

City Council Meeting Minutes - July 12, 2021

City Council Chambers, City Building, 16 West Scribner Avenue, DuBois, Pennsylvania on Monday, July 12, 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, and Shannon Gabriel. Also present were: City Manager, John "Herm" Suplizio; City Solicitor, Toni Cherry; Police Chief, Blaine Clark; and City Secretary, Bobbie Shaffer.

Absent: City Controller, David Volpe

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Mayor Walsh and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Noah Beimel from Boy Scout Troop 36 who came with his mother to observe the evenings proceedings.

Approval of Minutes

Public Hearing - CDBG Modification 2018 - 2020 - June 28, 2021

The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Gabriel that Council approve the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2021 concerning the CDBG Modification of 2018 and 2020 Programs as presented by the City Secretary. Roll call vote was as follows: Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Walsh yea. Motion passed 5-0.

City Council Meeting Minutes - June 28, 2021

The motion was made by Gabriel and seconded by Dietz that Council approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2021 as presented by the City Secretary. Roll call vote was as follows: Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Walsh yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Work Session Meeting Minutes - July 8, 2021

The motion was made by Dietz and seconded by Bernardo that Council approve the Work Session Meeting Minutes of July 8, 2021 as presented by the City Secretary. Roll call vote was as follows: Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Walsh yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Registry of Invoices

The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Bernardo that Council approve the Purchase Order Listing by Vendor Name dated July 8, 2021 in the amount of \$530,480.89 as presented by the Finance Officer. Roll call vote is as follows: Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Walsh yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Public Comments-

Terri Hess - 406 Maple Avenue - Concerning Maple Avenue Project

Ms. Hess read from a prepared statement:

July 12, 2021

To: DuBois City Council

Subject: July 12, 2021 Council Meeting Questions

1st. Since the "City" has known about the "leaking valve" for weeks at 3rd and Maple Ave, did something unusual happen during the "valve replacement"?

If not, since there was lack of any consideration from the "City" to give the residents that were affected by the "replacement of the valve" that occurred on Friday July 9, 2021, any advanced notice of the affect this replacement has caused and put residents under a "Drinking Water Warning" until further notice... How long is this "Drinking Water Warning" "estimated" to last for?

2nd. Are any of the council aware of anything else, going forward with the Maple Ave Project, that could affect the quality of the water that residents should be aware of and ready and prepared for? In case they receive another "Drinking Water Warning" or any other type of "warning" that will affect water usage in any way?

3rd. It has been said that the Maple Ave Project is "On Schedule"...Please elaborate as to what "On Schedule" actually means...

Estimated time frame for what is happening and what is going to happen...

Laterals?

Sidewalks?

Lighting?

New Road

Land Scape for "construction damage"

Or any other "Items" associated with the Maple Ave Project that continue to or may affect the residents that have not been mentioned.

When is "Construction" "Anticipated/Estimated" to cease for the winter?

4th. Last...in relation to the Maple Ave Road itself, I have been told a "Temporary Road" will be laid until a "Final" road will be constructed in April of 2022. Please correct me if I am wrong and have been misinformed.

My home itself, when vehicles drive by and "hit" the "patch work" or the "sunken" sewer grate, will vibrate. I am becoming concerned as to what this doing to the "integrity" of our home and other resident's homes and businesses, along with the "integrity" of the bridge that crosses over the creek.

When will this "Temporary" road be laid and will it be "smooth" enough to eliminate the vibrations that the "patches" have created?

That's all I have for now and Thank you Council for your time to listen and hope to be able to give "clarity" to the previous questions.

Terri Hess

Maple Avenue, DuBois City Resident

City Council Meeting Minutes - July 12, 2021 (Cont'd.)

City Manager Suplizio tried to answer some of Ms. Hess' questions:

- He explained that there has been a lot of work done and there is still a lot of work to do.
- He stated that the City didn't have a choice, it was mandated by Penn DOT to replace the road.
- The valve has been replaced; it didn't make sense to replace it until the new line was in place. The old line was one hundred plus years old and to not replace it when we were replacing the road would have been irresponsible.
- We had to replace several (approx. 160) lead service lines, which entails tying in all the laterals. It will probably be a few more weeks before this is completed. Because not only does this affect Park and Maple, it also affects several other streets; such as, Church Stockdale, etc. Not sure we're even half way done with the laterals.
- Once the waterline is completely done, we will begin working on curbing and storm drains, then we dig down 18" and replace the road putting a new base coat down. We hope to accomplish all of this before winter; in the spring we will pave. 18" of black top cannot be dug up overnight; it is going to be a long and tedious process. Not only will we be digging but we will have to continue to keep the route open as we do.
- The sidewalk project has begun and it will continue to Seventh ST. Originally we wanted to take it to the Oklahoma Salem Road but the funds just aren't there. We are putting the water shut offs in the new sidewalk; currently grass grows over our shut offs and they are hard to find, this will make it easier.
- A letter is being prepared to be sent out.

Ms. Hess was concerned about the "Boil Water Notice" she received on her door, she would like to know when it will be lifted. City Manager Suplizio stated that she will receive another notice on her door when it is lifted. He explained a sample of water had to be sent for testing and when we receive the all clear we will distribute the notices.

Ms. Hess is concerned with the water in the new line; City Manager Suplizio stated that it might look milky or you could have air in the line but just run it until it clears. The milky look is from the chlorine put in the lines to clean them.

Ms. Hess asked if the sidewalks and lighting will be done by winter; City Manager Suplizio confirmed they will be.

Ms. Hess is concerned with the vibration on the road when people travel fast over it. She's afraid it will affect the structure of her house. City Manager Suplizio stated that we hope to have the base coat down before winter; the base coat will be almost like a new road. Ms. Hess asked if there were unforeseen circumstances would there still be a road. City Manager Suplizio confirmed there will be a road.

Councilwoman Gabriel suggests that people limit their use of Park and Maple Avenue until the project is finished; use an alternate route as much as possible.

Ms. Hess wanted to know about her landscaping; City Manager Suplizio stated that it will be put back as it was found. Pictures were taken previously. She also wanted to know if they will be replacing the trees that were cut down. Suplizio said they are looking into replacing them with a type of tree that does not destroy sidewalks.

Councilwoman Bernardo stated that any renovations or construction is inconvenient, but once the project is completed we should have a complete loop around the City.....beautiful. Also, the notice is an advisory you don't have to follow it if you don't wish to but you run the chance of getting some contaminate.

Hess was upset because the valve leaked for several weeks but they were given no notice until the boil warning. Suplizio stated that the valve was on the old line, no use of repairing it when we were putting in the new line.

Suplizio stressed it is going to get worse before it gets better. The 18" dig hasn't even went out for bid yet. We may not start digging until September.

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Councilwoman Bernardo feels that the City is blessed to have in-house engineering. When DuBois Street was redone it was the state and turned out to be quite the mess. Glad Maple is a DuBois project and not a state project.

Police Chief Clark stated that they have been out on Maple and Chestnut trying to slow traffic down, but they have minds of their own.

Mayor Walsh stated that a letter from the City will be going out to explain the project very soon.

Ms. Hess than referred to the weeds in the creek bed. City Manager Suplizio stated that we have received a grant for Sandy Lick Creek but we're not sure how far it will go.

Councilman Shane Dietz

Thanked Chief Clark for allowing him to ride along with our K-9 Officer (Rhed). Dietz said it was very interesting.

Councilwoman Shannon Gabriel

She was happy that social media kept her up-to-date while she was away on vacation. Great work taking the dilapidated building down safely. Mayor Walsh was amazed at how talented the crane operator was while taking down the building.

Councilwoman Diane Bernardo

- Concert tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. - Keystone Cats
- Shout out to Municipal League for pushing for Act 1621 dealing with small wireless tower providers. Mayor Walsh asked if we can charge what we want to charge; Bernardo said we are still until federal guidelines.
- Councilwoman Bernardo stated that she made an observation and she would like to do a shout down, not a shout out but a shout down to the DuBois Downtown, Inc. organization. She was disturbed to see the picture of the downed building on West Long Avenue and the notice attached to the old Tommy D's building on their website. As an organization trying to promote the City and bring business in, she did not feel it was in the best interest of the City to have those type of pictures on the Downtown's Facebook. They are not the Courier Express reporting on the goings on in the City, they are to be the positive face of City businesses.

City Solicitor, Toni Cherry

Had nothing on the legal front, but as a representative of the Planning Commission she has concerns for the downtown. She feels we need to tighten our ordinances up or write new ordinances concerning people purchasing buildings that they can't afford to repair and clean up. A person leaving a building go to the point it becomes a safety hazard is not acceptable. A person stating, they cannot afford to fix a building prior to it becoming a safety hazard is not acceptable.

City Manager, John "Herm" Suplizio

- Gave Council a copy of the Tanker Fill Site Memo in case they received phone calls.

To:	Water Haulers All Fire Department Outside of the City of DuBois Sandy Township
From:	John "Herm" Suplizio
Date:	June 28, 2021
Subject:	Tanker Fill Location

As of July 1, 2021 anyone filling tankers of any kind, now need to fill their tankers at the DuBois City Garage, 10 Parkway Drive during normal working hours of 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or a certified metered fill station. We are not saying you cannot fill tankers, we are simply saying if you are going to fill them, they

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City Manager, John "Herm" Suplizio (Cont'd.)

- Gave Council a copy of the Tanker Fill Site Memo in case they received phone calls. (Cont'd.)

have to be done at a certified site. We are under the guidance of the P.U.C. and D.E.P., so this is a strict rule that must be followed.

Due to the draw and affect that this has on our system, only in case of a fire or extreme emergency should any other hydrant be used that is on the system.

Shawn, we trust that you will pass this along to any water haulers and also the Sandy Township Fire Department.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

- Officer Casey Doherty is trying to put together a movie night in the park the end of August.
- West Long Avenue property has been cleared of 99.9% of the debris, once it is cleared they will begin filling it up.

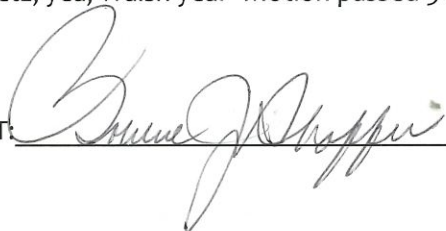
Mayor, Edward L. Walsh

- Sr. League Tournament - Wednesday 8 p.m. Stern Field - Mayor Walsh will throw out the first pitch. Seventeen teams including DuBois.
- Beginning July 15 there will be a 24 team tournament here, St. Mary's and Brookville. The mayor believes that every business will reap benefits from these tournaments on our fields.
- Mayor Walsh thanked Noah Beimel from Boy Scout Troop 36 for being with us this evening.

Adjourn

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

ATTEST:



APPROVED:

