

## 2022 REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Duryea Borough Council was held at 315 Main Street on July 12, 2022, at 7:18 p.m. with Council President, Justin Tonte, 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 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 options for a Street Department building. Mr. Rowlands checked out the TP Corporation (approx. \$400,000) and Rowe Doors (\$1.2M). He will call Mericle regarding a piece of the property that was purchased from the Chamber of Commerce.

A discussion was had regarding the use of grills in Duryea Borough parks. Mr. Ameika is in favor since it works out well with the Duryea at Dusk event. Liability does increase; however, insurance rates stay the same as long as there are rules/regulations in place for all who utilize the parks. Solicitor Watt will discuss further with Joyce Insurance for a set of regulations.

A discussion was had regarding a farm animal ordinance rather than relying on Luzerne County handling those issues. Solicitor Watt has examples of this type. He will create an ordinance.

A discussion was had regarding applications for Local Share Account grants. Three grants applications will be prepared for the following:

1. Main Street sidewalks (from 51 Main Street to Colarusso's 2.0-minus the 300 and 400 block that is already funded)
2. Borough building upgrade
3. Germania Remodel (to include a new roof and siren)

Other unapproved LSA ideas were new lights at the Little League field and paving of Shaft Street.

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

Motion by Rowlands, second by Shupp that all correspondence be accepted, action be taken where necessary and placed on file. Roll Call (7) yes.

Motion by Brudzinski, second by Gromelski that all bills, wages, salaries, and commissions be paid when funds are available. Roll Call (7) yes.

Motion by Rowlands, second by Ameika 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 Ameika, second by Zinkavich that all reports be accepted, action be taken where necessary and placed on file. Roll Call (7) yes.

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

Giles, Wall. Roll Call (7) yes.

Motion by Shupp, second by Ameika to authorize the engineer to put the CDBG paving project out to bid. Roll call (7) yes.

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Motion by Rowlands, second by Gromelski to table the motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-4 which amends Ordinance 2011-3 regarding employee health insurance since further changes need to be made. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by Rowlands, second by Gromelski to adopt Ordinance 2022-5 which amends Ordinance 1995-6 regarding the Fire Department Escrow. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by Ameika, second by Brudzinski to amend the agenda by adding a motion to approve Resolution 2022-10 to apply for HOME funding through the City of Pittston and its Redevelopment Authority. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by Rowlands, second by Ameika to approve Resolution 2022-10 to apply for HOME funding through the City of Pittston and its Redevelopment Authority. Roll call (7) yes.

### **Public Comment:**

- Bruce Prandy of Coxtan Road questions what access could be used in the event of a closure of the railroad tracks and/or Coxtan Road bridge. Council will further discuss options since emergency services would have to come from Newton/Ransom or Chinchilla if the bridge is closed.
- Mary Margavage questioned the expiration of the Street Department building LSA. The LSA has expired and the borough has received an extension.
- Nick Radle questioned Ordinance 2022-5 that was just adopted. His concern is that if the borough decides to charge fees, that the homeowner would then not have enough funds to pay for the repairs to homes. Solicitor Watt explained that fees would need to be charged in the event that the homeowner was not making necessary repairs with the funds received from the insurance company. Questioned the Mitchell Street water issue. Solicitor Watt discussed at length with GTA and felt that costs may not be feasible for a study. He did ask for a ballpark amount for the entire project rather than the simple costs for the study and will share that information once received.
- George Jendrey stated that there has been a little progress at 121 McAlpine Street. He believes that there are still violations to be cited and stated that there is no zoning permit visible on the premises.
- Kelly Lowe discussed concerns with discrimination against her and her family due to harassment by her neighbor. Requested that council and employees stop the discrimination. Solicitor Watt explained the process she would need to take through the magistrate for a civil hearing, as Mr Moss (neighbor) is no longer an elected official. Ms. Lowe also stated that there is overgrowth from the property across the street. Metro Commercial will be contacted by the borough to have it cleaned up.
- Miranda Romanofski questioned if council would be releasing a portion of the ARPA funds to borough employees who worked during covid. Mr. Tonte stated that the funds have not been completely disbursed yet and the conversation is still being had.
- Ron Kresge of Coxtan Road made a complaint, and filed a petition by residents, against the property located at 838 Coxtan Road. Property is overgrown, has garbage and belongings all over the yard and they have recently seen rats roaming around. Mr. Webb stated that the resident has recently been cited and she is not residing there.

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With no further business to transact, the council entertained a motion to adjourn. First by Zinkavich, second by Ameika to adjourn at 8:40 P.M.



Carolyn Santee  
Borough Manager