

## 2024 REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Duryea Borough Council was held at 315 Main Street on February 13th, 2024, at 7:00p.m. with Council Vice-President, Jeanne Zinkavich, presiding. After a pledge to the flag, a roll call was taken: (6) council members present; Stephanie Shupp was absent. Mayor Bauman was in attendance. With a quorum present, the meeting continued. Council met in executive session to discuss personnel matters of the street department and legal matters pertaining to land acquisition. 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.

Solicitor Watt explained the process council should follow for the resignation and renomination of vice-president of council.

Discussion regarding the sale of the Civil Defense truck. Mr. Marriggi is willing to give the truck to David Herron of Germania Hose Company, Duryea to restore and use for parades and other fire department related events. Mr. McGlynn questioned if the borough would retain ownership. Mrs. Zinkavich feels confident in giving the truck to Mr. Herron to continue to use as it was in the past; stated that he is very dedicated to Duryea and the fire department.

Solicitor Watt explained the need for a Landlord/Tenant Ordinance regarding registration and inspections. Mr. Neutts questioned if the public would have access to that list with a right-to-know request; concerns about impeding privacy. Solicitor Watt will check on this. Mike Wall stated that it would be helpful with so many out-of-town property owners. Mayor Bauman suggested starting out with the registry and questioned the verification process.

Discussion regarding the paving of streets with liquid fuels funds. Mayor Bauman stated that there is a lot of settling on Cherry Street after water company work; questioned if PA American Water will be paving; also suggested patching portions on Railroad Street rather than paving the remainder of the road; stated that residents have complaints about the borough not having funds consistently for paving.

Solicitor Watt discussed the purchase agreement for Swamp Road; the initial agreement fell through, and the offer came back to the borough for sale recently. This will be on the March agenda.

Motion by Marriggi, seconded by Gromelski to accept minutes as posted. Roll call (6) yes.

Motion by Brudzinski, seconded by McGlynn that all correspondence be accepted, action be taken where necessary and placed on file. Roll call (6) yes.

Motion by Marriggi, seconded by Gromelski that all bills, wages, salaries, and commissions be paid when funds are available. Roll call (6) yes.

Motion by Tonte, seconded by Marriggi to approve payment of bills that were paid after the previous meeting, but before approval of bills for the current meeting. Roll call (6) yes.

Motion by Tonte, seconded by Brudzinski that all reports be accepted, action be taken where necessary and placed on file. Roll call (6) yes.

Motion by McGlynn, seconded by Marriggi to appoint the following part-time police officers for the month of March 2024, as necessary for the general welfare, health, and safety of the public: Giles, Wall Roll call (6) yes.

Motion by Marriggi, seconded by Brudzinski to authorize the Solicitor to create an ordinance pertaining to a Landlord and Tenant Registration ordinance. Roll call (6) yes.

No action taken on the motion to approve the Solicitor to create an ordinance pertaining to a Real Estate Registry.

Motion by McGlynn, seconded by Brudzinski to table the motion to put streets out to bid utilizing liquid fuels funds. Roll call (6) yes.

Motion by Marriggi, seconded by Tonte to accept the resignation as vice-president of council from Jeanne Zinkavich. Roll call (6) yes.

Motion by Marriggi, seconded by Zinkavich to nominate Michael McGlynn as council vice-president. Roll call (3) yes – Tonte, Marriggi, Zinkavich; (2) no – Gromelski, Brudzinski; (1) abstain McGlynn.

Motion by Zinkavich, seconded by Marriggi to amend the agenda by adding a motion to approve a purchase agreement between Duryea Borough and Duryea Realty for the 171 acres known as Swamp Road and surrounding area. Roll call (6) yes.

Motion by Gromelski, seconded by Brudzinski to approve a purchase agreement between Duryea Borough and Duryea Realty for the 171 acres known as Swamp Road and surrounding area, subject to the owner agreeing to minor revisions made by Solicitor William Watt. Roll call (6) yes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Nick Radle updated council on the past plans for Mitchell St. stormwater, suggesting council come up with a solution. Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority backed out of plans because of the Railroad and funds were pulled. He mentioned the storm drain on Foote Ave. to help with the problem. Mr. Marriggi stated that a swale was dug in the past to alleviate the water issue. Mr. Radle questioned the Swamp Road plan. Mrs. Zinkavich explained the recreational plans with the Heritage Trail. He also suggested getting new maps for the stormwater and storm drains in the borough.
- Mary Margavage asked about the new street department building and Yuhas bar. Bill Watt responded that there are 3 people owning that building and we are in the process of getting the proper legal papers signed. Mrs. Margavage also questioned if the Swamp Road property could be used for a Street Department building; where the borough is at on the Yuhas building purchase; could the sidewalks be replaced on Main Street after the purchase/demo of the Yuhas building; suggested replacing the current engineer due to mistakes on the current plans for a new garage and the handicap ramps on Cherry Street.

-

### CLOSING COMMENTS:

- Jim Gromelski mentioned that with all suggestions to make change, there was a reorganization meeting where everything stayed the same. Stated that the regional compost meetings will be starting up again in March – he suggests an alternate representative be named in the event he cannot make it to a meeting. Discussed a recent meeting with PA American water for new fire hydrants to be installed around the borough; possibly 6 new hydrants in all.
- Allison Brudzinski congratulated Chief Lohman on 23 years of service this month. Stated that the “Take what you need, pay what you can” produce program will start up again March 1<sup>st</sup>; this is a fundraiser through Food Dignity.
- Gino Marriggi questioned if the trees on Foote Ave were taken care of – Robert Webb stated that the resident called PPL to help with the process. He also questioned if the New Street alley issue was taken care of regarding snow plowing and if a survey was done – Danny Nicheporchek stated that the smaller plow will be used from now on.
- Jeanne Zinkavich discussed her need to remove herself from the vice-president of council and wishes the best to the new vice-president.
- Mayor Bauman thanked the Crime Watch group for the fraud/scam prevention presentation at Holy Rosary recently. Questioned if the budget is available to the public and if it could be posted to the borough website. Suggested a safety committee be formed; a parks and rec committee to address park issues; Mr. McGlynn then questioned the park pieces that needed to be replaced. Mayor Bauman is concerned with the safety of children in the parks. Suggested the center ride be removed at Healey Playground since there is damage overall. Mrs. Zinkavich suggested filing for the T-Mobile grant and Solicitor Watt stated that a playground engineer could be utilized. He applauded Mrs. Zinkavich for stepping down as vice-president and thanked Mr. Gromelski for speaking up about the lack of change in the borough. He also thanked Chief Lohman for his years of service.

With no further business to discuss, Council entertains a motion to adjourn. First by Marriggi, second by McGlynn. Meeting ended at 8:18 p.m.



Carolyn Santee  
Borough Manager