

**CITY OF DUQUESNE**  
**TUESDAY, June 21, 2022**  
**6:30 PM**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING/MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER (PLEASE MUTE YOUR PHONES)**  
**MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Councilperson Caldwell (present)  
Councilperson A. Adams (present)  
Councilperson Washington (present)  
Councilperson Artim (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.*

- *Wanted extra copies of the agenda. (given)*

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of Minutes/Consent Agenda – May 24, 2022
2. Bill list ending May 2022

**Councilperson Adams made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Washington to approve the May/June 2022 Consent Agenda/Bill list (Motion passed 4/0)**

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

1. Attended meeting with Steel River COG
2. Confirmed appointment of Leonard Evagues to Zoning Board.

**MOTION: Councilperson Washington made a motion and was seconded by Councilperson Artim to accept the confirmation of Leonard Evagues as a new member of the Zoning Board. (Motion passed 4/0)**

3. Anyone interested in recognition of Veterans please call 412-713-9332 and leave a message.
4. Solution Permits – Vendors typically pay \$200.00 and get a certificate to operate at a specific location. Will discuss in more details next meeting.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

1. Report Submitted.
2. Streets are being sprayed with vegetation killer several times a year.
3. Addressing potholes as complaints come in.
4. Letters are being sent to landowners and tenants to clean trash and cut overgrown grass.
5. Mike Kurta, Public Works Director:
  - a. Requesting a new pole saw for dept. Estimated cost is \$350.00
  - b. Plans to mulch at City Hall.
  - c. Status of injured employee to be determined after most recent doctor follow up visit to occur tomorrow.
  - d. Dates to come in regard to cleaning alleys and lots.

## **WATER DEPARTMENT**

1. Report Submitted.

## **COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**MOTION: Mayor Adams made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Washington to grant permission for New Evangelistic Ministries (Pastor Dorothy Stubbs) use of the Polish Hill Park for outdoor Revival on July 28 -29, 2022.  
(Motion passed 5/0)**

**MOTION: Councilperson Adams made a motion, and it was seconded by Councilperson Artim to grant permission for Shayna Robinson use of Polish Hill Park for Entrepreneur Day for youth on July 30, 2022.  
(Motion passed 5/0)**

**MOTION: Mayor Adams made a motion, and it was seconded by Councilperson Washington to grant permission for Denise Brownfield use of Memorial Park for a “Ham Giveaway” on December 17, 2022.  
(Motion passed 5/0)**

1. Concession stands and bathrooms cannot be used at this time. Pipes need to be repaired.
2. Myron (Solicitor) stated that he would make up a contract for usage of the fields/parks that would include a deposit for cleanup, price for usage, insurance (if necessary), resident and non-resident usage, etc.
3. It was known that groups that have applied to use the fields/parks in the past were charged a fee of \$100.00.
4. To date no electrician has been contacted to discuss the electrical needs of the fields/parks. It was suggested that a generator could be used for electrical needs.
5. Engineers:
  - a. Report submitted
  - b. Developed a list of 40 homes in the area that need demolition and/or rehab. Applying for a grant to cover this cost.
  - c. Mayor Adams suggested the pavement of Belmont Avenue. George from Act 47 stated that there may be some funds in the capital budget to have that completed.

## ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE

1. Reviewing all accounts including debits and deposits from January 2022 – June 2022.

**MOTION: Councilperson Caldwell made a motion, and it was seconded by Councilperson Adams to authorize Councilperson Artim as a signee on checks as well as receive bank statements.**

**(Motion passed 5/0)**

## TREASURER

1. Report Submitted

## CONTROLLER

1. No report

## SOLICITOR

1. Attending Blight meeting next month. Hopes to be able to shed some light on abandoned homes and vacant lots in this area.
2. Creating Ordinance for City Manager position and it will need reviewed in July 2022.
3. Settlement agreement reached for employee, however some language in that settlement needs to be changed including pension language, employee title, and out of pocket expenses.

**MOTION: Councilperson Washington made a motion, and it was seconded by Councilperson Adams to agree to pay settlement to employee (X) with any necessary corrections.**

**(Motion passed 5/0)**

## CITY MANAGER

1. Mele & Mele & Sons Company approved with reports. Plan is to have their HQ built in RIDC district.

**MOTION: Councilperson Artim made a motion, and it was seconded by Councilperson Caldwell to approve for Mele & Mele & Sons to build their headquarters in the City of Duquesne.**

**(Motion passed 5/0)**

2. Pat McGrail and RDA working together to develop an application for residents interested in purchasing vacant lots and abandoned properties. Process will take approximately 6-12 months to complete, and their office will manage about 5-6 yearly. Residents need about \$3K up front per property to complete the initial searches on the property(s) they may be interested in. Jaqui Daniels is developing an initial form to apply. Plus there is an ongoing list in the City Manager's office.
3. Vendors have been applying for and receiving certificates to sell food at various locations within the city.
4. Penn Vest loan is paid in full.
5. Working in collaboration with Engineering to determine a target area for houses that need demolished immediately.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

1. Report Submitted.
2. Police testing had to be delayed because there were not enough applicants.
3. Black phone in police department is not working.
4. Mayor Adams announced salary increases for officers through the current contract that ends in 2023. It will cost the city about \$7K.

**MOTION: Councilperson Adams made a motion, and it was seconded by Councilperson Washington to increase the salary of four (4) officers with the guidelines that they maintain full time employment with the City of Duquesne for at least nine (9) months or they have to give back the equipment that was purchased by the city.  
(Motion passed 5/0)**

## **ACT 47 COORDINATOR**

1. Working in collaboration with the City Manager and DCED to deal with personnel and finance matters.
2. Positive response for RFP from COG to do a records clean-up for the city.
3. Introduced Bethany Williams from DCED:
  - a. Bethany talked about Home Rule
  - b. She explained what she believes are advantages to this type of gov't
  - c. Bethany wants to schedule a meeting to discuss Home Rule in detail as a possible exit strategy Act 47.
4. Councilperson Washington presented the idea of going back to having workshops in addition to the council meetings. To be discussed going forward as long as it does not interfere with School Board meetings.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

1. Reports include activities over the last two (2) months:
  - a. 76 calls of service
  - b. 7 fires
  - c. 22 car vehicles situations
  - d. 5 dangerous hazardous situations
  - e. 14 false alarms
  - f. 14 good intent calls
2. New truck has been added to our fleet.

## **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)

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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Mr. Morgan – no new complaints. Trying to find funds to assist with printing flyers/banners and other required paperwork for their department.

Greg R. – Concerned about parking on Lowry Street. Residents need assistance with uninspected vehicles that need to be towed. During snow removal he wants help from the city to assist with plowing and salt spreading.

Councilperson Washington told Greg to make certain his location is put on list for snow removal

Councilperson Adams told Greg that city and state mandates are being adopted to assist with parking situations.

Sylvia – Expressed that Pittsburgh Trade Institute repaired her broken down wall and wants to possibly garnish a partnership to continue to do such repairs. She will forward information to the City Manager.

Ms. Pat – thanked everyone for cooperation during the Easter Egg Hunt. Concerned that there are no pavilions in parks for shelter. Swings need to be placed. She likes the idea of having workshops again. Branches are being cut by residents and left out...City will pick them up at the curb.

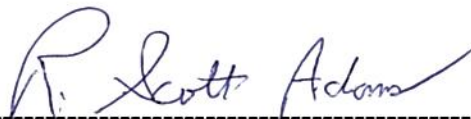
City is in process of interviewing candidates for animal control. We are open to all suggestions. Mayor will be attending a meeting for an opportunity of land to be donated to the city at no cost. Approximately 3 acres.

Tom M. – 422 Commonwealth Avenue is an abandoned property with rodent issues. There is no owner associated with the property. The Mayor agreed to investigate it and get back to Tom.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Councilperson Caldwell made the motion and it was seconded by Councilperson Washingtons to call the meeting to adjournment.**

**(Motion was passed 5/0)**



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**Mayor/Vice-President**



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**City Manager**