

2024 REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Duryea Borough Council was held at 315 Main Street, Duryea on December 10, 2024, at 6:59 p.m. with Council President, Stephanie Shupp presiding. After a pledge to the flag, a roll call was taken: (7) council members present. Mayor Bauman was in attendance. With a quorum present, the meeting continued. Council met in executive session this evening to discuss matters of administrative personnel. Please be advised that this public meeting was advertised in the Times leader legal section. A copy of the legal ad is attached. All minutes, correspondence, bills, and reports were made available for inspection.

Department Head reports

- Danny Nicheporcheck announced the tire collection on 12/14, drop off at 9 Foote Ave. from 9am-12pm; stated that the crew is working to spread mulch but having difficulty with recent rain/mud; questioned if there is a possibility of hydro seeding in the spring.
- Carolyn Santee announced the upcoming budget meeting 12/11 at 6pm; backhoe from LSA funds will be received tomorrow.

Council Comments

- Jim Gromelski stated that the regional compost collections are done for the year; they will resume in March in Pittston; they are still accepting Christmas trees; balance in account - \$74,000.
- Mike McGlynn stated that they are working to re-open Healey Playground; Black Label was contacted to repair the garage at the Street Department but has not responded, suggested finding another contractor to complete the work.
- Gino Marriggi stated that the 10th Christmas Stroll was a success, kudos to all involved.
- Jeanne Zinkavich also mentioned the success of the Stroll, thanking the vendors for providing a fire pit in the cold.
- Jef Bauman questioned the Land Bank minutes and asked if they are still meeting; suggested having the Land Bank look at blighted properties; Bill Watt stated that the tax sales are looked into by the Land Bank; suggested listing committees and authorities on our website if they do not have a website of their own.
- Bill Watt suggested putting the DBSA and LLVSA positions out to the public (website/Facebook) before planning on filling them; it is not a requirement but more transparent overall.

Old Business

- Stephanie Shupp suggested requesting the cost of repair/replace for the Stephenson Street Bridge again; Bill Watt to send a letter to Romilda Crocamo @ Luzerne County.

New Business

- Jef Bauman suggested having a work session separate from the monthly meeting in 2025.

Meeting

Motion by Marriggi, second by Zinkavich to accept the minutes as posted. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by Brudzinski, second by Gromelski that all correspondence be accepted, action be taken where necessary and placed on file. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by Tonte, second by Marriggi that all bills, wages, salaries, and commissions be paid when funds are available. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by Tonte, second by Zinkavich to approve payment of bills that were paid after the previous meeting, but before approval of bills for the current meeting. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by Gromelski, second by Brudzinski that all reports be accepted, action be taken where necessary and placed on file. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by Marriggi, second by Tonte to appoint following part-time police officers for the month of January 2025, as necessary for the general welfare, health, and safety to the public: Giles, Wall. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by Marriggi, second by Brudzinski to accept the resignation of Carina Fortini as Borough Secretary as of 10/28/2024. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by Zinkavich, second by Tonte to hire Ann Marie Mullin as a part-time Borough Secretary, starting at \$17.25 per hour with approximately 20 hours per week, with no guarantee of hours. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by McGlynn, second by Jeanne Zinkavich to table the motions to appoint members to the Duryea Borough Sewer Authority and the Lower Lackawanna Valley Sanitary Authority to the next Special Meeting. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by Brudzinski, second by Gromelski to accept that all council meetings are to be held on the second Tuesday of each month in 2025, with the exception of November which will be held on Wednesday, November 12th. (Work session was removed from motion, to be decided at a later date). Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by McGlynn, to spend the remaining ARPA funds by splitting between the two volunteer fire departments. No second motion. Motion dies.

Motion by Zinkavich, second by McGlynn to donate the remaining ARPA funds to the Hughestown Ambulance Association. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by Zinkavich, second by Gromelski to engage in a contract with the City of Pittston for the implementation and use of software provided by the iWorq Systems, Inc. Roll call (7) yes.


PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Keith Moss questioned if council would replace the door on the sandbag building; this will be sent to the purchasing committee for approval.
- Dave Guarilia questioned if his father's sign (Gene Guarilia) will be replaced. Jeanne Zinkavich stated that she did not receive a response from vo-tech. Trina Moss offered to touch base with them this week since she's working with them. Michael McGlynn stated that he could help with installation to cut costs and also requested getting the same sign from Jaworski Signs.

CLOSING COMMENTS:

- Allison Brudzinski congratulated Ann Marie Mullin on the secretary position; thanked the Christmas Stroll committee; Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
- Jim Gromelski and Justin Tonte thanked the Stroll Committee and all that helped out.
- Michael McGlynn suggested any legal and/or engineering items should go through Bill Watt and Mike Amato for a professional opinion; he brought up a difference of opinion on adding a curb to South Street, suggested contacting Mike Amato again to verify it is a borough issue.
- Gino Marriggi and Jeanne Zinkavich wished all a happy holiday.
- Jef Bauman stated that there is still work to be done with a budget meeting the following day; suggested that the next special meeting be held in the evening hours.
- Craig Setzer of the Duryea Street Department questioned the discussion at the budget meeting about looking into a new retirement plan; Bill Watt stated that with a union contract in place, there would need to be a formal request from union to open and negotiate the current contract; Craig brought up the possibility of an SEP Plan through Fidelity which would include a match by the borough; Bill Watt will follow up with Mark Dimirco of the Teamsters union.

With no further business to discuss, council entertained a motion to adjourn. First by Marriggi, second by Zinkavich. Meeting ended at 7:52 p.m.


Carolyn Santee
Borough Manager