

City Council Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2021

City Council Chambers, City Building, 16 West Scribner Avenue, DuBois, Pennsylvania on Monday, February 8, 2021 @ 7 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 (by telephone), Shane Dietz, Shannon Gabriel; City Treasurer, Lisa LaBrasca Becker; and City Controller, David Volpe. Also present were: City Manager, John “Herm” Suplizio; City Solicitor, Toni Cherry; 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 7 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Walsh with a moment of silence following for former Mayor Gary D. Gilbert.

Following the moment of silence Mayor Walsh asked Council and the City Solicitor to say a few words about our former Mayor.

Mayor Edward L. Walsh stated that Gilbert was the first Mayor he had the honor of working with as a Councilman; he learned a lot.

City Manager, John “Herm” Suplizio sent his condolences to the family and said he can’t say enough about Mayor Gilbert. He definitely had the City of DuBois on his mind and in his heart. He will be sadly missed by all.

City Solicitor, Toni Cherry stated that he was a kind, compassionate and thoughtful man; it was a true honor to serve him as City Solicitor. She has several funny stories about different litigations they were involved with concerning the City. He was always concerned for the residents; his main concern was whether they could afford higher water and sewer rates or higher taxes. He never spoke without giving the subject a lot of thought. She will miss him.

Councilwoman Diane Bernardo stated that Mayor Gilbert was a good friend of her family. In 1995 her mother talked him into running for Council. She always thought of him as a gentle giant, who was very involved in the community and always the first to encourage an individual.

Councilwoman Shannon Gabriel stated that when she and her husband moved back to the area ten and one half years ago, his was one of the first names they heard. She went on to say, that she and her husband take rides around the City; last Saturday, while on one of their rides, they passed his house. You won’t find a man that loves the City of DuBois more than him with the exception of our City Manager.

Councilman Shane Dietz stated it was an honor and a pleasure to get to know Mayor Gilbert. He never had a mean word to say about anyone. He is sending his thoughts and prayers to the Gilbert family. He’ll miss seeing him at fires.

Council Jim Aughenbaugh said that everything he had heard so far was true, he was a very kind man. He went on to say, that he just saw him last week; given the circumstances, he’s glad that they took the time to stop and chat. He truly was a very thoughtful man, a true gentleman.

City Treasurer, Lisa LaBrasca Becker stated that she had known him before she started working at the City. She’s going to miss his messages on Facebook. Deepest sympathy to his family.

Approval of Minutes

City Council Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2021

The motion was made by Dietz and seconded by Gabriel that Council approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2021 as presented by the City Secretary. Roll call vote was as follows: Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Dietz, yea; Gabriel, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Work Session Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2021

The motion was made by Bernardo and seconded by Dietz that Council approve the Work Session Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2021 as presented by the City Secretary. Roll call vote was as follows: Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Dietz, yea; Gabriel, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Registry of Invoices

The motion was made by Gabriel and seconded by Dietz that Council approve the Purchase Order Listing by Vendor Name dated February 4, 2020 in the amount of \$251,799.17 and the Autodraft Check Register by Check ID dated February 4, 2021 in the amount of \$27,189.52 as presented by the Finance Officer. Roll call vote was as follows: Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Dietz, yea; Gabriel, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

City Council Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2021 (Cont’d.)

Public Comments

Dennis Bembenic – Clfd Jeff Suicide Prevention

Mr. Bembenic stopped in to request use of the City park on Friday, September 10 through Sunday, September 12, 2021 for their 10th Worldwide Suicide Prevention Observance and 12th annual Rally and Walk. He stated that in previous years this fundraiser has raised approximately \$20,000 which is designated this year to go to DASD Hope Squad. Mr. Bembenic had stopped in at the office previously to check the dates and pick up the necessary paperwork. The motion was made by Gabriel, who told Mr. Bembenic that his organization does a phenomenal job, and seconded by Bernardo that Council approve the use of the park on Friday, September 10 through Sunday, September 12, 2021 for the Clearfield Jefferson Suicide Prevention annual observance, rally and walk. Roll call vote was as follows: Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Dietz, yea; Gabriel, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Elk’s Parking Permit Pricing

The City Manager is recommending that we set the Permit Parking price at \$25 per month per spot or \$225 annually per spot. It was determined that at that price it would be .62¢ a day for an annual pass and .83¢ per day for a monthly pass. The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Bernardo that Council approve the recommendation of the City Manager and set the Permit Parking prices at \$25 per month per spot and \$225 annually per spot. Roll call vote was as follows: Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Dietz, yea; Gabriel, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Councilwoman Diane Bernardo is proud of our small community for signing up and getting the COVID vaccinations. She can’t wait until enough people are vaccinated so we can get back to normal.

City Treasurer, Lisa LaBrasca Becker stated that the Treasury is getting ready to send out the Spring taxes.

City Manager, John “Herm” Suplizio is sending his condolences to the Gilbert family; they are such great people. Mayor Gilbert always put the residents of the City of DuBois first; we truly appreciate all the years of service he put into the City.

Mayor Edward L. Walsh stated that Mayor Gilbert was a great man, he taught us what humility should look like.

ATTEST:  APPROVED: 