

## City Council Meeting Minutes – February 27, 2023

City Council Chambers, City Building, 16 West Scribner Avenue, DuBois, Pennsylvania on Monday, February 27, 2023 @ 6 p.m.; Council convened at their regular City Council Meeting with Mayor Walsh in the Chair. Other Council Members present were: Diane Bernardo, James Aughenbaugh (Phone), Shane Dietz, Shannon Gabriel, and City Controller, David Volpe. Also present were: City Manager, John “Herm” Suplizio; City Solicitor, Toni Cherry; Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP, Note Attorney, Anthony Ditka; City Engineer/Public Works Director, Chris Nasuti; Redevelopment Authority Director/Assistant Public Works Superintendent, Joe Mitchell; Police Chief, Blaine Clark and City Secretary, Bobbie Shaffer.

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Scout Troop 26.

### Junior Firefighter Presentation

## 2023 OUTSTANDING JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

*Proudly Presented To:*

**JUSTICE KEMMERER**

**the Melanie Weaver Junior Firefighter Award of the year is given to the recipient for her outstanding academic achievements and attendance to department meetings and emergency calls.**

**Awarded this 27th day of February, 2023**

Junior Firefighter Coordinator Andy Clark stated that this award is in honor of Melanie Weaver who was the training officer for the DVFD. Ms. Weaver passed away last fall. Tyler Clark stated that 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Hose Co. instigated the award in Ms. Weavers honor and it would go the recipient with the highest GPA average and most attendance to meetings and emergency calls. Ms. Kemmerer’s GPA average was 99.7% and her attendance was right on point. Mr. Clark presented the certificate from City Council naming her the 2023 Outstanding Junior Firefighter of the Year. Each one of the Jr. Firefighters in attendance introduced themselves and named the fire company they were with.

### Approval of Minutes

#### City Council Meeting – February 13, 2023

The motion was made by Gabriel and seconded by Dietz that Council approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2023 as presented. Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

#### Work Session Meeting – February 23, 2023

The motion was made by Gabriel and seconded by Bernardo that Council approve the Work Session Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2023 as presented. Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

### Registry of Invoices (with additional invoice from Sharkey Piccirillo & Keen, LLP)

The motion was made by Dietz and seconded by Gabriel that Council approve the Purchase Order Listing by Vendor Name dated February 23, 2023 in the amount of \$3,757,824.12; the Sharkey Piccirillo & Keen, LLP invoice dated February 15, 2023 in the amount of \$34,825; and the Check Register by Check ID dated February 22, 2023 in the amount of \$3,188.71 as presented by the Finance Officer. Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

**Public Comments:** None

### Pat Reasinger – Tree Project

Mr. Reasinger is a member of the Redevelopment Authority. With help from an expert at Penn State the Redevelopment Authority will be planting trees on Maple Avenue on private property not public property. The expert from Penn State will help determine which trees will do well in our climate. He stated, they will be applying for a grant and should know by October if they

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Pat Reasinger – Tree Project (Cont’d.)

will be receiving it. If so, we will be planting in the spring of 2024. They will be planting the trees, then pruning the second, fifth, and tenth year.

Councilwoman Bernardo asked how many trees they will be planting. Reasinger estimated 59.

Councilwoman Gabriel verified that they would be getting the property owners permission. Reasinger confirmed they would.

Chris Tarcson – Main Street Property

Mr. Tarcson introduced himself as the President of the Pro-Life Group Concerned Citizens for Human Life. He stated that they will be starting a new organization called Magnificot Ministries whose main goal will be housing women in crisis pregnancies. They realize with the overturning of Wade vs Roe there women in difficult situations who either don’t want a child or can’t care for a child. They thought it would be years before they would be able to bring their mission to fruition. Thankfully an angel donor came forward with a house that would service the purpose. He came tonight to tell Council about their plan and to find out what his next steps should be.

City Solicitor Cherry stated that Mr. Tarcson must come to Planning who will give him the requirements for a group home. Group homes are permitted in all districts in the City of DuBois. Although, we did fight a lawsuit in Federal Court because the place chosen by the individual did not meet the standards in the City Code. She believes Mr. Tarcson’s cause is fair and noble, we just need to make sure it meets all the criteria for a group home.

The motion was made by Gabriel and seconded by Dietz that Council turn this item over to the Planning Commission and Code Enforcement Zoning Officer Lawhead. Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

AmServ LTD DuSan Ambulance – January 2023 Report



Office: 814-375-9290  
Fax: 814-375-9691  
amservdusan.com

February 13, 2023  
City Council and Township Supervisors,  
The following is the required run report for the month of January. There was one instance where an AmServ LTD / DuSan Ambulance was not available due to already handling 911 responses, and the call was immediately handled by the our next due. Also, there was one instance where we had a delayed response which appears was due to clearing another call.  
I will be happy to explain anything in greater detail if necessary.

	Jan
Total number of ALS/BLS responses	487
Number of responses in the 15801 zip code	350
Average response time in the 15801 zip code in minutes	3.18
The number of response times over 10 minutes	1
The number of incidents for which an ALS/BLS unit was not available	1
The total number of calls where a patient was not transported	35
Total number of patient refusals in 15801 zip code	51
Total number of cancellations in 15801 zip code	24
Total number of emergency patient transports in 15801	260
Total number of fire standbys in 15801 zip code	17
Total number of police standbys in 15801 zip code	6
Total number of community standbys including sports and PR events in 15801 zip code	0

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Michael Federici  
Executive Director

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AmServ LTD DuSan Ambulance – January 2023 Report – (Cont'd.)

Mike Federici asked if anyone had any questions. He went to stated that they had only one delayed response and one time they needed assistance. Otherwise it is going very well. Councilwoman Bernardo asked about the number of refusals; Federici stated that is people who refuse to go to the hospital. The motion was made by Dietz and seconded by Gabriel that Council accept the AmServ LTD DuSan Ambulance – January 2023 Report as presented. Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Recommendation – 2023 Pool Rates

City of DuBois  
Pool Rate Schedule  
2023

City of DuBois - Residents & Non Resident

Pre-Season

FAMILY**	\$175.00	*includes college students w/ ID
ADULT	\$125.00	*over 18 years old
YOUTH	\$100.00	*11-17 years old
SENIOR	\$75.00	*over 60 years old

\*After 05/26/2023

	SEASON	DAILY	WEEKLY
FAMILY**	\$200.00	\$20.00	\$50.00
ADULT	\$150.00	\$10.00	\$40.00
YOUTH	\$120.00	\$7.00	\$30.00
SENIOR	\$75.00	\$5.00	\$25.00

Family\*\*

\*All must reside together. No aunts, uncles etc.

\*\$10 a person over 6 person limit. (Family rate - 2 Adults & 4 Kids)

\*Can add babysitter for \$30.00

Pool Hours:

12 p.m. - 7 p.m.

\$1.00 Swim:

6 p.m. - 7 p.m. - Everyday

Pool Parties:

After 7:00 p.m. (Rates based on 2 Hour Party)

Members:	Less than 50 - \$200	More than 51 - 100 - \$225
	101 - 150 - \$250	
Non-Members:	Less than 50 - \$225	More than 51 - 100 - \$250
	101 - 150 - \$300	

→ Over 2 Hours or 150 People See Pool Manager

For Info:

duboiscitypool@gmail.com

Pool #

375-9792

City Manager stated that this item was discussed at Thursday's Work Session meeting. We have not raised rates in four years; in the same time everything else has went up. Councilwoman Bernardo said that people will come in and complain, but this pool is subsidized by the City of DuBois taxpayers; many of whom do not use the pool. The motion was made by Gabriel and seconded by Bernardo that Council accept the recommendation and approve the City Pool Rates as presented. Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

STMP Grant – Architectural Services

City Manager Suplizio just wanted everyone to be aware we did receive this grant which is for building additions, upgrades, etc.

Coke Hill Water Project

City of DuBois		
Coke Hill Water Project		
Preliminary Water Rate Adjustment Calculations		
February 2023		
Amount of Loan/Project Costs	\$1,500,000	
Annual Water Use by DuBois Customers	429,034,000 Gallons	
Assumed Loan Rate	6 %	
Term, years	Annual Payment	Rate Increase
1	\$1,530,000.00	\$4.66
2	\$820,079.00	\$2.49
3	\$562,907.00	\$1.71
4	\$434,551.00	\$1.32
5	\$357,721.00	\$1.08
10	\$205,425.00	\$0.62
20	\$132,563.00	\$0.40

Coke Hill Waterline Replacement Project					
City of DuBois February 2023					
ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	EST. QUANTITY	UNIT	EST. PRICE	EXTENSION
1	ADMINISTRATION PROJECT MANAGEMENT	1	LS	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
2	CLEANING AND CRUISING	1	LS	100.00	100.00
3	MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS OF COKE HILL	1	LS	15,000.00	15,000.00
4	EROSION CONTROL	1	LS	5,000.00	5,000.00
5	A 16" GATE VALVE	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	B 12" PORT PIPE	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	C 8" PORT PIPE	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	D 6" PORT PIPE	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	E 4" PORT PIPE	1	EA	0.00	0.00
6	A 16" GATE VALVE ASSEMBLY	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	D 12" GATE VALVE ASSEMBLY	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	C 8" GATE VALVE ASSEMBLY	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	E 4" GATE VALVE ASSEMBLY	1	EA	0.00	0.00
7	UTILITY PROVISION	1	EA	0.00	0.00
8	A 10" WATER MAIN VALVE	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	B 8" WATER MAIN VALVE	1	EA	0.00	0.00
9	A 10" WATER MAIN OUTCAP	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	B 8" WATER MAIN OUTCAP	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	C 6" WATER MAIN OUTCAP	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	D 4" WATER MAIN OUTCAP	1	EA	0.00	0.00
10	1" HYDRANT ASSEMBLY	1	EA	0.00	0.00
11	EXISTING FIRE HYDRANT ASSEMBLY	1	EA	0.00	0.00
12	EXISTING GATE VALVE ABANDONMENT	1	EA	0.00	0.00
13	EXISTING BLIND REMOVAL	1	EA	0.00	0.00
14	A 10" SERVICE LINE CONNECTION TO PROPOSED	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	B 8" SERVICE LINE CONNECTION TO PROPOSED	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	C 6" SERVICE LINE CONNECTION TO PROPOSED	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	D 4" SERVICE LINE CONNECTION TO PROPOSED	1	EA	0.00	0.00
15	A 10" SERVICE LINE	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	B 8" SERVICE LINE	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	C 6" SERVICE LINE	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	D 4" SERVICE LINE	1	EA	0.00	0.00
16	A 10" GROUND	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	B 8" GROUND	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	C 6" GROUND	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	D 4" GROUND	1	EA	0.00	0.00
17	A 10" GROUND	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	B 8" GROUND	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	C 6" GROUND	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	D 4" GROUND	1	EA	0.00	0.00
18	A 10" GROUND	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	B 8" GROUND	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	C 6" GROUND	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	D 4" GROUND	1	EA	0.00	0.00
19	A 10" GROUND	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	B 8" GROUND	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	C 6" GROUND	1	EA	0.00	0.00
	D 4" GROUND	1	EA	0.00	0.00
TOTAL AMOUNT BID:					1,405,700.00

City Manager Suplizio stated that they discussed this on Thursday, we don't need a decision tonight. He would like Council to digest the information and we will put in on the next Work Session. He would like them to take into consideration that we have had many waterline breaks because the line is 100 years old. We have had 11 waterline breaks in the last 18 months. We would like a decision prior to paving. Councilwoman Bernardo would like to know how this project compares with Maple Avenue. There was a little more pipe laid on Coke Hill than on Maple Avenue.

**Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Grant – DuBois Public Library - \$72,950**  
Just informational

**Second & Final Reading of Council Bill No. 1972 – General Obligation Note, Series 2023**  
An Ordinance authorizing the incurring of Nonelectoral debt by the issuance of a general obligation note in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed three million five hundred thousand dollars (\$3,500,000); covenanting to pay, and pledging unlimited taxing power for the payment of, the note; fixing the form, interest rate, maturity, redemption and other provisions for the payment thereof; authorizing the acceptance of a proposal for the purchase of the note; authorizing a filing of required documents with the Department of Community and Economic Development; ratifying and directing certain actions of officers; and making certain other covenants and provisions in respect of the note was presented for Second & Final Reading. The motion was made by Bernardo and seconded by Dietz that Council accept the Second and Final Reading of Council Bill No. 1972 and it become Ordinance No. 1873 in the Code of Ordinances for the City of DuBois. Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

## City Council Meeting Minutes – February 27, 2023 (Cont'd.)

### Request to add an Executive Session to the Agenda for Personnel.

The motion was made by Gabriel and seconded by Dietz that Council add an Executive Session for Personnel to the agenda. Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

### Police Chief, Blaine Clark

Outstanding turn out tonight; Justice good job.

### Redevelopment Authority Director/Assistant Public Works Superintendent, Fire Department President - Joe Mitchell

Even though they can't go into burning buildings, they are a great help when they respond to calls; they train very hard. I'm waiting until the day they turn 18 and really add to the fire department.

### Fire Chief, Mike Federici

Very proud of our Juniors – great job Justice.

### Councilwoman Diane Bernardo

- Justice ...congratulations. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated.
- People requesting the Park should see the executive secretary prior to being put on the agenda. There is no way that Council knows if the park is booked when a group requests it. I believe all requests should be held until the first meeting of the month, they the organization can come and talk if they wish; once all the paperwork has been completed.
- City Engineer Nasuti worked with PennDOT on the traffic light hazard on Main Street. Nasuti stated that we are starting a Safe Crossing at Main Street and Long Avenue. There is a clear hazard with drivers not seeing pedestrians in the crosswalk. The intersection of Main Street and Dixon Avenue has a left arrow so it's a timing issue to change that one.

### Councilman Shane Dietz

Great group of Junior firefighters. Proud of them. It's also great to see the Scouts here tonight.

### Councilwoman Shannon Gabriel

As a mother and wife of a firefighter, I appreciate very volunteer hour you put in. Stay involved, you will learn lessons and it's a great item to have on your resume. Justice congratulations.

### City Solicitor Toni Cherry

Congratulations to the Scouts, Junior Firefighters and you Justice. Well done.

### City Manager – John "Herm" Suplizio

- Thank you everyone for coming...nice to see a large crowd.
- Von Berger has decided to fix up the houses on West Scribner & Jared ST so he has cancelled coming to Planning Commission. City Solicitor Cherry felt it was a much better use of the land.
- Thank you Attorney Ditka for coming tonight.

### Mayor – Edward L. Walsh

- It was good to see that the Junior Firefighters brought some of the parents back.
- Justice congratulations!
- Do not get into card games with the Juniors ...they're sharks.

### Adjourn

There being no further business to transact; the motion was made by Gabriel and seconded by Dietz that Council adjourn. Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

ATTEST:



APPROVED

