

**CITY OF DUQUESNE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022
6:30 PM
CITY COUNCIL MEETING/MINUTES**

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

Councilperson Caldwell present
Councilperson A. Adams present
Councilperson Washington present
Councilperson Henderson-Murphy not 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.

- Rick Simon asked: What is the agenda?
- Tom M: Can public know about projects of improvements for city before votes are taken?

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes/Consent Agenda – January 2022
2. Bill list ending January 2022

**Motion to approve the January 2022 Consent Agenda/Bill list was made by Councilperson Washington and seconded by Councilperson A. Adams.
Motion passed 4/0**

PUBLIC SAFETY

1. Written report submitted
2. Lt. Thomas Shaw – announced as acting Chief of Police
3. Moving Councilpersons into second floor office for public presence and availability
4. Free Covid testing spearheaded by Councilperson Washington to hopefully begin in March. Not finalized and potential locations to be named later.
5. Addressing camera issue inside and outside building
6. Direct line to Mayor 412-469-3857
7. Proclamation for Mel Achtzehn (working on)
8. Propose Chief Cobb utilize mailroom for office use

PUBLIC WORKS

1. Submitted written report
2. If new hire is allotted in budget for this department all Councilpersons would like to look at resumes
3. Mike Kurta (PW Director) reported that the salt shed is completed, and department is getting ready for Spring
4. Expressed concerns about Code Enforcement Officer – Currently Mike Kurta and George Newsome are working with the Police Department to enforce codes.

WATER DEPARTMENT

1. Applied and accepted contract called LIHWAP – helps residents pay water and sewage bills. Councilperson A. Adams will be in office on Saturday and Monday mornings to assist any residents with this process. There are also flyers in City Hall.
2. Tests were conducted in January for drinking water and passed – water in Duquesne is safe for drinking.
3. Reviewing contract with County Hauling (RE: Monthly complaints)
4. Continuing with Pump Station Project that will improve the entire water system throughout the City of Duquesne.
5. Councilperson A. Adams made a motion and was seconded by Councilperson Caldwell to purchase a Leak Detection device for water department that would save on manpower and on overtime. Cost is \$5800.00. (City Manager confirmed that cost is in budget)
Motion passed 4/0
6. Shut offs on hold for chance to apply to grant program except if you don't have an account.
7. Water Dept. is informing residents door to door concerning meter repairs. Residents may find postings on their doors.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Attended meeting in January concerning costs associated with money to help with the water infrastructure.
2. Working on a program that would help inform people how to buy and fix p properties that are abandoned
3. Working with Hud concerning property improvements
4. Property located 1006 Sherman Avenue needs to be torn down
5. Councilperson Caldwell made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Washington to move Community Day to Polish Hill.
Motion was passed 4/0
6. Agreed that an additional meeting prior to next Council meeting might be necessary.
7. Four of eleven new hydrants installed.
8. Hydrant near Grant Towers needs replaced immediately – plan is to try and replace next week.
9. Elaine reported that 5th Street water line was deferred for new pumps.

ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE

1. No report

TREASURER

1. Report Attached
2. Two reports sent and tax report sent

CONTROLLER

1. No report

SOLICITOR

1. Working on personnel issues with Mayor that will be discussed in executive session.
2. Discussed emergency situations that City Manager can approve without sending out a bid for services. RE: Roof at City Hall needs replaced immediately.
3. Discussed that there is a website in existence that needs to say former Mayor on it as a disclaimer but may cause some confusion because it does not have the disclaimer – executive session issue as well
4. Suggested possibly starting a new page for current Mayor with sign in link for transparency

CITY MANAGER

1. School district has repaid City in the amount of \$178K
2. Doors to City Hall building now have keypads that need codes to enter the building for safety. More security improvements to come
3. Working on replacing furnaces in Police Department and roofs in City Hall and Police Department
4. Please check website and sign on front door for inclement weather announcements concerning whether City Hall is open or change in hours of operation.
5. Mayor R. Scott Adams made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson A. Adams to ratify Proclamation for Macedonia Church.
Motion was passed 4/0
6. Councilperson A. Adams made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Washington to approve Proclamation for James Johnson born 01/13/1922.
Motion was passed 4/0
7. Councilperson Washington made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson A. Adams to approve resolution 2022 – 2 adding Mayor R. Scott Adams as a signer on accounts.
Motion was passed 4/0
8. Councilperson Washington made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson A. Adams to approve the grant for CDBG referring to street reconstruction. (see attached)
Motion was passed 4/0

POLICE DEPARTMENT

1. Three applicants left in hiring process
2. Councilperson Washington made the motion and was seconded by Mayor Adams to apply the cost of \$35.00 for Police Application.
Motion was passed 4/0
3. Mayor Adams made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson A. Adams to accept the resignation of Officer Luke Dunlevy.
Motion passed 4/0

4. Councilperson Washington made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson A. Adams to hire officers as soon as background checks are completed including medical and psychological checks.
Motion was passed 4/0

ACT 47 COORDINATOR

1. Official exit date for DCED exit plan for ACT 47 is 10/16/2023. The exit plan will have to involve a public hearing
2. Working with City Manager to obtain grants and prepare RFP(s) and propose exit strategy

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1. Responded to 46 calls in January with no injuries.
2. Sent out letter asking for fundraising for donations concerning a new ladder truck.
3. Recently received 3 sets of protective gear for Fire Fighters

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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- Debra is in the hospital however the board is awaiting direction from Mayor's office how to proceed forward
- James Reed confirmed that Councilperson A. Adams will be in office on Saturday 9:30 am – 1:00pm and Monday.
- Elizabeth Flower – please consider senior citizens for purchasing properties.
- Maureen S – concerned about water bill. Was told that consumption on bill is correct but surcharges are incorrect. Maybe eligible for a credit but all should know that PA American Water rates have increased.
- Steven S. – Congratulations to new Council members.
 - o In City Farms – on hold no progress. Issues with validity of organization
 - o Contract for Noise/Dirt – there will be a meeting about the expressway and a contact person will be established for further communications
 - o Earl Father Hines moniker - everything is in process however there is an issue with funding

Tom M. – wanted to know if we can post proclamation and treasury reports on website. (Yes)

It was suggested that advertisements be posted on Jazz radio station WZUM concerning fundraiser opportunities for City of Duquesne.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion was passed 4/0



Mayor/Vice-President



City Manager