

JUNE 6, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

6:15PM City Solicitor called to order a meeting concerning structures for demolition. (SEE ATTACHED LIST) The Mayor was sworn and gave testimony condemning the listed structures.

Regular meeting was called to order at 6:30PM with a moment of silence and the Pledge Allegiance. Opening prayer was given by Rev Chaffin.

Roll Call: Present were Mayor Adams, Councilpersons Washington, Adams & Artim. Absent was Councilperson Caldwell.

There were no public comments but Trish Dean introduced herself as the Director of the Boys and Girls Club after School Program as well as being involved with Youth Football.

A motion was made by Mayor Adams and was second by Councilperson Adams to accept consent Agenda to include Bill list ending May 26, 2023. Motion carried 4-0

PUBLIC SAFETY: Mayor's Report is available.

Allegheny County Councilman Bob Macey read a Proclamation for Sgt. Patrick Vroman for an incident where he was wounded in the line of duty.

Steel River COG will be in Duquesne on June 20, 2023 to assist residents with Whole Homes Repairs applications. PA American Water as well as City of Duquesne Water Dept will also be available to assist residents with utilities. Mayor Adams stated

he would contact Peoples Gas and Duquesne Light to see if they would participate.

A motion was tabled to appoint Samuel Sulkosky as City Manager. Motion was tabled since interim Manager Mary Louise Bittner and temporary Administrative Assistant have not had a chance to work with Mr. Sulkosky.

A motion was made by Councilperson Adams and was second by Councilperson Artim to send a letter of support for SRCOG to renew their lease at the Regional Training facility in Elizabeth Township. Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC WORKS: Public Works Director/Code Enforcement job description was advertised in Mon Valley Independent and on Indeed.

A motion was made by Mayor Adams and second by Councilperson Artim to approve PEST-B-GONE as wildlife trapping company. Motion was carried 4-0. Mayor Adams explained the process and contact numbers will be placed on Website and Facebook page.

A motion was made by Councilperson Artim and was second by Councilperson Washington to approve SRCOG to provide Street Sweeping for the City of Duquesne at \$95 per hour. Motion was carried 4-0. Questions from Councilperson Adams concerning being locked in at a minimal amount of hours to be used. According to Councilperson Washington, we do not have to use it at all but if we do that is their fee.

WATER DEPARTMENT: Report was submitted and is available.

Councilperson Adams requested City Engineer to begin the process to bid out the contract for solid waste collection starting in January 2024. He added PA American Water and the City of Duquesne Water Dept would also be on hand to assist residents with billing questions/assistance. Councilman Adams requested Peoples Gas and Duquesne Light also be contacted. The Mayor agreed to make contact.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT: A motion was made by Councilperson Adams and was second by Councilperson Washington to approve the usage of Polish Hill Ballfield by Duquesne Youth Football Organization for Practice and possibly games. Motion carried 4-0. Duquesne Youth Football agreed to adjust their schedule if another organization wanted to use the facility. There was also a discussion concerning the use of concession stand and restrooms.

CITY ENGINEER had already submitted a report and it is available. Ms. Branthoover updated Council on the Pump station project as well as the status on all applied for Grants.

ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE: A motion was made by Mayor Adams and second by Councilperson Adams to approve resolution 2023-4 adding City Manager as signatory on bank account at First Commonwealth. Motion carried 4-0. This being contingent on Mr. Sulkosky being approved. Also, Karra Vance will be removed as a signatory.

A similar motion was made by Councilperson Artim and second by Councilperson Washington to approve Resolution 2023-5 adding the City Manager as signatory to bank accounts at Century Heritage Federal Credit Union. Motion carried 4-0. This also contingent on Mr. Sulkosky being approved.

A motion was made by Councilperson Washington and second by Mayor Adams to add PLGIT as a depository. Motion carried 3-0 with Councilperson Adams abstaining since he has not had a chance to review terms.

TREASURER REPORT. Ms. Strahl submitted report and it is available. She added that Tax collections are ongoing and she has experience with PLGIT and believes it will benefit the City.

SOLICITOR REPORT: A motion was made by Mayor Adams and second by Councilperson Adams approving Resolution 2023-6 permitting the City of Duquesne to submit an application for Act 152.

The solicitor requested any signed Resolutions be forwarded to him. I asked the Solicitor to look into charging property owners fee to have lots cut and/or residences boarded.

CITY MANAGER: Mr. Sulkosky made Council aware the City of Duquesne was approved by Allegheny County Council for the Vacant Property Program. The link will be placed on the City Website once Allegheny County Redevelopment Authority makes it available.

Mr. Sulkosky also welcomed Latoya Christie as new Administrative Assistant and stated PA American Water has started their process of completing Act 537 Plan.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Report was submitted and is available. Chief Shaw stated there is a police test to be given on June 9, 2023. The Chief added new camera system within the City should be implemented shortly and the Gun Task Force is producing results.

ACT 47 COORDINATOR: Kristen Michaels reported Duquesne was recommended to come out of distressed status. She also mentioned a meeting for Public comment on June 8, 2023 and a formal hearing to be held sometime in July.

The Fire Chief was not present.

CITIZENS REVIEW BOARD: Ms. Chaffin requested names of Police Officers. Mayor Adams told her she needed to contact the Chief or Asst. Chief if there is a problem with an officer and they may provide her with the information. She also requested Policy Manual and provided the Mayor with one given to her by former Chief. She also requested additional funds for reordering new fliers they had printed. She also wanted to know if the Police Department kept statistics on traffic stops. The Chief responded he did not believe we did but the Solicitor will check into the legality.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Ray Lucas introduced himself as working with CURE Mon Valley. Mayor Adams asked if this was the group supported by SRCOG and he stated it was.

Sylvia Celeste Deadrick asked Council for documents that would assist her in renovating properties on S. Seventh Street. The Mayor said he would work with her in an attempt to obtain the proper documents.

Ms. Trish Dean asked if she could receive a set of keys for the use of the restrooms at Polish Hill. Ms. Dean would like to use the area for summer activities for the Boys/Girls Club. Councilperson Adams said he would assist her and try to expedite.

A motion was made by Councilperson Adams and second by Councilperson Artim to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:58PM.

Mayor R. Scott Adams 

City Manager Samuel Sulkosky 