

**CITY OF DUQUESNE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2020
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES**

6:36 pm Meeting was called to order by Mayor Nickole Nesby
There was a moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and
Opening Prayer

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

Other Present: City Manager, Douglas Sampler, City Solicitor Myron Sainovich, City Engineer
Dave Gilliland, Fire Chief Frank Cobb, Act 47 Coordinator, Kristen, Administrative Assistant,
Marian Marko-Eberle

Absent: Chief Thomas Dunlevy, Dave Bires, Treasurer, Police Advisory Board Member, Debra
Chaffin

PUBLIC COMMENT

****Mr. Burton Comensky** approached the microphone to acknowledge the City of Duquesne
appointing two members to the Board and views this to be a great asset going forward for the
City of Duquesne. Mr. Comensky also offer best wishes to them.

Mr. Comensky proceeded to speak asking why the second person in line who was a write-in for
the Treasure's position would not just be appointed to the position since Mr. Bires was not
interested. Per Solicitor Sainovich, the process does not work in such a way to just appoint the
next person in line for a position. There is an official process that needs to be followed in a case
like this where the candidate with the highest number of votes declines the position.

Mr. Comensky then proceeded to say he would like to be appointed to one of the two open
positions with Steel Valley Authority and would appreciate the Board supporting him.

**** Laura Perkins**, Emergency Response Organizer spoke next. Ms. Perkins works for the Casa
san Jose Latino Resource & Welcome Center. Ms. Perkins gave a synopsis of a draft based from
the Pittsburgh PD "Unbiased Policing" policy, December 4, 2019, which she mentioned
Duquesne does not have. Ms. Perkin mentioned that she has met with Mayor Nesby, but is will
to meet with anyone else to answer any questions he/she may have.

Mayor Nesby spoke up that she provided information to Chief Dunlevy and Board Members via
email approximately three weeks ago. Mayor did state that Chief Dunlevy had a question about
the legally about ignoring the law by the police and "yes" per this Non Profit they state it is legal.

Councilman Adams asked the question if this was also supported by the Mayor's Innovation
Project. Per Mayor Nesby, "no two different organizations."

****Ms. Perkins** was reaching out to work together with the City of Duquesne for the best interest
of everyone involved. For more details refer to the information attached to these minutes
(attachment).

**Mr. Ronald Brookins, resident of Duquesne spoke next on the activity that is happening on his street, South 7th Street in Duquesne is bad. Mr. Brookins adamantly stated “something has to be done before something more serious happens. Mr. Brookins shared a situation that occurred on Christmas where a bullet went through his house. Mr. Brookins is asking that the police beef up police patrol on this street. Mr. Brookins also mentioned that the same car cruises up and down his street every day. Mr. Brookins also mentioned that his neighbor got stuck up by a gun being pointed to the neighbor’s hear. Then the neighbor’s car was stolen where the driver drove down the street, abandoned the car, and then fled from the screen. Mr. Brookins asked for cameras and lights to be placed on South 7th Street.

Mayor Nesby introduced Maureen Strahl as the new City of Duquesne Controller for a 2 Year Term.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minute(s) – December 17, 2019
2. Bill List – January 14, 2020

The Motion to approve the January 14, 2020 Consent Agenda was made by
First: Elaine Washington **Second:** Richard Scott Adams **Motion carried 4-0**

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-01 approving the authorized signers for all accounts except the Youth Council account at First Commonwealth Bank was made by
First: Mayor Nesby **Second:** Elaine Washington **Motion carried: 4-0**

The Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-02 approving the authorized signers for the Youth Council account at First Commonwealth Bank was made by
First: Mayor Nesby **Second:** Rev Tim Caldwell **Motion carried: 4-0**

**Mayor Nesby asked who is on the signature cards now. Per City Manager, Douglas Sample; Mayor Nesby, Chief Dunlevy, and the City Manager, Douglas Sample. Mr. Sample stated that three signatures are required.

The motion to appoint David Bires as the City’s Treasurer for a term to expire December 31, 2021 was made by
First: Richard Scott Adams **Second:** Elaine Washington **Motion carried 3-0**

**By qualifications of Title II Code 11401, Mayor Nesby voiced her opinion that she does not feel that Mr. Bires is fitting for the position of City Treasurer, since he is not a CPA or has an accounting background.

**Ms. Maser Michaels interjected that one does not have to be a CPA to hold the Treasurer’s position. Ms. Maser Michaels also said that she does not see any clarity in the discussion and like the City will get a new Treasurer.

**Councilperson, Washington spoke up to say that going forward qualifications of a new Treasurer will be considered for the official qualifications.

**Mr. Sample spoke to say that Mr. Bires had the most write-in votes on the ballot, however, initially he did not want to certify his position. Mr. Sample reported that after a conversation with Mr. Bires, Mr. Bires agreed to stay on as Treasurer for three months. At that time, the Board then has 30 days to find a person to fill the Treasurer position.

Motion to authorize Myron Sainovich to advertise and petition the Court to approve the City's 2020 Earned Income Tax Rate was by

First: Mayor Nesby **Second:** Rev. Tim Caldwell **Motion carried: 4-0**

**Ms. Strahl asked what the current Tax Rate was. Per Mr. Sample, the Tax Rate is 1.3.

**Mayor Nesby stated that in March of 2019 she asked about the increase, but was never responded to.

**Mr. Sample stated this is not an increase over last year.

1. Administration

a. Employee Training Policy

**Mr. Sample referenced the Employee Training Policy which he stated is in each Board member's and Mayor's packet. He asked the Board members and the Mayor to review.

b. Elected and Appointed Officials Training Policy

**Mr. Sample referenced the Elected and Appointed Officials Training Policy which he stated was in each Board member's and Mayor's folder to review

**Ms. Maser Michaels inquired about a policy for staff employment. Mr. Sample responded by saying he will add to his list to develop.

**There was a question regarding a random policy for the police in the case of alcohol, drugs, etc. Per Solicitor Sainovich random policies for the police would go to the Union. However, if there are obvious signs of behavior of an officer there is power in place test the officer.

**Mr. Sample summed up this section of discussion by saying receipts always have to be turned in and for any overnight stays needs to be approved by the Council.

c. Appointment Policy

**Mr. Sample referenced the Appointment Policy and asked the Board member's and Mayor to review. Councilperson, Ms. Washington asked a question if people should be bonded

Mr. Sample said that would not be necessary, but stated that the policy that interested candidates must submit a criminal background check.

d. Pittsburgh Business Exchange Membership

**Mayor Nesby made mention that she met with the Pittsburgh Business Exchange and recommends the membership.

**Ms. Strahl spoke up in a positive manner regarding the Pittsburgh Business Exchange stating her boss is a member and through networking many businesses her company has saved a considerable amount of money for different services they use.

**Mayor Nesby added there are 6000 businesses involved in the Business Exchange. Mayor Nesby also mention there are ten people from the City.

e. 2020 Meeting Schedule

**Mayor Nesby approached the top of a possible meeting schedule change. After a brief discussion, Mayor Nesby suggested all involved email his/her meeting options to Mimi (Marian) who will put together a report to see what day would work for everyone going forward for the meeting year of 2020. Mr. Sample then added that he was going to advertise the January 28, 2020 Council meeting for now.

f. Vetting of Elected Officials

**Mr. Sample made mention to the Board and Mayor to let him know if there are any additional changes for the above mentioned items and he will go accordingly.

2. Community and Economic Development
 - a. InCity Farms Subdivision
 - b. Ordinance – Abating Derelict Properties
 - c. Ordinance – Adopting International Property Maintenance Code
3. Public Safety
4. Public Works
5. Water Department

EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed) – NO EXECUTIVE SESSION

OLD BUSINESS – NO DISCUSSION

1. Accounts and Finance
2. Administration
3. Community and Economic Development
 - a. Steel Valley Authority – there are two (2) vacancies on the Board of Directors that need to be filled
4. Public Safety
5. Public Works
6. Water Department

Before adjournment, Ms. Pat Bluett of the Boys and Girls Club was invited to speak by Mayor Nesby. Ms. Bluett provided handouts (refer to attachment) on the Jefferson Community Collaborative of the United States Census 2020. Ms. Bluett continued to ask that ALL effort be made to participate to avoid the City losing \$100,000 over the next ten years.

Ms. Bluett then mentioned should participation be low I the City Census takers will be needed. Ms. Bluett mention the rate for a Census takers is approximately \$23.00/hr.

7:27 pm there was a motion to adjourn

ADJOURNMENT

First: Mayor Nesby Second: Elaine Washington Motion carried 4-0

Mayor Nickole Nesby

Marian Marko-Eberle