

2021 REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Duryea Borough Council was held at 315 Main Street on September 14, 2021, at 7:18 p.m. with Council President Jeffrey Bauman, presiding.

After a pledge to the flag, a roll call was taken: (7) council members present. Mayor Moss was in attendance. With a quorum present, the meeting continued.

Council met in executive session on September 7, 2021 and again this evening to discuss legal matters pertaining to acquiring property in the borough and personnel matters.

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

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

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

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

Motion by Tonte, second by Ameika to appoint the following part-time police officers for the month of October 2021, as necessary for the general welfare, health, and safety of the public:

Dunn, Wall. Roll Call (7) yes.

Motion by Brudzinski, second by Bauman to authorize a handicap sign to be placed at the residence at 747 Foote Ave. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by Gromelski, second by Ameika to authorize a handicap sign to be placed at the residence at 317 River Street. Roll call (7) yes.

Motion by Ameika, second by Rowlands to ratify the approval of the application for the Community Development Block Grant in 2022 to pave the following streets: Hallstead, Hillcrest, Church, Bennett, Major, River, New (Railroad to Pond), and Pond (New to Foote). Roll call (7) yes.

Public Comment:

- Bruce Prandy questioned where the Borough/County stands on maintenance of the dike? Mr. Bauman stated that FEMA reassessed flood maps to note deficiencies. Duryea requested the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority (LCFPA) to take over maintenance, which was not yet approved by the county. Currently, the needs of the levee system are being evaluated. If fees are necessary, they will come from the borough's general account, not a levee tax. Grants will be necessary to move forward with repairing conduit pipes leading to the river. Mr. Prandy discussed using the fire police if there is another event like the one with the mobile home stuck on the RR tracks at the entrance of Coxton Road. Requested the Police Department check on illegal dumping near the base of Campbell's Ledge.
- Jose Gonzalez explained a drainage issue to council with all the heavy rain. His property consistently gets flooded with heavy rain and millings form the alley and the Street Department needs to clean the drain/road each time. The last few times, his basement took on water. Asked the borough to pave the alley and to be reimbursed for the work he has had to keep up on to prevent the water from entering

2021 REGULAR MEETING

his property. Mr. Marrigi explained that the water coming down the alley is normal runoff since Pride has created a swale at the top of the hill, with drainage going under the alley into the storm drains. Mr. Gonzalez was not satisfied with the outcome of the issue.

- Kyle Tarantini, Parsonage Street, Hughestown, believes that water running off Clark Road is causing his back yard to flood. He has had costly damage and consistently had to run a pump to remove water the last few times it rained. Bill Watt stated that this could be zoning and building code issues. Council stated that this will be investigated to see where the water is coming from.
- Mary Margavage questioned where the borough is with the parking lot next to the borough building. Mr. Bauman stated that there are legal matters to deal with before the parking lot can be built. Questioned the cost of the new street department building. Mr. Bauman stated that it is still being calculated.
- Nick Radle discussed a few options for the water issue on Mitchell Street, where he has cared for this property for 28 years. He requests consideration to fix drainage at the property at the end of the road soon. Legal issues regarding ejection wells were discussed, along with the option of a drainage pipe to go under the railroad tracks. He recently spoke to Jolene Busher at Reading and Blue Northern Railroad and received all paperwork/costs for such a project. Another option would be to run the drainage pipe out to Foote Ave along Grove Street.
- Arthur Pesotine requested putting a borehole in to take care of the water issue on Mitchell Street but was informed that it is not a legal process. Neighbors fear that a child may drown in the pond that forms after heavy rainstorms.
- Gail Malloy thanks all who came out for the 9/11 honor wall that came through the borough. Also made council aware that there is a \$15,000 walking grant available and she'll provide information.
- Jim Gromelski complimented emergency services in the borough for the great job during hurricane IDA. Volunteers are dwindling.
- Ed Ameika commended Nick Radle on the research for the drainage issue on Mitchell.
- Mike McGlynn pointed out that Grove Street does not run through the properties off Mitchell Street to Foote Ave, so Mr. Radle's idea of running drainage would not work. He stated that if it is in fact borough property, he would be more than happy to help out. Regarding Mr. Gromelski's comment about needing more volunteers, he'd like to see the fire departments reaching out to the younger residents.
- Dorothy Lavelle would like to see a resolution to the drainage issue on Mitchell.
- Michael Jake requests that Mitchell Street be sprayed for mosquitos. Mayor Moss stated that residents need to call Luzerne Conservation District. Nick Radle called and had them there twice for testing.
- Mayor Moss – Community Calendar:
 - 9/15 Crime Watch meeting 5:0 pm
 - 9/18 Celebration of Life – Pete Burnham 3 pm-7 pm
 - 9/25 Germania Gun Bingo
 - 10/2 Germania Winefest 1 pm-6 pm

2021 REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Moss thanked all for their help with hurricane IDA. He will be running a class on running the pumps.

- Jef Bauman discussed the need to explore options regarding the fire department ordinance and quality of life ordinance. Thanked Mayor and all for emergency help during IDA.

With no further business to transact, the chair entertained a motion to adjourn. First by Ameika, second by Rowlands to adjourn at 8:52 P.M.



Carolyn Santee
Borough Manager