

City of Duquesne
Tuesday, October 8, 2019
Workshop Minutes

6:32 pm

Meeting was called to order by Mayor 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 Nikole Nesby

Others Present: Interim City Manager MaryLouise Bittner, City Solicitor Myron Sainovich, City Engineer Gilliland, Police Chief Thomas Dunlevy, Fire Chief Frank Cobb, Police Citizen review Board Deborah Chaffin; Administrative Assistant Marian Marko-Eberle

Public Comments:

Mr. Val Byrd, a former Duquesne resident, but currently is from out of town approached the microphone and asked if he could address the Madam to speak even though he did not sign in. Mayor Nesby approved. Mr. Byrd proceeded to say he was stopped and had verbal threats made to him by a City of Duquesne's officer. Once the officer, Officer Johnson approached Mr. Byrd's car, Mr. Byrd asked why he was being stopped. The officer asked for his identification at which Mr. Byrd complied. Mr. Byrd was then asked to get out of the car at which the officer stated this was a Code of Duquesne to ask him to get out of the car and that he can do whatever he wants to do. During the course of this stop, Mr. Byrd asked several times what the problem was when the officer repeated several more times that the police can do whatever he/she wants to do. At one point the officer did say the stop was for tinted windows. At that point, Mr. Byrd stated the officer cannot search his car. Mr. Byrd feels much violated. Mr. Byrd stated he filed a grievance and was told nothing will be done about it. At this time, Mayor Nesby asked that Mr. Byrd see her after the meeting.

Rev. Peter Roy asked if he could be recognized even though he did not sign in to approach the Board Members and the Mayor. Rev. Roy wanted to address the Council and Mayor as to why he has not been attending meetings. Rev. Roy started by saying he wanted to thank everyone for inviting him to meetings, however, due to other obligations he had to make a decision on how to balance his time to be productive. Rev. Roy ended his speaking time by say "I hope the City will rise."

Mayor Nesby announced at the meeting that the normal set up for a Workshop meeting is to sit in the middle of the floor of the room to interact with the community and not to have the Council and Mayor sit on the platform as they are doing.

New Business:

Workshop Item #1 – Abby from the Human Services Center would like to speak a few minutes to let people in the community know about VITA, the free tax assistance program

Mayor Nesby welcomed Abby from Human Services Center, in Turtle Creek, to speak about VITA, a free tax assistance available to the community. However, Abby was not present to speak, but the Mayor did state there is a two day Tax season and once dates are chosen there will be door hangers that will be distributed to residents.

Workshop Item #2 – Discussion on authorizing the Mayor to seek funding for a grant on violence from the Allegheny County Health Department of approx. \$300,000 for the City of Duquesne, the City of Duquesne School District and two other communities.

Mayor Nesby reported the first meeting was held in the City of Duquesne’s Council Room; one resident and a pastor attended the meeting to talk over the grant. In conjunction to the School District for support the group is looking at what activities to have students move from point A to point B. At this time, no definite details are in place. The Mayor announced she is looking for community interaction.

Workshop Item #3 – Discussion on updating the International Property Management Code to 2018 (it is currently at the 2006 edition) as recommended by Lt. Shaw as Code Enforcement Officer:

Solicitor Myron Sainovich needs authorization for the Ordinance to be written now to be added to 2018

Workshop Item #4 – Discussion on using the Department of Community and Economic Development funds allocated for hardware on the purchase of a new server for the City, sharing a virtual server with the Police Department (the Interim City Manager will have quotes in advance of the regular meeting).

MaryLouise spoke to say there are no quotes at this time, but she will provide quotes at the regular meeting. This would include nine work stations, however, migrating the information from one system to another has issues. MaryLouise suggests this be placed on a high priority list. MaryLouise also stated that Windows 8 will not be supported by Microsoft in the year 2020. An original cost was \$9,800. Currently, MaryLouise’s last ball park figure for a quote is \$4,500. A DCED grant would be good to help absorb some of the cost along with the Police Department sharing some of the cost as well of which the Police Department will get 2/3’s use of the server.

Workshop #5 – Discussion on the purchase of a backup chlorinator pump at a cost of approx. \$2000

Richard Scott Adams stated a chlorinator pump was purchased in July 2019, however, approx. one week ago there was a problem with the pump. Currently there is a backup pump that is on loan from the company the City of Duquesne purchased the original chlorinator pump. Mayor Nesby asked if there was a warranty on the pump. Mr. Adams stated he will check to make sure the pump that is on loan is up to code and report back. Mr. Adams still strongly recommends having a backup pump on hand at all times, which is a regulation. In the meantime, Mr. Adams will contact the company to see if the City can use the pump on loan for the rest of the year.

Workshop #6 – Discussion on sending Frank DiPaolo to a seminar on November 13, 2019 in Uniontown pertaining to reporting deadlines, compliance issues if a violation(s) has been reported concerning water sampling/testing as recommended by Sara Kocak from the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County:

A question was asked if this would go toward this employee's accreditation.

Workshop #7 – Discussion on approval of payment of \$2000 from the pension funds(s) to CIM Investment Management, Inc. for general financial advisory services per the Municipal Advisory Agreement dated July 24, 2018 between the City and CIM Investment Management, Inc.

Terra Henderson-Murphy asked MaryLouise if she put this on the list because she didn't remember seeing it. MaryLouise answered "yes she did." Mayor Nesby spoke up to say CIM advises the City of Duquesne of any Pension beneficial information.

Solicitor Myron Sainovich explained the money comes out of the Pension Fund. Mr. Masnik is the person who monitors this fund. So in essence, it is actually a cost for the Pension fund itself. Pastor Roy from the audience reiterated the above explanation of CIM to the City Board and then commented it's a good deal. MaryLouise asked how were the funds split. Solicitor Sainovich stated "evenly."

Upon research, CIM was found to have the best program going vs other program. Prior to CIM overseeing the Pension Fund, Ms. Terra Henderson-Murphy, the Mayor and another person, no name mentioned, monitored this fund.

The Mayor voted that the pension audits are open to the public

Workshop #8 – Discussion on appointing a delegate and alternate delegate to represent the City with the Allegheny County Southwest Tax Collection District

The delegates will make decisions on how taxes should be distributed and making responsible decision. Per Mayor left opened.

Workshop #9 – Discussion on inter-municipal task force Community Agreement with City of Duquesne and the Boroughs of Homestead, Munhall, West Homestead, West Mifflin, and Whitaker:

Mayor Nesby reported she met with other communities, but no definite plan on how to handle gun control or other issues at this time. MaryLouise met with Chief Tom Dunlevy to learn that other communities have a few things in place at this time. Solicitor Myron Sainovich stated what powers will be with limitations. Mrs. Terra Henderson-Murphy asked if this can this be voted on. Per Solicitor Sainovich he does not suggest voting.

Mr. Richard Scott Adams believes the Chief of Police has been sharing information with other communities for gun control. Chief Dunlevy responded Duquesne Officers know who the shooters are and the officers are out seeking the crime before it happens. Mr. Adams referred to an example of a data base that use to be used to alert what may be issues of crime.

Chief Dunlevy proceeded to share that outside detectives ride along with the City's officers to pin point and share information they may have about any problems that they are aware of from their community. An unknown attendee questioned if this is what is going on than there must be overtime involved. Chief Dunlevy was firm on answering "no overtime is involved."

Ms. Terra Henderson-Murphy interrupted to voice then if there is no crime committed then cars would not be stopped. Chief Dunlevy followed up with saying, for example, the officers know that 7th Street is a problem, so if detectives are in the area and notice individuals from their home area they would certainly monitored.

Ms. Terra Henderson-Murphy then asked if McKeesport was doing this to combat street crime. An unknown audience member spoke up to say he did not understand why having other detectives have to come into the City of Duquesne Officers to ride with our officers. Why does the City of Duquesne have to bring in other officers/detectives from other communities to monitor Duquesne? Why can't the City of Duquesne get who they know to police from our own community?

Chief Dunlevy responded and asked everyone to understand that McKeesport Detectives are funded and have 66 officers on staff. Chief Dunlevy also informed everyone that the City of Duquesne has a high turnover due to not being able to pay what other communities pay their officers.

Officer Titmus who was in attendance asked to speak. Officer Titmus was formerly on a Narcotics Force and is now working for the City of Duquesne since May 2019. Office Titmus mention he is from Homestead, so he is quite familiar with the City. Officer Titmus stated that he reaches out to the public every chance he gets.

Ms. Terra Henderson-Murphy mentioned that when she tried organizing Basketball with the kids, Officer Titmus was always one of the good guys to be involved.

Mayor Nesby added to the conversation by saying "People aren't encouraged to go into Law Enforcement.

Rev. Tim Caldwell questioned if an officer pulls someone over how he does the officer know if this is a real problem or not if no other outside officer is around. Chief Dunlevy states it should be a responsible call to pull someone over.

Workshop #10 – Discussion on permits and process for filming crews with the City of Duquesne (the Interim City Manager will have some possible solutions to distribute before the regular meeting).

Mayor Nesby stated the City of Duquesne did not have a permit at the time the City was confronted for filming which she checked with Solicitor Myron Sainovich. Mayor Nesby suggested the City of Duquesne have a permit on hand for the future so the City can reap the offer.

An unknown audience person mention that the City should have something on hand due to a filming back in 1991-1992, which Mr. Richard Scott Adams mentioned he was not the Chief of Police at that time the movie was filmed in Duquesne, which he remembers, however, Mr. Adams was on the Force and did work the detail. The Mayor stated this information cannot be located along with 2018 Ordinances. Ms. Kristen Maser Michaels from Act 47 suggested checking with Braddock Borough where filming has taken place. Mayor Nesby asked for someone to check with Debra Brown, Manager of Braddock Borough regarding a Ryder.

Workshop #11 – Discussion on Public Works taking tables from the Boys & Girls Club to the school gymnasium on October 31 and returning them on November 1.

Mayor Nesby mentioned this is for the annual Halloween Parade. Ms. Elaine Washington asked "why is the City doing it and not the school going down?" Ms. Pat Bluett explained this is not a school parade. Ms. Bluett also mentioned the distribution of candy use to be done at the Fire Station, but can no longer be used due to the area being unsafe. Ms. Bluett also mention 600 kids come through that's why the school gymnasium is used. Ms. Bluett handed out fliers to the

Council Members, the Mayor, and the attendees of the meeting and asked for anyone to be a part of the festivities and help out too.

An unknown attendee stood up to say having this activity as a community is safe for the kids and the kids totally enjoy the parade and treats!

Workshop Item #12 – Discussion on candy donations from the City of Duquesne and volunteers to pass the candy out.

Mayor Nesby invited everyone in attendance at this meeting to come together to help out with the Halloween festivity in any way they could. Whether it be to set up, donate candy, hand out candy, serve food to the kid, and clean out would be very appreciated. Mayor asked the audience to reach out and invite additional help as well.

Workshop Item #13 – Discussion on blocking other streets for the Halloween parade from 4:00 pm to 4:30 pm on N 4th Street from Kennedy Avenue to Grant Avenue, and Grant Avenue to S 3rd Street.

Public Works will have the streets blocked off for the parade during the time frame of 4:00 pm – 4:30 pm to provide safety for the kids in the parade.

Workshop Item #14 – Discussion on a request for funding to the Youth Council for a Cancer Awareness project.

Mayor Nesby stated that \$700 will be used from their fund. An unknown attendee inquired whose fund this was. Mayor Nesby said “that Duquesne has an account within the City of \$4,500. Ms. Terra Henderson-Murphy said we can allocate money to the Blessed Chosen Mime Ministry. Mayor Nesby stated confidently there was money allocated to this account in 2018 because \$500 was paid out in 2018 for a Mime event. Ms. Elaine Washington expressed she just wants to make sure the money is there.

Ms. MaryLouise spoke to say she was under the impression \$1500 was allocated, but later stated the \$1500 was allocated at a Council meeting for the Review Board.

Solicitor Myron Sainovich brought up the fact that money may have been allocated in a budget line for 2018, however, if a provision wasn't made it may not be a line item number in 2019. Ms. Terra Henderson-Murphy is to check on this and report back to the Board Members. Ms. Kristen Maser Michaels from Act 47 mentioned she will also check on this and report back to the Board Members

Mayor Nesby repeated again a separate account was set up and to give the money as soon as possible if the money is there.

Workshop Item #15 – Discussion on authorizing Civil Service testing for the Police Department

OLD BUSINESS

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

7:42 pm Motion to go into Executive Session

Mayor Nesby voiced to finish the item discussions and then go into the Executive meeting at which there was a motion by the Board to go into the Executive Meeting.

The audience attendees asked for an open vote to go into Executive Session. The motion was made;

First: Terra Henderson-Murphy **Second:** Elaine Washington **No:** Mayor Nesby

Motion carried 4-1

Mayor Nesby exited the Executive Session for the night

8:12 pm Executive Session Concluded

First: Terra Henderson-Murphy **Second:** Elaine Washington **Absent:** Mayor Nesby

MOTION carried: 4-0

Workshop Item # 16 – Motion to ratify actions taken in executive session related to personnel matters

An unknown attendee asked if there were any law suits on the City. Rev. Tim Caldwell responded by saying “when the Solicitor comes out he will advise us as to what the status is.” Solicitor Myron Sainovich informed the attendees that there was only one law suit from the former City Manager which has been resolved (thrown out). Other than that there is a Union litigation that is in process that he is getting rid of.

Ms. Bluett commented she would like City community set aside personalities and work together, but to work to get work done in a professional way for progress making the City of Duquesne a nice place to live.

Motion made by Ms. Elaine Washington to advertise for a Public Works Position

Rev. Tim Caldwell took gavel to continue the Workshop meeting in the absence of Mayor Newby

Workshop Item #17 – Discussion on approving the draft Financial Policies as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Ms. Terra Henderson-Murphy inquired if any of the Board Members looked the policy over. Mr. Adams stated “he did.” Ms. Henderson-Murphy commented the policy is a good one.

Workshop Item #18 – Discussion on approving the draft Credit Card Purchasing Policy as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Solicitor Myron Sainovich explained the process of this policy together is in progress and should have in two weeks for the next meeting on Tuesday, October 22, 2019.

Ms. MaryLouise Bittner asked Ms. Elaine Washington if she is doing any chances to shorten and it will be sent out to the Board Members and the Mayor for review.

Workshop Item #19 – Discussion on a second reading and a motion on an ordinance to repeal the ordinance setting the Mayor’s

Rev. Tim Caldwell and Mr. Richard Scott Adams both asked if this could be discussed in two weeks at the October 22, 2019 Council Meeting

Workshop Item #20 – Discussion on Authorization for the interim City Manager to advertise an ordinance requiring property owners to mow grass, trim hedges, trim shrubbery and remove noxious weeds, obstructions and the refuse produced thereby as prepared by the City Solicitor

Rev. Tim Caldwell stated “yes, there are too many properties in the condition mentioned above,

An unknown audience attendee asked “what about cars?” Rev. Tim Caldwell answered Code Enforcement will oversee the issue regarding the cars question.

Workshop Item #21 – Discussion on renewing the membership to the PA State Mayors’ Association at a cost of \$60.00

MaryLouise Bittner said there was no Motion the Motion dropped. Rev. Tim Caldwell asked what the benefits would be for the Mayor in having a membership to the PA State Mayor’s Association. MaryLouise explained the Mayor would have access to a lot of informational issues around the State.

Since Mayor Nesby was not present for this Workshop Item, Mr. Richard Scott Adams felt the Mayor should be a part of this discussion.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

First: Rev. Timothy Caldwell **Second:** Richard Scott Adams **Absent:** Mayor Nesby

MOTION carried 4-0

Nikole Nesby, Mayor

Marian Marko-Eberle, Administrative Assistant