

## City Council Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2023

City Council Chambers, City Building, 16 West Scribner Avenue, DuBois, Pennsylvania on Monday, May 8, 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 (Phone), James Aughenbaugh, Shane Dietz, and Shannon Gabriel. Also present were: Interim City Manager/City Engineer/Public Works Director, Chris Nasuti; Redevelopment Authority Director/Assistant Public Works Superintendent, Joe Mitchell; Finance Officer, DeLean Shepherd; Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer, Zac Lawhead; Corporal Randy Young; Officer Lance Thompson; Police Chief, Blaine Clark and Administrative Secretary, Bobbie Shaffer.

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Walsh.

### Personnel

The motion was made by Gabriel to terminate City Solicitor Toni Cherry's contract; no second was made. The motion died for lack of a second.

The motion was made by Gabriel and seconded by Aughenbaugh that Council name Chris Nasuti as Right to Know Officer for the City of DuBois. Councilwoman Bernardo had a question on the motion, she wanted to know the title that would be given Nasuti. Gabriel stated Right to Know Officer. Roll call vote was as follows: Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

### Approval of Minutes

Work Session Meeting Minutes – April 20, 2023

The motion was made by Gabriel and seconded by Dietz that Council approve the Work Session Meeting Minutes of April 20, 2023, as presented. Roll call vote was as follows: Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

City Council Meeting Minutes – April 24, 2023

The motion was made by Dietz and seconded by Aughenbaugh that Council approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2023, as presented. Roll call vote was as follows: Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Work Session Meeting Minutes – May 4, 2023

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

### Registry of Invoices

The motion was made by Gabriel and seconded by Dietz that Council approve the Purchase Order Listing by Vendor Name dated May 4, 2023, in the amount of \$566,450.78 and the Check Register by Check ID dated May 4, 2023, in the amount of \$17,265.36 as presented by the Finance Officer. Roll call vote was as follows: Bernardo, abstain (due to absence); Aughenbaugh, yea; Gabriel, yea; Dietz, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 4-0.

### Financial Update

Interim Manager Nasuti wanted to give an update on some questions we have been receiving since all of this has transpired.

- The City of DuBois does have bonded personnel (bonds for specific individuals that handle our money) Bonded Personnel are as follows: DeLean Shepherd, Joe Mitchell, Lisa LaBrasca Becker, Tom Nowak, and Becky Hoover. Nasuti also stated that we have a blanket fidelity bond that covers general crime coverage for all employees. We do have that in place.
- Professional Liability Insurance  
While this was going on we were getting our quotes from our suppliers; we were actually getting policy removal quotes. They pulled their quote back; we assured

## City Council Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2023 (Cont'd.)

### Financial Update (Cont'd.)

them there would be no claim filed on this against them. They did write a policy for us; however, the deductible for the crime and fidelity portion of that policy did increase from \$500 to \$2,500. Bonded personnel liability insurance is in place.

- **Account Oversight**

We have identified all the accounts, including that Community Fund, and every account using the City's EIN number: General Fund, Checking, Savings and the old Community Fund are now under our control. All monies are received into the Finance Office, which is controlled by DeLean, she writes the checks, checks are signed by two people either the Treasurer, or the Deputy Treasurer, the second signature is the Controller or me. DeLean is managing the money, but she cannot sign any of the checks. All the checks are signed by two independent people. The oversight is taken care of, all the signature cards have been changed on all the accounts at all the banks.

- **Capital Fund Accounts**

Just to make sure everyone knows; we are still in a financially good situation here. I know circumstances may say otherwise, but relatively speaking we're in good shape. With our General Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Liquid Fuels, CDBG, PennVest, and Health Insurance we have a net operating cash of \$1,204,769 as of May 1st. We still have our capital fund accounts for Embankment Paving, Heavy Equipment, Dump Trucks, Sweepers, Recycling Truck, K-9, and Water Projects so they are all still accounted for they are all under that combined group I talked about earlier under DeLean with the only way to withdraw under two signatures.

If I could, I would like to slip right into No. 10 – 2023 Budget. We had some unexpected expenditures come through here, by the end of May we will have a new 2023 budget. Which will show how some of the unexpected expenditures were covered.

### Public Comments

Jennifer Jackson – 42 N. Brady ST

I'm kind of disappointed that the Solicitor is not here. At previous meetings we had the Solicitor speak on behalf of United Way. I'm kind of questioning that she has no jurisdiction over United Way, and she has stated that there is no money missing from the United Way. She ordered almost \$100,000 in cash to be removed from the United Way office months ago. That money showed up here just two weeks ago and said it belongs to the city. So first off, why is City cash down at the United Way office? And then, why is it showing up here, and why does she have control of it? You don't need to answer the question, I know I'm only allowed to comment. But you just had the chance to vote to remove Toni Cherry. She is irrational, she is unprofessional, she is unethical and I ask you again to terminate her services and that of Gleason Cherry & Cherry. That is a request for the taxpayers of the City of DuBois. So, there is almost \$100,000 in cash that came into this City that came out of the United Way office. I think that needs some explaining. (Round of Applause)

Mayor Walsh stated we will be answering her question.

Ms. Jackson asked if that is tonight, because she is not here.

Councilwoman Gabriel said moving forward your questions will be answered.

Interim City Manager Nasuti stated that her statement was accurate. It actually came last week, not two weeks ago. I don't know where the money originated. It was brought here. Chief Clark and I took it to the bank, we secured it, and opened a new account; the money is secure there. The Attorney General knows we have the money. So, that's where it is.

Jackson asked, who it was that brought in here.

## City Council Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2023 (Cont'd.)

### Public Comments (Cont'd.)

Nasuti stated that Toni brought it.

Darren Glass – 303 Park Avenue

Read a statement from his phone – the recording is garbled.

On April 23<sup>rd</sup> Councilwoman Gabriel put out a statement accusing County Commissioner Dave Glass, my father, of giving away grant money for the City of DuBois; and accused him of appointing his son, “me” to quote unquote a high wage Clearfield County government job. Diane Bernardo...

Mayor Walsh questioned Gabriel on whether that was her statement or Councilwoman Bernardo’s statement. Gabriel stated that was Ms. Bernardo’s statement. Mr. Glass stated that Gabriel put one out on her Facebook too and has since taken it down. Gabriel stated the statement originated from Diane.

I was going to get to her statement as well. Councilwoman Bernardo echoed this statement a couple of days later. The truth of the matter is that Commissioner Glass had no involvement with my hiring, he recused himself entirely from the hiring process on my application. I was contacted by the Assistant Director, who I have known for years, at Penn State about applying for the job. I then waited six months to make sure no one else had applied, because I didn’t want to compete with anyone for the job. After that I applied taking a pay cut in the process. I worked there for around six months and have received only positive feedback from all my supervisors. While these baseless accusations have now been deleted from Gabriel’s Facebook, it put a strain on my professional career for no reason. I don’t understand why two members of Council decided to attack a third-year college student making \$11 an hour while serving the County as there are bigger issues surrounding the Council. Since their statement, multiple people have reached out to me both in the workplace and in my career to ask about these comments questioning both mine and my father’s integrity. First, I felt guilty even though neither of us had done anything wrong but then I realized that I was hired on my own. I’m asking for an apology from both Councilwomen involved in the comment.

Councilwoman Gabriel stated she apologized to him, that is why she removed the statement after I knew the facts. I was asked to share it on my social media because Ms. Bernardo does not have social media. I shared it. I found out the facts and I removed it. So, I publicly apologize to you.

Mr. Glass thanked her; she said, your welcome.

Mr. Glass asked about Councilwoman Bernardo.

Mayor Walsh asked if Diane had anything. Councilman Aughenbaugh asked if Diane heard that.

Bernardo said no she just heard a lot of rumbling it’s too far away; she would read it in the minutes.

Richard Whitaker – Chairman - 9 Person Consolidation Committee

I see they are talking about the Joint Board Meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. I am here to highly highly recommend, after talking to several of the chairmen under different committees, that we do not pause Consolidation. There will be no mingling of money, so there is no reason to pause. There is so much we need to do, and we have taken a long enough hiatus. We have a big job ahead of us. We are sorry that all this happened in the City but we’re here to consolidate. Make it a better place to live. I encourage you as Council people when you go to the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting please vote against pausing Consolidation. We need to move forward.

## City Council Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2023 (Cont'd.)

### Public Comments (Cont'd.)

Kevin Salandra – Not in Supervisor capacity but as a taxpayer for the City of DuBois  
He stated he has several comments and questions. He is appalled that \$270,000 was used for criminal defense of someone that was accused of stealing from the entity that paid the bill. Now again innocent until proven guilty but I am appalled that money would be used.

I have also heard rumors about EOG money that I read the other day was unaccounted for I've heard it has been used for some projects outside the water fund. As a former auditor, actually of the City of DuBois, the water fund, a proprietary fund, typically monies that are spent in a proprietary fund need to be spent on the proprietary fund. If that is correct, frankly it hurts me personally; I pay the water bill, my tenants pay the water bill, and reimbursement for the water bills and it's going to increase my taxes eventually or potentially increase my taxes; but it is still the right thing to do if the water was sold the money should have been given to the rate payers not the taxpayers.

Mr. Nasuti answered a lot of my questions, I was going to ask if there was insurance or bond; he did do that a little bit. I am confused as to why there wouldn't be a claim if there is money missing from any fund that would be covered by that insurance, so can you answer that?

Then there is some conflicting information, I submitted a Right to Know request approximately three years ago and asked for some expense reports and the Right to Know request was an expense report of Mr. Suplizio. The Right to Know request was answered by the Solicitor and she said that Mr. Suplizio never turned in an expense report for 2019 and therefore was never reimbursed for any expenses incurred by him on behalf of the City in 2019. And then to fully answer your question to avoid numerous Right to Know requests we searched the records of the City of DuBois for a period going back an additional 15 years before 2019 and found no instances during the entire 16-year period that Mr. Suplizio ever requested reimbursement from the City for any expenses. Then she said, as you might conclude Mr. Suplizio is a very generous man who cares deeply about the citizens of DuBois. Most of what he does for them has never been known publicly because he never asks to be reimbursed. Yet I have seen numerous articles in the media saying that he gets reimbursed according to his contract. That is conflicting information.

Also, I asked to see his Financial Disclosure Forms and I have four years of Financial Disclosure's and on the Financial Disclosure Forms you must report any source of income over \$1,300 and for bank accounts that could be interest, dividends and capital gains according to the instructions.

6:16 p.m. Councilwoman Bernardo interrupted and stated she could hardly hear over the phone line and her family was joining her so she would be getting off the line.

So, the Financial Disclosure Form shows no accounts, yet I also saw in the media that \$100,000 was confiscated. I find it highly unlikely, even if there was \$100,000 it is possible but highly unlikely that there was no account producing over \$1,300 in income in one year. I think there are some inconsistencies, and I don't expect you to have answers to some of those questions now, but it would be nice for those to be addressed in the future.

Interim Manager Nasuti asked if Mr. Salandra could send him a letter so he can get the items exactly.

Councilwoman Gabriel stated that as for the claim; in order for us to get insurance, (asked the Manager to correct her if she was wrong) the only way we could get insurance is if we guaranteed we would not offer a claim. So, the choice was to either take the loss and not file the claim and have coverage moving forward or file the claim and then not have coverage going forward. So that is the reason for not filing the claim.

## City Council Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2023 (Cont'd.)

### Public Comments (Cont'd.)

The reimbursement forms: so, this is an absolute breakdown in policy and procedure that needs to be corrected going forward. So first of all, per Mr. Suplizio's contract, it was automatically built into his contract for reimbursement for cell phone and gas. So, you are not going to see a reimbursement form for that. But anything else you would. So, what I was being told, and a lot of these years proceeded me being on Council, but I know that since I've been on Council anytime, let's just use an example of going out to eat. You go out to eat, at my old company, I would have to eat, I would buy my food, I would fill out a reimbursement form, turn that in with my receipt to the financial department, they would make sure that what I purchased was allowable for reimbursement, match it with the receipt and then cut me a check. That never occurred. There were no reimbursement forms ever turned in to reimburse for anything. So, in the affidavit it clearly states there was \$3,000 allegedly taken and no reimbursement form. There wasn't a reimbursement form because it was part of his contract. Again,

Salandra said, my Right to Know request was not provided by the City. Based on what you are saying, the City was paying a bill, it was not just a reimbursement but was on a contract basis. So, I don't know if my Right to Know request was handled properly. Councilwoman Gabriel said I would agree with you.

Deb Mechling – 709 Monroe ST

I received my Community Days letter and donation form in the mail on Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from the DuBois Volunteer Fire Department. Since the donations are to be sent to the City Building on Scribner Avenue, I am assuming you are the entity I should address my question to. My question is who are the members of the Community Days/ Parade Committee. That information was missing from the donation letter, requesting checks be sent towards the funding of this event. We as citizens are craving accountability and transparency, I find this donation letter to fund the Community Days event lacking some basic information.

Councilwoman Gabriel asked Joe Mitchell to answer Ms. Mechling.

Mechling asked if Mitchell was the Chairman.

Mitchell confirmed he is the Chairman.

He stated as they said at the last meeting, we are providing the Council with the full financial statement and have hired a third party to track all donations, receipts, receive W-9s and send out 1099's at the end of the year. We will have everything after Community Days to Council. Other than myself as the Chairman, the people we have are a volunteer board from the fire department. Different members show up depending on availability. Chief Federici is one of the main people in Community Days now, as is Past Chief Farrell, and Jessie Schindley; those are our main people at this point. The Community can rest assured we are doing everything that we possibly can to make sure they feel secure in donating to Community Days this year.

Mechling asked another question. Why was it decided to not put names on the letter that was sent out? Mitchell stated we never have that I remember. Mechling remembers that there have been. Mitchell said Ok. Mechling continued; I actually look because... Mitchell said we used to do a full letter, in the essence of trying to consolidate the expenses all we do is a mailer now. We're not hiding, I just gave you the names, I don't mind answering questions at all. I guess it was an oversight or lack of room. Mechling said several people asked her who the members were because she goes to Council meetings. I did reference that you are chairing it, but they shouldn't have to come to her to get information. She feels the names should have been on the letter. Mitchell said obviously there was a lot of discussion this year about if we were even going to do Community Days. So, the mailers went out late, obviously you saw those at the end of last week, some people didn't receive them until this weekend. We still have a strong but small group of volunteers that are trying

## City Council Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2023 (Cont'd.)

### Public Comments (Cont'd.)

to bust their butts to get this Community what they deserve and that is a celebration of our town in the way we always have and that is...it is tough to do right now. There are going to be some people that don't donate because of questions, but we hope that everyone feels secure in knowing we are giving information on our finances even more than we have in the past just to give everyone a level of comfort in what we do.

Mechling thanked Mitchell for answering her question and for everything he does for our community.

Charles Mechling – 709 Monroe ST

He wants to talk about the money Waste Management pays the city and why. The Solicitor recently stated that the money could be used as the Council sees fit. Sounds like slush fund to me. I wonder what Waste Management receives for its \$60,000 a year. The reason he questions this is because we are not permitted to use any other refuse service in the City of DuBois but Waste Management. Thereby eliminating any competition. St. Mary's has four different contractors for refuse offered to their residents. Competition keeps prices down and service up.

Another question I have is when the slush fund started could that have been when the rule for the landlords being responsible for the garbage bill and not their tenants came into being?

A closing thought, "integrity is doing the right thing when no one is watching". Seems as though there are a lot of people watching now, perhaps the integrity of Council is in question.

Interim Manager Nasuti stated that they do have a franchise fee and an administrative fee which is \$15,000 per quarter. Which is similar to I think what they have out in the Township; similar to what we have with other utilities. We have utilities that are bid out just so we don't have a whole bunch of suppliers in one town. Every quarter \$15,000 is going into the General Fund, we have rectified that problem, I think. Toni had eluded before that it was going into the Community Fund, it is now the General Fund. Mr. Mechling asked if we would be just keeping with the one entity, you are not entertaining at least two? We may entertain two when the contract is up but right now, we do just have one. Someone asked when the contract would be up. Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer Lawhead said 2028 for the renewal of the 10-year contract.

? Rupert – Sandy Township Resident (Mr. Rupert did not sign in and his name was not legible on the recording.)

He stated he has been attending meetings at both Sandy Township and the City of DuBois because of what is going on with Consolidation. Tonight, with the motion to dismiss Solicitor Cherry; in 515 D it says she should be in every meeting in its entirety. What is her absence for tonight? Interim Manager Nasuti stated we asked her not to attend tonight. Mr. Rupert said OK.

Jennifer Jackson asked, just tonight. Nasuti confirmed we asked her not to attend tonight.

Dr. Jeffrey Rice

I wanted to make a couple of comments, they are just personal. This Council has been great to deal with in my entire career here in trying to build developments in DuBois. I'm heartbroken by what is going on, I'm heartbroken at how it is tearing the community apart. His concern is this will interrupt the flow of cooperation between the city and township. He wants the consolidation to go through, it is what the people voted for and that's what should be done. Right now, Chris Nasuti, who I have worked with for a number of years, I have found to be very competent, as City Manager I think he can do an excellent job. I don't like to see things get tabled. I don't know how long this whole event is going to last, but it

## City Council Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2023 (Cont'd.)

### Public Comments (Cont'd.)

will be lasting much longer than all of us want. We need leadership, we need to go forward, we have a lot of problems to solve. We have opportunities in the city to deal with parking. There are two new restaurants coming to the City of DuBois, parking will be needed. You have a golden opportunity. I hate to see the debate be all negative. We must go forward with projects. It is best for the community. Now is the time for a lot of this to be done. I hate to see such negative comments take over and slow the possible good. The money spent, the money that I see going out of taxpayers, sad when it could be done better. However, legally you must go by what the law is and apparently the Solicitor was the one that advises you on what must be done.

Things like the forensic audit, I wonder about the cost for that. Your auditors are well respected auditors in the community. I see how they could miss nothing, but the state did a forensic audit of everything. Wouldn't it be cheaper just to get a copy of what they did? Have it reviewed and see if there are some errors and save money. Every dollar saved could be put to another project. So, I'm sure the state before they did all the indictments went through everything. There may be errors, but wouldn't it be better to have an auditor sit down with them and review it and answer their questions. It would save a lot of grief and a lot of money. I am not an auditor; I am not an attorney (glad I'm not an attorney) but I want the City to go forward in cooperation with Sandy Township. It is important. I don't want this used as a division among people...(Dr. Rice's 3 minutes were up.)

Councilwoman Gabriel stated she appreciated Dr. Rice's comments very much but unfortunately any audit that we have had done no in my opinion is not good enough. There were accounts that were using the city tax ID number that Council...I'm not going to speak for anyone else up here... that I did not know about. I did not know that they were using the city tax ID number. We had no oversight of them, they did not go through our audit with Mr. Piccirillo. So, no it is not good enough. It's not. Unfortunately, it is going to take 9 to 12 months. Unfortunately, we were put in a position where we must do this and that is the only thing to do that's right for the residents in this town, to know where every dollar of their money went. Now, I don't think that Consolidation needs to pause, there is still a lot of work that we can do that is not going to require spending of money right now. We still have until 2026, there are still a lot of decisions that can be made. A lot of conversations that we can be having. We can still move forward, but that forensic audit is essential. Every single one of those accounts need to be looked at.

Dr. Rice said, the money never showed up in the city.

Gabriel said but there were checks made out to the City of DuBois that weren't in..

Nasuti tried to clarify Dr. Rice's statement. He stated he believes that is what Councilwoman Gabriel was trying to tell him.

Gabriel continued; the checks made out to the City of DuBois were not deposited into the general fund account that Council had oversight of. They were deposited to accounts that we had no oversight of.

Rice questioned whether a forensic audit would show that. Nasuti confirmed it would show that. He went on to say that they specifically asked for that when they called out for RFP's. When we sent it out, we looked through and found any account that was under the City's control and the City's EIN and the ones that were not under the General Fund those are all going to be audited. The General Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Old Community Fund (that she is referring to), Community Days, Fire Department are all going for forensic analysis. I believe the audit that we do yearly is not going to look for the fraud, this is going to go much deeper.

## City Council Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2023 (Cont'd.)

### Public Comments (Cont'd.)

Let's turn more positive, concerning parking, we have a meeting every two weeks with the Downtown Group on parking. They are doing surveys for us, we have plans for the parking lot across the street, signage we are working on with PennDOT. So, there are good things, and you are right, we should concentrate on some of the good things that are happening in town as well. Hopefully we will have something to bring to Council soon. Julie Stewart is doing a good job.

Kathleen Clement –

Asked about the white things on every corner at stop lights. She asked if it was data that was being collected by the city, by PennDOT? Is it a thing where it records and the data is kept somewhere? Is it just a flash every time you go by. What are they for?

Interim Manager Nasuti told her that they are security cameras at the intersections as you see them on TV or in the movies. They are recording what goes through the intersections. Everything that happens there, pedestrians, vehicles; if we are looking for a vehicle it does record, we can actually type in the make with the color, and it will search for those to help us track individuals going through there. Helps identify when happened at a conflict at one of the intersections.

Chief Clark stated that they have used them multiple times for accidents, pedestrian accidents, and pulling up specific vehicles that are involved in crime or anything we can locate it. They are great tools; they have been great for us. They are a very good camera system.

Kathleen wants to know who maintains the data, who keeps the information? The police station. The City.

Nasuti stated the City.

Kathleen how long is it kept? Weeks? Months? Days?  
Mitchell stated, it's kept 30 days.

Kathleen said that everyone was asking.

Clark said he couldn't stress enough how much of a resource these are.

Kathleen asked if a grant put those cameras in.

Nasuti said he wasn't sure; Mitchell stated that some of it was and some of it was built into the budget.

Nasuti stated that they went to Bradford to see how they use their system, they liked it and little by little we expanded it down here.

### Joint Board Meeting – May 22, 2023

Interim Manager Nasuti just wanted to remind Council of the meeting and give them a chance to add any items. We will be sending it out to everyone, hopefully, by the end of this week. Again, with the update if you want a topic on there, please send me a description so I can add it to the agenda. Gabriel stated it will be 6 p.m. here in the City Building, then we will meet for our regular Council meeting immediately after.

### Locust Street Parking

Nasuti stated that we have had some calls about the crowded streets down on Locust Street near Forest Avenue and Q-Care, so we been looking at zoning maps, we actually did some car counts, checked our Ordinances, and inspected the area ourselves. Based on what we found from our investigation, I don't think we are going to be able to enact any permits



## City Council Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2023 (Cont'd.)

### Locust Street Parking (Cont'd.)

down there. It is an office district; it is not a residential district. He will reach out to Penn Highlands and see if they can talk to their employees, in several days of watching we only found five cars that were repeats that would probably be employees we'll try and tidy that up.

### Police Chief Report

Chief Clark said some people have been asking about the new Drug Vice Unit as well as K-9 that we have enacted. When I interviewed and started here two things were my objective. One was community relations between the police and the community and the second was the narcotic issue. Part of putting that together is having the K-9 as well as the drug unit. He introduced Corporal Young who is heading up the new Drug Vice Unit and has worked for many years with the Attorney General's office on the drug issue. Clark stated that he used a few citizens to help us, Mr. Tryzna pointed some things out to us; it is helpful when citizens get involved to help us put things together. Just like the cameras, we follow things around everything works. He has a few numbers to go over then he'll turn it over to Corporal Young to talk on some of his and highlights.

The K-9 we have had for just around 3 years, he is a great dog, I believe some of you have seen him work. Zayne himself has logged over 916 hours of training with the dog, he's had over 117 K-9 deployments. That's not just in the city, he's been to Johnstown with the dog and all around the surrounding area, the State Police call him before they call their own dog. He is that good. It sounds like I'm bragging about the dog, but I really am, he's a good dog. I tell them look at his handler, he's passionate about it.

As far as the drug team that we put together, which basically consists of Corporal Young, which still runs his regular shift and works with the K-9 and then two other guys. Since its inception last July, these are single arrests, the DVU has made 49 arrests for drug paraphernalia, 18 for possession with the intent to deliver, 41 for drug possession, plus 20 -30 more cases that are open. They are just working through that to get to charges in because when we get drugs, we must send them to the Erie Crime Lab, they must be tested, and they have to be brought back to meet with our charges. If the Erie Crime Lab is backed up it may be an almost three months wait for the charges and drugs to get back. Out of that, Corporal it looks like we have 28 with Methamphetamine; 9 Heroin, Fentanyl, 8 Marijuana, 11 LSD, and some other things that are coming out. We have a new drug that is starting to make its way in Xylazine. It's a bad thing, it is just evolving, thank goodness I have guys that stay on this and are passionate about it. They do an excellent job. Can't thank the citizens enough, Mr. Tryzna that was a very big deal.

Mr. Tryzna said thank you they were tremendous up in my neighborhood with everything that I had contacted them through emails and phone calls and everything else they were outstanding.

Corporal Randy Young stated as far as the forty some arrests, it doesn't sound like a lot but as of right now that is individuals. So, forty some individuals have been arrested. There is approximately 30 open cases, meaning that could be 30 more arrests in addition to the 40. What the Chief is saying is when we get drugs now, we must send them away to the crime lab. Lately, it's been six to seven months before we get the results back on those drugs. So, we can't file charges unless we have results from those drugs. Unless we NIC test them. Now our guys are not going to NIC test Fentanyl, because Fentanyl is very very, it is just bad for a human being. It's awful. As we only started in July, it took us a couple of months to get started. Brand new to our department, we didn't know how to do it, Chief and I sat down with guys that are on the drug team and it took us two or three months to learn what to do. What to put together; office, vehicles, stuff like that. But it is running very well, about one arrest a week. I realize forty arrests doesn't sound like a lot but when you have four guys working it, two guys actually and a K-9 and myself overseeing it that's a lot. That is not the rest of the department, the rest of the department may have drug arrests also.

## City Council Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2023 (Cont'd.)

### Police Chief Report

Chief Clark felt the department had 8 – 10 this year. Clark said he's not supposed to be doing that, but he finds himself doing it.

All seriousness, going back to the community, I have to say thanks to Council because they, although you made me prove that this is needed and I appreciate that, I had to show my passion and why to do that. To the Council, again if it wasn't for you having faith in our department to allow us to move forward as well as the community in a sense, they said we need this. As many arrests as we are pushing out, we are miles ahead of other departments in this area when it comes to this. We have succeeded in moving forward. It will be nice when the other departments jump on board.

### Councils Comments

Councilman Aughenbaugh stated how much he appreciates the Police Department and how well they do their job; they are facing the problem head on.

Clark stated it is only getting better, he can now go down alleys, when they first started they were everywhere. Now I go down an alley and some are still there but not everywhere.

### Councilwoman Shannon Gabriel

She referred to her phone, so she didn't forget anything. She stated, tonight she just wanted to take a moment to apologize to each and every one of you. You all deserve an apology. When I look around this City there have been wonderful accomplishments. Nobody can deny that. There have been wonderful accomplishments. However, the trying times that we are experiencing now, they have to be acknowledged. They can't be passed by, can't sit quiet up here. They have to be acknowledged. There has to be a change in policy, procedure, crassness, and protocol. There has to be 1,000 % transparency with you regarding our spending, regarding decisions that we're making. I think what a lot of people have forgotten is whether it is your direct tax dollars to this City or it's a grant we receive that money is your money. Your money going into those grants, whether it be by state taxes, federal taxes, your local taxes, it is your money. I'm tired of hearing we got a grant for it. We got a grant for it, it's your money. Every single one of you is working hard, I work hard, my husband works hard, my kids work hard, it's your money. You deserve to know where that money goes. There is going to be times that we agree to disagree on what we spend money on, that's just the way it is. But you still deserve to know. You need to be able to come here and leave feeling like you were heard. I might not agree with your feelings, that is OK, they are your feelings. You have a right to feel those. You have a right to express them, you have the right to get an answer back respectfully and I hope that is what you felt you got tonight. We have to do better. It's a simply answer, but there is enough complex complicated stuff going on, so simple is OK. We have to do better. You deserve for us to do better. I'm going to leave it with one of my favorite quotes by Vince Lombardi "Perfection is not attainable but if we chase perfection, we can have excellence". You haven't even been given "close to excellent" at this point. So, I can't even say it's been perfect. You deserve better than what happened here tonight. So, I'm sorry.

### Councilman Jim Aughenbaugh

We have been changing some things and working through them. We must work on them. We are working on them; I think everyone can attest to that. So, we are working on things, taking things seriously. We will continue to.

### Interim City Manager – Chris Nasuti

Practices and procedures are changing. I have reached out to a few of you already, if anyone ever has any questions my door is always open. I hold no grudge against anyone, if something needs done, we will address it. Just want to make sure that everyone knows you are welcome to call me, stop in and see me, anything you want. (There was a round of applause.)

## City Council Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2023 (Cont'd.)

### Interim City Manager – Chris Nasuti (Cont'd.)

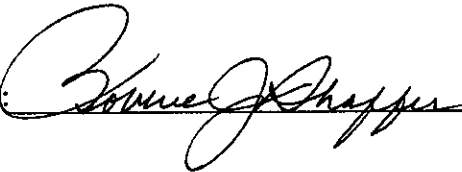
To finish on a high note, about the things Dr. Rice was referring to I have two things to mention: Maple Avenue construction will be done this week. Paving will move from there to Third Ward you have probably seen the street resurfacers already. Then we are moving up to First Ward to do a few alleys up there by the old Litts Club and the Pulaski. Line painting will be done beginning Wednesday, it was going to start tonight but the rain has pushed us back until Wednesday. The people up on Coke Hill, good news, restoration is starting this week, they are moving down to the sewer line next week. I had a meeting this morning, they are still on schedule to finish the Sewer Plant by November 2024. As soon as school is finished, the second week of June, we will be redoing the traffic light there by the High School. One final note the World Series is here, Penn State – DuBois baseball won the championship for the conference today, so they will be here again next week, so the Home Run Derby is Sunday and games are Monday through Thursday. Showers Field, Stern Field, and Softball at Heindl. It will be a good week.

Mayor Walsh asked Nasuti to talk about the DuBois Classic. DuBois Baseball Classic was at Showers Field on Saturday, I think Central won that one 3-2 in a close game; the girls played at 7 p.m. and DuBois won another close game. DuBois broke open and DuBois public won the softball game and Central won the baseball game. Another good event.

### **Adjourn**

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

ATTEST:



APPROVED:

