

2022 REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Duryea Borough Council was held at 315 Main Street on August 9, 2022, at 6:49 p.m. with Council President, Justin Tonte, presiding.

After a pledge to the flag, a roll call was taken: (5) council members present; Shupp, Zinkavich absent. Mayor Bauman was in attendance. With a quorum present, the meeting continued.

Council met in executive session this evening to discuss legal matters and personnel matters of the Street and Police Departments.

This public meeting was advertised in the Times Leader legal section. All minutes, correspondence, bills, and reports were made available for inspection.

A discussion was had regarding the need to adopt Skytop Drive since the borough has maintained that road for many years. Solicitor Watt to draft paperwork.

A discussion was had regarding signing an agreement with Waste Management. A new agreement has not been had between WM and the Borough in many years. An addition to this agreement is an 11.1% wastewater fee.

A discussion was had regarding the difference in the SPCA Initiative (costs vs services) and the No Nonsense Neutering Program (\$15 spay/neuter for the first two years).

A discussion was had regarding the Traffic Signal Technologies Grant program to add video detection and sensors to all four traffic lights in the borough.

A discussion was had regarding sponsorship for an RACP Grant for Pride Mobility.

Motion by Ameika, second by Rowlands to accept the minutes as posted. Roll call (5) yes.

Motion by Brudzinski, second by Rowlands that all correspondence be accepted, action be taken where necessary and placed on file. Roll Call (5) yes.

Motion by Ameika, second by Rowlands that all bills, wages, salaries, and commissions be paid when funds are available. Roll Call (5) yes.

Motion by Rowlands, second by Gromelski to approve payment of bills that were paid after the previous meeting, but before approval of bills for the current meeting. Roll call (5) yes.

Motion by Ameika, second by Brudzinski that all reports be accepted, action be taken where necessary and placed on file. Roll Call (5) yes.

Motion by Rowlands, second by Ameika to appoint the following part-time police officers for the month of September 2022, as necessary for the general welfare, health, and safety of the public:

Giles, Wall. Roll Call (5) yes.

Motion by Gromelski, second by Ameika to accept the resignation of Paul Harrison from the Duryea Borough Street Supervisor. Roll call (5) yes.

Motion by Rowlands, second by Gromelski to authorize the Borough Manager and the Borough Secretary's attendance at the annual PSAB Fall Leadership Conference, October 14-16 in Gettysburg, PA. Roll call (5) yes.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-6 was not voted on, due to lack of advertisement.

Motion by Ameika, second by Rowlands to hire Corey Hodick as a part-time Street Department Laborer, with less than 32 hours per week, at a starting rate of \$15.50 per hour. Roll call (5) yes.

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Motion by Brudzinski, second by Rowlands to authorize the engineer to put the Liquid Fuels paving project out to bid. Roll call (5) yes.

Motion by Ameika, second by Gromelski to hire Christopher Taylor as a full-time police officer, provided he successfully pass the full background check process and all other Borough and M.P.O.E.T.C. requirements for newly hired police officers. Officer will be subject to the probationary period as per the current Collective Bargaining Agreement. Also conditioned upon Council and the Duryea Borough Police Department Union reaching a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the period between today and Mr. Taylor successfully passing the M.P.O.E.T.C. EXAM, subject to the review of our Solicitor. Roll call (5) yes.

Motion by Rowlands, second by Gromelski to amend the agenda by adding a motion to approve the sponsorship for the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) Grant for Pride Mobility. Roll call (5) yes.

Motion by Gromelski, second by Rowlands to approve the sponsorship for the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) Grant for Pride Mobility. Roll call (5) yes.

Motion by Rowlands, second by Gromelski to amend the agenda by adding a motion to accept the resignation of Geoffrey Czajkowski from the Duryea Street Department. Roll call (5) yes.

Motion by Ameika, second by Brudzinski to accept the resignation of Geoffrey Czajkowski from the Duryea Street Department. Roll call (5) yes.

Public Comment:

- Bruce Prandy of Coxton Road questioned if the owners of Duryea Realty have been contacted regarding emergency use of Swamp Road. Also stated that if the road were needed, many people park directly in front of the gate on the Coxton Road end. Keith Moss stated that the use of the road is in the Emergency Management Plan, therefore making it available for use. Mr. Prandy asked if there would be a dry run with emergency departments since the road is fairly impassable and hasn't been used in a long time. Mr. Prandy thanked the Street Department for cutting back the weeds at the entrance of Coxton Road on Main Street.
- George Jendrey of McAlpine Street questioned the blight meeting that was had recently, the chain of command in the borough regarding blighted property and has a concern regarding fair treatment among properties in the borough. Solicitor Watt explained that while there are issues preventing code enforcement from taking care of blight quickly, there are also many properties much worse than the one being built next to his home. Mr. Jendrey stated that he has a civil suit scheduled this month with the property owner.
- Nick Radle of Mitchell Street discussed the water issue on his street along with the concern of the West Nile Virus in Luzerne County. Solicitor Watt stated that he contacted the engineering firm GTA to obtain a cost, along with the next steps to be taken which is to work with a civil engineer and JHA.
- Darlene Jamieson questioned if any funding has been secured for the Police Department from the \$4M loan for NEPA from the Redevelopment Authority (heroes grant).

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- Tom Furino of Lackawanna Ave stated that the town and emergency departments are in need of a crisis intervention program. He has volunteered to make his Chaplain services available and help out with suicide assist training. Stated that we need more cops in town.
- Mary Margavage stated that employees are not being retained because they are not being paid enough (street and police departments). Mrs. Margavage urges council to look at where taxes money is being spent and make cuts to afford more for employees.
- John McGlynn asks Solicitor Watt about the legality of a car being towed off his property at 144 Lackawanna Ave recently. Solicitor Watt stated that he could not answer to that since he has not been made aware of the situation until now. Mr. McGlynn threatened to sue the borough. Mr. McGlynn requested information on who has complained about his garage being in disrepair. Solicitor Watt suggested he file a formal right-to-know request to the borough manager. Mr. McGlynn suggested the borough start going after those that have stolen form the sewer authority; suggested Mr. Prandy go through Ransom in the event of an emergency; suggested Keith Moss resign and let someone else take over Emergency Management since he cannot get around; suggested code enforcement go after others in the borough for cars and properties in disrepair.
- Al Akulonis questioned if council plans on dismantling the Street Department.
- Kevin Chromey asked if council has any intention of getting rid of the Street Department, and if there is any profit from collecting trash; asked Mr. Furino for funding for more cops since we don't need that many; complaint about 519 Watt Street with cars in disrepair. Robert Webb stated that they are in the process of being taken care of. Questioned if anyone has had any contact with Medico regarding the property on the other side of the bridge; questioned Mr. Ameika since he was around when the river was supposed to be cleaned up the first time; Brown Street stop sign should be moved since many people miss it; questioned why the Chief takes the cop car home and why Officer Schlatter sits in the VFW parking lot so much.
- Allison Brudzinski thanked Paul Harrison for his time working as the Duryea Street Supervisor; good luck to newly hired Christopher Taylor.
- Mayor Bauman requested an update on the ARPA funds; stated that the fire departments lost a lot of money during covid and the street and police department deserve hazard pay. Urged residents to attend upcoming budget meetings to discuss funds and to look over the school tax issue. Mayor stated that state police will not work out well for Duryea. Congratulated Mr. Taylor on his hiring and welcome Corey Hodick to the street department.

With no further business to transact, the council entertained a motion to adjourn. First by Rowlands, second by Ameika to adjourn at 8:16 P.M.



Carolyn Santee
Borough Manager

2022 SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Duryea Borough Council was held at 315 Main Street on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. with Council President Justin Tonte, presiding.

This meeting was advertised in the Times Leader.

After a pledge to the flag, a roll call was taken: (5) council members present, Gromelski, Shupp and Mayor Bauman absent. With a quorum present, the meeting continued.

Motion by Rowlands, second by Ameika to award the job for Project: 2021 DR 4618 -PA DEBRIS REMOVAL PROJECT to James T. O'Hara in the amount of \$96,000.

No public comment.

With no further business to discuss, Council entertains a motion to adjourn. First by Ameika, second by Rowlands. Meeting ended at 4:04 p.m.



Carolyn Santee
Borough Manager