

City Council Meeting – January 11, 2021

City Council Chambers, City Building, 16 West Scribner Avenue, DuBois, Pennsylvania on Monday, January 11, 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, Shane Dietz, Shannon Gabriel; 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.

Approval of Minutes:

- 2nd Public Hearing – 2021 Tax Levy & Budget – December 28, 2020
The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Dietz that Council approve the 2nd Public Hearing Meeting Minutes of December 28, 2020 concerning the 2021 Tax Levy & Budget as presented by the Administrative Secretary. Roll call vote was as follows: Gabriel, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Dietz, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5 – 0.
- Public Hearing – Rezoning North Main Street Extension – CB #1954 – December 28, 2020
The motion was made by Dietz and seconded by Gabriel that Council approve the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes concerning the Rezoning of North Main Street Extension – CB #1954 of December 28, 2020 as presented by the Administrative Secretary. Roll call vote was as follows: Gabriel, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Dietz, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5 – 0.
- City Council Meeting Minutes – December 28, 2020
The motion was made by Gabriel and seconded by Aughenbaugh that Council approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of December 28, 2020 as presented by the Administrative Secretary. Roll call vote was as follows: Gabriel, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Dietz, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5 – 0.
- City Council Reorganizational Meeting – January 4, 2021
The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Dietz that Council accept the City Council Reorganizational Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2021 as presented by the Administrative Secretary. Roll call vote was as follows: Gabriel, yea; Bernardo, abstain; Aughenbaugh, yea; Dietz, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 4– 0. Bernardo abstained due to absence.
- Work Session Meeting Minutes - January 7, 2021
The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Gabriel that Council accept the Work Session Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2021 as presented by the Administrative Secretary. Roll call vote was as follows: Gabriel, yea; Bernardo, abstain; Aughenbaugh, yea; Dietz, abstain; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 3– 0. Bernardo and Dietz abstained due to absence.

Approval of Registry of Invoices

The motion was made by Bernardo and seconded by Dietz that Council approve the Purchase Order Listing by Vendor Name dated January 7, 2021 in the amount of \$268,643.96 and the Check Register by Check ID dated January 7, 2021 in the amount of \$25,042.92 as presented by the Finance Officer. Roll call vote was as follows: Gabriel, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Dietz, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Public Comments

Mr. Darl Ferguson, 425 S. Church ST, DuBois, PA

Mr. Ferguson stated that he has been interested in politics since he was in grade school and Eisenhower was the president. They would send the kids home from school with “Vote for Eisenhower” pins. He believes what happened at the Capitol building on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 was shameful. He believes the Republicans need to take their party back and it begins at the local government level. He would like to see Council write a letter supporting the new administration. Mayor Walsh told Mr. Ferguson he appreciates his opinion and agrees it starts at the local level but this is not the forum to discuss such things.

City Council Meeting – January 11, 2021 (Cont'd.)

Public Comments (Cont'd.)

Mr. Darl Ferguson, 425 S. Church ST, DuBois, PA (Cont'd.)

Mr. Ferguson than talked about the trees that are being cut down on Maple Avenue, he believes if you cut a tree, you plant a tree. Mayor Walsh informed Mr. Ferguson that the City planted 1,200 trees out at the reservoir. He went on to suggest that Mr. Ferguson take a look at the trees that have been cut, the majority have been rotten. Mr. Ferguson agreed.

Mr. Ferguson than discussed the COVID vaccination and believes the City should be pushing it. Mayor Walsh explained that the City Council has nothing to do with the vaccine that it is all under Penn Highlands control; although, we would like to get our firefighters and police officers vaccinated.

Mr. Ferguson feels the nation as a whole need to get with it and get vaccinated.

City Manager Suplizio informed Mr. Ferguson that the tree roots had ruined all of the sidewalks on Maple Avenue so the trees need to go before we put new sidewalks in. He encouraged him to try and walk up the sidewalk on Maple Avenue.

Mr. Ferguson stated he can't walk up Maple, his legs just couldn't do it.

City Manager Suplizio said to Mr. Ferguson that his mother made the best hot dogs in town.

Introduction of Fire Chiefs

Mayor Walsh introduced and thanked, Joe Mitchell, the past Fire Chief as of eleven days ago. Mitchell thanked the Council for all their support of the Fire Department and emphasized how important it is to the Department. He went on to introduce and thank the people who stood with him for the last two years and had his back; Fire Chief Tony Roy and Assistant Fire Chief Mike Federici. Chief Roy thanked Mitchell and told the Council he looks forward to serving. He stated he has a few points he would like Council to look into:

- He would like all commercial buildings to have Knox Boxes, and would like a registry listing multi-tenant occupancies.
- He would like to see all addresses uniform; preferable 8" numbers instead of 4". He went on to say it would make it much easier; for not only the fire department but also EMS to see the numbers.

End of the Year Fire Department Report for 2019 and 2020

Former Fire Chief Joe Mitchell read the 2019 and 2020 Fire Department Reports in their entirety. The motion was made by Dietz and seconded by Gabriel that Council approve the 2019 and 2020 Fire Department Reports as presented. Roll call vote was as follows: Gabriel, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Dietz, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Planning Recommendation:

Day Property Holdings, LLC – 403 Patterson Avenue – Subdivision (Old Jehovah Witness Bldg.)

The motion was made by Bernardo and seconded by Aughenbaugh that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and approve the subdivision at 403 Patterson Avenue as presented. Roll call vote was as follows: Gabriel, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Dietz, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5 – 0.

PennDOT Traffic Count – First Street & College

City Engineer/Public Work Director Nasuti stated that PennDOT had contacted him about a traffic study that will last for four months on First Street and College Place.

Police Chief – Blaine Clark

Discussed the large narcotics traffic stop from the evening before. He went on to say the force did a fantastic job and he was happy to say that they took a substantial amount of narcotics off the street.

Councilwoman Diane Bernardo

- Fire Chief Roy – loved your suggestions – Knox Boxes and we'll try to get a multi-tenant occupancy registry.

City Council Meeting – January 11, 2021 (Cont'd.)

- Street Department – Bernardo told Council and the audience about a friend of hers that had come over from Clearfield the day after the big snowstorm. She stated that her friend was really impressed with how well the snow had been cleaned off the roads. She said in Clearfield they only had enough room for one car to pass on their roadways.

Councilman Jim Aughenbaugh

Great job on the pre-planning for the plowing prior to the storm. Thanked the Fire Chiefs for taking the time to serve; no one realizes how much time it takes from your families. Thank you.

Councilwoman Shannon Gabriel

To Former Fire Chief Mitchell, you did an outstanding job; thank you for your service. It couldn't have been easy given the amount of time you have to spend away from your family. To Chief Clark great job getting the drugs off the street. Thank you.

Councilman Shane Dietz

Thank you to the police department for the exceptional job they do. Thank you to the Fire Chiefs, no one realizes how much work you do.

City Solicitor Cherry

All quiet on the legal front.

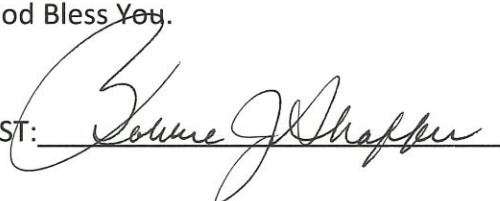
City Manager – John “Herm” Suplizio

- Plowing – Our guys did an excellent job with 15+ inches of snow; people think it should be gone immediately.
- Police did an excellent job – the department is very busy trying to stop narcotics from entering our city.
- Former Fire Chief – John Mitchell; good job and good luck.
- Knox Boxes – (Directed at the Fire Chiefs) Try to get an ordinance from another municipality. Let's get working on this; if you can get an ordinance we can get it to our solicitor. If at all possible, let's shoot for the next Work Session.
- House Numbers – Chief Roy has a good point, it's not just the Fire Department that have trouble finding houses; so does police, EMS and your pizza delivery guy. I believe we need to update the Ordinance requiring bigger numbers. Currently they are 4" I believe we need 8" numbers.
- Goodwill Industries – Back to Blue Campaign. It is a fundraiser through Downtown Imprints for the City of DuBois and Sandy Township Police Departments. People are actually getting heckled because they are backing the police.

Mayor Edward L. Walsh

- Thank you Chief Clark you and the department do an exceptional job.
- Joe, Chris, and Herm you did an unbelievable job planning the snow removal during the last storm.
- Jim, Mike and Tony you have the Council's support, we work well with our Fire Chiefs. God Bless You.

ATTEST:



APPROVED:

