

2025 REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Duryea Borough Council was held at 315 Main Street, Duryea on June 10, 2025, at 6:39 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 on June 3rd to discuss personnel matters of the police department and legal matters regarding land acquisition, and met again this evening to discuss personnel matters of the street department and legal matters regarding land acquisition. All minutes, correspondence, bills, and reports were made available for inspection.

Department Head Reports/Council Comments

- Nick Lohman announced the crime watch meeting on June 11th at 6:30 pm.
- Robert Webb announced that the pavilion at Community Park has been repaired and the pavilion at Healey Playground has been stained; the upcoming anniversary of Duryea Borough, Duryea 125 - planning has begun through the Betterment Committee consisting of new and old members of the last anniversary committee.
- Danny Nicheporchek announced that the street department has started the cleaning and securing of the Yuhas property and that council will need to consider hiring a crew to demolish the garage; Bill Watt noted that the sellers of the Yuhas property requested a last walk through of the building mid-July; Healey Playground – topsoiled and seeded bare areas but has been washed out with heavy rains; they will plant again tomorrow; gutters are needed on the pavilion; bolts around pavilion are still exposed; requested information from Gino Marriggi for CNG truck inspections.
- Carolyn Santee announced the opening of the HARIE Safety Grant for lighting, speed limit signs, and any other ideas brought forth recently.
- Allison Brudzinski announced a meeting June 11th with Hailstone Economics; council to discuss LSA ideas at the July meeting.
- Jim Gromelski announced that the compost meeting is cancelled and will be had in August.
- Gino Marriggi stated that a meeting between department heads and HR is coming up for performance reviews.
- Stephanie Shupp announced the Food Dignity Program June 12th 5-7 pm at the VFW.
- Jef Bauman questioned the timeline for the park to open; Danny mentioned using sod instead of grass to speed up the process.

Old Business

- No old business

New Business

- LSA – bring ideas to the July work session.
- Yuhas building – ideas were discussed regarding plans to either demolish or develop; Bauman suggested discussing with Mayor Lombardo from Pittston and get RFPs; Shupp discussed with Lombardo; could use temporarily as a parking lot until more solid plans are in place.

Meeting

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

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

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

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

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

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

Motion by Zinkavich, second by Marriggi to authorize the engineer to put the American Legion LSA projects out to bid (furnace and parking lot). Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by Zinkavich, second by Marriggi to authorize the engineer to put the Healey Playground Phase II project out to bid (fence/pickleball/basketball court). Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by McGlynn, second by Marriggi to table the motion to split the paving of Holiday Drive (50/50) with PA American Water Company. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by McGlynn, second Zinkavich to table the motion to award the paving of Holiday Drive. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by Brudzinski, second by Zinkavich to approve payment to Multiscape Inc. for the xcelsior Building Update Local Share Account grant in the amount of \$26,640 since reimbursement has been received. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by Gromelski, second by Marriggi to approve payment to Don E. Bower for the Main Street Sidewalk Project Local Share Account grant in the amount of \$92,719.02 once reimbursement from DCED is received. Roll call (7) yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Keith Moss questioned when the sidewalks will be complete – vacation bible school will be held at the end of the month; questioned where council stands with the paid


firefighter position – Bill Watt stated that they are spending some time to avoid potential issues and will set a meeting to iron out details in the upcoming week.

- Mary Margavage questioned when the second phase at Healey Playground will begin and if there will be handicap parking – Shupp noted that the gate will need to be adjusting for parking and ADA sidewalks.

CLOSING COMMENTS:

- Gino Marriggi noted that council is doing their best to move along with all ideas discussed at the meetings; Mike Wall questioned why it has taken 6 months to compile information about the paid firefighter position – Watt stated that he is working on the details, trying to avoid a costly project in years to come; Jeff Hughes stated that this is working in other local towns – Watt noted that workers comp needs to be decided due to workers comp insurance.
- Jeanne Zinkavich announced that the CTC students completed the Gene Guarilia sign and that the summer students will finish the landscaping; CTC and the Zinkavich's donated funds, lights, plants, and shrubs; announced that the Jimmy Balchune Memorial Benefit will be on June 21st at the VFW – donations will benefit the Little League, Wildcats, and YMCA.
- Jef Bauman noted that businesses should be made aware of the sidewalk projects; suggested directing the chief on how to handle and allow enforcement against cars parking on sidewalks; urged council to move quicker with the paid firefighter position and think to the future; Jeff Hughes requested a meeting for all to discuss the position.
- Joe Neutts questioned if the paid firefighter would have the heart and lung benefit – Hughes noted that workers comp is through SWIF and VFIS.
- Jef Bauman suggested a discussion regarding parking on sidewalks in July - Nick Lohman noted that an ordinance isn't needed to cite vehicles parked on sidewalks.
- Mr. Guarilia thanked everyone on behalf of his family for replacing the sign for his father.

With no further business to discuss, council entertained a motion to adjourn. First by Gromelski, second by Marriggi. The meeting ended at 7:40 p.m.


Carolyn Santee
Borough Manager