

CITY OF DUQUESNE
TUESDAY, November 1, 2022
6:30 PM
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER (PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES)
MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
OPENING PRAYER
ROLL CALL

Councilperson Timothy Caldwell - absent
Councilperson Aaron Adams - present
Councilperson Derek Artim - present
Councilperson Elaine 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 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.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes – October 4, 2022
2. Approval of Workshop Minutes September 28, 2022, October 25, 2022
3. Bill List ending – October 2022
4. November 2022 Consent Agenda

MOTION: Councilperson Washington made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Adams to approve the October 4, 2022, Minutes: Bill list ending October 2022; Workshop minutes for September 28, 2022 & October 25, 2022: November 2022 Consent Agenda.
(Motion passed 4/0)

PUBLIC SAFETY

1. Report from Mayor R. Scott Adams

MOTION: Councilperson Artim made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Adams to hire three new full time police officers: Brandon Morris, Ryan Drohn, and Tobias Yuhouse.

(Motion passed 4/0)

MOTION: Councilperson Adams made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Artim to interview, test if applicable, and hire part-time police for the city of Duquesne at the rate of \$20.05/HR.

(Motion passed 4/0)

MOTION: Councilperson Washington made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Artim to hire a Constable or other appropriately certified individual to transport people that are being detained at the rate of \$75.00 per transport.

(Motion passed 4/0)

MOTION: Councilperson Adams made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Artim to start the process to sell the city owned fire truck.

(Motion passed 4/0)

MOTION: Councilperson Artim made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Adams to accept the proposal for Police officer bonuses that will be distributed in November 2022, July 2023, and December 2023.

(Motion passed 4/0)

1. Any solicitors/vendors that are doing door-to-door sale attempts will pay the city of Duquesne \$200.00 per individual and wear and present identification to residents while conducting business in the City of Duquesne. It was decided that council would vote on this issue at the next council meeting.
2. Grant from Sen. Brewster's office (\$100K) – still awaiting outcome of application.
3. Veteran's Program – please call 412-713-9332 for information/suggestions.
4. Attended SRCOG meeting.
5. Conducted oral interviews for police officers.
6. Press conference concerning C.H.A.N.G.E.
7. Attended Town Hall meeting.
8. Attended Halloween festivities.
9. A question/concern was raised about the house chosen to be demolished via grant funding. Our Engineers let us know that the home chosen (600 block on Crawford Street) because they like to demolish an area at a time instead of single standing structures. There was some frustration voiced about properties that are in worse condition that need demolished, and we should garnish a list of those properties and submit them for demolition as well.

PUBLIC WORKS

1. Report from Councilperson Elaine Washington
2. Removing historical district title on properties that need demolished. We discussed adopting a dangerous structures ordinance with Myron who would take the lead on those issues
3. Looking into starting a two day a week schedule for leaf pickups. The public works department decided to use Tuesdays and Thursdays as leaf pickup days for the city.
4. Employee Pension fund. Still looking into other possible investors for employee pensions as our current carrier is not satisfactory.
5. Curb to curb paving. Adopting an ordinance to address street paving.
6. Employee Christmas party. Tentative date but not finalized yet.
7. Attended Town Hall meeting.
8. Press conference concerning C.H.A.N.G.E.

MOTION: I move to a motion to adopt an Ordinance that requires “Curb to Curb” paving on street repairs. (It was decided that this motion would be tabled for the moment until further discussion with Myron)

WATER DEPARTMENT

1. Report from Councilperson Aaron Adams
2. BAC-T samples collected at various times throughout the month with the results being clean water reported.
3. Five (5) water leaks/breaks during the month of October and repaired without incident.
4. Meeting with County Hauling concerning garbage on November 2, 2022.
5. Pump station project is still underway and in process of being completed in phases.
6. Water purchase agreement amended and rates payable to Westmorland Water will increase. This may result in an increase in water rates for citizens of Duquesne.
7. Mon Valley Expressway. We will continue to pass on updates as we receive them.
8. City website and marquee
9. Grant opportunity for water line replacement/updates. The dept met and discussed budget items, procedures and policies, and future steps they will be pursuing in their dept. Working in collaboration with engineers to determine what grants to apply for going forward.
10. Discussions with HACP concerning community center. Councilperson Adams has taken the lead in having discussion with the Housing Authority to determine if and how we might be able to acquire that building.
11. PA American maintenance on water/sewage lines will be occurring throughout the month of November 2022.

MOTION: I move to a motion to start the process we will implement for naming the connector road. (It was decided that we table this motion)

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Report from Councilperson Timothy Caldwell
2. Met with Mayor concerning vacant lot/home program.
3. Fitness Center. Proposed but probably not feasible at this time.
4. Sidewalk grant. This is a matching grant, and the city may not be willing to currently pursue this grant.
5. Engineer Report. Submitted by LaFranz Hemphill.
 - a. Collaborating with Water Dept to obtain H2O grant.
 - b. LSA grant – an application submitted to pave W. Grant from Route 837 to First Street.
 - c. CD 47 – construction of the South Fifth water line is nearly complete.
 - d. CD 48 - \$125K was awarded to pave Hinnerman from Crawford to Kinsley, etc.
 - e. CD 49 – Reapply for street recon that was not funded in CD 48 which includes South 2nd street to Camp and South 5th street to Priscilla.

ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE

1. Report from Councilperson Derek Artim
2. Following through with meetings and budget deadlines
3. Upcoming meeting with Interim Manager and George D. - Budget

TREASURER

1. Report from Maureen Strahl.
2. Discussed training clerical staff to do tax and water clerk job descriptions
3. Going forward supplying a report of delinquent taxes to date

CONTROLLER

SOLICITOR

1. Report from Solicitor Myron Sainovich
2. Will discuss in executive session personnel matter about a Loudermill Hearing. Next steps for council to take.
3. Dangerous Structures / Public Nuisance Ordinance – working with Councilperson Washington to be able to deal with structures listed within the Historical District.

CITY MANAGER

1. Report from George Newsome, Interim City Manager
2. Budget 11/15/2022 (Meeting with Dept. heads). In the process of submitting items to finalize budget and meet all calendar requirements.
3. Black Phone. We will need to have a new line installed as well as a new black phone before we can use this phone again.
4. 1st reading of Ordinance for EIT 2023 rate. Several first readings of Ordinances that will need voted on will be read in upcoming workshop at the end of the month.

**MOTION: Mayor Adams made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Adams to approve the activity named Santa Claus is coming to town on Sunday December 3, 2022, from 3pm 6pm.
(Motion passed 4/0)**

**MOTION: Councilperson Washington made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson to approve the clerical and public works contracts that will be enforced starting January 2023.
(Motion passed 4/0)**

POLICE DEPARTMENT

1. Acting Chief Thomas Shaw

ACT 47 COORDINATOR

1. Report from George Dougherty
2. Home Rule presentation. – The state conducted a presentation on Home Rule as an option of government upon exiting Act 47. There are several steps to follow before it will be decided and/or enacted. This is something that can be presented to the public.
3. Interviews to begin RE: City Manager position. Council and Act 47 began interviews for the City Manager position.
4. Discuss coming out of Act 47. Act 47 will be exiting October 2023 and the City of Duquesne is making the necessary steps to prove that we are financially stable enough to make certain of a smooth transition.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1. Chief Frank Cobb
2. A three (3) year audit was conducted and the VFD was proven to have a “clean Slate.” They were flagged because the funding for their annual relief check was late, however this year it is on time.
3. They have not used any of the newly installed fire hydrants to date.

POLICE CITIZEN’S REVIEW BOARD

1. Debra Chaffin

***Members of the Duquesne City Council will meet in Executive Session (if needed)

PUBLIC COMMENT

At this time, citizens may address the Council 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 3 minutes. Groups of people will be required to designate a spokesperson to represent them before the Board 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.

The Council agreed to furnish the review board with some funding to assist them with operating coats.

Ms. Pat – Thanked everyone for their participation in the Halloween event. She believes that around 300 people attended.

Tom M. – concerned with contract with County Hauling. Councilperson Adams has taken the lead to deal with complaints and schedule a meeting with them next month. Mr. Molanick was wondering is we could look into applying for grants concerning garbage payments/contracts. “Shout out” to Frank D. in water dept for water turn offs and doing a great job. Wanted to recognize Lawson excavating.

Sylvia D. – Shout out to Councilperson Adams for the updates on the website. More user friendly and announcements are timelier.

Steven S. – 422 Commonwealth. (Not tolerable) The Mayor stated that the hiring of a code enforcement officer would be able to address situations like this one. That person is budgeted for next year. When asked, Councilperson Adams addressed looking into informing the public prior to utility companies performing work in the city.

Councilperson Artim made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Adams to adjourn the meeting.

(Motion passes 5/0)

Mayor R. Scott Adams

Interim City Manager, George Newsome