

**CITY OF DUQUESNE  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019  
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES**

**6:33 pm**

Meeting was called to order by Councilperson Elaine Washington  
There was a moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer

**Present:** Richard Scott Adams, Terra Henderson-Murphy, Elaine Washington

**Others Present:** City Manager, Doug Sample, City Solicitor Myron Sainovich, Fire Chief Frank Cobb, Engineer Dave Gilliland, Act 47 Kristen Maser Michaels, Police Citizen Review Board Debra Chaffin, Administrative Assistant Marian Marko-Eberle

**Absent:** Rev. Tim Caldwell, Mayor Nickole Nesby

Motion for the Approval of Consent Bills – 20219

**First:** Councilperson Henderson-Murphy **Second:** Councilperson Elaine Washington  
**Motion carried: 3-0**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS**

\*\*Mr. Elwood Martin approached the microphone to speak stating he served on the Redevelopment Authority Committee. He understands the Redevelopment Authority is suing the City of Duquesne. Mr. Martin would like someone to clarify the outcome of the agreement from months ago.

Solicitor Sainovich spoke to say the law suit only finished up a few weeks ago, which will be discussed at the City of Duquesne's Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 17, 2019 by former Solicitor, John Rushford. Solicitor Sainovich also explained that the law suit will end and the City of Duquesne will have representatives. Solicitor Sainovich stated he is aware of the law suit, however, he did not participate due to the fact Attorney Rushford handled the case from the beginning.

Mr. Martin mentioned that he heard Attorney Rushford suggested an extension. Per Mr. Martin the residents of Duquesne do not want an extension. Mr. Martin stated he nor other residents want to put out more money than has already been spent on this law suit, then reiterated to stop the suit due to the City not having the money to spend and monies involved just seems to go to attorney fees.

Solicitor Sainovich stated he has not charge the City of Duquesne any additional monies other than his own retainer set up with the City and that all fees were from Attorney Rushford. Solicitor Sainovich then ended the conversation by saying "some negotiating has been done with Mr. Dougherty of Act 47 without aid of the solicitor involved. The final comment of Solicitor Sainovich was that there is light at the end of the tunnel on this law suit and that everyone on board is working hard.

\*\*Mr. Majid Cobbs from the audience approached the microphone to say this is his first time attending a meeting and is representing himself. Mr. Cobbs stated he used to live in Duquesne, moved to McKeesport, and is now living back in Duquesne. Mr. Cobb's primary reason for speaking out is he is tired of being harassed.

Councilperson Henderson-Murphy suggested Mr. Cobbs addressing his issues at a Town Hall meeting with Mayor Nesby. Mr. Cobbs then proceeded to say he was sitting on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street when he was asked questions about his family. Mr. Cobbs felt he was being intimidated and wants it stopped. Information about his family and people is no one's business. Mr. Cobbs said the City needs to come together.

Councilperson Henderson-Murphy asked Ms. Chaffin if she was aware of the above situation. Ms. Chaffin's response was "she has gotten complaint after complain, however, once she turns the complaints in she does not know what happens to the complaints because she gets no response from the Mayor or Chief Dunlevy. At this point, she does not know what to do.

Councilperson Henderson-Murphy added to the conversation by saying "prior to Mr. Sample being hired as City Manager the Board voted that Mayor Nesby and Chief Dunlevy would review the complaint/s and are to respond back to Ms. Chaffin within 30 days.

Ms. Chaffin added that she has a complaint from 2018 that still has not been responded to.

Councilman Adams asked Ms. Chaffin if she could explain the policy once someone would submit in a complaint form. Per Ms. Chaffin, once she receives a complaint form she hands it off to Mayor Nesby and Chief Dunlevy. Councilman Adams added since things don't seem to be being done he is requesting to abide by the 30 day turnaround rule for a response.

Solicitor Sainovich joined in the conversation to say "If the Mayor and Chief are not responding maybe put together a Police Committee to eliminate things falling through the cracks. The Solicitor then added that Mr. Sample was hired to get policies/procedures in place and suggested Mr. Sample meet with Chief Dunlevy and Mayor for further discussion to then update Ms. Chaffin.

Councilperson Henderson-Murphy suggested that maybe Mr. Sample could be in the loop of receiving a copy of complaint/s and then maybe he could make recommendations. This suggestion is something to consider going forward.

Solicitor Sainovich reminded the public, in attendance that because of certain officers who may be involved discussions will then take place in private Executive Sessions. In order to help the situation discussed at hand, Solicitor Sainovich suggested a retraining or counsel course to take place to correct the problem/s. Solicitor Sainovich asked Council to think about it and let Mr. Sample review going forward.

**\*\*Mr. Val Byrd** approached to microphone to speak on the fact that the City of Duquesne Officers do not respond to infractions that happen within the City. Mr. Byrd referred to the following incidents:

1. Three men sexually assaulted a woman who happened to be present at the meeting.
2. I witnessed officers harassing people in front of his house.
3. Officers entering a home with guns drawn with children in the home. All were scared. Mr. Byrd elaborated the woman whose house was entered was told the call was made from Mr. Byrd's house. Mr. Byrd also stated the officers asked the woman to sign a paper which she had no idea what she was signing.

Mr. Byrd suggested camera's be placed throughout the City to correct the infractions. Mr. Byrd feels as though someone is going to get hurt or killed. Mr. Byrd then proceeded to say his daughter moved out of the City due to being afraid of the cops. Mr. Byrd proceeded to say that his daughter feels drugs will be put in his home for a set up and/or the cops will kill him. She is worried for his life. Mr. Byrd then pointed out that when Mr. Adams was on the Police Force he would have never let this happen.

Councilperson Washington asked Mr. Byrd to give Mr. Sample a chance. Mr. Byrd's response was he only wants to work with Mr. Adams. Councilperson Washington pointed out Mr. Sample has 20 years of experience and his goal is to work for the best of the City of Duquesne, but you have to give Mr. Sample a chance.

**\*\*Councilperson Washington** then asked if Sabrina Brownfield who was present if she would like to speak. Ms. Brownfield stated the following:

1. She stated she was run over two times and no action was taken to help her.
2. She stated she was grabbed by her coat and was felt all over. Ms. Brownfield also stated she walks all the time and everywhere and just wants to be safe.

Councilperson Washington again mentioned Mr. Sample's knowledge and experience working in Government gives him an edge to work through the concerns of the citizens for the City of Duquesne. Councilperson Washington concluded her comments with Ms. Brownfield by saying "don't let this be your last time coming to a meeting, you are welcome to attend anytime."

Ms. Brownfield then added that two days ago a girl entered her home to try and steal her television. Ms. Brownfield called the police, but there was no follow through.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Accounts and Finance

- a. Resolution – approving Douglas Sample for a City issued Credit Card through First Commonwealth Bank

Mr. Sample commented that the Resolution for approving him for a City issued Credit Card through First Commonwealth Bank will take place at the City of Duquesne's Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December, 17, 2019.

### 2. Administration

- a. Western PA Municipal Managers Association Dues for City Manager

Mr. Sample referred to the Western PA Municipal Managers Association Dues of \$35.00 that he will asking for approval at City of Duquesne's Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December, 17, 2019.

### 3. Community and Economic Development

Mr. Samples reiterated two current members will be leaving and a discussion will take place in January 2020 for a policy regarding filling the vacancies.

- a. Steel Valley Authority – there are two (2) vacancies on the Board of Directors that need to be filled
- b. Jefferson Collaborative Membership

Mr. Sample stated that Mayor Nesby had asked for this item to be put on the Agenda.

- c. Mon Yough Area Chamber of Commerce
- d. Town Hall Meeting concerning the future of Housing in Duquesne

Mr. Sample mentioned Mayor Nesby rescheduled the Thursday, December 12, 2019 Town Hall Meeting to sometime in January 2020. At this time, a date has not been announced. Mr. Sample said Mayor Nesby wants to address the Duquesne Redevelopment – Improving Communities from the BluGen Group, LLC. Mr. Sample also mentioned that it would cost \$150.00 to hold the Town Hall Meeting at the School Auditorium or if the Town Hall was held in the Chambers Room of City Hall there would be no cost. Councilperson Henderson-Murphy and Councilman Adams both stated to hold the Town Hall Meeting in the Chambers Room of City Hall. Mr. Sample agreed.

4. Legislative
  - a. Professional Photograph for Mayor

Mr. Sample brought up Mayor Nesby is requesting a professional photograph be taken of her. Mr. Sample felt the Mayor should be present to discuss, therefore, this item will be put on the January 2020 Council Meeting.

Councilperson Henderson-Murphy asked the question does the City or the Mayor pay for the photograph. Mr. Sample shared his experiences working in other cities the city usually brings in a photographer for an individual and/or group picture that can be put on a city's website. A suggestion was made that a group picture would be an idea. Mr. Sample also thought the picture could possibly be done in-house.

Kristen Maser-Michaels spoke up to say she would network to find a reasonably priced photographer for \$50.00 or so.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed) – No Formal Executive Meeting**

Mr. Sample mentioned the Executive meeting would only be on Contracts and Litigation.

Ms. Chaffin asked if there was a date set in January 2020 for the Town Hall Meeting. Mr. Sample answered "no."

Ms. Chaffin inquired about the City having a newsletter. Per Mr. Sample, "not at this time, but it's being worked on."

Mr. Sample pointed out he inserted in each of the Board Member's folder the following:

1. A copy of the Proposed Water Fund Budget and Proposed General Fund Budget.
2. A Resolution of the City of Duquesne of Allegheny and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Establishing Wages for All City Employees Not Represented by a collective Bargaining Unit.
3. A Waive Resolution for Non Union Employees; Douglas Sample and Marian (Mimi) Marko-Eberle.
4. A Resolution for City Fee Charges and let him know if he is missing anything.

Mr. Sample then mention the 2018 Financials should be done the week of December 16, 2019.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Accounts and Finance
  - a. 2020 Budget Review
  - b. 2020 Fee Resolution
  - c. 2020 Wage Resolution
  
2. Public Works – Report on Hold
  - a. Public Works Salt Building/Roof and Salt Storage

Mr. Sample stated this item to be tabled waiting for more information

- b. Meadow/Elder Alley Waterline Project – 8 bids were submitted for the Meadow/Alley Waterline Project. The low bidder was M. O’Herron Company of \$211,199.40.

Mr. Sample stated this should have been on November 2019’s meeting, however, he is presenting the bid for a motion to approve tonight, Tuesday, December 10, 2019.

**MOTION: I move to award the Meadow/Elder Waterline Project to M. O’Herron Company in the amount of \$211,199.40.**

**First:** Councilman Richard Scott Adams **Second:** Councilperson Elaine Washington  
**Motion carried: 3-0**

Before the meeting adjourned, Solicitor Sainovich brought up the suggestion of setting up a private meeting to meet with Volunteer Firemen to discuss a few things.

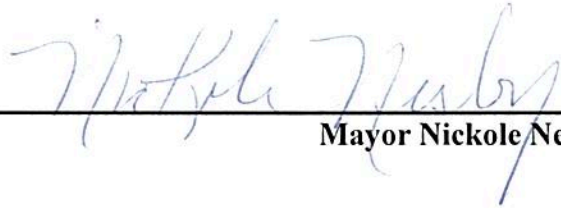
Solicitor Sainovich then passed out, to the Board, copies of the City of Pittsburgh’s FileApp/Motion Pictures Film Permits Information for Producers to film in the City of Duquesne. Solicitor Sainovich asked for the Board to review before he prepares the final Ordinance for the City. Solicitor Sainovich just wants to make sure the Fire and Police components are taken into consideration. Solicitor Sainovich asked to be contacted with any suggestions and/or changes. Solicitor Sainovich then stated he would have the Ordinance for the next scheduled City of Duquesne Meeting, Tuesday, December 17, 2019.

Ms. Maser-Michaels of Act 47 offered to review to fine tune the distributed City of Pittsburgh’s FileApp/Motion Pictures Film Permits Information and contact Solicitor Sainovich with her input.

7:10 pm

**ADJOURNED**

**First:** Councilman Richard Scott Adams **Second:** Councilperson Elaine Washington  
**Motion carried: 3-0**



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**Mayor Nickole Nesby**



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**Marian Marko-Eberle**