

CITY OF DUQUESNE
TUESDAY, November 24, 2020
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
BUSINESS MEETING

A Traditional City Council Meeting did not take place due to not having a Quorum. However, the Board let the Attendees speak in more of a Town Hall setting.

6:40 pm

Kelly Robertson confirmed that there was not a Quorum of the Board to conduct a Traditional City Council Meeting this evening.

Present: Councilperson, Richard Scott Adams, City Manager, Kelly Robertson, City Manager, Douglas Sample, Councilperson Terra Henderson-Murphy, Councilperson Elaine Washington

Others Present: Solicitor, Myron Sainovich, Act 47 Coordinator, George Dougherty, Travis Kniss, Caterina Pagano, Gregory Hillard, Ms. Bluett

Absent: Councilperson, Tim Caldwell, Police Chief, Thomas Dunlevy, Police Chief, Thomas Dunlevy, Ms. Debra Chaffin, Mayor Nickole Nesby

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes – November 10,2020
2. Bill List – November 24, 2020

MOTION: I move to approve the November 24, 2020 Consent Agenda.

Mr. Sample asked Sainovich Sainovich how he suggests they talk about the City of Duquesne's Budget under the circumstances of no Quorum. Solicitor Sainovich suggested to schedule another date with no advertising. Mr. Sample went on to say that since there were Community members on the Zoom call should discussion about the City getting out of Act 47 be addressed. Mr. Sample then stated that the budget is based off of the Harris Computer Systems financials for what we need to build the budget. Mr. Sample brought up about a Millage increase to build and fund the necessary expenditures of the City.

Councilperson Henderson-Murphy presented a question to Mr. Dougherty asking if it was possible to get an extension for Act 47. Councilperson Henderson-Murphy then followed up by saying “she does not think the constituents will be able to afford an increase in taxes. Mr. Dougherty responded by saying that Ms. Roberson, Mr. Sample are working on recommending an alternative to the Exit the Plan of Act 47 for 18 months for recovery due to Covid-19. Mr. Dougherty stated he would recommend one and a half years to get out of Act 47. Mr. Dougherty also mentioned that a restructure would help the City as well. Councilperson Henderson-Murphy agreed that Mr. Sample and Ms. Robertson are doing a good job, however, if the City continues to keeping making increases the constituents won’t be able to pay and she doesn’t feel this will help the City. Mr. Sample agreed with Councilperson Henderson-Murphy that the City needs a little revenue. Councilperson Washington brought up the fact that the City is a little under 85% in tax collections.

Councilperson Henderson-Murphy made mention that she observed Mr. Robertson comparing prices for purchases, which helps cut expenditure expenses in the long run.

The discussion continued with Mr. Dougherty suggesting to figure out what to cut due to size of the City’s budget. Mr. Dougherty then suggested cuts such as staff and services. Ms. Robertson spoke up to say that the City is at a skeleton crew right now. Mr. Dougherty suggested that he, Mr. Sample, and Ms. Robertson work on some negotiations. Councilperson Henderson-Murphy stated she just wants to visit all options. Councilperson Washington made mention to the fact that she makes every attempt to make sure her taxes are paid, but knows that there are residents who do not pay their taxes. Mr. Dougherty suggested that tax collections should be more aggressive. Mr. Dougherty then said “identify empty lots and which buildings need to come down, which could help the City move up to 95% making the budget healthy. Councilperson Washington expressed her concern that she did not think the City was doing anything with vacant lots. Councilperson Henderson-Murphy asked the question if people could buy lots. Mr. Dougherty stated that he met with Councilperson Caldwell to discuss people purchasing lots where they would get the lots free and clear. As the discussion continued, Mr. Dougherty stated it comes down to adding and subtracting. Councilperson Henderson-Murphy asked if the City was in a position to borrow money. Mr. Dougherty took the lead to say “no borrowing at this time.”

Ms. Robertson reported that the City has 400 people on the shut off list and feels moving forward there should be a more aggressive approach to get people to pay their water bill. At this time, Ms. Robertson stated that due to no Quorum this is not a Traditional City Council Meeting.

Solicitor Sainovich moved the direction of conversation to Mr. Kniss regarding the plans looking good for the McDonald project. Solicitor Sainovich gives his okay on the plans and suggested the project move forward. Solicitor Sainovich stated that Planning recommends approval which can be ratified at the next meeting. Mr. Sample brought up the two (2) planning modules for Popeye’s and asked Solicitor Sainovich if this could also be ratified at the next meeting. Solicitor Sainovich responded by answering “yes, don’t hold the project up.” Solicitor Sainovich had no further questions on this matter. Councilperson Henderson-Murphy asked Mr. Kniss to

give an overview of the McDonald's project. Per Mr. Kniss stated they want to demolish the existing building to start over and address a sewage issue. Mr. Kniss stated that if all falls into place like they would like it to he is looking at braking ground around March of 2021. He would also like toopen in 90 days for Memorial Day of 2021. Mr. Sample stated that at the December 8, 2020 meeting it'll be a ratification. At this time, Councilperson Washington thanked the two (2) gentlemen who are undertaking such a project. Mr. Kniss ended by saying "he just wantst to make it a better place.

Ms. Robertson asked if there was anything else that could be discussed on the agenda. Mr. Sample responded we hit the necessary items.

Councilperson Washington asked if the Board would let Ms. Bluett talk. Ms. Bluett gave an overview of the upcoming Christmas Holiday event in the City of Duquesne. Ms. Bluett mention that although the City is planning no tradition light up night due to Covid-19 there still be a day of fun and festivities. Ms. Bluett arranged with Fire Chief Cobbwho agreed, to have Santa ride on a Fire Truck visiting church parking lots where she felt it best to cover the majority of the community to still have the fun and excitement of seeing Santa. Ms. Bluett has also arranged to have readings and overall fellowship for the event as well. Ms. Bluett then mentioned that Duquesne Partnership gave money to have a party bus as a back plan in the event it rains. Ms. Bluett acknowledged she appreciated seeing all the City Christmas decorations. Ms. Robertson gave thanks to Ang, the City's custodian, for the city to be ready for Sunday, November 29, 2020. Ms. Bluett explained the plan is to meet at City Hall then move throughout the City with treats for the kids along with the sound of sirens to add to the festivity of the day. Ms. Bluett wished everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. Ms. Bluett asked if the fliers provided by PRIDE could be put on the City's website.

Ms. Robertson asked if there were any other announcements. Solicitor Sainovich spoke up to say that that's all you can do

PUBLIC SAFETY

1. Report From Mayor – **NOT PRESENT – NO OFFICIAL REPORT PRESENTED**

PUBLIC WORKS – PRESENT – NO OFFICIAL REPORT PRESENTED

WATER DEPARTMENT

Although Councilperson Adams was present, an official report was not given at the time of the Town Hall. However, Councilperson Adams made mention that he would send his report to the Executive Assistant to include in the meeting.

REPORT of Councilperson Adams:

11-01-2020/ A leak to the Chlorination pump was fixed.

11-04-2020/ BAC-T samples were collected McDonalds/Meyers/City Hall. Clean results were reported.

11-10-2020/ Relay switch problem, at the Pump Station, was corrected by the technician from Manmarc. This service is no longer provided by Manmarc, thus Advanced Control has been contacted to provide that service if needed in the future.

11-23-2020/ BAC-T samples were collected at Rossner Ave/Burns Ave/Sunoco. Clean results were reported.

1. Resolution – Popeye’s Sewer Planning Module

MOTION: I move to adopt the Resolution No. 2020-23 authorizing the Sewer Planning Module for the Popeye’s Development.

2. Resolution – McDonald’s Sewer Planning Module

MOTION: I move to adopt the Resolution No 2020-24 authorizing the Sewer Planning Module for the McDonald’s Development.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Report From Councilperson Caldwell – **NOT PRESENT – NO OFFICIAL REPORT PRESENTED**
2. McDonald Subdivision

MOTION: I move to approve the Land Development Plan LD-01-2020 for the redevelopment of the McDonalds on Hoffman Blvd per satisfying the requirements of Allegheny County Economic Development and Glenn Engineering.

ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE

1. Report from Councilperson Henderson-Murphy – **PRESENT – NO OFFICIAL REPORT PRESENTED**
2. **Budget Update**

Treasurer

Controller – Maureen Strahl – **NOT PRESENT – NO OFFICIAL REPORT PRESENTED**

Solicitor – Solicitor Sainovich – **PRESENT – NO OFFICIAL REPORT PRESENTED**

CITY MANAGER – Kelly Robertson – **PRESENT – NO OFFICIAL REPORT PRESENTED**

Fire Door Renovation Change Order

MOTION: I move to ratify Change Order No 1 for the Fire Hall Door Renovation Project in the amount of \$14,470.34.

New Phone System – Phone Number

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Chief Thomas Dunlevy – **NOT PRESENT – NO OFFICIAL REPORT PRESENTED**

ACT 47 COORDINATOR – George Dougherty – **PRESENT – NO OFFICIAL REPORT PRESENTED**

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Chief Frank Cobb – **NOT PRESENT – NO OFFICIAL REPORT PRESENTED**

POLICE CITIZEN'S REVIEW BOARD – Debra Chaffin – **NOT PRESENT – NO OFFICIAL REPORT PRESENTED**

PUBLIC COMMENT

****Mr. Steven Sikora spoke on the following items:**

1. He would like to see some movement on vacant houses.
2. Mr. Sikora brought up the Mon Fayette Expressway and the Thompson Run Bridge being replaced. Mr. Sikora pointed out that the new bridge will be constructed over the railroad tracks with a slight curve from the North ending to the South.
3. Mr. Sikora then brought up a concern of disturbances doing the project by referring to round the clock noise, dust, traffic just to name a few. Mr. Sikora asked if there was any control Ordinance for when construction commences. Solicitor Sainovich said we can inquire, however, usually the construction is done by dinner time, but not sure of night time work and if so we can look into the issue.

Ms. Roberson asked if there were any other comments. Ms. Robertson then said “this will end this evening’s Zoom communication. Ms. Robertson then apologized for this night not being a regular traditional meeting.

7:11 pm

ADJOURNMENT

7:17 pm

Executive in Session

8:00 pm

Executive Session Adjourned