

City Council Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2023

City Council Chambers, City Building, 16 West Scribner Avenue, DuBois, Pennsylvania on Monday, March 13, 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, Shane Dietz, and Shannon Gabriel. Also present were: City Manager, John “Herm” Suplizio; City Solicitor, Toni Cherry; City Engineer/Public Works Director, Chris Nasuti; Public Works Superintendent, Scott Farrell; 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 Mayor Walsh.

Prior to the Council Meeting an Executive Session was held concerning Personnel. (Mayor Walsh stated it had to do with our Police Puppy.) No action was taken.

Approval of Minutes

City Council Meeting – February 27, 2023

The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Gabriel that Council approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2023 as presented. Roll call vote was as follows: Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Work Session Meeting – March 9, 2023

The motion was made by Gabriel and seconded by Dietz that Council approve the Work Session Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2023 as presented. Roll call vote was as follows: Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, abstain; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 4-0.

Registry of Invoices

The motion was made by Dietz and seconded by Gabriel that Council approve the Purchase Order Listing by Vendor Name dated March 9, 2023 in the amount of \$532,330.92 and the Check Register by Check ID dated March 9, 2023 in the amount of \$28,817.55 as presented by the Finance Officer. Roll call vote was as follows: Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Public Comments

None

Julie Stewart – Parking Study Group

Ms. Stewart presented Council with a copy of her latest newsletter and stated she is only working as interim Downtown DuBois Manager while they look for her replacement. She only plans to be here for 3 – 6 months, but stated there is a lot of work to be done during that period. One of the biggest problems in the downtown is parking. A Parking Study Group is being set up to make recommendations to help alleviate parking problems. Currently the Downtown is working on getting an intern to help with data. She went on to say that Chris Nasuti, Public Works Director & City Engineer, is on the Parking Study Group and she is hoping to get input from the Chief of Police. City Manager Suplizio thought she should add, Joe Mitchell as he is the Director of the Redevelopment Authority. She was very receptive to the idea. Some of Stewart’s goals over the next six months is to working on the parking problem, get more residents involved, and really emphasis our sports facilities and our state of the art hospital. Show people this is where they want to live.

Councilwoman Bernardo asked if Ms. Stewart if she had given a copy of the news letter to the merchants. Ms. Stewart stated she wanted to run it past the City first. Bernardo stated she liked the questions to the merchants and is very interested in how they answer.

Request from Solicitor Cherry to add two emergent items to the Agenda

- Extension of Contract
- Possible Transfer of Property to Redevelopment Authority

The motion was made by Bernardo and seconded by Gabriel that Council approve adding the two emergent items to the agenda. Roll call vote was as follows: Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Extension of Contract – City Manager – John “Herm” Suplizio

City Solicitor Cherry stated that City Manager Suplizio’s current contract, which is made up of three separate contracts, is due to expire on March 8, 2025. The contracts are as follows: Manager of the Water Department, City Manager, Manager of the Sewer Department. The City Manager’s current contract would expire eight-months short of consolidation taking affect. Solicitor Cherry proposes that Council consider extending the City Manager’s current contract to December 31, 2025; coinciding with the consolidation. The motion was made by Bernardo and seconded by Gabriel that Council extend the City Manager’s current contract to December 31, 2025 coinciding with the consolidation. Roll call vote

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Extension of Contract – City Manager – John “Herm” Suplizio

was as follows: Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

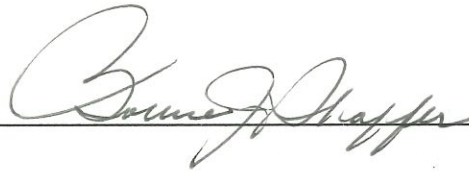
Transfer of Property to Redevelopment Authority – 42 S. Brady ST (formerly Tommy D’s)

42 S. Brady ST is a blighted property that came up for tax sale and the City purchased the property; they purchased the property instead of the Redevelopment Authority because they do not have to pay transfer tax. The City would like the property developed. Redevelopment Authority Director Mitchell has a possible purchaser for the property. As the City must bid anything over \$6,000 and accept whoever the higher bidder is regardless of whether they will take care of the property or not; the City would like to control who the property is sold to. Therefore, they would like to transfer the property to the DuBois Redevelopment Authority who can ask for proposals and choose the best one. At the sale of the property the Redevelopment Authority can then reimburse the City for the original purchase price. Solicitor Cherry went on to say that she would like Director Mitchell to supervise the sale and make sure the City gets a reputable purchaser. She would like Council to directed her to draft a Deed transferring the property at 42 S. Brady ST from the City of DuBois to the DuBois Redevelopment Authority. She and Director Mitchell will work out the requirements for the transfer. The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Dietz that Council approve the transfer of 42 S. Brady Street from the City of DuBois to the DuBois Redevelopment Authority with the terms to be set by City Solicitor Cherry and Redevelopment Director Mitchell. Roll call vote was as follows: Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

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: Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

ATTEST:



APPROVED:

