

**CITY OF DUQUESNE**  
**TUESDAY, March 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**  
**ROLL CALL**

Councilperson Caldwell present  
Councilperson A. Adams present  
Councilperson Washington 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.*

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of Minutes/Consent Agenda – February 15, 2022
2. Bill list ending February 2022

Councilperson Washington made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson A. Adams to approve the February 2022 Consent Agenda/Bill list  
Motion passed 3/0

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

1. Report Submitted.
2. Councilperson A. Adams made a motion and was seconded by Councilperson Washington to accept the resignation of Councilperson Terra Henderson-Murphy.  
Motion passed 3/0
3. Councilperson Washington made a motion and was seconded by Mayor R. Scott Adams to accept the termination of Employee #4.  
Motion passed 3/0
4. Looking to open up Council Chambers to conduct meetings with the Council and live stream to the public. Plan to have a test run in April and hopefully have it functioning by May 2022.
5. RE: Sale of City Equipment – will start a process that will consider blue book value of vehicle(s) and Council and City Manager will decide on final sale(s).
  - a. Solicitor stated that it may be necessary for Council to designate an individual responsible for signing the title
  - b. Solicitor also stated that it's best to have an ordinance in place



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## **PUBLIC WORKS**

1. Report Submitted
2. As Spring approaches citizens can call 412.469.0544 to report high grass, potholes, or other code violations. Please ***DISCONTINUE*** using 412.469.1166.
3. Working with Council and City Manager to devise a plan for scraping City vehicles that are broken down and no longer used.
4. Council to begin receiving monthly itemized report for all incoming finances as well as paid monthly expenses including reimbursements.
5. The City Manager does have a City credit card.
6. When asked Councilperson A. Adams stated that he would look into developing a calendar for Councilpersons and Management to input their schedules.
7. The City of Duquesne Treasury is open from 8am – 4pm.
8. The City of Duquesne Water Department is open from 8am – 4pm (lunch 11:30 – 12:30)
9. The City of Duquesne Management Offices are open from 8am – 4pm.



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## **WATER DEPARTMENT**

1. Report Submitted.
2. Water shut-offs to begin again in April 2022.
3. Middle School sports soon returning to school system.
4. City Manager should be involved in any financial discussions that include money being received or dispersed from City Hall.
5. Councilperson A. Adams made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Caldwell to place a vending machine in the lobby on the first floor of City Hall to be used as a fundraiser for the VFD.  
Motion passed 4/0



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## **COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

1. Met with Redevelopment Authority and Pat McGrail & Associates – decided to continue working with the Redevelopment Authority to establish a process that will help citizens acquire vacant properties/lots and abandoned homes. Process can take as long as 6 – 12 months to complete. Residents will be able to apply for properties that they are interested in and will be responsible for all fees associated with that purchase.
2. Trying to develop area located at Priscilla & Second Street(s). Proposals for gas station or/and grocery store. Need to meet concerning highway construction.
3. Will continue to look at properties in RIDC for potential development.

4. Mayor stated that the Redevelopment Committee applied for a \$100K grant for the purpose of demolition of blighted homes.
5. Treasurer – Maureen Strahl asked: How do we reconcile properties where owners have died but are still receiving tax bills?
  - a. Solicitor stated that he is willing to assist anyone who is having this issue.



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## **ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE**

1. No report

## **TREASURER**

1. No taxes collected
2. Tax bills went out.

## **CONTROLLER**

1. No report

## **SOLICITOR**

1. Met with Mayor to discuss issues related to executive session issues regarding personnel.

## **CITY MANAGER**

1. Vandals are stealing handicap and stop signs throughout the city. Please report if witnessed.
2. Someone is randomly dumping garbage throughout the city in different locations. Please report if witnessed.
3. Being asked to close down Priscilla Avenue @ 5<sup>th</sup> Street(s) on June 18, 2022, from 11am – 6pm.
  - a. May not be able to accommodate due to bus route.
4. Matt Dobnak wants to use the fields located at Polish Hill for softball/baseball, etc.
5. On April 16, 2022, PRIDE is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt from 10am – 2pm located at Polish Hill. (Flyer posted)
6. Finishing up security measures in City Hall. Entry doors now have keypads that will require codes to enter during certain times of the day.
7. Finishing media system in Council Chambers that will allow live streaming Council meetings.
8. Repairs are being made to roof(s), chimney, carpet, flooring at City Hall. Extensive damage to Manager's office. Manager has autonomy to pay for repairs that don't exceed \$21.5K without completing a bid for completion of repairs. Work being done may exceed this amount and bids may be necessary.



## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

1. Three (3) new police officers were hired in past two weeks.
2. Mayor R. Scott Adams made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson A. Adams to ratify the hiring of officers Hayes, Hensell, and Rupert.  
Motion was passed 4/0
3. Mayor R. Scott Adams made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Washington to purchase tasers (\$6,044.00) pending reimbursement for the police department.  
Motion was passed 4/0
4. Mayor R. Scott Adams made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Washington to approve certified training for officer Johnston in taser usage that will cost \$375.00.  
Motion was passed 4/0

## **ACT 47 COORDINATOR**

1. Met with Councilperson A. Adams and discussed municipal benchmarks to be expected from each department.
2. Ongoing discussions with City of Duquesne and Ann Lewis from Steel Rivers COG:
  - a. Revitalizing route 837
  - b. Clearing land
  - c. Back taxes
  - d. Prioritizing issues to deal with prior to Act 47 exit
3. Inviting Councilperson(s) to join ongoing meetings with DCED on Wednesdays after the Council Meetings from 3pm – 4pm. Next scheduled meeting is 3/16/2022.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

1. Responded to 30 calls during the month with no injuries.
2. A new convenient store is being built at the location of the old credit union on Second Street.
3. Need to paint the curb with yellow paint across from the fire department garage where cones are also located to make certain no one parks there, and the fire trucks can safely exit and enter the garage.

## **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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- Charles Morgan – Congratulated administration for doing a good job. He likes that the city hired three new officers and wants to schedule a meeting with the Mayor
- Ms. Pat – wants the city to consider constructing shaded areas for senior and parents while watching their children at parks.
- Tom M. – Concerned about filling Council vacancy and was told it will be filled within 30 days. City Manager will post the position on the website and in the local paper. He also mentioned the Juneteenth Holiday and it was explained that it has not been granted to date and that the union would have to present it as a requested Holiday, then go through the procedure to have it passed. Updated minutes for 2021 on website.
- School Superintendent Marioni thanked Council for attending school board meeting and would like to continue partnership with Council. She welcomed the addition of three new officers and is concerned about the several dangerous intersections along route 837. The next school board meeting is 3/29/2022.
- Councilperson A. Adams stated the sign outside in front of City Hall is being worked on to so that it can provide additional information and images.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor R. Scott Adams made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Washington to call the meeting to adjournment.

Motion was passed 4/0



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**Mayor/Vice-President**



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**City Manager**