

## Work Session Meeting Minutes – June 22, 2023

City Council Chambers, City Building, 16 West Scribner Avenue, DuBois, Pennsylvania on Thursday, June 22, 2023 @ 4 p.m.; Council convened at their regular Work Session with Mayor Walsh in the Chair. Other Council Members present were: Jim Aughenbaugh, Diane Bernardo, and Shane Dietz. Also present were: Acting City Manager/City Engineer/Public Work Director, Chris Nasuti; Public Works Superintendent, Scott Farrell; Redevelopment Authority Director/Assistant Public Works Superintendent, Joe Mitchell; Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer, Zac Lawhead; Police Chief, Blaine Clark; and Finance Officer, DeLean Shepherd.

**Due to time constraints Councilman Dietz requested that an item be added to today's agenda: Pat Reasinger appointed as Councilman to finish Shannon Gabriel's term.**

The motion was made by Dietz and seconded by Bernardo that Council add an item to today's agenda so he can be sworn in at Monday's meeting: Pat Reasinger appointed as Councilman to finish Shannon Gabriel's term. Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Bernardo, yea; Dietz, yea; Walsh, yea.

**Pat Reasinger appointed as Councilman to finish Shannon Gabriel's term.**

The motion was made by Dietz and seconded by Bernardo that Council appoint Pat Reasinger to the City Council to finish the term of former Councilwoman Shannon Gabriel. Roll call vote was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Bernardo, yea; Dietz, yea; Walsh, yea.

Mayor Walsh congratulated Mr. Reasinger and thanked Mr. Gelfand for interviewing, appreciated him being here.

### June 26th Agenda Items

Interim Manager Nasuti read down through the agenda items.

**#5 – Oath of Office**

Swear in Mr. Reasinger

**#6 – Proclamation – Goodwill Hose Company**

Proclamation for them for winning the firemen's competition this year.

**#8 – Second and Final Reading of Council Bill No. 1973 -Street Excavations and Openings**  
That's the fees for utility companies.

**#9 – Resolution No. 2023-0366 – Changes to Designated Pension Plan Officials**

Currently we switched over all the signators on everything except for the Pension Plan; so we will be making a recommendation for Tom and myself to be signators and Tom Nowak to be contact for that.

**#10 – Resolution No. 2023-0367 – Signers on S & T Wealth Management Accounts**

We switched over all the signature cards already. Because they requested this with the pension, we elected to officially have Council bless the switching of the cards. That has been done already, and this is officially blessing them.

**#11 – Drought Watch**

The state has issued a drought watch for the entire state regardless of your circumstance. They are requesting a voluntary reduction in water use by 5% for all users. Specifically, we are 1" below normal stage as of today. I assume we are going to be back in the normal range; although we're 1" below normal range today so technically we would be in that same drought watch in our own contingency plan. I'm hoping this weekend we will be out of that. But we will still follow the state's advice on a contingency plan. Monday we will recommend people voluntarily cut back 5%.

All we have so far for Monday night.



## Public Comments

### Elliot Gelfand – 1 S. Highland ST

Do you have any idea how much money is frozen at the current time? Nasuti clarified, frozen? Gelfand asked if there were any City accounts frozen. There are no City accounts frozen, Community Fund and things like that? Nasuti stated that the money that is frozen is that Community Fund, we received that put it in the bank. Mayor Walsh stated we froze it. Gelfand clarified it wasn't frozen by the state. Nasuti stated that the AG hasn't frozen anything we have not restricted any access to anything. Gelfand wanted to know how much was in the account that is frozen. Nasuti said \$180,000. Gelfand asked is the \$94,000 was frozen as well. Nasuti said it is part of that. That Community fund when it got here, the bank account had \$80,000 - \$90,000 in it and then we got that \$93,000 from Toni that we also put in there. Gelfand asked if it is all in the same account now. Nasuti confirmed it is.

### Jennifer Jackson – 42 N. Brady ST

So, I have been talking with Ron Tryzna about the budget. So, first when is the audit going to be done? November? Nasuti said he doesn't know when they will complete it, I have contacted Pat Keen again, after talking to Ron, and he is not giving me a time frame. He will be sending over a formal letter, but I don't have a time frame for it for the 2022 audit. Jennifer continued, so I guess my question is this 3.5-million-dollar loan that we have taken out on a ballfield, do we really need this ballfield? Looking at the budget, we're transferring money, do we really need to take out at 3.5-million-dollar loan for another ballfield? I understand there are requests for ballfields. I've looked at the ballfield, I don't have any issue with it. I'm just wondering at this point, looking at the budget and numbers and knowing that we're going through an audit with Sandy, is it really feasible that we are building another ballfield and taking out a loan for 3.5 million right now? Rough expenses without labor involved, we are almost at half a million dollars on the ballfields that we spend on expenses. Who knows how much Showers and Challenger Field cost us, that we pulled out of the budget.

Nasuti clarified, out of that loan?

Jackson no, no, no expenses. \$500,000 I'm just questioning, is it feasible? Why we are taking out a 3.5-million-dollar loan right now, knowing what's going on and trying to keep the City solvent right now. Do we really need to do this this year, right now? Can't we just try to see where we're at? We're transferring money from funds and at the end of the budget here, if I pull this right, we have \$26,000 left. That scares me knowing that I am coming on to Council next year and we're pulling money out of accounts. I'm going through this; do we really need a 3-million-dollar loan right now? Or is that going to help us, is that going to give us some cash flow this year. Is that it, are we using the 3.5 million dollars as some extra cash flow this year?

Nasuti, no the 3.5 million dollar loan is not for cash flow. It is for actual capital improvements, and it is a line of credit loan for 3.5 million dollars. We have spent some of the money, we made improvements to the bath house and chemical building; after we make the improvements the bank inspects it then they will give us the money to pay the contractor doing the work. I think we have spent in the neighborhood of \$250,000 out of that money on that project so that is all we have covered so far. I just want to make sure you are not thinking the entire 3.5 million... Jackson I see that in here, I did see the pool but then I'm also questioning the pool. Are we resurfacing the pool this year? What's the issue? We have people come to me, and I'm not even in here yet, on the surface of the pool. Nasuti stated we resurfaced it not too long ago. Jackson, but it is still scraping at the one end by the waterfall. Nasuti, by the bucket? Mayor Walsh stated he has not heard a word about that. Jackson said that it is still a really rough surface on that end. Walsh said I know they put a rubber surface on it, so you don't fall. Jackson, yeah, yeah. Walsh said but I have not heard any complaints about it. Jackson, I'm just questioning, right now with all these money transfers and everything, do we really need to take on such a big project this year. I will give you a heads up, I'm going to bring it up on Monday. I just think this is something that really needs looked at, because if it were me, I think I would be holding off spending any extra money right now. Knowing where the city is as I'm going through the budget.



Gelfand said he didn't look at the budget, but what was the projected year end surplus.

Nasuti, our operating revenues and operating expenses we had a surplus of \$26,000.

Everyone talked at once – hard to understand Gelfand.

Nasuti was unsure what the original surplus or balance was.

Jackson went on, we've transferred almost 4 million dollars from the Sewer Fund in one line item. She went to say as Trzyna and she are going through this ....

Mayor Walsh stated that is a yearly thing. That's the rent they pay the city to use the system.

Nasuti said when you see the \$26,000, we have the operating revenue and the operating expenses that is not our total cash position that is just revenue vs expenses. We are targeting to get to 0 each year.

So, then the total cash position, profit & loss statement, where is.... knowing once this audit comes out where does the City really stand right now? How solvent are we?

Nasuti, I think I provided that update about a month ago, we get that update from our treasurer every month. I can give you the cash position when he presents that at the end of June as well.

Jackson, for me right now with everything going on we don't know what will play out with Herm; do we really want to take on such a big capital project this year? Walsh said we would lose a 2-million-dollar grant. Aughenbaugh stated there are other things in there, not just a ballfield. There are a few other things that are probably more.... Nasuti said the pool is in there, basketball court, playground equipment, softball, pickleball. Aughenbaugh said I was talking about the playground being more ADA compliant. Nasuti stated they can take a look at the entire project, do a piece of the project; we have already done the pool portion of the project. We can definitely look into all these. Aughenbaugh said after we get information back here at the end of month, such as plans, estimated cost, what we're looking at and take a look at it again.

Nasuti stated when he was first appointed interim, we did contact them about our budget and let them know the circumstances we were under, and they were understanding. We put everything on hold until our timeline is more running. We are not going to lose that money. Once we decide what we are going to do, we can get back in contact with them and get things moving or extend it.

Mayor Walsh complemented Joe Mitchell on a great Community Days. Mitchell stated it was a wonderful weekend.

#### **Councilwoman Diane Bernardo**

Double shout out to Joe and the Volunteer Fire Department, Police Department, Emergency Services. The tremendous effort that goes into what amounts to a day and a half of Community Days. It's just overwhelming. Joe, what amazes me is that you put together that Small College World Series staying until two, three o'clock in the morning and still chugging along going to work. Again, thank you for the effort that you and your family, because they get roped into doing things, put into the weekend. Thank you so very much.

#### **Councilman Jim Aughenbaugh**

Wanted to thank all the people involved in Community Days, public works, police department, and all the volunteers. You set up traffic control, all that stuff takes a lot of volunteers. Everyone had a good time and no incidents to speak of at all. Great job, I thank all of you.

#### **Councilman Shane Dietz**

A lot of people put in some work into it. It really isn't just a weekend; it takes months.

**Councilman Jim Aughenbaugh**

Talked about the parade and how you keep a nice slow pace so that you're not running behind the truck. Again, I'm getting too old for running, when you're handing out candy, you're 100 feet from the truck and must keep moving. Thanks, Shane, for taking the other side of the street. He suggested a little slower pace for next year.

**Interim City Manager – Chris Nasuti**

Thanked everyone for their questions. Thanked Elliot for his interest in the Council position. Congratulations Pat, look forward to working with you.

**Mayor Edward L. Walsh**

I have nothing to add except congratulations.

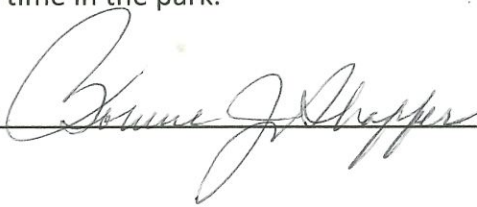
**Councilwoman Diane Bernardo**

Announced that the first Musicfest Concert begins tonight. Verified with Nasuti that it was still on. Nasuti stated he had not heard anything to the contrary.

**Interim City Manager – Chris Nasuti**

Mid July is the State Senior Little League Tournament; then the end of July beginning of August is the Eastern Region Junior League. We will have games, the regular districts all along. Should be a fun time in the park.

ATTEST:



APPROVED:

