

**CITY OF DEQUESNE**  
**TUESDAY, September 24, 2019**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

6:33 pm Meeting was called to order by Mayor Nesby  
There was a moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and  
Opening Prayer

**Present:** Richard Scott Adams, Rev. Timothy Caldwell, Terra Henderson-Murphy,  
Elaine Washington, Mayor Nickole Nesby

**Others Present:** Interim City Manager MaryLouise Bittner, City Solicitor Myron Sainovich,  
Police chief Thomas Dunlevy, Fire Chief Frank Cob, Police Citizen Review Board Debra  
Chaffin; Administrative Assistant Marian Marko-Eberle

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

Resident, Mr. Jim Reed asked why was there a re-organization in Council positions. Mr. Reed did not feel the streets were in the condition they are in today. The Mayor quickly brought up violations by the DEP that not enough water samples were collected taken in November/December. And when I (Mayor Nesby) put Councilman Adams over Water Notices were sent out (hand delivered) immediate to obtain samples.

Ms. Washington the spoke to explain that that was not true of water samples just not being collected. This occurred because Frank DiPoalo was on leave. At that time, Ms. Washington stated that she personally reached out to the City Manager who stated that McKeesport was going to collect the water samples, but the conversation the City Manager never talked to McKeesport. This was not the fault of my (Ms. Washington) lack of knowledge. So this problem was not what I did or did not do.

Mr. George Kraus inquired about the status of the vacant houses for demolition. Solicitor Myron Sainovich stated that leans played a part in holding up the project, however, things are now in motion to move forward on this demolition project. There are approximately 30 houses to be demolished.

Mr. Kraus inquired if there were any Grants to help with tearing down old houses. Solicitor Sainovich stated "Yes, there are Grants, however, the Grant came through, by the time properties are identified and liens are verified demolition is delayed." Mr. Kraus then added he thought 30 houses would be considered to be torn down. Solicitor Sainovich stated "Yes", and they are preceding.

Rev. Martin reported once again the light outage on Liberty St has not been addressed. This has been a 155 month issue that has not been addressed. Rev Caldwell responded that now he knows the specific location he will see that the lighting outage problem be rectified. Rev. Martin also stated Memorial Park needs a cleanup. Rev. Caldwell will see that the cleanup is on the Public Works list. Rev. Martin then asked about the verbiage for the park. Rev Caldwell stated there is verbiage to keep people off the park where the Memorial is, but the rest is public area

There was a comment from the audience that a minimal of ten streets lights are out around Route 837 and need replaced ranging from the Kennywood Bridge to the Duquesne Bridge. There are approximately 18 lights that are out. The audience member mentioned he called the Light Company and Duquesne Light needs the numbers off the telephone poles. The audience member asked if the Police could do a night ride to get the numbers off the poles so Duquesne

Light can come out to replace the lights. He also wanted to encourage that the community to collectively work together to get things done and to make things happen for the City.

A statement was also made from an unknown resident that a pick-up truck is dumping fresh trash at 1021 Oak – pictures have been taken to help identify who is doing the dumping with hopes to find this person and fine the person

### **1. Public Safety Report – Mayor Nesby**

### **2. Public Works Report –Ms. Washington**

Ms. Washington reported there was a hug pothole at the top of Miller and Caldwell that was very unsafe, but repaired, gravel has been ordered for over at the fields. Weeds and branches off Fifth have been cut, trash picked up from all City cans. Ms. Washington also mentions that the sign that the kids pulled down has been repaired. The cement work has been completed. Bus stops cleaned and garbage cans were emptied. Ms. Washington also mentioned that the seasonal help will complete his time with the City of Duquesne December 30, 2019. Ms. Washington stated she is sorry to see this person leave because he did a great job while working for the City. Mayor Nesby asked Ms. Washington about trash at the building of 102103, which was new and the police were notified and pictures taken. There is no danger at this time.

### **3. Water Department Report – Mr. Richard Scott Adams**

- Motion to approve continuing the City’s subscription to “Savvy Citizen” to inform and post various activities, including water notices at an annual cost of \$549 if able to be linked to the City’s website (will discuss with the IT Peer Consultant next week when we meet).
- PSA that all residents (or at least one person in each household) should subscribe to the “Savvy Citizen” so they will know about meetings, water notices and any information related to the City.

Mr. Adams reports a water main break at 319 South First Street. There have been 27 new accounts since August 1, 2019 and his understanding is that with new software the next water bill will be estimated. Mr. Adams would like it put on the next Workshop meeting a \$75.00 Pushing. Mr. Adams explains Pushing for water services that being example you owe \$100.00 on your bill you pay \$30 ----- and you cannot be shut off. Due to some leaking the Pump Station will be looked at and pictures be taken for repairs. The next THM’s testing will be in October.

Mr. Adams mentioned the PAWC is .10605.

Ms. Henderson-Murphy requested a HOLD ON THE MOTION for further discussion

#### 4. Community & Economic Development Report – Rev. Caldwell

- Motion for the use of Council Chambers by A Second Chance for the Youth Engagement Services (YES) every Thursday.
- Motion to approve the Community Pet Outreach Event for Saturday, November 9, 2019 by The Proper Pitt Bull, Biggies Bullies and Humane Animal Rescue at the Park next to the City building.

**First:** Mayor Nesby **Second:** Ms. Washington **MOTION carried 5-0**

Rev. Caldwell reports there is money to take down 18 houses along with rebuilding playgrounds for kids to have a safe place to play.

Rev. Caldwell asked the Engineers to give final information in order to knock down the houses.

Rev. Caldwell is looking monies for opportunities for further redevelopment in the City.

Rev. Caldwell requested a motion for the use of the Council Chambers for Second Chance to use every Thursday.

Mayor Nesby then explained the program will be supervised by Second Chance staff. The City of Duquesne has a large population of our children who are in some type of Foster Care Services and the idea is to give them a safe place for them to feel comfortable and come up with some recreation. At the present time, there is no other location and Second Chance would like to use the City of Duquesne's City Hall on a temporary basis.

Mayor Nesby called on a resident, Doug who suggested the property that is owned by the Allegheny Housing Authority of which Mayor Nesby suggested he contact his State Representative to discuss.

To ducktail on that conversation, Rev. Caldwell stated the Allegheny County Housing Authority \$250, 000.00 to buy that building. If the City could come up with something close to the \$250, 000.00 they will work with the City to try and acquire the building. There is a group Rev. Caldwell is working with to try and acquire the building. The building would be rented out to Social Services, for example, and other service to avoid going to Pittsburgh. More meetings will take place to see how the building can be acquired for the City's opportunities. Mayor Newsy inquired about the building being donated. Rev. Caldwell is going to do more research and report back on how to actually acquire the building.

Mayor Nesby then made an announcement that there are many committees looking for people to service on such as the Planning Committee and Recreation just to name a few. The Mayor also mentioned there \$17, 800.00 for recreation study. If the money is not used by 2020 the City will lose the money.

The Motion for Second Chance to use the Council Chambers was made by

**First:** Mayor Nesby **Second;** Terra Henderson Ms. Washington responded Yes with adult supervision **Motion carried 5-0**

Motion to approve the Community Outreach event for Saturday November 9, 2019 for the Animal Rescue with no questions on the Motion **Motion Carried 5-0**



## 5. Accounts & Finance Report – Ms. Henderson-Murphy

Ms. Henderson-Murphy recommended the Finance Committee meet as soon as possible

Ms. Henderson referred to documents in Council's packet provided by MaryLouise Bittner in June 2019 need to be reviewed with personal feedback. Ms. Henderson did mention that Mr. Dougherty was not present at the time. Ms. Henderson stated that the Finance Committee did not meet since she was assigned this position in July 2019. The committee consisted of Fawn McDaniel, Mr. Bires, the City Manager and Mr. Dougherty of Act 47. Ms. Henderson strongly suggested a Credit Card policy needs to be put in place and she personally feels the City Manager should have the Credit Card. Mayor Nesby voiced she did not think that was going to work due to safety for her Police Department. Ms. Henderson questioned if there was a policy in place on how the Police Department handles getting gas for the vehicles should the Chief be out of town. Chief Dunlevy explained that if he is out of town he passes the Credit Card to the second officer in command or to the Mayor.

- Motion to authorize the proper officials to sign four documents related to the credit card accounts at First Commonwealth Bank.
- Motion to approve the Financial Policies as recommended by the Finance Committee.
- Motion to approve the credit card payment of the \$500 deductible for an accident on March 25, 2019 to Enterprise Car Rental.

**First:** Ms. Washington **Second:** Richard Scott Adams **Abstained:** Mayor Nesby

**MOTION carried: 5-0**

- Motion to renew contract with Snyder Brothers Inc. for natural gas supplies at three locations owned by the City of Duquesne. (quote will be provided for the meeting and I'm trying to get a quote from another company)  
**First:** Mayor Nesby **Second:** Mr. Richard Scott Adams **MOTION carried 5-0**
- Motion to renew the membership to the PA State Mayors' Association at a cost of \$60.00
- Motion to approve the Credit Card Purchasing Policy as recommended by the Finance Committee (the Committee hasn't seen a revised policy so this may be delayed).
- Motion to approve payment of \$225 per councilperson for the Local Government Academy's Elected Officials' Course as recommended by the Act 47 Plan.

Mr. Dougherty stated he would recommend the Board follow through with this opportunity as recommended by the Act 47 Plan. A schedule of dates and locations is to be emailed to the Council Board and Mayor Nesby

## 6. Solicitor's Report – Myron Sainovich

- Motion to ratify actions taken in executive session related to personnel matters

## 7. Approved at Executive Meeting. In process of being corrected

- Motion to appoint a Special Labor Counsel to negotiate the Police, Blue Collar and Clerical Union contracts due to expire December 31, 2019.

- Negotiations coming.

Solicitor Sainovich made the suggestion to have Robert McTierman and Tucker Arensburg handle this issue. Solicitor Sainovich has a high regard for these two professionals and is very confident with their work

Motion to appoint a Special Labor Counsel to negotiate the Police, Blue Collar and Clerical Union contracts due to expire December 31, 2019

Motion for the first reading of an ordinance to repeal the ordinance setting the Mayor's annual salary at \$65,000 beginning January, 2022

**First:** Richard Scott Adams **Second:** Ms Washington **Abstained:** Mayor Nesby **MOTION carried 4-0**

## 8. Engineer's Report – David Gilliland/Adam Prince Reported

- Motion to approve a resolution to allow the Steel Rivers Council of Governments to submit a grant of \$120,000 to the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development for a grant under CD45 to fund the renovation project for the City of Duquesne Volunteer Fire Department

**First:** Mayor Nesby **Second:** Terra Henderson-Murphy

**MOTION carried 5-0**

Motion to reject all bids and readvertise the Meadow Street/Elder Alley Waterline Project

**First:** Elaine Washington **Second:** Richard Scott Adams **No:** Mayor Nesby

**MOTION carried: 4-1**

Motion to authorize the Steel Rivers Council of Governments to award the project to McKee for \$97,472

**First:** Mayor Nesby **Second:** Terra Henderson-Murphy

**MOTION carried 5-0**

Adam Prince reported the construction started September 23, 2019

Mayor Nesby asked if the City of Duquesne would receive the difference of what is spent vs the amount not used and Adam Prince responded the City does not get the difference

#### **9. Interim City Manager's Report – Ms. Mary Lou Bittner**

- Motion to participate in the Partner 4 Work program to secure a file clerk for 20 hours/week to assist the Administrative assistant in organizing the files at no cost to the City  
**First:** Mayor Nesby **Second:** Ms. Washington **MOTION carried: 5-0**
- Motion to approve the City of Duquesne New Uniformed Employees' Pension Plan Minimum Municipal Obligation for 2020 Municipal Budget of \$176,195

At this time 2 are active

**First:** Mayor Nesby **Second:** Terra Henderson-Murphy

**MOTION carried 5-0**

Motion to approve the City of Duquesne Officers and Employees' Pension Plan Minimum Municipal Obligation for 2020 Municipal Budget of \$87,039

**First:** Rev. Caldwell **Second:** Terra Henderson-Murphy

**MOTION carried 5-0**

Motion to approve the City of Duquesne Firemen's Pension Plan Minimum Municipal Obligation for 2020 Municipal Budget of \$56,087

**First:** Terra Henderson-Murphy **Second:** Mayor Nesby

**MOTION carried 5-0**

Motion to approve the City of Duquesne Police Pension Plan Minimum Municipal Obligation for 2020 Municipal Budget of \$93,008

**First:** Terra Henderson-Murphy **Second:** Richard Scott Adams

**MOTION carried 5-0**

#### **10. Police Chief's report – Chief Thomas Dunlevy**

- Chief Dunlevy reported that due to the office computer crashing he was not able to get a full report to present. He did say that work is being done on the computers sooner than later to present a full report at the next meeting. The Chief did report though there were 700 calls and one Citizen's complaint. The Chief stated he will provide his detailed report for this meeting at the next meeting. Chief Dunlevy mentioned he had a new officer start Tuesday, September 23, 2019 and another new Officer start Wednesday, September 25, 2019

### **11.Code Enforcement Report – Lieutenant Shaw – No Report**

### **12.Act 47 Coordinator’s Report – Mr. George Dougherty**

- Mr. Dougherty reported there were 16 applicants received for the search of a City Manager. Plans are in place to review and interview the selected applicants in the upcoming week. The initial interview process will begin with Mr. Dougherty and the Interim City Manager to review the resumes. Once the final applicants are picked the Council will have the final vote as to who will be the new City Manager. Mr. Dougherty gave an overview about the MSF-Planning Committee and the Zoning Board

### **13.Fire Chief’s Report – Chief Frank Cobb**

- Fire Chief Cobb reported 310 calls received. Chief Cobb mentioned that the new fire hydrants that have been ordered do not fit the ring that is already in place due to the age of the ring. Chief Cobb also mentioned that the Volunteer Fire Department’s generator is stored in Public Works. He also mentioned a ladder truck grant. Chief Cobb did not have a written report to submit, but was asked by the Interim City Manager, Ms. Bittner to provide a detailed report at the next meeting. Chief Cobb agreed to follow through

**First:** Mayor Nesby **Second:** Ms. Washington **MOTION carried 5-0**

### **14.Police Citizen’s Review Board – Ms. Debra Chaffin**

- Ms. Chaffin reported the number of complaints: 8-2 resolved, with 2 dismissed, 4 sworn complaints and 3 new.



Ms. Chaffin encouraged the community to work together as a team in order for better relationships and communication across the board. Ms. Chaffin inquired about posting No Parking signs at 842 Hinnerman St to eliminate cars from being towed due to such a tight and narrow area, the Mayor suggested Ms. Chaffin meet with her and Chief Dunlevy in the morning, Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at 11:00 am to further discuss this request

Ms. Bittner mentioned that due to the overall learning and training curve for the Administrative Assistant's position no records were available to the Mayor this evening

The Mayor request the Ordinance/Resolutions email be a part of this Council Meeting's Minutes (Refer to attachment)

**MOTION TO ADJOURN – 9:52 pm**

**First:** Rev. Caldwell **Second:** Richard Scott Adams **MOTION carried: 5-0**

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NICKOLE NESBY, MAYOR

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Marian Marko-Eberle, Administrative Assistant