

2025 REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Duryea Borough Council was held at 315 Main Street, Duryea on March 11, 2025, at 6:56 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 March 4th to discuss personnel matters of the fire department and legal matters regarding the acquisition of property, and again this evening to discuss legal matters regarding the acquisition of property. 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/Council Comments

- Chief Lohman announced the Crime Watch meeting on 3/12/25 @ 6pm at the borough building; Drug Take Back will be held at the VFW in conjunction with Food Dignity on 4/26, 10am – 2pm; the new vehicle was received but having a few issues; McGlynn questioned Copart's response regarding trucks idling on McAlpine Street – Lohman has not been in touch yet but has not received complaints recently.
- Jeff Pisanchyn discussed a recent rat issue on Donnelly Street; labeled the property as unfit for human habitation; working with owners of that and another property nearby; suggested moving forward with the Rental Registration/Inspection Ordinance as soon as possible.
- Danny Nicheporchek gave an update on the park maintenance; McGlynn noted that the rubber matting will be completed this week; Danny questioned the height of the sandbag building, noting that the machine might not fit with the smaller door opening.
- Allison Brudzinski explained the need for an increase for the STMP Grant and that the funding will be used for an audit of the borough procedures and design for a plan for future grants; grant collaboration with Pittston City will happen in the next few weeks.
- Jim Gromelski reported on the Regional Compost meeting and submitted minutes; residents will be able to take compost as needed.
- Mike McGlynn inquired about quotes for column covers for the pavilion at Healey Playground; Cedar Forest has planters to go around the base; has been working on scheduling the replacement part installation for the slide at Community Park.
- Gino Marriggi announced that the Luzerne County Infrastructure meeting will be held at the courthouse on March 18th at 6pm or Zoom; this committee may be able to help with the bridge.
- Stephanie Shupp announced that the Betterment Committee is hosting a Spring Market this Sunday at Germania from 12 pm – 4 pm.

- Jef Bauman discussed the need for paving at the main entrance of Blueberry Hills; noted that the Safety Committee has been moving along; noted that packets are not being supplied to all in attendance since they are not required or customary across the county; requested the packet be posted to the website.

Old Business

- Liquid Fuels paving – waiting on water company to see if the short side of York Ave will be paved under the pave cut ordinance; Keith suggested reaching out to Steve Oselinsky.
- LSA suggestions – Chief Lohman submitted a request to update the police department; Jef Bauman suggested a Main Street façade to work towards larger grants; Stephenson Street bridge.

New Business

- Stephanie Shupp announced that she will be forming committees for the levee and bridge after the upcoming Flood Protection Authority meeting

Meeting

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

Motion by Tonte, second by Brudzinski 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 Brudzinski, second 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 (7) yes.

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

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

Motion by McGlynn, second by Marriggi to choose the following streets to go out to bid for paving using 2025 liquid fuels funds: Washington Court and Shaft Street. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by McGlynn, second by Gromelski to authorize the engineer to put the streets listed above out to bid using the 2025 liquid fuels funds. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by Brudzinski, second by Tonte to approve payment for the Excelsior Building Update Local Share Account grant in the amount of \$82,620. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by Gromelski, second by Zinkavich to ratify payment of the 2025 Ford Interceptor for the police department. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by Zinkavich, second by Marriggi to authorize the engineers to put the Main Street Sidewalk project out to bid using LSA funds. Roll call (6) yes; (1) no – McGlynn.

Motion by Brudzinski second by Zinkavich to approve Resolution 2025-3 to apply for the Strategic Management Planning Program (STMP), with Duryea Borough allocating \$40,000 as a match.

Motion to authorize Verdantas LLC to complete the BCA for the BRIC grant was tabled by McGlynn, second by Marriggi. Roll call (7) yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:


- Ellen Scatena questioned the timeline on having street lights placed that were requested in 2024; McGlynn questioned when old poles will be removed by PPL; thanked the fire department for constant care at Crossin Towers; noted that there is no security, applied to HUD for cameras inside and out; requested the police department patrol more since there are questionable people in the building and in the area; Chief Lohman suggested calling 911 whenever there is an issue to be reported; Patrolwoman Dunn offered to discuss after the meeting.
- Jack Zabrovian questioned paving the rest of Blueberry Hills roads that are in need; noted that Clark Road needs to be daylighted since there are many icy spots in the shaded areas.
- Bill Yates questioned forming a planning commission noting that the borough would have a say with decisions for property owners.
- Keith Moss requested a meeting with council to go over information and forms from the Hazard Mitigation meeting he recently attended; questioned the job description for the paid firefighter position - Bill Watt stated that it is a personnel matter and should be discussed in executive session, Moss suggested another meeting.
- Karen Sobeski suggested everyone support local residents running for county council.
- Jeff Hughes questioned borough employees not being paid to go to fire/emergency calls during working hours, Bill Watt suggested it may be a worker's comp issue.
- Nick Radle updated council on the PA Small Water and Sewer grant which is 90% complete, a resolution is needed to submit, along with a 15% match; McGlynn questioned where the match will come from.

CLOSING COMMENTS:

- Allison Brudzinski gave a shout out to the police department for the recent activity at Holy Rosary School regarding a lockdown; commended Sergeant Swisher for a job well done discussing the event with the students.

- Justin Tonte thanked the street department for their hard work getting the parks ready for the warmer weather; thanked Trina Moss for providing links on the agenda from WVIA (NEPA @ Work with Schott and Production Systems Automation).
- Mike McGlynn supplied an update on the park progress; suggested rubber mats to go under the swings for both parks.
- Stephanie Shupp received the second bench from the plastic recycling program for Healey; borough is still collecting for the next bench.
- Jeanne Zinkavich thanked the street department for their hard work; thanked Trina Moss for her work bringing Food Dignity back to Duryea again this year.
- Jef Bauman suggested getting proper trash cans for the parks, along with more tables; Nativity of Our Lord having a clean up around the borough April 5th; SALS are putting on a scampi dinner March 28th; VFW will have entertainment coming up; Wildcats having a bingo on April 13th @ Germania; Excelsior having a Night at the Races on March 29th @ Germania.
- Karen Sobeski questioned when the US 250th anniversary planning will begin.

With no further business to discuss, council entertained a motion to adjourn. First by McGlynn, second by Tonte. Meeting ended at 8:17 p.m.


Carolyn Santee
Borough Manager