

City of Duquesne
Workshop Council Minutes

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

6:30 pm

Meeting being held in person and remotely using ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5251078707?pwd=Z01uVXlMMlZaYm5BazJnYmR4MWs1QT09#succe>

SS

Meeting called to order by Mayor Adams at 6:30pm.

Mayor Adams called for a moment of silence for the passing of Kathleen Sharley followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Manager Sample called the roll.

Present: Councilperson Elaine Washington, Councilperson Derek Artim, Councilperson Denise Brownfield, and Mayor Adams

Others Present: City manager Douglas Sample, Engineer Laura Branthoover, and Solicitor Myron Sainovich

Excused: Councilperson Aaron Adams

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 5 minutes. Groups of people will be required to designate a spokesperson to represent them before the Council who may speak for a maximum of 10 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.

- **Jamie Gatewood, 107 Overland Ave** - asked to have only corners marked yellow so that there is more available parking.
 - i. **Solicitor Sainovich**- stated that he and City Manager Sample will review and discuss safety concerns with the Mayor Adams, Police and Fire chief and City Manager Sample.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Minutes – none
- b. Bill List – February 27, 2024

Mayor Adams asked for a **Motion to approve the February 27, 2024 Consent Agenda.**

First: Councilperson Washington **Second:** Councilperson Brownfield
Motion Carries: 4-0

NEW BUSINESS

2. Public Safety – Report by Mayor Scott Adams

- a. No Parking Ordinance – Overland Avenue between Clearview Avenue and Richford Street – this was addressed during public comments
- b. Rental Registration and Inspection Ordinance 2019
 - **Mayor Adams:** Asked Manager Sample to confirm the fees associated with inspections.
- c. Touring Boys/Girls Club on Chestnut Street.
 - **Mayor Adams:** Asked council to get back to him what date either the 7th, 14th or 21st, between 12:30- 1:30pm will work for them.

3. Public Works – Report by Councilperson Elaine Washington

- a. Earl Fata Heinz Home Dedication: March 06, 2024 @ 11:00 am on Percilla and 6th St. Invitations will be sent out.

4. Water Dept. – Report by Councilperson Aaron Adams (Absent)

5. Community & Economic Development – Report by Councilperson Denise Brownfield

- a. 2023-GEDTF-142 – City was awarded \$75K for an estimated \$285K project. Council will need to prioritize which properties to demolish (11, 13 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 32, 33, 125 S. 7th St; 733 Klere; 138 and 151 Aurilles). My recommendation is to bid out 32, 33, and 125 S. 7th St; 733 Klere St; 138 and 151 Aurilles St as the base bid and add 11 to 31 S. 7th St. as an alternate.
- b. CD49 Safe Neighborhood Grant – City was awarded \$75K for an estimated \$100K project. The selected addresses are 16, 18, 28, 30, 35, 119, 121 S. 7th St. City is going to proceed with contract bidding unless directed otherwise.
- c. Proposed Grant Applications: **City Manager Sample and Laura Branthoover**
 - i. Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP)
 1. Trail and bike trails in the area of 5th Avenue and Priscilla Avenue. The estimated cost is \$35K with a 15% cash match.
 2. Polish Hill Park Renovations. Estimated cost is \$500K with a 15% cash match.

Engineer Laura Branthoover: will send previous grant info to update for the Park Hill Park Renovations.

ii. COVID-19 ARPA

1. Purchase of Recreation Center. Estimated cost is \$300K with no match.
2. Polish Hill Park Renovations. Estimated cost is \$500K with no match.

Engineer Laura Branthoover: Will look into grant requirements.

iii. Walk Works Commonwealth Grant

1. Trail and bike trails in area of 5th Avenue and Priscilla Avenue. The estimated cost is \$35K with no match.

Engineer Laura Branthoover: Will look into grant requirements.

- d. Community Day Parade connected with Duquesne Community– plans are being finalized for the parade on August 3rd, 2024 starting at 10 AM on 4th and Grant and proceed upwards towards Polish Hill Park.

-West Mifflin, East Allegheny, Duquesne and Serra Catholic involvement with entertainment.

- e. Duquesne Easter Egg Hunt- March 30,2024 registration starts at 11:00 am. Hunt is for ages 2-12.
- f. Learn and Earn Program – Starting June 24, 2024- August 18, 2024, (6) students will partake helping working with the street crew. City Manager will coordinate

6. Accounts & Finances. – Report by Councilperson Artim
(Nothing to report)

7. Treasurer Dept. – Report by Maureen Strahl (absent)

8. Engineer – Report by Laura Branthoover

See attached.

9. Solicitor – Report by Myron Sainovich

1. Allegheny County Health department called about the 2022 violation for Duquesne & Dravosburg's Fire Departments during training. He will look into the matter and report back.

10. City Manager – Report by Douglas Sample

- a. Civic Plus Website Update

- i. Civic Ready Mass Notification Module
 - 1. <https://www.civicplus.com/mass-notification-system/>
- ii. See Click Fix Module
 - 1. <https://www.civicplus.com/citizen-request-management/>
- iii. Code Enforcement Module
 - 1. <https://www.civicplus.com/community-development/>
- b. Home Rule Charter
 - i. City Council will adopt Ordinance forming the Government Study Commission (GSC) (Council will need to decide if the 7, 9, or 11 members)
Those running for GSC must obtain signatures of registered voters of at least 2% of votes cast in last election (will need approximately 30-35 signatures to get on the ballot for the November ballot)
 - ii. GSC will follow same process and timelines as those running in the Primary Election
 - iii. GSC will either recommend no change after 9 months of study or must produce report to DCED with proposed changes after 18 months
 - iv. Home Rule will give the City the authority to increase its resident Wage Tax rate, which is needed because the City is no longer under Act 47. Home Rule is a step a majority of communities exiting Act 47 have undertaken.

Mayor Adams: Figure out what date will be designated for citizens to get to the Department of Elections for November ballad. Then put on the City Website

11. Police Dept. – Report by Chief William Shaw (absent)

12. Fire Dept. – Report by Chief Frank Cobb (absent)

13. Police Citizen Review Board – Report by Debra Chaffin (absent)

OLD BUSINESS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Upcoming Council Meeting – Tuesday, March 6, 2024 at 6:30 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

At this time, citizens may address the Council of Duquesne on any issue. 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 5 minutes. Groups of people will be required to designate a spokesperson to represent them before the

Council who may speak for a maximum of 10 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.

Jamie Gatewood: 107 Overland

- i. Safety issues: Only 2 stop signs at the top at Overland and Richards. Requesting a third stop sign.
- ii. Why do we not have speed bumps?
City Manager Sample- Not an approved calming device. If installed would open the city up to liability.
- iii. Residents are painting parking spaces.
Mayor Adams- said that this is illegal for residents to do. He stated that City Manager Sample already handled it.

Tom Molanick:

- i. If we tear down the houses on S. 7th St. Does that land revert back to the city of Duquesne and offer it to a developer. Or do we tear it down for the owner of the properties and she remains control of all that property and then she is able to sale it to a developer.

Solicitor Sainovich – No, since declared dangerous structures the city then decides what happens to those properties.

- ii. Home Rule: Maybe invite George to the next meeting because if you look how Wilkinsburg went through it years ago, it takes a couple elections to get it to start soliciting people to set up position.

Mayor Adams: Reminded Tom of the prior discussion explaining the steps of the top Seven becoming on Commission.

- iii. Suggest that Overland sidewalks not be removed due to water meters being on the sidewalks.

Mayor Adams- Said that will be taken into consideration when they look at Overland.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Adams asked for **motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32pm**

First: Councilperson Artim **Second:** Councilperson Washington

Motion carried 4-0

R. Scott Adams

R. Scott Adams, Mayor

D. Sample

Douglas Sample, City Manager