

**CITY OF DUQUESNE  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020  
WORKSHOP MINUTES**

**6:41 pm** Meeting was called to order by Mayor Nesby  
There was a moment of Silence followed by the Pledge Allegiance and  
Opening Prayer

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

**Others Present:** City Manager, Douglas Sample, City Solicitor Sainovich,  
Police Chief Thomas Dunlevy, John McShane, Executive Assistant, Marian Marko-Eberle,  
City Manager's Intern, Lydia Aceto

**Absent:** Fire Chief Frank Cob, Act 47 Coordinator, Kristen Maser Michaels, and Police Citizen  
Review Board Debra Chaffin.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of Minute(s)
  - a. August 11, 2020 Public Hearing
  - b. August 25, 2020 Meeting
2. Bill List – September 8, 2020

**I move to approve the September 8, 2020 Consent Agenda.**

**First:** Councilperson Henderson-Murphy **Second:** Councilperson Caldwell

At this time, Mr. Sample asked to move the Old Business Section of the Community and  
Economic Development item, St Joseph's Subdivision for review and to make a motion.  
Mr. Sample then invited Mr. John Cenker to speak on behalf of the St. John Subdivision.

Mr. Sinker reviewed that the property of the Diocese which consists of the School, Church and  
Rectory will be divided into three (3) lots to be sold. Mr. Cenker mention that there is a person  
who is interested in buying some of the property. Mr. Cenker followed through by saying he has  
some questions when Mr. Sample asked Mr. Cenker to call him to address his questions.  
Mr. Sample asked is anyone else had any questions when Councilperson Washington said "no."

**I make a motion to grant conditional approval of S-20-4 with final approval to be granted  
upon applicant addressing any possible issues and/or comments from Glenn Engineering  
Review Letter and the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development's (ACED)  
review letter.**

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

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Accounts and Finance
  - a. Ordinance (s) – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading  
Refinancing of 2015 Bond Issue
2. Administration – **NO REPORT**
3. Community and Economic Development – **NO REPORT**
4. Public Safety
  - a. Animal Control – Contract Renewal

Mr. Sample brought up that the City was working an expired contract from Mr. David Collura for Animal Control. Mr. Collura sent in a letter saying he is still interested in working for the City. Mr. Sample mentioned that this item will be on the next meeting's agenda, September 22, 2020 for further discussion regarding renewing Mr. Collura's contract.

- b. Whitaker Borough is requesting that the City of Duquesne cover their vacant police shifts. Whitaker has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place with Rankin Borough to cover vacant shifts, but Rankin is now down to five police officers and has the state police covering their night turns. Whitaker is not asking our department to patrol their borough, just to answer emergency calls for service. There would not be adding any staff for this coverage.

Chief Dunlevy presented a detailed overview in the efforts to support the Whitaker Borough for police coverage. At that point, a lengthy discussion took place considering concerns on the following:

**\*\*The City does not want to over extend themselves although I believe in helping neighboring communities** – Councilperson Washington

Chief Dunlevy stated the City of Duquesne officers do maintenance aid.

**\*\*Be sure to take care of the City of Duquesne first and foremost** – Councilperson Adams

Chief Dunlevy stated the City is always covered first and Foremost.

**\*\*Concerned about an injured officer** – Councilperson Henderson-Murphy

**\*\*How does Chief Dunlevy feel** – Ms. Maser-Michaels?

Chief Dunlevy understands everyone's concerns. Chief Dunlevy's counter offer is that the City is covered at all times first and foremost.

**\*\*Did the officer working a full time job in another community resign?**

Councilperson Adams

**\*\*Did the right away officer resign – Councilperson Adams**

Chief Dunlevy stated “no.”

**\*\*Did the officer leaving right away resign – Councilperson Adams**

Chief Dunlevy stated the background check was requested, which would indicate the officer would be hired.

**\*\*Was this information shared in writing – Ms. Maser-Michaels?**

Chief Dunlevy stated “yes” and I spoke to Mr. Dougherty as well.

**\*\*Are the three (3) new officers that were just hired on the street yet? –**

Councilman Adams

Chief Dunlevy responded to Councilman Adams by saying all three (3) officers are undergoing their 30 day training, which is called Field Training.

**\*\*Why is Whitaker short staff of officers – Councilman Adams?**

Chief Dunlevy Whitaker just does not employ enough officers in their Police Department and one (1) officer is on Workmen’s Compensation. At this time, Whitaker has nine (9) officers on the roster and maybe hiring at their next meeting.

**\*\*When did Rankin stop answering calls for Whitaker, so they have had no coverage – Councilman Adams?**

Chief Dunlevy stated that is not true. The City of Duquesne covered Friday, September 4, 2020, night, at which I did speak to everyone on Council.

Councilperson Adams summed up the lengthy discussion with the Board should check with Whitaker’s Mayor and Chief of Police about their position to hire more officers before the City of Duquesne’s Board and Mayor make a decision. Chief Dunlevy was able to say that Whitaker does have hiring officers on their agenda of September 16, 2020, but Whitaker has three (3) open shifts at this time. Councilman Adams asked how the scheduling looks for the City of Police. Per Chief Dunlevy, the City is fully staffed. Chief Dunlevy iterated again if the City does not want to do it then we won’t.

Mr. Samper proposed to make a motion with a sunset provision possibly for one (1) month or move on.

Councilperson Henderson-Murphy recognized that this situation may bring in money, however, the City may end up paying out more should there be injuries to officers when working in the Whitaker area.

**I move to direct Chief Dunlevy to send a letter to Whitaker Borough's Police Chief stating the City will cover Whitaker's vacant police shifts for answering emergency calls only at a rate of \$15.00/hr. of each vacant shift covered.**

Mayor Nesby asked Mr. Sample for a Roll Call:

Councilperson Adams – **No**

Councilperson Caldwell – **Abstain**

Councilperson Henderson-Murphy – **No**

Councilperson Washington – **Yes for three (3) shifts**

Mayor Nesby – **Yes**

**Per Mr. Sample, two (2) yay and two (2) nay, therefore, there is a tie, which means the motion failed.**

## **5. Public Works**

Councilperson Washington reported that she touched base with the Historical Committee of the Heinz House regarding house on Priscilla Street. Councilperson Washington was told there was a process of nomination forms to be processed in order to get a plaque, which she herself will be working on.

## **6. Water Department – NO REPORT**

## 7. Police Department

### August 2020 Call Statistics

Alarm 23	Animal Compliant 20	Arson/Bomb 1	Assault 31	Assist Citizen 5
Assist EMS 51	Assist Fire 7	Assist Police 7	Burglary 3	Civil Complaint 5
Criminal Mischief 12	Detail 3	Disabled Vehicle 14	Disorderly Conduct 15	Dispute 9
Disturbance 7	Domestic 18	DUI 1	Expose 1	Fire Alarm 5
Residential Fire 1	Fraud 1	Harassment 18	Hazardous Conditions 4	Kidnapping 1
Local Ordinance 30	Missing Person, +18 4	Missing Person, -18 2	Motor Vehicle Crash 20	Motor Vehicle Theft 7
Narcotics 2	Offense Against Family 1	Other 40	Patrol Related 2	PFA 7
Property 10	Public Drunkenness 3	Pursuit 3	Rape 1	Runaway 1
Subject Stop 7	Suspicious Person 15	Theft 17	Traffic Complaint 13	Traffic Stop 132
Utility Complaint 1	Warrant 9	Weapons 8	Welfare Check 61	

### OLD BUSINESS

1. Accounts and Finance – **NO REPORT**
2. Administration

Mr. Sample brought up the two (2) open positions:

**\*\*City Manager**

**\*\*Public Works Director**

Mr. Sample reminded the Board and the Mayor who was on the old committed for hiring the City Manager. The committee consisted of:

**\*\*Councilperson Henderson-Murphy**

**\*\*Councilperson Caldwell**

**\*\*Ms. Maser Michaels, Act 47 Coordinator**

**\*\*MaryLou Bittner, Interim City Manager**

Mr. Sample asked if there was anyone else wanted to be on the hiring committee for the City Manager's position. Councilperson Henderson-Murphy and Councilperson Caldwell accepted to participate on the hiring committee. Mayor Nesby requested the opportunity to review the resumes. Mr. Sample reviewed the new hiring committee to be:

**\*\*Councilperson Henderson-Murphy**

**\*\*Councilperson Caldwell**

**\*\*Ms. Maser Michaels, Act 47 Coordinator**

**\*\*Mr. Douglas Sample, Current City Manager**

Mr. Sample stated with a hopeful hiring of October 13, 2020.

Councilperson Washington asked Mr. Sample to let her know about the Public Works hiring process.

### **3. Community and Economic Development –REFER TO BEGINNING OF THE MEETING**

#### **a. St. Joseph's Subdivision**

**MOTION: I make a motion to grant conditional approval of S-20-4 with final approval to be granted upon applicant addressing any possible issues and/or comments from Glenn Engineering review letter and the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development's (ACED) review letter.**

**REFER TO THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING FOR THIS MOTION**

### **4. Public Safety – NO REPORT**

5. Public Works – **NO REPORT**

6. Water Department – **NO REPORT**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

\*\*Mr. Tom Molanick of 115 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue suggested a clarification on the advertisement cutoff date for the City Manager's position to be September 9, 2020 and not September 13, 2020 mentioned earlier by Mr. Sample. Mr. Molanick just didn't want anyone losing time to apply for the position. Mr. Sample agreed the cutoff date was September 9, 2020 for accepting resumes for the City Manager position. Mr. Sample explained that September 13<sup>th</sup> date was the date to get the resumes to the hiring committee. And lastly, Mr. Molanick wanted to know if the City was still on schedule for water turn offs. Per Mr. Sample, turn offs will take place mid-October.

\*\*Mr. Sheldon Morris of 315 Kennedy Avenue, Duquesne, PA brought up a matter of one of his neighbor's being unruly and that he would like some documentation for protection.

Mr. Sample referred Mr. Morris's request to Chief Dunlevy to handle. Chief Dunlevy instructed Mr. Morris to complete a Right to Know application which is associated with a fee. Mr. Morris then brought up an issue he said he experienced where he was sitting on his porch and a police vehicle was positioned on the other side of the street when he received notification on his internet that his internet was dangerous. Mr. Morris feels strongly that the message came from the police sitting in the police vehicle. Mr. Morris wanted to make it clear that people have rights. At that point, Chief Dunlevy spoke up to say that the City of Duquesne's police vehicles are not equipped with technology to pick up anyone's internet service. Mr. Morris then stated that despite problems he has had with Comcast, which he is taking care of he added that people have a right to privacy. Mr. Morris went on to say that he has a multitude of things, at which he is seeking an attorney to handle his issues, however, believes the City of Duquesne needs to bridge the gap to know what's going on. Mr. Morris ended his comments by referring to the fact he has four (4) sons and he fears for their life due to racism across the board. Mr. Sample, at this time, asked Mr. Morris about the first part of his conversation reflecting back to the neighbor issue. Mr. Sample then commented that if this is a code complaint he needs to have more collaboration with Chief Dunlevy and himself for some direction. Mr. Morris then made a statement that he would like to see Councilman Adams be nominated to run for Mayor.

\*\*Stephen of 400 Commonwealth Avenue, Duquesne, PA asked for an update on the policy on ownership of adjacent property. Mr. Sample asked Stephen if he would like adjacent property

contact he would need to make contact with Ms. Pat McGrail, who represents the public sector clients. Stephen then had two more questions:

**\*\*What the policy is for residents to be alerted as to when Public Works has projects going on in the City.**

**\*\*What time of day will the fire hydrants be flushed.**

Councilperson Adams answered by saying the fire hydrants will be flushed during business hours to eliminate paying overtime. Then Mr. Sample spoke up to say information can be put on the website and he is working with a vendor pertaining to pre-notifications.

**\*\*Ms. Pat Bluett of Sherman Avenue, Duquesne, PA announced that West Mifflin's Grab n Go lunches will take place at Grant Avenue and 4<sup>th</sup> Street in the parking lot between 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. Again, Ms. Bluett asked everyone to remind people to register to vote.**

Before adjournment Mayor Nesby made mention of the following:

**\*\*Put together a Food Truck Committee.**

**\*\*Appoint Jamie Gatewood as Chairperson.**

**\*\*Collaborate with Ms. Debra Brown, Braddock Borough Manager to see how other communities work with Food Trucks.**

**\*\*Brief discussion on putting together a River Front Committee for development inside of the City of Duquesne.**

Councilperson Washington made mention that Duquesne Light is reaching out regarding the River Front. Councilperson Henderson-Murphy asked if Duquesne Light could come to a Council Meeting.

Mr. Sample asked if the issue is putting in extra lights. Councilperson Washington said she would continue to discuss with Mr. Sample. A statement was made that Council would have to vote unanimously due to having to pay for a Pole. Mr. Sample stated putting a pole in would be approximately \$1,300.00. If a pole is already in place then nothing from Duquesne Light. Mr. Sample to put this item on next agenda.

**\*\*Meeting with Morgan Stanley regarding Pension Portfolios through Zoom communications or invite Morgan Stanley Group in for an in person meeting.**

Councilperson Henderson-Murphy stated to leave everything as is.

**\*\*Duquesne Light meeting regarding 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Harding and Liberty lighting.**

Mr. Sample stated that Mayor Nesby is welcome to coordinate a Town Meeting with Duquesne Light if she would like to. Mayor Nesby feels the residents of Duquesne should be included. Mr. Sample said he could put meeting information on City's website.

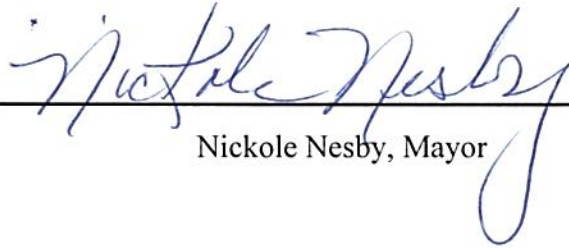


8:01 pm

**ADJOURNMENT**

**I make a motion to adjourn the meeting.**

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



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Nickole Nesby, Mayor



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Marian Marko-Eberle, Executive Assistant