

## 2024 REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Duryea Borough Council was held at 315 Main Street, Duryea on November 12th, 2024, at 6:54 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**

- Chief Lohman announced the annual Thanksgiving dinner on Saturday November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4pm at Germania Hose Company.
- Facilities Supervisor, Robert Webb thanked the street department for the work widening Swamp Rd.
- Building Inspector, Jeff Pisanchyn stated that he met with the new owners of the old Moritz building to discuss remodeling. The mayor questioned the lack of work at 110-112 Main Street.
- Street Supervisor, Danny Nicheporchek announced that the leaf truck has been repaired.

### **Council Comments**

- Jim Gromelski stated that there was no regional compost meeting recently; they will reorganize in January.
- Mike McGlynn questioned the cost for the police vehicle through the upcoming LSA grants; requested that the police department look out for street lights that need repair; update on Healey – pavilion and concrete are complete, waiting on the pour in place rubber under the handicap ride, going to order wood playground mulch due to higher cost of rubber mulch, will need to treat the pavilion wood in the spring, basketball court continues to crack; street department garage – working on repair to the back of the building with Black Label.

### **Old Business**

- Stephenson Street bridge – was recently inspected, no report yet; Mike McGlynn will reach out for costs to repair.
- South Street curb – lack of curb on the upper portion is allowing stormwater to run into properties causing water to pool; Mr. McGlynn asked to get a quote from another source to add to the one we recently received.
- Paid firefighter position –

- Mrs. Shupp explained the options, asking for public input
- Mayor Bauman stated that a fire tax is not necessary; regular tax could be implemented
- Jeff Hughes, borough fire chief, stated that a question on the ballot at the upcoming election won't help; Jerry Marsh stated that this problem will still exist if the paid position isn't implemented.
- Keith Moss questioned how Dupont and Hughestown moved forward.
- Mrs. Shupp stated that she will continue to work with Jeff Hughes to have public meetings regarding this matter.

### **New Business –**

- The next budget meeting will be held on November 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm.
- Tire recycling will be scheduled by the end of the year.
- Bill Watt, solicitor, explained the costs and in depth process of implementing a quiet zone along the railroad tracks.
- Keith Moss questioned Resolution 2024-12 and why council is not keeping Pittston City for ALS and BLS. Mr. McGlynn stated that Hughestown has been doing most of the work for the last few years and can continue to handle our calls.

### **Meeting**

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

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

Motion by Tonte, second by Brudzinski 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 Zinkavich, second by McGlynn to appoint following part-time police officers for the month of December 2024, as necessary for the general welfare, health, and safety to the public: Giles, Wall. Roll call (7) yes.

No snowplow bids were received, no motion.

Motion by Brudzinski, second by Gromelski to approve payment to Axon Enterprise, Inc. for the PCCD grant in the amount of \$31,087.01 before reimbursement from PCCD is received. Roll call (7) yes.

No motion to authorize the solicitor to commence the application process for a quiet zone along the railroad in Duryea.

Motion by McGlynn, second by Marriggi to ratify hiring Brandon Balchune Construction to complete the concrete work for the pavilion and ride at Healey Playground. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by Gromelski, second by Marriggi to approve Prociak and Associates to complete the annual DCED audit for the period ending December 31, 2024. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by McGlynn, second by Marriggi to approve Resolution 2024-11 to apply for a Local Share Account grant for a Municipal Building Roof Replacement in the amount of \$286,900. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by McGlynn, second by Gromelski to approve Resolution 2024-12 designating Emergency Medical Services as the Preferred Provider of Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by McGlynn, second by Zinkavich to approve Resolution 2024-13 to apply for a Local Share Account grant for two new Police Department vehicles in the amount of \$148,127. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by Gromelski, second by Marriggi to approve Resolution 2024-14 to apply for a Local Share Account grant for Mitchell and Grove Street Stormwater/Mosquito Remediation in the amount of \$328,095. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by McGlynn, second by Zinkavich to approve payment for the Healey Playground Local Share Account grant in the amount of \$90,182 once reimbursement from DCED is received. Roll call (7) yes.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Nick Radle questioned what permit Circular Crossroads is requesting payback for.
- Jeff Hughes questioned if the borough has checked into having the Avoca Ambulance return the fund drive money since they are closing. Mayor Bauman stated that Colleen verified that Pittston would honor Avoca's fund drive; Solicitor Watt stated that it is not borough funds, they cannot request a refund; Mr. Gromelski stated that Hughestown will honor the drive until February, when they will send their fund drive out.
- Jerry Marsh questioned if Swamp Road is open for public use. Gates remain locked but residents may walk the property; there was a suggestion to put up more dog waste stations.
- Dave Guarilia questioned the status of his father's sign (Gene Guarilia); Mrs. Zinkavich discussed with vo-tech to make a new sign; Mrs. Shupp stated that council does plan to replace the sign.

#### **CLOSING COMMENTS:**

- Allison Brudzinski stated that Food Dignity is over for the season and discussed an overview of their plans; Happy Thanksgiving to all.

- Mr. Gromelski thanked Danny and the street department for repairing the leaf vac.
- Mr. McGlynn instructed Danny to order wood mulch one truck at a time.
- Mr. Marriggi questioned what the PD will do with the old police vehicles once a new one is purchased, and if two new ones come through the LSA grant. Chief Lohman suggested giving one to the Fire Police to replace the Expedition that has been out of service/Mr. McGlynn suggested giving one of the trucks to Code Enforcement; stated that the plan with the fire department is looking good to continue to move forward; Happy Thanksgiving to all.
- Mrs. Shupp stated that the Betterment Committee commissioned the artist who painted the mural on the sandbag building; Christmas Stroll will be held December 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Mayor Bauman thanked the Betterment Committee for the mural; residents thank the police department for control during mischief night recently; Luzerne County is putting together an election integrity committee; Food Dignity will be at the annual Thanksgiving Dinner with a food giveaway; suggested council discuss expenses in case the LSA grants are not awarded in 2025; public is encouraged to attend the upcoming budget meetings.

With no further business to discuss, council entertained a motion to adjourn. First by McGlynn, second by Marriggi. Meeting ended at 8:06 p.m.

  
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Carolyn Santee  
Borough Manager