

**CITY OF DUQUESNE  
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**6:33 pm** Meeting was called to order by Mayor Nickole Nesby.

**Present:** Richard Scott Adams, Rev. Tim Caldwell, Terra Henderson-Murphy, Elaine Washington, Mayor Nickole Nesby.

**Others Present:** City Manager, Douglas Sample, City Solicitor, Myron Sainovich, Police Chief Thomas Dunlevy, City Engineer, Dave Gilliland, Act 47 Coordinator, George Dougherty, Executive Assistant, Marian (Mimi) Marko-Eberle.

**Absent:** Controller, Maureen Strahl, Fire Chief Cobb, Police Citizen's Review Board Representative, Debra Chaffin.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

**NO COMMENTS AT THIS TIME.**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of Minutes – April 14, 2020
2. Bill List – April 28, 2020

**I move to approve the Minutes of April 14, 2020 with any necessary corrections.**

**First:** Councilperson Henderson-Murphy **Second:** Councilman Caldwell  
**MOTION carried 5-0**

**I move to approve the Bill List of April 28, 2020 with any necessary corrections.**

**First:** Councilperson Henderson-Murphy **Second:** Mayor Nesby **MOTION carried: 4-0**

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

**\*\*Mayor Nesby started her report by thanking all the Staff, First Responders and Tammy Pratt, Emergency Management Coordinator for all the work and energy they have put in during this time of the Coronavirus Emergency.**

**Mayor Nesby then spoke on the following items:**

Rick Vilello, Deputy Secretary for Community Affairs & Development, Department of Community & Economic Development  
Biweekly meeting with the University of Pennsylvania, the Water Center, Mayors Innovation Project (WIP)

- Item 1 - Operations and Compliance Manuals
- Item 2 - Compliance Status and/or customer complaints
- Item 3 - Progress on DCED Grant
- Item 4 - PRWA GIS project
- Item 5 - Asset management program.
- Item 6 - Setting capital program priorities
- Item 7 - Staffing levels
- Item 8 - Options for Additional Operator Support
- Item 9 - Water loss
- Item 10 - Segregating Water System financials
- Item 11 - Rates and affordability study
- Item 12 - Long-term strategy with MAWC

Climate Mayors Monthly Coordination Call  
Take Action Mon Valley- Duquesne Chapter

Meeting with US Senator Bob Casey and Mayors from the following communities:

- Mayor Marita Garrett, Borough of Wilkinsburg
- Mayor Richard Lattanzi, City of Clairton
- Mayor Jim Nowalk, Borough of Whitehall
- Mayor Chris Kelly, Borough of West Mifflin
- Mayor Betty Esper, Borough of Homestead
- Mayor Tom Lloyd, Borough of Avalon
- Mayor John R. Henry, Borough of West View
- Mayor Don Baumgarten, Borough of Castle Shannon

Discussion on Local Government:

- Loss of tax revenue impact/strain on budgets
- Delay of taxes payments without penalties
- More transparency with County government (Health Department) during COVID-19
- Distant Learning in school district/ funding for education
- Small Business Loans through SBA (pro/con)
- Lack of PPE for first responders
- Testing for COVID-19

Pittsburgher for Public Transit (PPT)

- Safety concerns of employees and riders
- Advocated for free bus services, personal protective equipment
- COVID-19 testing/Food Bank for individuals without transportation

Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank

- Deliveries to individuals without transportation
- Volunteers with GPFB (412-460-3663 or TAMV (412-440-8268)
- Call for pick-up
- Project with Microsoft/Google to improve delivers

### Allegheny County Health Department

- Testing in Duquesne
- Limited access to testing without transportation
- Sanitation at senior high rise/homeless shelter

### Put People First (PPF) - Mon Valley

- Mobile Testing
- COVID-19 education
- Medical services/providers
- Community Members to participation
- Mental Health Services

### Neighborhood Allies

- Looking for Community Health Deputies
  - Attend the CHD Webinar sponsored by the Neighborhood Resilience Project. The training is two hours. The Neighborhood Resilience Project is responsible for providing all future training sessions for new CHDs to ensure consistency across the board.
  - Provide Wellness checks for signs, symptoms and exposure to COVID-19.
  - Identify other needs facing community members. The most pressing would be food and medication; however, other needs may be identified as well.
  - Check the mental health wellness of those in your community. This pandemic has caused higher unemployment and possible increase in high-risk behaviors (drug and alcohol use, violence, etc.)
  - Information dissemination on personal hygiene as well as current and accurate information about the disease dispelling rumors
  - CHD leads to recruit additional CHDs that are responsible, trustworthy, opinion leaders in your community. Opinion leaders influence how people think.
  - Help problem solve solutions with the Neighborhood Resilience Project and share problems and challenges brought to your attention by community members
  - Develop a communication plan for information dissemination and reporting

### Meeting with City Council

- Anwar Adams Position
- Sanitation for senior living
- Mobile testing needed
- InCity Farms process

### Meeting with Economic Development

- Stimulus Checks
- Small Business Stimulus
- Sheriff Sale/Logging and assessing abandon properties
- PPE funding
- InCity Farm Process

\*\*Mayor Nesby spoke on the In City Farms project asking if anyone spoke to Mr. Gilliland if there was a Mineral Right. Mr. Gilliland responded to say “the land is not the City of Duquesne’s, therefore, nothing is needed at this time.

\*\*Councilperson Washington responded in reference to unless there are Wells. It was stated that City Farms will be building their own Wells.

\*\*Mr. Sample spoke up to say the City Farms Project is premature to weigh in on, at this time, due all the legalities that still have to take place. Mr. Gilliland agreed.

\*\*Mayor Nesby mentioned the fact that she would like to bring on an assistant to help her with finance reports, attending meetings, and other City of Duquesne general tasks due to not being able to do everything herself with no cost to the City of Duquesne. Councilman Adams spoke up to say that the tasks mentioned are the same line of work that of the City Manager. Mr. Sample, at that point, asked for a clear understanding of his role, if having an assistant on board was the case. It was suggested that Mr. Dougherty, Coordinator of Act 47, could be of some aid to the Mayor’s request for help. A very lengthy discussion took place consisting of mixed questions and concerns along with the Mayor stating that there is a lack in communication lines between her and the Board Members anytime she asks for something; copies of past Minutes, responses to emails, individual reports, and/or overall updates about the City of Duquesne just to name a few. The discussion continued when Councilperson Washington spoke up to say that the entire Board needs to have more time to thoroughly digest and work through Mayor Nesby’s request of an assistant. Mayor Nesby then asked for the minutes of May 27, 2019 regarding the Mayor’s Initiative Council (MIC) as to when that motion passed. Mayor Nesby then asked Solicitor Sainovich if her request for an assistant could be a part of the MIC project. Solicitor Sainovich responded by saying “if Council and Mayor agree to go that route.” Councilperson Washington again stated that the Administration has to know what the Mayor is doing by everyone working together as a team. Councilperson Washington also pointed out that having side agendas is not the way to do things. Mayor Nesby’s response was “okay.” Councilperson Henderson-Murphy asked Mayor Nesby about the emailed the Board Members received today, Tuesday April 28, 2020 at 5:00 pm if the email was related to her request to have an assistant. Mayor Nesby stated “yes.” All the Board Members brought the drawn out discussion to a close by agreeing they did not have enough time to fully process her last minute email, which in fact, definitely needs to have more discussion. Councilperson Washington then mentioned that she herself can’t see another person just to assist the Mayor handle the City of Duquesne’s business.

### **Police Collective Bargaining Agreement**

**MOTION: I move to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Teamsters Local Union No. 205 representing the City of Duquesne Police Department and the City of Duquesne from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2023.**

\*\*Councilman Adams had two (2) questions relating to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Teamsters Local Union No. 205 representing the City of Duquesne police Department and the City of Duquesne as follows:

1. To have some definite clarification on the Grievance process.
2. Councilman Adams pointed out that there is nothing shown regarding the salary portion of a Desk Sergeant and is this a position that is biddable.

## PUBLIC WORKS

\*\*6:42 pm Councilperson Washington joined the meeting.

\*\*Councilperson Washington stated the lawn mowing equipment has been purchased and the Department of Public Works (DPW) is now cutting City owned and maintained properties.

**I move to contract with Mr. John Guyre to provide Public Works Management Consulting Services for the City of Duquesne.**

**First:** Councilperson Washington **Second:** Councilman Caldwell

**NO's:** Councilperson Henderson-Murphy, Mayor Nesby **MOTION carried: 3-2**

## WATER DEPARTMENT

\*\*The Water Department report was not officially read, however, Councilman Adams will submit his report to Executive Assistant, Mimi Marko-Eberle to be a part of the minutes for the next meeting which will be Tuesday, May 11, 2020's Workshop Meeting.

**The Water Department Report is as follows:**

\*\*In early March, the new line project on Ferndale Avenue, Fernway, and Elder Alley has been completed. The new line provides better water circulation in that area.

\*\*March 3, 2020, the O'Herron Company eliminated an unnecessary valve on Hamilton Avenue that may have impeded water flow. Fire Hydrants were bled at McDonalds and Meyers Furnace for Bac-T Samples to be collected.

\*\*March 4, 2020 Bac-T samples were collected at McDonalds, Meyers Furnace, and City Hall. Samples turned over to Sarah Kocak for testing at their Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County (MAWC) lab. Returned clean results.

\*\*March 16, 2020, the Water Department started to turn on delinquent water accounts in response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

\*\*March 17, 2020, there was a water main break at the 700 block of Richford. The repairs were done on March 18, 2020 and the water service and pressure was restored.

\*\*March 19, 2020, the BAC-T samples were collected at Sunoco, Burns Avenue and Zewe Alley and delivered to MAWC McKeesport plant. The samples results were clean.

\*\*County Hauling, a Residential, Commercial, and Specialty Waste Disposal company sent a contingency plan for garbage pickup.

\*\*The Catharine/Savey, and Auriles project will be delayed because of pandemic.

\*\*April 1, 2020, The Bac-T samples were collected from Meyers, Exxon, and Matta then submitted to the lab in McKeesport. The report indicated clean samples.

\*\*April 7, 2020, the THM samples taken at Kahler Street, Fairmont, and the Pump station were collected and turned over to Sarah Kocak from MAWC. The results were in compliance with safe drinking water standards.

\*\*April 15, 2020, the Bac-T samples were taken to MAWC lab in McKeesport. The samples collected from Meyer's Furnace, Sunoco, and City Hall were within compliance with safe drinking water standards.

\*\*Councilman Adams mentioned that a new Chlorinator Pump was ordered.

\*\*Councilman Adams also mention that in the months of March and April 2020 there had been several complaints concerning garbage pickup.

### **COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

1. Report from Councilperson Caldwell
2. Polish Hill Playground Grant – Funding through the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program for the Polish Hill Playground Project. Total project costs are estimated at \$151,000 with a local share of \$22,650.

**MOTION: I move to adopt Resolution 20-10 authorizing a submission of a grant for the Polish Hill Playground Project.**

### **ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE**

1. Report from Councilperson Henderson-Murphy
2. Appointment of a Delegate to the Allegheny County Southwest Tax Collection District

**MOTION: I move to appoint Nickole Nesby as a Delegate to the Allegheny County Southwest Tax Collection District.**

### **TREASUREER – NOT PRESENT – NO REPORT**

### **CONTROLLER – NOT PRESENT – NO REPORT**

### **SOLICITOR – NO ACTUAL REPORT**



## **CITY MANAGER**

\*\*Mr. Sample shared that the Government opened construction work up as of Friday, May 1, 2020. Mr. Sample then stated the City of Duquesne's home inspections will resume.

\*\*Mr. Sample then mentioned that he spoke to Chief Cobb of the Fire Department to say the door replacement will begin as well. Mr. Sample said that Chief Cobb welcomes the work to begin.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The following report was given by Chief Dunlevy. There were:

- \*\*575 Calls
- \*\*27 Arrests
- \*\*Both New Officers started
- \*\*Six (6) Food Bank details so far – all reimbursable overtime
- \*\*Click it or Ticket Audit completed and accepted. New funding was raised and now is approximately \$2,000.00 for the May/June 2020 Enforcement Detail

## **ACT 47 COORDINATOR**

Evaluation Resources undertook activities to assist the City of Duquesne this past month:

- 1) Consultation with Mayor, Council, City Manager, and City Manager via phone and in-person.
- 2) Facilitated a monthly planning workshop with City Manager, Mayor, and Council.
- 3) Consulted with City Manager and reviewed city operations, budget processes, and city financial reports.
- 4) Met with State, County, and Local Economic Development officials to save community grocery store.
- 5) Regular meetings with DCED representatives to assess city progress on urgent and necessary activities.
- 6) Consulted with Solicitor, City Manager, Mayor, and Council regarding multiple personnel concerns.
- 7) Worked with City Manager on Coved-19response, including hosting online municipal meetings.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT – NOT PRESENT – NO REPORT**

## **POLICE CITIZEN'S REVIEW BOARD – NOT PRESENT – NO REPORT**

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

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Felicia Thomas – 211 N 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Duquesne, PA 15110

\*\*Ms. Thomas first public comment was on how fast, she feels, vehicles travel on Route 837. Ms. Thomas mentioned that there are kids at there are kids at Oliver Plaza she is concerned about their safety and that there has already been a fatality, due to vehicles speeding off the bridge. Even though Ms. Thomas mentioned she has already spoken to an officer asking for something to be done she wanted her issues and concerns to be on record.

\*\*Ms. Thomas's second public comment was in reference to the noise disturbance in her area. She mentioned that despite closures for many companies there are still people who are working, two of which are her and her mother who have to be up early. Ms. Thomas mentioned some others in the area are partying with loud music all through the night. Ms. Thomas asked what options are there for the issues she mentioned.

\*\*Mayor Nesby spoke up to say the City of Duquesne does have noise ordinances and asked Chief Dunlevy to patrol the area a little more.

\*\*Mr. Sample asked Ms. Thomas is she call 911 to report the noise disturbance. Ms. Thomas stated she has called 911 in the past, but nothing has been done and that is why she is bringing the issue up at this time. Mr. Sample then directed Chief Dunlevy to address Ms. Thomas's issues and concerns. Chief Dunlevy stated that there are speed lines for speed enforcements. Chief Dunlevy also mentioned that if citations were issued at this time with Courts closed the earliest hearings may be scheduled would be June 2020. Chief Dunlevy referred to the noise possibly coming from the apartment complex in the area and the police officer knocks on the door and can't get in there is nothing at that point the office can do. Chief Dunlevy concluded the conversation with saying "he will talk to Patrol to review and be more aware of the situation. Ms. Thomas thanked Chief Dunlevy for responded to the issues/concerns at hand.

## ADJOURNMENT

8:47 pm

**I move to adjourn the meeting.**

**First:** Mayor Nesby **Second:** Councilperson Washington **MOTION carried 5-0**

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**Nickole Nesby**

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**Marian Marko-Eberle**