

CITY OF DUQUESNE
TUESDAY, December 6, 2022
6:30 PM
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CONTINUED

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

Councilperson Timothy Caldwell - present
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 – November 1, 2022
2. Approval of Workshop Minutes November 30, 2022.
3. Bill List ending – November 2022
4. December 2022 Consent Agenda

MOTION: Councilperson Artim made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Adams to approve the November 1, 2022, Minutes: Bill list ending November 2022; Workshop minutes for November 30, 2022, and December 2022 Consent Agenda. (Motion passed 4/0)

PUBLIC SAFETY

1. Report from Mayor R. Scott Adams
2. Wrapped up second round of interviews for the City Manager position.
3. Met with Pat McGrail concerning the vacant home/lot acquisition program. They will be trying to get 6 vacant lot applications completed as well as 6 vacant home applications. Also met with the Redevelopment Authority and in the process of determining how viable they are to the community.
4. We should hear back from the grant that was applied for in February/March 2023. (\$100K – New truck for public works and license readers)
5. The Mayor suggested that going forward the use of Memorial Park be geared toward events that highlight Veterans and those who we are remembering.
6. Attended Steel Rivers COG meeting.

7. Christmas wreaths were purchased and will be hung on Second and Grant Streets. Thanks for all of your assistance – Public Works Dept.
8. The city fire truck is the city owned fire truck is the city's responsibility to sale.
9. Determined that solicitors/vendors that go door-to-door for sales should pay a fee to the city.
10. Confirmed that Workshops in 2023 will be held on the last Tuesday of the month and the Council meetings on the first Tuesday of the month.

MOTION: Mayor Adams made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Adams to terminate Employee X from the City of Duquesne Police Department effective immediately. (Motion passed 5/0)

PUBLIC WORKS

1. Report from Councilperson Elaine Washington
2. Addressing structures within Historical District that need demolished. This will move forward as an Ordinance that the city plans to adopt after an adequate time of advertisement and the proper motions have been made
3. Employee Christmas party to be on December 21, 2022, at the Croatian Club 1111 Grant Avenue, Duquesne. PA. 15110 @ 3pm. Thank everyone for their contributions.
4. Attended Steel Rivers COG meeting.
5. The Earl "Fatha" Hines home on Priscilla and Sixth Streets will hopefully be dedicated in the Spring of 2023 after having contacted the Historical Preservation Office.
6. Attended "Santa Claus" is coming to town event sponsored by P.R.I.D.E.
7. The city's new 2022 Ford Truck with snowplow and salt spreader has arrived and ready to serve the community narrowed streets and alley ways.
8. Councilperson Washington also agreed with the Mayor's suggestion that the use of Memorial Park be made specific to usage including time frames.
9. Councilperson suggested that donation from the City of Duquesne for city events be discussed in detail moving forward including a cap fee for those types of events. This may warrant more discussion.

MOTION: Motion needed to adopt an Ordinance that requires "Curb to Curb" paving on street repairs. This motion was tabled until such a time that it can be adequately advertised. Afterward it will be put to a vote to be adopted.

WATER DEPARTMENT

1. Report from Councilperson Aaron Adams
2. Mon Valley Expressway – provides updates as we receive them
3. Submitted Water budget draft
4. Grant opportunity for water line replacement/updates
5. Met with Noble Environment regarding garbage pick up issues. Still involved in taking complaints concerning County Hauling. However, those complaints have decreased from last month.
6. Repaired curb boxes around the city.
7. Discussions with HACP concerning community center.
8. Water pump project – the phases of this project continue to be completed
9. Water testing
10. Water rate Ordinance – 1st reading. Councilperson Adams explained that the rate increase is due to rate increases that affect the water that the city is purchasing.

MOTION: Motion needed to start the process we will implement for naming the connector road. (This had been previously tabled but still warrants more discussion)

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Report from Councilperson Timothy Caldwell
2. Confirmed that the city vacant home acquisition program is up and running and he will sit down with the Mayor to discuss in more detail
3. Stated that for the city to take the lead with the home acquisition program, the RDA would have to be dissolved. If that happens that city would have to partner with the county to continue with the program. The responsibility would then fall on the city to do its own research and continue with the process already in place. More discussion is needed.
4. Stated that the city is attempting to develop more properties in the city to add businesses.
5. Engineer Report
 - a. New representative from Glenn Engr is Laura Branthoover
 - b. Updated city on grants that are currently in application phase and that the new representative will take over after he resigns on December 9, 2022.

**MOTION: Councilperson Adams made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Artim to amend the resolution for 2023 water system improvements.
(Motion passed 5/0)**

**MOTION: Councilperson Adams made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Artim to accept the amended resolution for 2023 water system improvements.
(Motion passed 5/0)**

ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE

1. Report from Councilperson Derek Artim
2. Council can present any changes to the proposed budget, but we will consider this the first reading and moved toward adopting it on December 20, 2022.
3. Budget has been posted.
4. Once everything is finished, we are required to send information to DCED by January 14, 2023.

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

No report.

SOLICITOR

1. Report from Solicitor Myron Sainovich
2. Dangerous Structures / Public Nuisance Ordinance – will need to be advertised then read twice and then voted on.
3. 1st TAN reading. To be voted on December 20, 2022.
4. Explained the process with passing other ordinances and resolutions that will be adopted going forward.
5. Explained that we should not adjourn this meeting but carry it over to the next Council meeting on December 20, 2022.
6. Discussed need to adopt ordinance for code enforcement as we go forward in 2023 hiring for that position.
7. Proposed that the city spend an afternoon gathering all the Ordinances and Resolutions for 2022 and continue not keep organized going into 2023.

CITY MANAGER

1. Report from George Newsome, Interim City Manager
2. Completed meetings with dept heads concerning budget
3. Worked in collaboration with Councilperson Artim to get proposal budget to Council
4. Black Phone – still a work in progress
5. Passed the following motions:
 - a. Activity named Santa Claus is Coming to Town
 - b. Approved contracts for clerical and public works and signed off on them
6. Second (2nd) reading of Ordinance for 2023 EIT rate.
7. Second (2nd) reading of Ordinance for 2023 Real Estate rate.
8. Second (2nd) reading of Ordinance for City Manager/Administrator job description/position
9. Movie Filming concluded on Friday December 2, 2022. They will reimburse the city as well as the police officers who performed an overtime detail.

**MOTION: Councilperson Washington made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Artim to approve the Ordinance for 2023 EIT rate.
(Motion passed 5/0)**

**MOTION: Councilperson Artim made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Washington to approve the Ordinance for the 2023 Real Estate rate.
(Motion passed 5/0)**

**MOTION: Councilperson Artim made the motion and was seconded by Councilperson Adams to approve the Ordinance for the City Manager/Administrator job description/position.
(Motion passed 5/0)**

POLICE DEPARTMENT

1. Acting Chief Thomas Shaw.
2. Provided statistics for the month including arrests, traffic warnings, burglaries, assaults, disabled vehicles, citations, alarms, etc.

ACT 47 COORDINATOR

1. Report from George Dougherty
2. Wrapped up interviews with Council concerning the City Manager position
3. Procedure manual update – should be completed sometime in January 2023.
4. Assisted in preparation of budget
5. Since the city passed the Manage Ordinance George D. will instruct the city how to proceed with the application to acquire the grant that will include the codification of Ordinances and Resolutions. Application will have to be applied to DCED.
6. The Interim City Manager needs to complete an online app on the DCED website as part of that follow-up procedure.
7. Cued Myron to set up Motions Hearing for EIT rates to remain the same after ACT 47 exits

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1. Chief Frank Cobb
2. Submitted report to Councilperson Adams.
3. Mainly reported that the new fire hydrants had to be used due to fire and the water pressure was excellent.

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.

Rev Chaffin – explained the process how complaints against police officers are handled. Going forward she wants to meet with the Mayor and Acting Chief Shaw to review police policies and procedures as there is a current complaint against an officer who also has other past complaints as well. She has to determine if the complainant's civil rights were violated. The Mayor agreed to set up a meeting.

Danielle R. from Jeanette, PA. had a complaint against a police officer. She believes that her daughter is being racially profiled. The Mayor gave her a number to contact him 412.469.3857 to set up a meeting.

Domoniesha B. 144 Auriles St. – complained that she was detained by an officer who treated her unfairly. She stated that she will follow up with a formal complaint. Both the Acting Chief and the Mayor stated that they would look into this situation.

Catherine Scharding – Councilperson Adams invited her to stop his office and meet with him concerning the recent emails he received from her. She thanked the city for how it has followed up with clean ups in the past that she has called about.

Ms Pat B. – Thanked the city for the event “Santa Claus” is coming to town. She stated that over 92 adults and children took photos with Santa. She thanked the city for the Christmas decorations, and she challenged local businesses to decorate their store fronts in celebration of Christmas.

ADJOURNMENT: This meeting was not adjourned and will be carried over as continuation of the meeting scheduled on December 20, 2022.

R. Scott Adams, Mayor

George Newsome, Interim City manager