

## City Council Meeting Minutes- July 24, 2023

City Council Chambers, City Building, 16 West Scribner Avenue, DuBois, Pennsylvania on Monday, July 24, 2023 @ 6 p.m.; Council convened at their regular City Council Meeting with Mayor Walsh in the Chair. Other Council Members present were: James Aughenbaugh, Diane Bernardo, Shane Dietz and Pat Reasinger. Also present were: City Solicitor, Toni Cherry; Acting City Manager/City Engineer/Public Works Director, Chris Nasuti; Public Works Superintendent, Scott Farrell; Redevelopment Authority Director/Assistant Public Works Superintendent, Joe Mitchell; Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer, Zac Lawhead; Finance Officer, DeLean Shepherd; 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.

Mayor Walsh announced at the beginning of the meeting that an Executive Session for Personnel was held on Thursday, July 20, 2023, and no action was taken. Also, an Executive Session for Personnel was held prior to this evening's meeting with the Fire Department and no action was taken.

### Approval of Minutes

#### City Council Meeting Minutes – July 10, 2023

The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Dietz that Council approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2023, as presented. Roll call vote was as follows: Reasinger, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, abstain; Aughenbaugh, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 4-0.

#### Work Session Meeting Minutes – July 20, 2023

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

### Registry of Invoices

Interim Manager Nasuti read down through the categories giving their totals. He stated that Auto Drafts are just our standard monthly bills, such as utilities. PennVEST is a special fund used for the new Sewage Treatment Plant. The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Reasinger that Council approve the Auto Draft list dated July 20, 2023, in the amount of \$58,655.60; the General Fund list dated July 20, 2023, in the amount of \$293,000.98; and the PennVEST list dated July 20, 2023, in the amount of \$3,164,053.05 as presented by the Finance Officer. Roll call vote was as follows: Reasinger, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

### Public Comments

#### Charles Mechling – 709 Monroe ST

I was pleased to hear at the last Council meeting that the budget for the city is sound. It was also announced that there is going to be a vote regarding the contract with Comcast; being the sole provider of digital media in the city. This to me is the same as a protection racket benefiting the city and Comcast; but, unfortunately, not the citizens of DuBois. Let the free market be free, let there be competition. It is the only way to get the best service or the best price. Having a contract with one entity being the sole provider takes away any bargaining power the consumer may have. The same scenario is going on with Waste Management. Please stop taking payoffs from companies to eliminate their competition for them. Will the next be Giant Eagle or Martin's making them the only grocery store in DuBois?

#### Linda London – 577 Rumbarger Ave

This is not the same as what Mr. Mitchell was talking about with the CDBG grant. Mine is grants in general.

- When a grant application is made to be used for a specific project, can the awarded grant money be switched at any time to another project once it has been approved for the original request?
- Who oversees that the awarded grant money is properly used for the originally applied for and approved project?
- Upon completion of the project does documentation make it to Council that they in turn relay the information to the grant provider.

Mayor Walsh stated that he would answer and then Interim Manager Nasuti can interject, or you can answer, and I'll interject.

Question 1: Walsh - Once we get a grant it cannot be switched. Nasuti – When we get a grant, it is for a specific purpose and project; if we want to switch it, we have to go back to the grant awardee. So for example, if we were trying to do something in the park and switch it to a different project in the park, we would have to get approval from the people that gave us the money.



Question 3: Nasuti – At the completion of the project, there is an audit done by the people that give you the money; they track all their requirements, minimum wage rates, insurances, US Steel, whatever it may be, budgets, and then everything is closed out after that. They typically hold a certain percentage of that grant funding until they can confirm you did everything right. So, they do verify at the beginning and at the end that you did what you were supposed to do.

Question 2: Nasuti – Oversees how we do the grant? Council will vote on the payments we make for those projects. But they are not overseeing progress every day, checking out certified payrolls, and US Steel most of the grant awardees do oversee the projects for us.

Ms. London felt that clarified somewhat, because I don't think I'm mistaken when I say that I've heard it setting here that money was switched. I didn't know that you would then go back to the grant provider, and they have to approve it for you to do that. Thank you for clarifying that.

Nasuti – We can't just switch it; we have to get approval from the funding agency to switch it.

Councilman Aughenbaugh stated that certain grants are for certain things and are made up and used in certain areas. So, depending on how the grant is written, you have to stay within the parameters.

Nasuti – Even if we switch, if we had a grant for recreation we can't switch it to road rehab, it would have to be another recreation project. Even if we switch within the parameters, we have to get approval from the provider.

Councilwoman Bernardo stated that she believes it is also stated in our audit. Isn't it? Our yearly audit? Nasuti said they do look at those, yes. Single audits for specific projects.

#### Michael Clement – 17 N. Brady ST

He addressed Mr. Nasuti and stated he had posted a comment about our last City Council Meeting the week of July 10<sup>th</sup>. A former Councilwoman commented and said that we were all offered attorneys in the event the AG or Herm's attorneys wanted to meet with us. She said, we went on to pay this bill. Is that part of the \$275,000 that we paid, and if it is or isn't would you the city willingly show us who has been interviewed and who we paid to have those interviews done with.

Nasuti said of the \$275,000 it was not all for Herm's legal attorney's; there were people in the city government as well.

Clements stated that he thought it was strange, because it took all this time to learn that. I never knew that in all the meetings I have attended, and yet it is the former City Councilwoman who resigned because she cared about the city enough to say "Michael, mine were paid." I find it odd; I wonder if you will release everybody that was interviewed, and who their attorneys were.

Mayor Walsh stated we can't do that. It's still under the indictment.

Clement said, just to be clear, Mayor its under, it's part of the indictment. Mayor Walsh said that is correct.

Clement said, so we don't know, other than what Shannon told us, she obviously broke her own confidentiality to some extent, is what you're saying. It's not going to be released is what you are saying? I just find it interesting. Just a comment, I was shocked that she posted, that and said she had been interviewed. Courier Express has never reported it. The City Council never told us. I talked to many of you I never heard it one time.

#### Jennifer Jackson – 42 N. Brady ST

Trailhead – I was at the Sandy Township meeting with DCED and they were talking about possibly connecting to it up by Spider Lake, on their end. So, if the city would connect it from the Y out to what I call Larkeytown would that be paved. Nasuti confirmed it would be paved. So, then crossing at DuBois ST would they consider putting in some sort of path like on the boulevard, or would we have to come up and cross on the street to head out to Larkeytown? I'm asking because I ride a mountain bike. I'm wondering will it be looped underneath the road. Nasuti said they have looked at this and he doesn't think they can get underneath the road there. We do have an application in for a pedestrian bridge to put next to it, so that we can have a protected crossing at the traffic light there. We would redo that little intersection at Parkway and DuBois. We recognize there is a trouble trying to get across DuBois ST at other locations, so that was something Joe and I just put in on Friday. Jennifer asked if it would go the whole way through Larkeytown. Nasuti confirmed it would. Mitchell stated as long as Sandy Township gets theirs.



Kathleen Clement – Chestnut Avenue

She understands that Herm's original contract was changed from having a moral clause to having no moral clause, essentially giving him the green light to do whatever he wants illegal, unethical and yet be paid until the end of the contract. So, is he paid if he is terminated?

Mayor Walsh said he is not aware that there was ever a change in his contract.

Clement said, so he never had a moral clause.

Walsh said, not to my knowledge. I didn't draw up the contract.

Deb Mechling – 709 Monroe ST

Was there a moral clause in the other City Manager contracts?

Solicitor Cherry said, she didn't draw up the contract either.

Mechling was curious as to whether or not Mr. Suplizio's pay is still being given. In light of the fact that we just learned that Mr. Nasuti is only making \$8,000 for the work he is doing for the city; why is Mr. Suplizio's pay not being held in escrow until this is done and increase Mr. Nasuti's pay for cleaning up all of this.

Mayor Walsh stated he would comment on it and he will probably get slam basted. Mr. Suplizio has not been convicted of anything.

Ms. Mechling said she did say until this all goes through the legal system.... I have never accused Herm of anything... I have felt from the beginning, why is the pay not held in escrow?

Mayor Walsh said because he is entitled to it. He is not guilty of anything yet. Innocent until proven guilty.

Mechling said, but he is under investigation.

Mayor Walsh said, and that means what?

Mechling said, it seems like it's very disrespectfully to Mr. Nasuti. He is in here doing the work and he is doing all this right now and he is being transparent. Why is he not being rewarded and shown consideration for what he is doing.

Nasuti said that Council is rewarding him and paying me what I think I'm satisfied with. I'm not unsatisfied with how Council is treating me; they are treating me fantastic.

Aughenbaugh said there was an increase in his base pay.

Bev Kurts – 504 Rainbow Drive

There is a meeting scheduled for August 16<sup>th</sup>, I think it is, with the judge that is going to hear the case and the attorneys. Has City Council or anyone else asked that that meeting be postponed? Mayor Walsh said no, why would we? Kurt's said because you are not ready. Someone is not ready. Mayor Walsh said yeah, I think the Attorney General is not ready. Kurts said, so there is no request to postpone that meeting? It will be held? City Solicitor Cherry said the city doesn't have any control over that. Judge Seyler would be the one who would determine, he set the date. The AG has to ask for a continuance or Mr. Suplizio's lawyers would have to. I would assume that if they are not ready, they will get ready. Ms. Kurts said, as far as you know there has been no request for.... Mayor Walsh asked, from us? Kurts said, from anyone. Cherry said, that would not be for us to make a request.

Ron Tryzna – 120 South Avenue

Talking about contracts, who actually wrote the contract for the City of DuBois and Herm Suplizio? Mayor Walsh said, that's a good question and gave it to Solicitor Cherry. Cherry said quite frankly, I do not know. I did not do it. I have heard that it was something that Mr. Suplizio drew up and I also heard that it was done by another attorney. I'm sorry, I don't know that. Tryzna said the City Council had to know ... Cherry said I'm sure they did, I did not. That was your question to me, I didn't write it. Tryzna said I'm just asking who issued the contract, who actually wrote the contract? Since the city is responsible for giving the contract, who... Mayor Walsh said he really wishes Mayor Gilbert was here to answer that, I don't know. I was just a Councilman back then. I did vote to pass the contract. I wasn't involved in the negotiation at that time. I don't know that. Council Aughenbaugh said he doesn't know either. Cherry stated that she recommended that the contract be specific work. In other words, when we are doing a PUC rate filing it was my advise that there should be a rate for services performed for the water department, there should be contract for the services performed for the sewer department, and then



there should be a contract specifically for the City Manager job. That made it much easier to answer the PUC. I think the question for the PUC, is how much of the work done by various employees of the City of DuBois goes toward the water department fund and how much goes toward sewer and then how much is regular. Because there are many many communities that don't operate a water plant and operate sewer plants. Tryzna asked if that was in the original contract. Did you add those things in the contract, did it go back to someone else? Cherry said no, I recommended that the contract that was in existence. Tryzna asked who she recommended it to. She said she recommended it to Council. Cherry said so we could properly do the PUC filing.

Councilman Reasinger asked if she made any changes to the contract, like the morals charge or anything.

Cherry said not to her knowledge. No, I wasn't asked to, and it was simply to split them and Council determined the amount of money that would be paid for salary for each of those.

Reasinger said, you are saying there was no moral clause in it?

Cherry said I have no knowledge of changing anything. That I can tell you. I simply recommended to Council because we have PUC filings that they be split in to three separate contracts.

Deb Mechling said as the Solicitor your job is to recommend what should be, the way things should be handled. Is it typical for them to disregard your opinion?

Cherry said it is her job to represent Council and...

Mechling interrupted and said you recommend that they change it and to your knowledge ....

Mayor Walsh interrupted he said she didn't say change it..she recommended that they put that in the contract.

Mechling said but it didn't happen. So, I'm asking if that is typical.

Cherry said I didn't say I said that, I said I recommended that three contracts be implemented. A separate contract for services performed as head of the water department, a separate contract for services performed as head of the sewer department

Mechling said and that was done.

Cherry confirmed.

Mechling said but the clause was not put in there.

Cherry said I have no recollection of a morals clause being removed.

Mechling removed or added?

Cherry said, either one.

Reasinger asked, if a contract like that typically has a morals clause.

Cherry said in light of the Administrative Code, I think that Council always has the discretion to determine if there is activity or inaction that would warrant dismissal. I think it is pretty clear that with a felony conviction, dismissal is warranted.

Reasinger asked about the land purchase, where he went against City Council's wishes, not wishes but actual motion. Instead of buying 27 acres he bought 7 acres. Why wasn't something done at that time, that to me is irreproachable. That should have been taken care of right then and I think you should have said to Council, hey we need to do something about this.

Councilman Aughenbaugh said he believes if you read that it approves up to 27 acres.

Cherry said, if you look at the Deed, I didn't handle them. The property was brought to Mr. Suplizio first by the realtor. This is what I have been told by the individuals who were involved. Mr. Suplizio had been looking for land for quite some time to build a camp. When the offer was brought to him by the realtor, he mentioned to City Council, you can see it in the minutes, that there was land coming available. Council directed him to investigate it. At that point, I was not involved in what happened, I understand a third party came in and was willing to purchase the other land. I can tell you this, I thought when I read about the project and I heard about the possibility of purchasing land and the price per acre, my comment was



that it was not in Council's business plan and way too expensive. The price per acre of this piece of property was well above what we have ever spent. Typically, we have looked only for land around the watershed that we can forest and there is nothing on that property. If you have gone out there, and I have, there is nothing there. The only part that was valuable to the city was the road. That is, in fact, what Council elected to buy. I don't have a problem with it, he paid full price for it; the other party paid full price for it; the city I felt paid a very hefty price and to me it would have only been worth it to get the road. Other than that, I recommended that Council not purchase the additional land and they did not. That was handled by outside Counsel.

Reasinger said, when you stated earlier that the city was only interested in land that had forest on it; is that correct?

Cherry, yes historically we have only bought land with forest so we can regenerate it...

Reasinger interrupted and said, is that why you bought those seven acres?

Cherry said she wasn't happy with the price on the seven acres. The city needed an access road to the back of the watershed, and I thought that made sense for that strip of ground. To be able to keep people away, there is a gate across it. I understand that it is also used by the neighbor to get access to his property. I don't know if he pays the city anything that has never been brought to my attention. I do know that there is a gate on it. I think for the protection of the watershed, it serves a purpose. That is the only way we can access the land. I could see a purpose for the road parcel, I didn't see the purpose for the remainder of it because it doesn't have a tree on it, to the best of my knowledge.

Michael Clement – 17 N. Brady ST

Mr. Clement addressed Ms. Cherry about the comment she just made. If I am understanding correctly, if someone, God forbid actually, is found guilty of a felony; you said you would recommend to Council that they terminate the person. What kind of advice would you give Council as to whether or not they guarantee the fully guaranteed contract? Would you say, let's not pay it and let them sue the city for this payment?

Cherry said, I don't think it is fair to ask me to make a public comment about that. We have a man that is innocent until proven guilty. I happen to believe from my contacts with the AG that they are not going to find any money missing from the City of DuBois.

Clement said, which is good news.

Cherry said, which should be really good news for everyone. Something that...

Clement interrupted and said, I'm just curious because you said if it is a felony ...

Cherry interrupted and said, felonies are very different matters. I don't see felonies coming out here. I'm sorry, I don't.

Clement said, I'm hoping it doesn't'.

Cherry went on to say, I don't think there was probable cause to even file. I'll go on record that way.

Walsh asked if there were any other questions.

Councilman Reasinger said he had a question. So, \$93,000 in cash of the city's money is, OK?

Clement said, yeah thank you Pat.

Reasinger went on to say that he should have been fired right that day.

Cherry said I think that response is part of Mr. Mechling's statement, the money was given by Waste Management, the same amount is given to adjoining municipalities; it's given to Sandy Township. The letter from the representatives of Waste Management makes it very clear that they wanted the money to be used by the Fire Department for the fire department purposes and for City purposes. Now that money was located in a building that was used by the Community Days Committee. They kept all receipts there, they kept their monies there, they kept their collections there. The money, there are accompanying envelopes that will become part of the evidence in the case that show that it was left over money from particular years and was being saved for the following year. To be quite frank, Community Days activities are not funded by collections or donations solely. They are supplemented by what was called the Community Fund money. I happen to know that the AG was advised that that money existed, and the AG did not look in the room where the Community Days activities were conducted. That means



that all of the receipts that were kept there were not, thankfully, confiscated by the AG. They remain, and the AG was advised that they exist. That is all I can say right now because it is pretty obvious that they exist.

Reasinger continued, Toni it is \$93,000 in cash of the city's money. Whether you call it Community money that should have been in a city checking account or savings account.

Clement once again thanked Pat and started a round of applause and whistling.

Cherry stated it was originally in a checking account and it was removed before payment was made in cash.

Reasinger interrupted and said, and that is not a terminatable offense.

Clement interrupted and said, it was six weeks before anyone knew about it.

Jennifer Jackson – 42 N. Brady

Is it common that the city pays cash for things?

Reasinger interrupted and said, that's not boot money and laughed.

Jackson continued; I mean is this normal that we pay cash? Most business activity it's a check; so, I'm just wondering are there other instances that we pay cash.

Cherry said, we the city did not pay cash. I think there were some certain high well-known special guests, such as, ex-Steelers, certain acts that demanded to be paid in cash the same way the Steelers Football team demanded to be paid in cash from the United Way. Do I pay people in cash, no I don't. Does the City of DuBois pay people for city business in cash, no they do not. These individuals required payment in cash, also the little girls and boys carrying the banners were paid in cash, the college kids who work there were paid in cash because they put in a lot of time. Certainly, city bills are not paid in cash.

Jackson asked if we issued 1099's or would they issue 1099's?

Someone said it was all illegal.

Cherry said, it is not illegal to pay in cash, it is illegal not to report it on your tax return.

Dave Rupperch – Sher De Line Road, Sandy Township

Even after paying the kids and stuff we still have \$93,000 left over?

Cherry confirmed from year to year to year.

Rupperch asked if it should have been in a secured location. Like a bank. *More laughter.*

Cherry said, I'm not in charge of it. I don't know what to tell you. It is what it is, I'm not in charge.

Rupperch said, like I keep \$93,000 in my house.

Reasinger once again addressed Cherry, so you knew Herm was paying people with cash, stars and all that stuff.

Mayor Walsh and Councilman Aughenbaugh said, I think everyone knew that.

Cherry said I think it was well known. I was never there when he paid them.

Reasinger said, we are a city, we need to send checks, we need to send 1099's.

Mayor Walsh said Community Days is not part of the City of DuBois. *The whole room erupted.*

Clement said if that is a true answer, how then did that money become city money? Because, I'm confused by the transfer, Ms. Cherry dropped it off to Mr. Nasuti and the Chief of Police. Somehow it is now in a city account, it wasn't city money prior to that.

Cherry said, it has always been Community Fund money donated by Waste Management. Waste Management was very aware of what it was being used for. Why did I want it brought to the city at that moment in time? Because I felt I had enough trail, and I didn't want the Attorney General to come and confiscate it as they confiscated the other city money that was sitting up there; I wanted to make sure it went for city purposes. The other money they took, when they came in and did their raid.

Clement asked, so there is city money with someone else?

Cherry said, there was other cash on Bobbie's desk for Community Days.

Clement said, when they came in?

Cherry confirmed.

Clement said, can you tell me why all the sudden it became city property, I guess? But the Mayor just said that it was not ours that it was Community Fund.

Cherry said, I have always identified it as Community Fund money.

Clement, not under jurisdiction of the city?

Cherry said, I think it has always been under the jurisdiction of Council.

Clement said, we would know that money was sitting in a safe, wouldn't we? I think Council knew.... (she was interrupted by Clement)

Cherry said, Community Days asks City Council for contributions every year. It's in the minutes every year.

Clement interrupted and said, I understand but how did it become our money the moment someone took it out of the United Way Building, which I still don't understand how that happened. It got here, now we're saying it's city money. It wasn't city money it was Community Days money that came from Waste Management.

Cherry said, I have always called it Community Fund money.

Clement said, but not under the jurisdiction of the city.

Councilman Aughenbaugh stated that the account the money was put into was marked Community Fund.

Clement asked if the account is now marked Community Fund.

Reasinger asked if it was under the city EIN number at the bank.

Nasuti asked, was it or is it?

Reasinger asked, was it.

The consensus of Council was it was not.

Someone asked if it is now?

Mayor Walsh stated it is now.

The room erupted and the mayor used the gavel.

Cherry stated the account was in the name of the DuBois Volunteer Fire Department where they kept the money for Community Days. There would be checks issued and receipts for bills that were paid and then there was money left over and it was kept. That is really all I can tell you. We wanted to make sure it was Community Fund money as opposed to United Way money. It did not belong to the United Way. I thought I would make that very clear.

Elliot Gelfand – 1 S. Highland ST

I previously asked how much money was frozen by the AG and I was told none, now you say they did confiscate money.

Mayor Walsh said they took, they actually didn't take any, well there may have been some cash, but it was mostly checks that people donated to Community Days. To this day they have never been cashed.

Clement asked, so we had checks that had never been cashed that just sat there?

Walsh clarified, donations. That came in that week, we deposited week to week. Every Thursday or Friday, whatever date Bobbie made the deposit. They came in and took all the checks for that week.



Clement asked, so they confiscated what they saw.

Mayor Walsh said that is exactly correct.

Councilman Aughenbaugh stated that Mr. Mitchell explained that in a prior Council meeting.

Mr. Gelfand asked if there was extra cash taken from the United Way or anywhere else by the AG's office.

Mayor Walsh confirmed there was not.

Mr. Gelfand asked if it was a large amount of money.

Walsh confirmed it was not.

#### **Comcast Cable Franchise**

Nasuti stated that we asked the Solicitor to look at this at the last meeting. I believe she is prepared to give her recommendation.

Cherry stated that she has reviewed line by line of the agreement. One of the things I was concerned about is if there was an exclusivity clause that we had to agree that Comcast would be the only franchise and that has been alleviated. A prior agreement I saw they were the exclusive provider, this contract under 2.4 the franchise granted Comcast shall be nonexclusive. Nothing in this agreement shall affect the right of the city to grant other franchises to operate and maintain a cable system. There is also no requirement that a cable company be the sole provider of internet or television services. So, there is no prohibition for Directv, Hulu, Dish. However, what there is under 2.6 is that a requirement that if the city permits a subsequent franchise or other authorization to provide similar wire video services that when taken as a whole those contracts will not be more favorable than the provisions that we have imposed upon Comcast under the contract. The price that Comcast pays is 5% of the fees that they collect. The city has a right to inspect their work. They also provide a \$10,986 grant and as well as a free cable services to the municipal building, police station, fire companies, public work buildings, water and sewer authority. That amount of cost can be deducted from 5% franchise fee cap that they pay. There is also a one-time \$10,986 educational and government channel grant paid to the city for the institution and maintenance of an educational and governmental access channel. Based on what appears to be done, these wires are only to be raised above ground or below ground depending on where the other utilities are in that area on city property and they have the requirement if they go into disturb it, to replace it in the condition in which it was prior to their entry onto the property. Which is obviously a much better situation than we have with National Fuel.

My recommendation is that the concerns I had have been addressed and I have no objection to Council entering into this agreement.

The motion was made by Reasinger and seconded by Aughenbaugh that Council accept the recommendation of the City Solicitor and authorize the mayor to sign the Comcast Cable Franchise Agreement as presented. Roll call vote was as follows: Reasinger, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

#### **Work Session**

Councilman Reasinger stated he has been to a couple of Work Sessions since he's new and he didn't see where they were very valuable. Really all we do is set the agenda. We can do that through email very easily. If I want to add something to the agenda, I would just email and get it added. He just doesn't see the purpose of them and by law we don't need to have them.

Nasuti stated that we can have all the information ready by the end of Wednesday, email it to everyone, you can have a hard copy as well. If you don't want to have the meeting, we can still get you the information.

Reasinger said, it costs money we have four or five city employees here at them, their time could be much better spent doing their job and they would probably rather do that.

Gelfand said we could schedule them as needed.

Mayor Walsh asked for questions or comments from Council.

Aughenbaugh said, yeah that could be an executive session, I guess.

Reasinger said, that would make more sense.



Aughenbaugh said, his comment is you got this out in the public now see if we get any feedback and act on it the next meeting.

Mayor Walsh said we brought this up about five months ago and the feedback we got was completely negative. What were we trying to hide, why are we cancelling them, etc. We always did have them. We said no to cancelling them. My opinion is, the new council seated in January can decide whether they want to have them or not. The motion was made by Reasinger, to discontinue Work Sessions. Really all we do is set the agenda; I just think you are wasting a lot of employee time. I'd like to make that motion to see if I can get a second. Councilman Aughenbaugh would like to wait until the next meeting to see what kind of feedback we get. The motion died for lack of a second.

**Request for Council to appoint Robert Burns, Jr. to the Civil Service Board replacing Joe Lazore with his term ending November 5, 2024**

The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Reasinger that Council appoint Robert Burns, Jr. to replace Joe Lazore on the Civil Service Board with his term ending November 5, 2024, and a letter be sent to Mr. Lazore thanking him for his years of service. Roll call vote was as follows: Reasinger, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

**Authorization to advertise for bids for the Coke Hill Water Line – Phase 1**

Nasuti – we have been looking at doing the waterline/sewer line project, we do have enough funding on hand to do a portion of what we will call Phase 1, which will be starting at Division ST and Coke Plant Alley. We'll go up Division ST half a block to all of Orient Avenue, all of North Court, South Court and those streets will be paved at this time. We have the design for the back half done, we are just looking for funding; hopefully, we can get that constructed next year. If I can just get your approval to bid out Phase 1, do the work, get it paved; hopefully have it done by October 31<sup>st</sup>. The motion was made by Dietz and seconded by Reasinger that Council authorize advertising for bids for the Coke Hill Water Line – Phase 1. Roll call vote was as follows: Reasinger, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

**Resolution No. 2023-0369 – DCED Multimodal Downtown Trailhead**



**CITY OF DUBOIS, PENNSYLVANIA**

PO BOX 408 16 W. SCRIBNER AVE. DUBOIS, PENNSYLVANIA 15801

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**APPENDIX II – AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL RESOLUTION**

**Resolution No. 2023-0369**

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of DuBois of Clearfield County hereby request a Multimodal Transportation Fund grant of \$211,634 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for Downtown Loop Trailhead.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Applicant does hereby designate Edward Walsh, Mayor and Christopher Nasuti, Acting City Manager / Engineer as the official(s) to execute all documents and agreements between the City of DuBois and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

I, Bobbie Shaffer, duly qualified Secretary of the City of DuBois, Clearfield County, PA, hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by a majority vote of the City of DuBois at a regular meeting held Monday, July 24, 2023, and said Resolution has been recorded in the Minutes of the City of DuBois and remains in effect as of this date.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I affix my hand and attach the seal of City of DuBois, this 24th day of July 2023.

This is the project Joe and I have been working on with the Downtown DuBois group for a couple of months now. Converting the S & T Bank Parking Lot across the street into better utilization of parking. Right now, we have about 45 spots over there; with some building demolition and



reconfiguring we can have upward of 70 spots. It should help bring more business downtown and service businesses we have downtown already. If we could get that resolution, Joe has the grant ready to go. It is due by the end of this week.

The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Bernardo that Council approve Resolution No. 023-0369 – DCED Multimodal Downtown Trailhead – Authorized Signatures as presented. Roll call vote was as follows: Reasinger, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

#### **Sandy Bridge Renaming Request – Trooper First Class Brad Wilson**

Nasuti stated that the purpose of this agenda item is seek support to rename the Sandy Bridge to honor Air Force Veteran and State Police Officer, Trooper First Class Brad Wilson. Trooper Wilson was wounded in the line of duty in 2013 leaving him a quadriplegic. The request was submitted on behalf of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Pennsylvania State Police. The Sandy Township Supervisors voted in support of this at their last meeting on July 17<sup>th</sup>. We would be voting in support; it is a state road so it will have to go through the Department. They would like the support of both municipalities as it is on the Sandy/DuBois line. The motion was made by Reasinger and seconded by Aughenbaugh that Council supports renaming the Sandy Bridge in honor of Trooper First Class Brad Wilson. Roll call vote was as follows: Reasinger, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

#### **International Overdose Awareness Day – August 31<sup>st</sup>**

This is just awareness of the Awareness Day. Clearfield, Jefferson Drug and Alcohol Commission annually puts flags along Liberty Boulevard for the awareness of the overdose epidemic. They will place the flags after we have an event on the 27<sup>th</sup>, they will maintain the flags, and then remove them. The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Dietz that Council name August 31<sup>st</sup> International Overdose Awareness Day. Roll call vote was as follows: Reasinger, yea; Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Walsh, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

#### **Police Chief – Blaine Clark**

The police department a while back started our drug vice unit. I want to step into a second phase of it, which will basically help target drug enforcement which is focusing on engaging the citizens in the community. We started a drug hotline, basically it's an email address for people to anonymously give us tips. A lot of people don't want to come to the city building or are even reluctant to call County Control. It is so important to have community involvement. That's why we will be starting it. We are also going to have members of the department out talking to the community, trying to get whatever information we can. I have to give the guys kudos; they have done a fantastic job so far with drug enforcement. They have made great headway. This is the second phase; I think it is going to be extremely important because it is just as simple as getting on email and sending the information. We need it, we can't do it on our own. We need everyone's help and again this is the second phase if anyone has any ideas, please let me know. It will go straight to the narcotics guys. They are going to read it, take care of it, and respond back accordingly. Our department is headstrong about dope right now. We are making headway, believe it or not even though it doesn't look like it sometimes. Mayor Walsh asked if he had a statement ready for the press. Clark confirmed he does.

Jennifer Jackson asked if she has a tip at 2 a.m. does she send it in then. Chief Clark said yes. She wanted to know if the site will be monitored. The Chief said normally the drug guys when they come in they will look at it, but he will probably give the supervisors access to it so they can look at it too. Something that needs to happen right now, they can go ahead and act on it. If it is something that can wait for the drug guys, they can shoot them a message.

Mr. Mechling asked if he was going to have it posted on the City's website. The Chief confirmed he is. Mr. Mechling said that is where he would look for it. The Chief said he's looking for every avenue he can get the word out on.

#### **Councilman Pat Reasinger**

Trees again. I found out that our 52 trees we are getting from the state, we have to put them on public property we cannot put them on private property. So, I'm going to be looking for money for 7 trees, that I promised to put in the private sector. I will get back to you in two weeks, I hope I can find it by then.

Kathleen Clements wanted to know how much a tree. Reasinger said about \$500 a tree, which includes the tree, planting the tree, the bag for the tree, trimming the tree at year 2, 5 and 10 years.



It is a long-term project and they are about \$500 a tree. Which I know sounds like a lot, but these are 12' trees, they are big trees.

Clements asked if they are fig trees or big trees. Reasinger didn't feel we could grow fig trees here; but if you want a fig tree, I'll see if I can get it. They are 12' and 2 1/2 "around.

**Councilwoman Diane Bernardo**

Asked Chief Clark if he would share the website address with all of us: [drugtips@duboispa.gov](mailto:drugtips@duboispa.gov)  
The district attorney has tiplines and sometimes they are phased away before we get it. I want something more immediate.

**Councilman Jim Aughenbaugh**

Thanked Police Chief Clark and his department for all the work the drug team is doing on stopping narcotics.

**Interim City Manager -Chris Nasuti**

- SR 255 in front of the High School, we are going to mill and pave that the nights of July 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Following that we will be restarting the Division ST traffic signal on August 7<sup>th</sup>; should be completed by the time school starts.
- I will be attending North Central's funding opportunities on August 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Jake Brake signs are in and will be put up this week.

**Adjourn**

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

ATTEST:  APPROVED: 