

City of Duquesne
City of Council Minutes
Tuesday, March 5, 2024
6:30 pm

Meeting being held in person and remotely using ZOOM:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5251078707?pwd=Z01uVXlMMlZaYm5BazJnYmR4Mw51QT09#success>

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

Mayor Adams called for a moment followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Manager Sample called the roll.

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

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

Excused: None

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** – Concern and questions about the No Parking on Overland between Clearview & Richford. She asked if the city went out to view that.
 - i. **Solicitor Sainovich-** stated that he had not, but will meet with the Mayor, Chief, and Manager to review the situation. A draft parking ordinance will then be distributed.

Solicitor Sainovich asked Jamie Gatewood to provide an email so that he can forward her a draft.

CONSENT AGENDA

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Public Safety – Report by Mayor Scott Adams

- a. 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 to let Mr. Vogel know.
- b. Attended an All In Allegheny Seminar in McKeesport.
- c. Hiring a police officer- Chief and Assistant Chief let him know that motion for #2 for Caleb Black will be tabled due to paperwork that needs to get in.

Mayor Adams asked for a **motion to hire Donte Martinez to be a City of Duquesne Police Officer.**

First: Mayor Adams **Second:** Councilperson Derek Artim

Motion carries: 5-0

- d. Rental Registration and Inspection Ordinance 2019.
 - i. Will stay with the current 2024 rates. In addition, there will be an annual registration fee of \$100.00 per unit (i.e. duplex will cost \$200 per year, 8-unit apartment will cost \$800 per year).

2. *Water Dept. – Report by Councilperson Aaron Adams – will be submitted for the next meeting.*

3. *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 Auriles). My recommendation is to bid out 32, 33, and 125 S. 7th St; 733 Klere St; 138 and 151 Auriles St as the base bid and add 11 to 31 S. 7th St. as an alternate.

Engineer Laura Branthoover requested motion **to move to advertise a Base Contract to demolish 32, 33, and 125 S. 7th St; 733 Klere St; 138 and 151 Auriles St with an Alternate Bid to demolish 11 to 31 S. 7th St.**

First: Councilperson Artim **Second:** Councilperson Brownfield

Motion carried: 5-0

- 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.

Engineer Laura Branthoover requested motion to **move to advertise a contract to demolish 16, 18, 28, 30, 35, 119, 121 S. 7th St.**

First: Mayor Adams

Second: Councilperson Artim

Motion carried: 5-0

c. Proposed Grant Applications

i. Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP) (due 5/31/24)

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. The estimated cost is \$500K with a 15% cash match.

Engineer Laura Branthoover request motion to **move to authorize Glenn Engineering to submit a grant application to the GTRP for Planning and construction for Bike trail between 5th Ave and Percilla and Polish Hill Park.**

First: Councilperson Artim

Second: Councilperson Brownfield

Motion carried: 5-0

ii. COVID-19 ARPA (due 4/9/24)

Engineer Laura Branthoover requested to **move to authorize Glenn Engineering to submit a grant application to the COVID-19 ARPA Monies for Polish Hill Park and the Recreation Center.**

First: Councilperson Washington

Second: Councilperson Brownfield

Motion carried: 5-0

iii. Walk Works Commonwealth Grant (due 3/22/24)

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

Mayor Adams requested motion to **move to authorize Glenn Engineering to submit a grant application to the Walk Works for a Planning Grant for area of 5th and Priscilla.**

First: Councilperson Brownfield

Second: Councilperson Washington

Motion carried: 5-0

- iv. Active Allegheny Grant Program
- v. Community Day Parade Update (August 3rd, 2024 starting at 10 AM on 4th and Grant and proceed upwards towards Polish Hill Park).

4. *Accounts & Finances. – Report by Councilperson Artim*

5. *Treasurer Dept. – Report by Maureen Strahl*

6. *Engineer – Report by Laura Branthoover*

7. *Solicitor – Report by Myron Sainovich*

8. *City Manager – Report by Douglas Sample*

- a. Hiring of Administrative Executive

City Manager Douglas Sample requested motion to move to hire Christina Martin as Administrative Executive for an annual salary of \$52,000 (prorated for 2024). Full time, hours 8:00 – 4:00pm

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

Motion Carried: 5-0

- b. Home Rule Charter

- i. **First Reading of Ordinance No. 2024-02** – Authorizing a Referendum on the question of creating a Government Study Commission (GSC) of 7 Members to study the existing form of government and advisability of adoption of a Home Rule Charter. The ordinance will be voted on at the April 2, 2024, meeting.

First: Councilperson Brownfield **Second:** Councilperson Washington

Motion carried: 4-1 (Councilperson Adams: Nay)

- ii. Next Steps

- 1. Those running for GSC must obtain signatures of registered voters of at least 2% of votes cast in last gubernatorial election (will need approximately 30-35 signatures to get on the ballot for the November 5th Election).
- 2. GSC will either recommend no change after 9 months of study or must produce report to DCED with proposed changes after 18 months.

3. Following review by DCED, the Home Rule Charter Adoption will be on the next regularly scheduled election to either accept or reject the charter as a whole. The earliest a Home Rule Charter could be on the ballot for the voters to decide would be General Election in November, 2026.

Mayor Adams: Clarifies that once installed they must choose options set forth within the rules. That they cannot make their own government.

Solicitor Sainovich: If this council decides that they do not want to change this form of government. The commission can vote “NO” or the ordinance itself and therefore there would be no publication, committee form to study.

If we cannot get people to come forward to petition or serve on the commission, then the commission would fail & cannot be put back on the ballad for a period of years.

Mayor Adams: Who is eligible to seek the position of that commission? All citizens of Duquesne or citizens of Duquesne registered to vote?

Solicitaor Sainovich: Registered voter of Duquesne City

Mayor Adams- can elected official be on commission?

Councilperson Artim: Spoke to George Dougherty and he confirmed that elected officials can be on commission.

9. Police Dept. – Report by Chief William Shaw see attached report

10. Fire Dept. – Report by Chief Frank Cobb – thanked those who were involved with the Spaghetti Dinner. It was a great success.

11. Police Citizen Review Board – Report by Debra Chaffin (no report)

OLD BUSINESS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Upcoming Council Meeting** – Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 6:30 PM.
2. PRIDE (People Residing in Duquesne Equally), co-sponsor, along with the city and the Duquesne PartnerSHIP, the annual community Easter Egg Hunt celebration will be held on Saturday, March 30, 2024 in Polish Hill Park from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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1. **Connie Lucas** – wanted to let Council know that Giant Eagle's mobile food truck will be in Duquesne Plaza on Sundays from 1 to 2:30 PM.
2. **Sylvia D (zoom): 11-31 S 7th St.** -- wanted to know why she was not notified about the need to demolish her property? She used close to \$40,000 this month for pre-development (structural engineer, wire approval inspection, architect, gas mine inspection). She feels its a waste of time to proceed with a demolition that is not going to happen.

Mayor Adams: The property was on the demolition list for years. You still have time to gather funds for the rehab of the residence.

Solicitor Sainovich: Explains that there was COG money available and there were grants available to the city. The city declared many structures as dangerous structures. You would have to come to the city building to get a list to see if your properties are part of the dangerous structure list. Once they were declared "dangerous structures" pursuant of the ordinance then you have 30 days to appeal to the Court of Common Plea that the council had abused their discretion in designating those properties. Once they were designated and the 30-day appeal period ended that was the end of it. They were advertised in the newspaper; notices were sent to the last known property owner pursuant to Allegheny County and Duquesne City records as well as signs placed on property.

Sylvia D.: Said no signs were placed on her property. She will stop at the city building to get dates. And will work diligently to get stamped drawings from the next architect.

Engineer Branthoover: The city got \$75K and its \$15K per property to tear down. So, her property is not even an issue at this time. Her property is listed on the alternate bid, which will not be awarded due to funding limitations.

Mayor Adams: Asked Sylvia D when is the rehab going to begin?

Sylvia D: This Spring

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Adams requests a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43p,

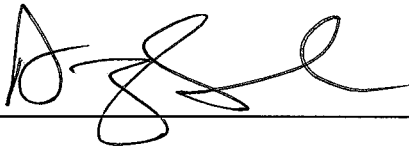
First: Councilperson Washington

Second: Councilperson Artim

Motion carried: 5-0



R. Scott Adams, Mayor



Douglas Sample, City Manager

CITY OF DUQUESNE
POLICE DEPARTMENT

12 SOUTH SECOND STREET. DUQUESNE PENNSYLVANIA 15110

FEBRUARY 2024 POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT

TOTAL CALLS OF SERVICE - 493

ADULT ARRESTS - 23

JUVENILE ARRESTS -

TRAFFIC STOPS - 134

TRAFFIC WARNINGS- 19

TRAFFIC CITATIONS - 14
NON-TRAFFIC - 8

REPORTABLE CRASHES- 4

NON-REPORTABLE CRASHES- 7

TYPES OF CALL

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/VERBAL- 32 **BURGLARY- 7**

ASSAULTS - 4

ALARMS- 14

TRESPASSING - 1

FIGHTS- 5

SHOTS FIRED- 7

FIRES-

WELFARE CHECK - 13

DISABLED VEHICLE- 6

HARASSMENT - 4

SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE - 7

THEFT — 7

ABANDON MOTOR VEHICLE- 7

ANIMAL COMPLAINTS - 17

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF- 4

FRAUD- 3

JUVENILE COMPLAINTS - 5

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY- 5

SUBJECT STOPS - 1

GUN RELATED CALLS - 8

SUSPICIOUS PERSON- 3

HOMICIDE 0