

## City of Duquesne Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** May 27, 2025

**Time:** 6:30 PM

**Location:** Council Chambers / Zoom

### Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Adams at 6:30 PM.

**Moment of Silence** and the **Pledge of Allegiance** were observed.

### Roll Call:

- Mayor Adams – Present
- Councilperson Washington – Present
- Councilperson Adams – Present
- Councilperson Artim – Absent
- Councilperson Brownfield – Present
- Deputy Mayor: Councilperson Washington (acting in place of Mayor Adams during portions of the meeting)

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### Public Comments

There were no public comments submitted via Zoom or in person.

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### Agenda Review

- Review of the minutes and bill list to be voted on at the June 3, 2025 Council Meeting.

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### Public Safety

**Motion:** To adopt **Resolution 2025-007**, amending Resolution 2024-014 to increase the Chief of Police's salary to \$93,000/year effective April 6, 2025 (pro-rated).

**Motion by:** Councilperson Arteman

**Seconded by:** Councilperson Brownfield

**Vote:** 4 Ayes, 1 Abstention (Mayor Adams)

**Result:** Motion passed

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## Public Works

Councilperson Elaine reported ongoing maintenance challenges due to rain and overgrown vegetation. A more detailed report will be presented at the June 3 meeting.

### Concerns Discussed:

- Visibility obstruction due to overgrown hedges at the corner of Fifth and Viola.
  - One-way stop sign visibility issue at Lime Alley and Fifth Street.
- Issues will be forwarded to the Public Works Director.
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## Water Department

Councilperson Aaron Adams reported:

- Toured wastewater treatment facility; assistance program flyers will be distributed.
  - PA American Water expressed interest in participating in Community Day.
  - Awaiting garbage collection reports.
  - Exploring options for future estimates on water and garbage collection systems.
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## Community & Economic Development

Councilperson Denise Brownfield reported:

### 1. Ordinances:

- **Landlord-Tenant Ordinance 2025-002:** Clarifies applicability.
  - First Reading: June 3, 2025
  - Second/Third Reading: July 1, 2025
- **Recreational Vehicle Ordinance 2025-003:** Adds language about boat storage.
  - First Reading: June 3, 2025
  - Second/Third Reading: July 1, 2025

### 2. Grant Applications:

- **Trails & Recreation Grant:** For Polish Hill Park renovation (Phase 2), estimated at \$370,000 (max grant \$250,000).
- Possible partnership with Dick's Foundation and the school district for additional support, especially for upgrading basketball courts and baseball fields.

### 3. Community Updates:

- **Multimodal Grant:** No update.
- **Community Day Parade:** Scheduled for August 2, 2025, at 10 AM.
- **Chapel Gardening Event:** May 31, 9 AM; volunteers needed.
- **Storybook Trail Grant:** Funding was withdrawn. City seeking local/state official support.

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## Accounts & Finance

Councilperson Artim: No report at this time. Will present at the June meeting.

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## Engineering Report – Laura Brandthoover

- **Small Water & Sewer Project:** Ongoing; inspections scheduled.
  - **LSA Project:** Second Street paving to begin in the next few weeks.
  - **Library Court:** May be added to a larger bid package if funding allows.
  - **Paving Bids:** Recommended combining CD funding and Lead Copper Replacement bids for cost-efficiency.
  - **Demolitions:**
    - 2023 GEDTF demolitions completed.
    - 2022 Act 152 demolitions on Crawford Street ready to bid
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## New Initiatives (Councilperson Aaron Adams)

- Proposed exploring **tax abatements** for new commercial development.
  - Exploring policy to **forgive back taxes** for buyers of distressed properties with school district coordination.
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## Solicitor's Report

Myron Sinovic – Absent

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## City Manager's Report – Doug Sample

- Mechanical Devices & Landlord-Tenant Registration Database completed; mailings scheduled for mid-June.
  - Anticipated traffic impacts from McKeesport Bridge detour; no residential disruptions expected.
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## Police Department

Chief Shaw – Absent (Report to be presented June 3)

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## **Fire Department**

Chief Frank Cobb – Absent (Report to be presented June 3)

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## **Boards & Commissions**

- **Planning Commission** – No report
  - **Zoning Hearing Board** – No report
  - **Police Citizen Review Board** – Chair Debbie Chaffin not present
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## **Old Business**

None discussed

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## **Upcoming Events**

- **Next Council Meeting:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 @ 6:30 PM
- **Government Study Commission:** Monday, June 16, 2025 @ 6:30 PM
- **Youth Events:**
  - 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament: June 19, 12–3 PM at Polish Hill Park
  - Duquesne Dukes Rebirth Parade: June 27 @ 10 AM

**Bench Dedication:** Scheduled for June 27 @ 9:30 AM – Planning underway.

**Summer Youth Employment:** City lacks certified supervisors for under-18 youth. Over-18 individuals may apply for part-time work. Referrals made to the Food Bank and Learn & Earn Program.

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## **Public Comment**

- **Pat Blewett:** Suggested applying for the **Kaboom Program** for park funding and offered thanks for the recent Veterans Memorial event.
- **Council & Public Commendation:** Recognized and appreciated all candidates from the recent election.

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## **Adjournment**

**Motion:** To adjourn

**Seconded:** Yes

**Time:** 7:15 PM

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**Mayor R. Scott Adams**

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**City Manager Douglas Sample**