinding system for active transportation in the city. A partnership with Duquesne School for a youth-led project in Polish Hill Park was also discussed.
- **Salvation Army Christmas Angel Tree:**
Free toys for children (0-13 years old) will be distributed in December. Volunteers are needed for the toy distribution. More details to follow at the next meeting.
- **Project Bundle Up for Seniors:**
Seniors (65+) can apply for a \$30 voucher for a new coat from Burlington. Details to be posted.
- **Halloween Event:**
 - **October 31:** The annual Halloween Candy Giveaway will be held at Duquesne City Park, 5-6 PM.
 - **City Trick-or-Treating:** From 6-8 PM.

8. Finance

- **2025 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) Certification:**
Council approved the 2025 MMO, totaling \$290,000 for pension obligations (\$240,000 from the Commonwealth, \$50,000 from the city).
Motion Passed: 3-0

9. Treasurer's Report

- **Treasurer's Report Postponed:** Full report to be presented on October 1, 2024.

10. Stormwater Management Plan (First Reading)

- **Adoption of the County Stormwater Management Plan:** Required by the state, second and third readings to occur at the next meeting.

11. City Solicitor's Report

- **McKee Property Resolution:** The city will meet with property managers to discuss rental details for 2025. This will be discussed further in the next meeting.
- **Medical Marijuana Grant:** City is applying for a grant to establish drug-impaired driving enforcement.

- **Lot Consolidation:** Application to consolidate two lots on 1126 Grand Avenue has been received. It will be reviewed by the planning department.
- **Property Purchase with Liens:** A settlement service is inquiring about liens on a property. The city will provide necessary information to allow the property to be returned to the tax roll.
- **Drone Use by Police Department:** The solicitor discussed a public declaration letter to the FAA to authorize police drone use. Additional certifications may be needed. Council will revisit the topic on October 1, 2024.

12. City Manager's Report

- **County Property Assessment Agreement:** Council approved the city entering into an agreement with the county to use property assessment data for GIS and property searches.
Motion Passed: 3-0
- **Home Rule Charter Update:**
Four candidates are running for five available positions. Write-in candidates need at least 29 votes. If no additional candidates are selected, the Home Rule Charter will fail.

13. Upcoming Events

- **Hungarian Reformed Church 100-Year Anniversary:**
Celebration on September 28, 2024, at 1411 Kennedy Avenue. The city will assist with lot cleaning for parking.
- **Community Discussion on Law Enforcement:**
October 18, 2024, at 1:30 PM at 312 Viola Avenue.

14. Public Comments

- **Connie Lucas:**
Requested clarification on community events such as the Hungarian Church anniversary and the community discussion on law enforcement.
- **Miss Reed:**
Asked for details on signing up for the Salvation Army Christmas Angel Tree program.

15. Meeting Adjournment

- **Motion to Adjourn:**
Motion Passed: 3-0
The meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.

Mayor R. Scott Adams

City Manager Douglas Sample