

Work Session Meeting Minutes – May 4, 2023

City Council Chambers, City Building, 16 West Scribner Avenue, DuBois, Pennsylvania on Thursday, May 4, 2023 @ 4 p.m.; Council convened at their regular Work Session with Mayor Walsh in the Chair. Other Council Members present were: Jim Aughenbaugh, Shane Dietz, and Shannon Gabriel. Also present were: Interim City Manager/City Engineer/Public Work Director, Chris Nasuti; Public Works Superintendent, Scott Farrell; Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer, Zac Lawhead; Police Chief, Blaine Clark; and Finance Officer, DeLean Shepherd.

Absent: Councilwoman Diane Bernardo

An Executive Session was held prior to the Work Session concerning a personnel matter; nothing was voted on or decided.

May 8th Agenda Items

Interim Manager Nasuti stated this was the draft agenda so if Council had any additions, he would like to have them by noon tomorrow so we can get it uploaded to the website.

Nasuti read down the items on the agenda.

He stated that Councilwoman Bernardo is away visiting family, so she will be missing on Monday.

We will be advertising a Joint Board Meeting to be held on May 22nd at 6 p.m. He went on to state that he and Manager Arbaugh will be sending out a request to Council and the Supervisors to ask if they would like anything specific added to the agenda.

There will be an update on the 2023 Budget. Our goal is to have the revised budget to Council by the end of May, but we will give you an update on that.

Locust Street Parking

We've had some complaints in that area, Q-Care employees parking on the street; they are asking us to look into it to see if we can have residential parking stickers like we have had in other places throughout the town. The Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer is investigating this to try to see who is actually using that area. We'll have an update on Monday.

Public Comments

Bev Kurts -504 Rainbow Drive, DuBois

I put a Right to Know request into the City on 4/24 I was to have a response within five business days. If you count that out, that would have been Monday. I have received nothing. Councilwoman Gabriel stated she would apologize for that, and we are addressing that matter. She believes that Monday evening there will be some changes on how those are going to be handled. Ms. Kurts said if it is too much for the person doing it, then she would say Chris is trained let him do it. He'll be fine. I did not get a response within the five legal days. Mayor Walsh stated, you will be getting a response. Aughenbaugh stated they are aware, and they are addressing it. Mayor Walsh apologized.

Jennifer Jackson – 42 N. Brady Street, DuBois

Ms. Jackson stated she is wondering if Council will be elected if they don't do something about this Solicitor, she is not acting in the best interest of the city. What would be nice if you would step up and start acting on our behalf. This isn't Herm, I don't know why she even speaks about the United Way; she's not the Solicitor, she has nothing to do with the United Way. I don't know why this elected Council is not acting on behalf of the taxpayers of DuBois. That's my comment, no question so it doesn't need answered. So that's my comment.

Councilwoman Shannon Gabriel

Councilwoman Gabriel requested to speak, stated it isn't a public comment but if she could just speak. She stated that Jen, Pat, and herself went to the Fort Worth for the Republican Group, they are starting to get back together after COVID. She thought they could get some dates; she didn't think to write them down. They are going to nominate some officers and try to build that group back up. She thought it was very nice to put some faces to names as those people are on the other side of the mountain. She thought it was a great night, everyone was very respectful. She thought it went well and she thought it would be nice, she not sure of the democrats also have something in this area to do, if not it would be nice to build that up as well. That is something the Republicans are starting to get out there.

Work Session Meeting Minutes – May 4, 2023 (Cont'd.)

Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer – Zac Lawhead

Grass is growing. He is going to start non-compliance letters next week. If Council sees anything let him know.

- Jennifer Jackson asked about 15 N. Jared ST; Lawhead asked if she wanted to buy it, then stated that it is delinquent for taxes and the man didn't have insurance either time it burned; he has taken him to the magistrate multiple time, he pays fines but won't tear it down. He said it's on their hit list but currently he has three that are of higher priority. Lawhead went on to say that they have prices to demo three houses on the other side of Jared, we are just looking for funding, possibly grants. If no grants are available, the prices are very affordable, and he has spoken with Waste Management to set up their hauling services for the removal of the waste. The fourth house, 110 Jared (big white house across from Salvation Army), hes going to try to get the guy in court. He had a conversation with Interim Manager Nasuti and once we get some summer help we are going to ask if it was alright to get the outside cleaned up until we can deal with the owner. They asked about a yellow house on Weber. Interim Manager Nasuti stated that Joe Mitchell was just at CDBG training, and he believes we will be in the position to start looking for grants. Aughenbaugh stated that code enforcement is a long-drawn-out process.
- Mayor Edward Walsh asked about the house on W. Long Avenue; Lawhead stated he had a conversation with him and hoped he would have something in writing for Monday but he hasn't received anything yet. Lawhead did write him up, the owner called crying the blues because he doesn't have the money to fix the porch. He wants to appeal to our appeals board, so Lawhead asked him to write up his position on it and submit it to Council. He wants Council to look at it so they can see what he's proposing. We worked with him approximately six years ago.
- Bev Kurts stated there is a property on Brady that has a tree in the front porch. The old Carpet Shack. Lawhead said they did pull a trailer in there to start working on it, he noticed doors and windows boarded up on it today. Lawhead stated that every time he calls him, he eludes him. Kurts stated it's coming right into the town and looks poor.

Councilman Jim Aughenbaugh

Asked when the end of the boulevard would be finished. Interim Manager Nasuti stated the end of May is the goal. Mayor Walsh stated he knows we can't replace the steps but are we going to re-mortar them? Nasuti stated we have no plans, we put new safety rails on there and everything is secure. I think there is a difference of opinion, some people like the way it looks, some people want a change. They're safe. Someone suggested power washing; Nasuti stated he would be afraid to power wash them as they may deteriorate faster.

Councilman Shane Dietz

Asked about the progress of the Coke Hill project. Interim Manager Nasuti stated that the construction on the top is almost complete. They will be moving down to Route 255 in June. At the beginning of June, we should be doing the traffic light on 255 right after school is out and the sewer will follow right behind it.

Mayor Edward L Walsh

Asked if everyone had received their water bill this month, they confirmed they had. He really liked the paper with all the dates.

Chris M. Nasuti

The revised budget will be complete by the end of May.

Councilwoman Shannon Gabriel

Stated she called the Police one weekend because some local children were using the waterfall at the top of the boulevard as their swimming pool. She requests something be put in the news to remind people that the waterfall is a beautiful esthetic feature and not a swimming pool. Very dangerous: slippery rocks, high above the road, etc. There are signs to be put up; there is a beautiful pavilion up top they can sit and look around, but please keep your children off the waterfall.

ATTEST: Shane Dietz APPROVED: Chris M. Nasuti