

## City Council Meeting Minutes - November 8, 2021

City Council Chambers, City Building, 16 West Scribner Avenue, DuBois, Pennsylvania on Monday, November 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; Police Officer, Lance Thompson; 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

#### City Council Meeting Minutes - October 25, 2021

The motion was made by Gabriel and seconded by Dietz that Council approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of October 25, 2021 as presented by the City Secretary. Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, abstain (due to absence); Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 4-0.

#### Work Session Meeting Minutes - November 4, 2021

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

### 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 November 4, 2021 in the amount of \$465,846.77 and the Check Register by Check ID dated November 4, 2021 in the amount of \$22,004.75 as presented by the Finance Officer. Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

### Public Comments

#### Officer Lance Thompson - REAKT Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, 301 Aspen Way, DuBois, PA 15801

Officer Thompson told Council about his gym; currently it has two full youth programs and in January he plans on a self - defense class for the Girl Scouts. Thompson is planning an event for the DuBois City Park on Veteran's Day. He went on to say that when the military run they call it Ruck & Roll while carrying heavy weighted backpacks. He is having a Ruck & Roll 5K in the City Park/Walkway on Veterans Day November 11, 2021 @ 5 p.m. registration begins at 4:15 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the We Defy Foundation. The We Defy Foundation is an organization for veterans that promote Jitsu wrestling as a way to help with PTSD.

Mayor Walsh thanked Officer Thompson for his service to the community and also for being one of the individuals who help Dennis Gray when he had his medical emergency.

### Planning Commission Recommendation:

- Barber Financial - 196 W. DuBois Ave - Lot Consolidation  
The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Gabriel that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and grant the lot consolidation to Barber Financial - 196 W. DuBois Ave with the stipulation that they consolidate the Deeds prior to applying for any permits. Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.
- Barber Financial - 196 W. DuBois Ave - Land Development  
The motion was made by Dietz and seconded by Gabriel that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and grant the Land Development Plan as presented. Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

### Handicap Parking Space - Ronald Selfridge - 544 Locust ST

Mayor Walsh and Chief Clark saw no problem with granting this request; Clark stated that Mr. Selfridge has no off street parking so it is the only alternative. The motion was made by Gabriel and seconded by Dietz that Council grant Mr. Selfridge of 544 Locust ST a handicap parking space with



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### Handicap Parking Space - Ronald Selfridge - 544 Locust ST (Cont'd.)

the understanding that anyone with a handicap placard can park in that space. Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

### Fee Schedule for Abandon & Blighted Properties

Solicitor Cherry stated that the Fee Schedule had been discussed in Planning and they had requested a few changes to the title; it now appears to be in order. Cherry went on to say that the first draft did not specify abandon and blighted properties; it referred to vacant which is a different designation. She believes the Fee Schedule is now ready to be voted on. The motion was made by Gabriel and seconded by Dietz that Council approve the Fee Schedule for Abandon and Blighted Properties as presented. Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

### Direct City Solicitor Cherry to draft a resolution using the fees in the Fee Schedule for Abandon & Blighted Properties

The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Dietz that Council direct City Solicitor Cherry to draft a resolution using the fees in the Fee Schedule for Abandon & Blighted Properties as presented. Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

### Comcast

City Manager Suplizio stated that this is the final draft of the proposed contract, he would like Council to look it over and direct any questions to our City Solicitor to relay to Comcast. We will be voting on this at a future meeting. Councilwoman Bernardo asked for a date, City Manager Suplizio said discuss on November 18th; vote on 22nd.

### Police Chief - Blaine Clark

- Halloween went well.
- Kudos to Officer Thompson for all his work in the community. Mopec requires defense classes for officers; Thompson will train to be the instructor.

### City Engineer - Public Works Director - Chris Nasuti

- Maple Avenue Project - Dave Roman Excavating - should be finished by November 15<sup>th</sup>
- Park Avenue - Glenn O Hawbaker - (hit by COVID) - should be finished for the year November 19<sup>th</sup>
- East Scribner Avenue - Dave Roman Excavating - should be finished by November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Hopefully by our next Council Meeting all projects should be completed for the year. With tongue in cheek, he went on to say that if anyone has any questions they can call Assistant Public Works Superintendent, Joe Mitchell.

### Redevelopment Authority Director/Assistant Public Works Superintendent, Joe Mitchell

Mitchell gave Nasuti's extension 208 as his own, to answer any of the questions Nasuti was referring to.

### Councilwoman Diane Bernardo

- Requested Councilwoman Gabriel and Chief of Police Clark give a few minutes of their time after the meeting to discuss a phone call.
- Concerning the Fee Schedule for Abandon and Blighted Properties, she asked the City Solicitor if the fees would start from when the violation started or the date of the Resolution. City Solicitor Cherry felt we cannot make the fees retroactive, they would have to begin with the date of the Resolution.

### Councilman Jim Aughenbaugh

- Special thanks to Jason Gray, Barry Abbott and Sam Mollica for their successful campaign getting consolidation passed in both Communities.
- We have a lot to do, we need to do what is right for the community as a whole not just what's good for us.

### Councilman Shane Dietz

Thank you everyone that got out to vote.

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- Thanked Officer Thompson for assisting Mr. Gray during his health emergency.
- Wished Officer Thompson good luck on Thursday at his Ruck & Roll event.

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

ATTEST: APPROVED: 