

## **MAY 2, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes**

6:30PM Call to order; moment of silence, Pledge of Allegiance, opening prayer by Rev. Chaffin.

Roll Call: Mayor Adams, Councilpersons Washington, Adams and Artim all present. Council person Caldwell absent.

No public comments on Agenda items.

Prior to meeting, Councilperson Washington made a motion that was second by Councilperson Artim to amend the Agenda to include the adopting of a resolution to permit the City of Duquesne to apply for a GTRP Grant for \$212,075 for renovations to the Polis Hill Ballfields. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion was made by Mayor Adams and second by Councilperson Adams to approve Consent Agenda which included: Bill list from April 2023, Meeting minutes from February 28, 2023; March 7, 2023; March 28, 2023; April 4, 2023 and April 25, 2023. Motion carried 4-0.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Mayor's report is available.

Councilperson Washington made a motion and was second by Councilperson Artim to approve Cooperative Agreement for the Allegheny County Vacant Program. Carried 4-0.

Mayor Adams made a motion and Councilperson Artim second to approve MOU between the City of Duquesne and the Duquesne School District. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion was tabled to approve agreement between the City of Duquesne, the Duquesne School District and the Carnegie Library of McKeesport. The motion was tabled for further review.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Councilperson Washington's report is available. She reported new hires are working out nicely and the summer help should be starting soon. Councilperson Washington also thanked Ms. Brownfield and Ms. Scharding for their efforts in helping to beautify the City.

**WATER DEPARTMENT:** Councilperson Adams report is available. He added PA American Water wanted to discuss an assistance program with resident's sewage bills. He mentioned a discussion is needed with the City Engineer concerning a water study and a financial report at the end of June for the Water Department.

Councilperson Adams made a motion that was second by Councilperson Artim to have the City Engineer draw up bid specifications for the solid waste collection contract beginning in January 2024. Motion carried 4-0.

**COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Engineers report is available.

Motion passed earlier concerning vacant lot program.

Motion was made by Mayor Adams and second by Councilperson Washington to adopt a resolution to permit the

City of Duquesne to apply for a \$212,075 GTRP Grant. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilperson Adams made a motion that was second by Councilperson Artim to permit Action Academy and How To HR LLC to use Polish Hill Ballfield on July 29, 2023 from 8AM to 5PM. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilperson Artim made the motion that was second by Councilperson Washington to approve blocking off N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street from W. Grant Avenue to Hamilton on May 13, 2023 from 8AM to 5PM so that New Evangelistic Ministries can have a garage type sale. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilperson Washington made a motion that was second by Councilperson Artim to permit the use of Polish Hill Ballfield for Duquesne Community Day on August 5, 2023 from 8AM to 7PM. Handwashing station and port-a-john will be needed.

Councilperson Washington made a motion that was second by Councilperson Artim to block off S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street between Kennedy and W. Grant Avenues so that the School District can have Kindergarten Registration and Street Fair. Motion carried 4-0.

**ACCOUNTS AND FINANCES:** Councilperson Artim's report is available.

Councilperson Artim made a motion that was second by Councilperson Adams to approve the Financial Policies and Budget Process. Motion carried 4-0.

**TREASURER REPORT:** Ms. Strahl's report is available. She added that Real Estate collection is coming along.

**SOLICITOR REPORT:** Motion was made by Mayor Adams and second by Council person Artim to accept MOU between the City and the Police Union concerning a grievance filed about unused sick time. Motion was carried 4-0.

The Solicitor he will be advertising a meeting concerning dangerous structures within the City.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT:** Motion was made by Mayor Adams and second by Councilperson Artim to approve annual contract for Cleaning Services at City Hall beginning April 2, 2023 at a cost of \$585/week. Motion carried 3-1 with a no vote by Councilperson Adams.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Chief Shaw's report is available. He added a Police test will be given on June 9, 2023. He also added the Department will be looking into upgrading the security to access that Department.

**ACT 47 COORDINATOR REPORT:** Mr. Dougherty stated the report concerning exiting Act 47 shall be out on May 19, 2023 and a public comment meeting to be held on June 8, 2023. The formal meeting with DCED will be sometime in July.

Mr. Dougherty stated Codification grant will go through this year but others have been pushed back until 2024. He also asked when new rates take affect concerning assessments of

properties. Ms. Strahl said she believed in 2024. These new rates will show a drop in real estate revenues close to 17%.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Report was submitted and the Mayor asked the Fire Chief if could email the Council his report moving forward.

**CITIZEN'S REVIEW BOARD:** Ms. Chaffin stated she submitted one complaint to the Police Chief. She also requested Policy and Procedure Manual. The Chief will look into that.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Tom Molanick of S. 5<sup>th</sup> Street commented on having flags displayed for Memorial Day, the Primary Election is upon us and commented on upkeep of the ballfields if awarded the new grant.

Catharine Scharding of Auriles Street commented on the debris blowing onto City Street after lots have been cut. She also questioned why there is so little money for blight.

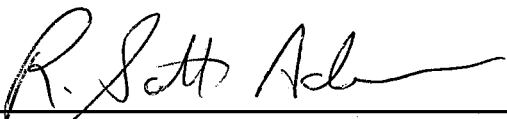
Councilperson Adams explained that is the process and other communities also seek those funds.

Rosia Reid of Chestnut Street asked about the possibility of owning our own Garbage service. Councilperson Adams stated he looked into that when he took office and at this time it just isn't financially doable. She also requested potholes be filled.

A motion was made by Mayor Adams and second by Council person Artim to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Motion carried 4-0.

After the session a motion was made by Councilperson Artim and second by the Mayor to exit Executive Session. Motion carried 4-0.

Finally, a motion was made by Councilperson Washington and second by Councilperson Adams to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0. Adjourned 8:43PM

Mayor R. Scott Adams 

Interim City Manager Mary Louise Bittner 