

City Council Meeting Minutes – March 8, 2021

City Council Chambers, City Building, 16 West Scribner Avenue, DuBois, Pennsylvania on Monday, March 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, 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 Administrative 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

City Council Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2021

The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Dietz that Council approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2021 as presented by the Administrative Secretary. Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Dietz, yea; Gabriel, yea; Bernardo, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Work Session Meeting Minutes of March 4, 2021

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

Approval of Registry of Invoices

The motion was made by Dietz and seconded by Aughenbaugh that Council approve the Purchase Order Listing by Vendor Name dated March 4, 2021 in the amount of \$473,158.23 and the Autodrafts Check Register by Check ID dated March 4, 2021 in the amount of \$7,236.59 as presented by the Finance Officer. Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Dietz, yea; Gabriel, yea; Bernardo, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Public Comments – No Public Comments

Second & Final Reading of Council Bill No. 1946 – DROP Plan Ordinance

An Ordinance of the City of DuBois amending Chapter 48 of the Code of Ordinances establishing and maintaining a police pension fund to amend certain provisions of the pension plan or program to adopt the provisions of a deferred retirement option plan as agreed to by the City of DuBois and the police officers and to adopt the same in accordance with the agreement reached January 1, 2019, retroactive to the date of said agreement and to reinstate and re-enact in its entirety all sections of Chapter 48 not in conflict herewith was presented by Solicitor Cherry for second and final reading. The motion was made by Gabriel and seconded by Aughenbaugh that Council approve the second and final reading of Council Bill No. 1946 – DROP Plan Ordinance and it become Ordinance No. 1860 in the Code of Ordinance for the City of DuBois. Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Dietz, yea; Gabriel, yea; Bernardo, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Planning Commission Recommendations:

A. Day Property Holdings – 403 Patterson Avenue Subdivision

Gary & Vicki Peterson were in attendance; they own the property at 723 Munro ST. Engineer Nasuti stated that this is the old Jehovah Witness property and the parcel we are talking about is located in the rear of the lot. Before the vote City Manager Suplizio told the Peterson’s kiddingly not to feed the deer or bear. The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Bernardo that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and approve the request from Mr. Day to subdivide ½ acre from his property at 403 Patterson Avenue and that it be consolidated with the Peterson’s property at 723 Munro Street. Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Dietz, yea; Gabriel, yea; Bernardo, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

B. Penn State University – DuBois – Consolidation & Land Development

This is a three-part approval: Consolidation, Land Development and SALDO Modification
Consolidation

City Engineer Nasuti stated that Penn State University is comprised of several lots located at College Place, North Sixth ST, East DuBois Avenue/Route 255 and East Second Avenue, they would like to consolidate them all into one parcel.

City Council Meeting Minutes – March 8, 2021 (Cont'd.)

Planning Commission Recommendations:

Penn State University – DuBois – Consolidation & Land Development (Cont'd.)

Consolidation

The motion was made by Gabriel and seconded by Dietz that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and approve Penn State University's request to consolidate all parcels currently located at College Place, North Sixth ST, East DuBois Avenue/Route 255 and East Second Avenue. Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Dietz, yea; Gabriel, yea; Bernardo, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Land Development/SALDO Modification

Second they would like to expand their Multi-Purpose Building by 3,800 sq. ft. and update ADA accessibility; but in order to do that, they need to ask for a SALDO Modification to change their front yard setback from 24.5' to 18'.

The motion was made by Bernardo and seconded by Dietz that Council accept the Planning Commission Recommendation and approve the request for SALDO Modification from a 24' front yard setback to a 18' setback and the Land Development Plan as presented to the Commission. Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Dietz, yea; Gabriel, yea; Bernardo, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Walsh asked City Solicitor Cherry if it would be easier if he read the Planning Commission recommendations aloud so that everyone can hear the details. The City Solicitor felt that would be helpful, so that the Community as a whole will know that the City does grant modifications.

Knox Box Ordinance

Chief Roy presented Council with a copy of a proposed ordinance. Mayor Walsh asked Roy to tell the audience what a Knox Box is. Roy stated that it is a key box outside the building that only the fire department and police have a key to open. Mayor Walsh informed everyone that the way our current ordinance reads, all brand new buildings in the City of DuBois must have a Knox Box.

Councilwoman Bernardo asked if they are all the same?

Roy said it's up to the property owner as the business owner pays for the box.

Councilwoman Gabriel asked what the average cost for a box would be.

Roy stated between \$400 and \$450 for low end boxes.

City Solicitor Cherry asked about the penalty in the proposed ordinance, she asked if the Fire Department is giving her license to make it reflect our other ordinances.

Roy said she can tweak it anyway she would like; this is just an example that they found.

Councilman Dietz wanted to know who would have access to the keys for the buildings.

Roy stated that the Fire Chiefs and Chief Clark spoke up and said the police would also have access.

Councilwoman Bernardo stated that she believes many Communities are using them. It is a fire prevention measure.

The motion was made by Bernardo and seconded by Aughenbaugh to turn the proposed ordinance over to our City Solicitor for review and revisions. There were questions on the motion by our City Solicitor: Does the presence of a Knox Boxes decrease insurance premiums? Roy stated he didn't know. Solicitor Cherry stated she would check it out. Councilwoman Bernardo believes it would, and feels it's an excellent idea for our Solicitor to check. Solicitor Cherry stated she will amend the Ordinance if she finds it to be true as that would be a selling point to business owners. Gabriel wanted to know what the time frame is for existing buildings to come into compliance. Bernardo found in the proposed ordinance it gives them six months from effective date; that would be September. City Manager Suplizio

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Knox Box Ordinance (Cont'd.)

said that summer help will be helping on the numbers and can at the same time check for boxes. City Solicitor Cherry stated that we will need a Public Hearing but we can schedule that after the First Reading and she will take care of advertising. Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Dietz, yea; Gabriel, yea; Bernardo, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Councilwoman Diane Bernardo

- Needed clarification on the Consolidation/Modification motion for Penn State University
- Thanked the Fire Chiefs for being proactive in procuring a proposed ordinance on Knox Boxes
- Downtown DuBois Octoberfest – Informed the Fire Chiefs that she has received confirmation that Wheels of Yesteryear will be participating in Octoberfest and would once again like to extend an invitation to the Fire Department. She stated in previous years the Fire Department supplied a Fire Truck, Gear for people to try on, and set up a food booth. There would be no cost for the Fire Department; there is no amount that we could give to the Fire Department that could make up for all they do for the Community. She will be sending them an official invitation.

City Manager – John “Herm” Suplizio

- Major waterline break by Lezzar Lumber, so the Community may be experiencing dirty water and low pressure. They have is isolated. Due to the confusion on Sunday morning, we are looking at a mass text to everyone when something like this happens.
- Reminder to everyone, next Tuesday, March 16 there will be a Consolidation Study meeting at the DuBois Country Club. It will not be a stand up to the mike situation to ask questions. If you have a question write them down. The City staff will be attending an earlier meeting at 1 p.m.

Mayor Edward L. Walsh

Mayor Walsh feels that Tuesday evening will be a big evening for the Community.

Adjournment

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

ATTEST:



APPROVED

