

## City Council Meeting Minutes – August 28, 2023

City Council Chambers, City Building, 16 West Scribner Avenue, DuBois, Pennsylvania on Monday, August 28, 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 (Phone), Shane Dietz, and Pat Reasinger. Also present were: Interim City Manager/City Engineer/Public Works Director, Chris Nasuti; Redevelopment Authority Director/Assistant Public Works Superintendent, Joe Mitchell; Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer, Zac Lawhead; Finance Officer, DeLean Shepherd; Police Chief, Blaine Clark; Corporal Lanny Prosper; Corporal Randy Young; 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.

### Approval of Minutes

City Council Meeting Minutes – August 14, 2023

The motion was made by Dietz and seconded by Aughenbaugh that Council approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2023, as presented. Roll call vote was as follows: Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Reasinger, yea; Walsh yea. Motion passed 4-0.

Work Session Meeting Minutes – August 24, 2023

The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Reasinger that Council approve the Work Session Meeting Minutes of August 24, 2023, as presented. Roll call vote was as follows: Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Reasinger, yea; Walsh yea. Motion passed 4-0.

### Registry of Invoices

The motion was made by Reasinger to pay the bills. (Auto Draft dated August 24, 2023 in the amount of \$11,604.85; the General Fund dated August 24, 2023 in the amount of \$431,145.17 and the PennVEST dated August 24, 2023 in the amount of \$2,959,227.66) Councilman Aughenbaugh said he had a question, in these invoices there are some for life insurance (DeLean said group life insurance) and health insurance; so with the injunction, would we have to change that number? Ms. Shepherd asked, to take Herm out of the payment? Aughenbaugh confirmed. Reasinger stated he would adjust his motion to pay the bills with the exception of anything that includes Herm. Councilman Aughenbaugh seconded the motion. Mayor Walsh repeated the motion, paying the invoices as presented excluding any payments that are due Mr. Suplizio. DeLean said you can't just not pay healthcare; he has to be offered Cobra. I can't just cancel him because what if he chooses Cobra or if he wins. I could hold the check for a little bit like til Wednesday, but I can't just not... Nasuti said we will investigate what we are supposed to do with that. We won't make the payment for the salary, but we will check into the health insurance. Councilwoman Bernardo asked that the motion be repeated. Walsh said the motion is to pay all bills as presented with the exception of any items on the autopay that were due to Mr. Suplizio. Roll call vote was as follows: Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Reasinger, yea; Walsh yea. Motion passed 5-0.

### Public Comments

Jennifer Jackson – 42 N. Brady ST

So, I'm going to take us back a little bit; 2020 May we had a letter in the paper from a concerned citizen, do you all remember that? Our Solicitor said the city has nothing to hide and she wants criminal charges brought if warranted. So, let's see there is a grand jury investigation what last year, correct me if I'm wrong; Herm found out he would be indicted in December. This year, nothing happened, Herm is still working, Herm is getting paid. The citizens have come, we have asked you to do the right thing numerous times. Here we are, we have formed a committee, we have filed an injunction against you and now you have been subpoenaed along with the Solicitor to testify Wednesday. Are you willing at this point to yet do the right thing. Because you have to realize we are not backing down. We've asked, we have begged you to do the right thing. We filed the injunction, and we will continue to fight, and you have all been subpoenaed so it will be interesting Wednesday and Mr. Suplizio was also subpoenaed. So, we have asked you to do right thing and you have yet to do it. We are asking you again, just do the right thing for the citizens that elected you is all we ask.

Bill Jones – Chestnut Ave

Can you explain to me verbally the Right to Know stuff; what do I have to do to request it. Just a letter from me in writing or do you have a special form? Nasuti stated that there is a form on the website. Jones asked if it was on DuBois' website. Nasuti confirmed and stated they are also on the website of Office of Open Records for Pennsylvania. Mr. Jones said, his concern is he has a good friend who retired and left here and lives in Florida he was a vice president of a prominent insurance company. He gets the Courier and quote "I just read the Courier article on the meeting Monday regarding pension changes Suplizio supported. I ran a pension plan for many years, the changes he made even though supported by

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### Bill Jones – Chestnut Ave (Cont'd.)

the union and employees violates his fiduciary responsibility to the plan. Changing the unit credits to 2.5% per year without actuarial analysis is absurd. I hope someone invoked some legal action on these moves. Government plans (this is where you need to pay attention) are not protected by ERISA or PPGC, that is the Employee Retirement Insurance Act or the Public whatever. So, the citizens of DuBois will be on the hook for the pension liabilities, or the plan will default, and the courts will decide the resolution which includes cutting employee benefits. It's a bigger mess than I think everyone understands." This is his observation. I would like to submit a Right to Know Act to ask if an actuarial study was done before these changes were made. Because he may well have endangered the finances of the entire city by doing this. Nasuti stated that the form is on our website and on Pennsylvania's Office of Open Records. We are investigating how things changed/transpired and what we need to do to move forward to fix the problem.

### Linda London – 527 Rumbarger Avenue

During the last Council meeting on August 14<sup>th</sup> there was much discussion and questions with regard to the City Manager position. I did go back and watch the meeting of the recorded live stream to help me understand some of what was said. Approximately 40 minutes into the livestream Mayor Walsh said he did some "research" about the past contracts. He stated that in 1979 Ron Rich was given a contract, in 1986 Pat Nuzzo was given a contract, in 2001 Ron Trzyna was given a contract, and finally in 2009 Herm Suplizio was given a contract. That evening I was contacted by Mr. Trzyna and asked if I would complete a Right to Know about his specific contract as he was unavailable to do so in person. I did file the request on Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. By the end of that week, I received the response from Chris Nasuti which stated "After an extensive search of our city files it was determined that the requested document does not exist. When we searched the minutes a contract for Mr. Trzyna was never mentioned. He was first introduced to the Council as the City Manager on April 23, 2001." A copy of this letter was sent to the mayor and members of the City Council. Ron had in years past shared that information with some that he had never had nor signed a contract. So, he was curious to see what document would be presented. Mr. Trzyna was correct in stating that he didn't have a contract with the City of DuBois. Yet our mayor who stated that he did "research" commented otherwise. One issue of concern is how freely things can be stated from people and they are not held accountable for what they say. I do remember speaking earlier this year in a Council Meeting and stressing two words to the current Mayor, Members of the Council, and the Solicitor; those two words were Awareness and Accountability. In light of all that has happened over the past five months since that meeting no one should assume that what is said will necessarily be the truth. I don't enjoy the feeling of being skeptical but little things like what I have just presented can turn into bigger issues in the overall picture. What has happened to morals and telling the truth no matter who is offended. Secondly, since Mr. Trzyna, who proceeded Mr. Suplizio, as the City Manager of DuBois had no contract what guideline or foundation was ever used to create a contract for Mr. Suplizio? It seems clear that the contract creators, whoever they were, felt that the sky was the limit. Most recently the current Council is trying to make that ridiculous payoff excluding Mr. Reasinger. Am I surprised? No. Am I saddened and discouraged? Yes. However, fortunately, plans have been halted for the time being.

### Kathleen Clement – Chestnut Avenue

I just have one question, are you going to fight the injunction and if so, why? Mayor Walsh said he is going on Wednesday to testify, and I'll answer their questions. That's all I can tell you. Councilman Aughenbaugh said, me too.

### Dave Glass – County Commissioner – DuBois Resident

He has a few things to talk about, last time I was here I asked some questions about the status of the pension. Mr. Nasuti got back to me and said that at the end of 2021, I believe the report said March of 2022, it was 78% funded with an 8% assumed rate of return. Neither of those numbers are very good, mind you. Just to put it out there, this is something we at the County deal with on a regular basis. Anything over 7 is dangerous and 8 is really high. If you have a bad market year it really can damage the actuarial assumptions. Anything under 80% I start to worry. Now tonight I come in, I think we are going to have more discussion about this later but, it was mentioned to me as I got here that we are now at 58% funded. Folks that is red alert, danger, people are not going to get paid if this keeps up. I don't know what's going on here. They would be running me out of town on a rail if we were overseeing the pension for the county employees and it was at 58%. I always said a pension is a promise, it's not promised to you it is promised to everyone who came before who busted their butts all of these years. You have an obligation to make sure that you get this fixed. How we got here, I don't know. You definitely have to take this bull by the horns, 58% just shocks me.

I also want to talk a little bit about what Ms. Bernardo said last week about 25 straight years of bad audits. Immediately, I said, and she was talking about adding someone, there is a City Controller. I looked up the duties of the City Controller and according to your charter it basically said they are supposed to review all the expenditures of the city monies etc. etc. Likewise audit or with the consent of Council

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### Dave Glass – County Commissioner – DuBois Resident (Cont'd.)

choose to be made by an accountant an annual audit. Basically, look over and be that check and balance on all the finances of the city. I know our controller in the county, when we started to go off the rail and he says time out, you can't do this and here's why. The last three controllers are in this room. I just wonder where we're at and how we got here with all this.

Finally, I'm going to say this stuff has been going on for six months, eighteen if you go back to the initial raid, all we hear from Council basically has been defense of Herm. There has been no talk about a serious review of internal polices, there has been no real acknowledgement of bad practices. More importantly, no apologies to the people of this city. Doubling and tripling on bad decisions. The public spoke in May, I mean we had elections they made clear what their wishes were, that should have been a message. All these people that come here every week should be a message. When's the message going to get through?

### Melody Frank – DuBois

I'm angry, I am frustrated, I am discouraged, for not the reason you may think. I just want to understand when the action of one individual falls on everyone else. When did we have this mob mentality where ...because of the alleged allegations against Herm (Referring to Jennifer Jackson - yes, I see, I'm not concerned about you, I'm not afraid of you) that being said, do we believe in the presumption of innocence? Do we know what that is? I would hope that none of you are in his position. I don't really care, not concerned about him. What I do care about is our attitude and our total disregard for the people up here, they are your neighbors, they are your friends. They are good people you used to shake their hand and say hey Jim how are you doing, hey Eddie how have you doing. We have all just decided we are going to be garish and putrid to people who don't necessarily deserve it. We are not the judge and jury. We don't get to decide. We are not up there, we can be ugly, and we can be a bully (Referring to Jennifer Jackson - is what I see from you, I see nothing but a bully mentality) it is not what the City Council needs. DuBois does not need a bully they need someone that has good character, that can be calm, that can treat people with respect, you got to give it to get it. If you want respect from people, you have to give it. I honestly don't care about all the other politics. I just don't understand, if we are going to come together as a community, if we are going to be one. I know a lot of you people, I was born and raised here. The crap on GoDuBois, all that garbage is just pitiful, it's just pathetic and ugly it's not necessary and it's a reflection on you guys whoever you may be if the shoe fits. We can do this in a loving way. In a way that represents who we are as a community instead of being so ugly and fretful. I don't know everything that is really going on, I'm just starting to get involved because on the online presence and how pitiful it is. We are a group; we are a town; I love this town. I don't understand what the big grip is, I really haven't totally investigated it. I haven't got to that point because I can't get past all the freak'in ugliness of everybody's attitudes and behaviors. Not everybody. You're angry, I get it the whole Herm thing, he is being prosecuted and I get that, but the professionals are dealing with it. The chips will fall where they may, then we can be angry. Let's do good for the community, you can say all you want, you can scream and shout, you can claim yourself to be a hero, but actions .... If you are going to be setting up there you're going to get what you give. You better follow through on what you promise because you are setting yourself up for failure. It's easy to stand and say I want this, I want that, why is this going on. We are still a community, love thy neighbor. Did you miss that lesson in Sunday school some of you? I don't even know who half of you people are, all I know is when I look online and see the bullying and the stupid names attacking people its freak'in pathetic and it's not even well done. Honestly it is comical, and it just makes you look stupid. That's all I have to say. Do better people in DuBois because you are all my family. I want my kids to grow up with something beautiful instead of something so ugly.

### Deb Mechling – Munroe ST

I'm going to change the topic a little bit, I want to go back to the July 24th, Council meeting when the Comcast agreement between the franchise and the city residents was approved by Council. As we are all aware, there will be a 5% fee from each Comcast subscriber given from Comcast to the city which will basically eliminate any competition from other cable providers in our community. I am curious as to how many Comcast subscribers are presently under contract in the city. What is the projected dollar amount from the 5% fee that will be awarded to the city? What account will the 5% monies be placed and at the present time are there any earmarks scheduled for these monies?

Nasuti stated he couldn't answer that right now, but he will get her an answer.

### Denny Skraba – Musicfest

I wrote down a few things here and I just want to kind of address them. Actually, it is more on a positive note. As you all know, I ran the Musicfest concerts in the park this year for 2023. This past Thursday was the final concert. I want to thank the Council for finding the funding for all of these groups. Dan Wallace provided the sound and everyone that worked with me to make these concerts possible. I brought in some new groups this year and tried to give the people a variety of music like Rock, Dixieland, Polkas,

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### Denny Skraba – Musicfest (Cont'd.)

different things like that. Naturally I hear pros and cons. I know I can't please everyone. Our age category of these concerts has been changing the last couple years. We are getting some younger people down there. There are people that I have never actually ever thought that I would ever see attend concerts down at the park. So, I thought that was a positive thing and it was great. Jack Averill started these concerts over 35 years ago, Jeff Baronick along with myself have kept the concerts going. This year I did them by myself. So that makes it over 40+ years that we have been having these concerts in the park. If the funding is available for the 2024 budget, I just want you to know that I will once again head these if you so wish. I would like to get started on this earlier like November, but I know with everything that is presently going on in the city that may not be possible. So, even if I would get started sometime in January, I spoke with Dan Wallace who did the sound again and he is on board with doing it for 2024 if we want him. I am kind of asking could we maybe get a little bit of a rough number, don't faint over this, like maybe \$8,000 in the budget for it. Now that's, when I say \$8,000 doesn't mean I'm going to spend \$8,000. I know how to deal with these people, and I can get their figures down a little bit. But I would like to have that little bit of cushion just in case. I want to keep the concerts at 10 concerts before we were doing 11, I want to keep them at 10. I want to base it on if we are going to have Community Days again next year, like the week after. Sort of like we did this year, but I think Community Days this year was a week later. That being said, I hope we can keep these things going. I think it is a good thing for the community, there are other communities around here like Punxsutawney and Brockway that have them and I just think it's a good thing for our citizens and people in the area.

Mayor Walsh thanked Mr. Skraba for spearheading that this year. You did a wonderful job.

### **Add Item to Agenda – Employment Status of City Manager Herm Suplizio**

Councilwoman Bernardo asked that we add Mr. Suplizio's Employment Status to the agenda. Mayor Walsh asked if that was in the form of a motion; Bernardo replied yes. Mayor Walsh stated that Diane is asking to add an agenda item this evening; the Employment Status of City Manager Herm Suplizio. Councilman Aughenbaugh seconded. Roll call vote was as follows: Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Reasinger, yea; Walsh yea. Motion passed 5-0.

### **Employment Status of City Manager Herm Suplizio**

Reluctantly I make a motion that we terminate Mr. Suplizio's Employment with the City of DuBois effective Friday, August 31, 2023. There was some discussion because the 31<sup>st</sup> is actually a Thursday, so the effective date was moved to Friday, September 1, 2023. Councilman Aughenbaugh stated that everyone wants it so he would second it. Mayor Walsh stated we have a motion that was seconded to end Mr. Suplizio's employment from the City of DuBois effective 09/01. Mr. Reasinger had a question on that motion. The reason I'm concerned about it is him asking for a pension buyout. If that happens there is no way for us to get... to stop his pension. If he has committed a felony, his pension is gone. If he gets a payout from that...if we allow that they are not going to be able to get that back. You guys think that \$250,000 payoff is a lot, that could be \$500,000 - \$750,000 out of the pension fund that it cannot afford. Councilman Aughenbaugh asked for clarification. Reasinger asked Ed Andrulonis if he had any information on pension buyouts. Andrulonis stated he is familiar; they had a similar situation they terminated the person's employment, and they couldn't restrict the individual from taking their pension. Reasinger said a buyout or a normal. Andrulonis said it was their normal pension, they can roll it over into their own. We could not hold the pension once we terminated the individual. Aughenbaugh clarified you could not hold the pension. Andrulonis said you cannot hold the pension once they are terminated, it is their's to roll into another qualified plan or IRA or whatever. Reasinger said that this is only a temporary injunction. Andrulonis said, while he is still employed you still have control of that pension. Reasinger said I hate to say it but I'd like to keep him on for that reason. Everyone started talking about the injunction; Reasinger said you don't know if that is permanent or not. You could terminate him today, the injunction could fall away, and he could get the pension and we would never see that money. The pension fund is already.... It's not the place to bring it up but it's not in good shape. I'll talk about that later. That is a real big concern guys. Roll call vote was as follows: Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; (Aughenbaugh was unsure, Reasinger began telling him if he gets terminated there is nothing, we can do to stop it. He could get a one-time buyout. Am I right? Ed Andrulonis said how about a third party outside legal opinion on the ramifications of paying it out. That is what I suggest, I'm not an expert. Aughenbaugh asked Andrulonis to repeat his comment. Andrulonis and Aughenbaugh talked over each other.) Aughenbaugh, abstain; Reasinger, nay; Walsh nay. Motion denied 2-2-0.

Mayor Walsh said they would revisit in two weeks once they received some legal advice.

## **City Council Meeting Minutes – August 28, 2023 (Cont'd.)**

**Request to change the Public Hearing set for Monday, August 28, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. to Monday, September 25, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. concerning the Intermunicipal Liquor License Transfer from ARC Restaurants, LLC, 1802 Daisy ST, Clearfield to The Public House on Jared, LLC, 29 S. Jared ST**  
Interim City Manager Nasuti stated that the applicant requested the change so they could be in attendance. The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Reasinger that Council approve the request that the Public Hearing set for Monday, August 28, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. concerning the Intermunicipal Liquor License Transfer be changed to September 25, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. Roll call vote was as follows: Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Reasinger, yea; Walsh yea. Motion passed 5-0.

**Request that Council appoint retired employee Tim Edwards to the Pension Committee**

The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Bernardo that Council appoint retired employee Tim Edwards to the Pension Committee. Roll call vote was as follows: Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Reasinger, yea; Walsh yea. Motion passed 5-0.

**Elect Voting Delegate and Alternate for 2023 Municipal Leadership Summit – October 5 -8, 2023; held at Wind Creek Hotel in Bethlehem.**

The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Dietz that Council appoint Diane Bernardo as the delegate to the 2023 Municipal Leadership Summit. Councilman Reasinger wondered at the choice; Councilwoman Bernardo will no longer be on Council in January. Mayor Walsh informed him that in the past the delegate has always brought important information back. City Treasurer LaBrasca Becker told Council and the audience about the year she attended and all the information she was able to bring back. They even asked her to run the Controller Convention, but as she is not a full-time controller, she isn't qualified. Councilman Aughenbaugh told Councilman Reasinger that he could be alternate if he would like; he declined. Roll call vote was as follows: Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Reasinger, nay; Walsh yea. Motion passed 4-1.

**Library Keystone Committees Grant Program permission to bid HVAC Equipment Replacement**

Redevelopment Authority Director Mitchell informed Council that the grant is in the City's name, and we will be giving it to the Library Authority. The motion was made by Reasinger and seconded by Aughenbaugh that Council authorize advertising for bids for HVAC Equipment Replacement. Roll call vote was as follows: Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Reasinger, yes; Walsh yea. Motion passed 5-0.

**Recommendation – Coke Hill Area Water Distribution Main Replacement Project**

Interim City Manager Nasuti recommended that Council reject the bids as they came in much higher than the funding. He suggests we re-bid in the spring. The motion was made by Dietz and seconded by Aughenbaugh that Council accept the recommendation of the Interim City Manager and reject the bids for the Coke Hill Area Water Distribution Main Replacement Project. Roll call vote was as follows: Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Reasinger, yes; Walsh yea. Motion passed 5-0.

**Recommendation – Purchase additional Zonescan leak detection loggers - \$163,823.22**

Interim City Manager Nasuti stated that we currently have 186 loggers out there to track leaks. Reasinger said it's a good program and will continue to benefit the community. The motion was made by Reasinger and seconded by Aughenbaugh that Council accept the recommendation from Interim City Manager Nasuti and purchase additional Zonescan leak detection loggers in the amount of \$163,823.22 (SRCB Grant - \$131,220 and DuBois Local Match - \$32,603). Roll call vote was as follows: Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Reasinger, yes; Walsh yea. Motion passed 5-0.

**Request from DuBois Area High School to close Division ST & Beaver DR at 5:45 p.m. for approximately 45 minutes on September 29<sup>th</sup> as they conduct their Homecoming Parade from the High School to Mansell Stadium.**

The motion was made by Dietz and seconded by Reasinger that Council approve the request from DuBois Area High School to close Division ST & Beaver DR at 5:45 p.m. for approximately 45 minutes on September 29<sup>th</sup> as they conduct their Homecoming Parade from the High School to Mansell Stadium. Councilwoman Bernardo asked Chief Clark if there is any problem with the request. He said no, since they have stopped performing along the way it was better last year. Roll call vote was as follows: Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Reasinger, yes; Walsh yea. Motion passed 5-0.

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### Authorization to purchase Fire Truck

Mayor Walsh asked Chief Brooks to talk about this item. Brooks stated that it is to replace Goodwill's truck. The total amount for the truck is \$567,879 of which DCED provided a grant in the amount of \$400,000 the remainder \$167,879 is the Fire Department's share. Councilman Aughenbaugh stated that the last few trucks were paid for by the hospital. He believes they have donated approximately \$1,000,000 for fire trucks through the years. The motion was made by Reasinger and seconded by Aughenbaugh that Council authorize the purchase of a fire truck for Goodwill Hose Company. Roll call vote was as follows: Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Reasinger, yes; Walsh yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Kathleen Clements asked a question about the fire truck. With Sandy and DuBois merging and all these fire houses are going to come together why would we buy a new fire truck if all the fire houses are going to be.... Mayor Walsh said, because we need it right now. Goodwill's truck is... Brooks jumped in and said the truck is almost 30 years old. Clement said I'm not saying don't do it I'm just saying.... Brooks said as far as the merger with the fire department, we did have a plan before but it looks like we are going to have to start from scratch again. Clement said, believe me I love the fire department.

### Trees

Reasinger said, trees. That's a nice change. So we have fifteen trees coming from the state, we need to plant those in public lands. Once we get them, we will have Scott, who is from Penn State Extension, help us with that. Redevelopment has decided to buy seven trees at the cost of \$500 a tree to put in the private lots on Maple Avenue. I sent out a mailer, we had seven people say that we could put a tree in their yard. We are going to pay for that and put the trees in their yards, Redevelopment is going to. Any questions about trees?

Councilman Aughenbaugh said that brings something up that we have talked about before, about having our Forester come in and talk. Mr. Jones had some questions about the cut on the watershed. He is a very very knowledgeable man. Councilman Reasinger said he would like to talk to him. Aughenbaugh said that is going to happen, he'll have some more information to share with everyone. Nasuti said he has talked to Mr. Kane about that he is going to arrange for one of the meetings hopefully in September he can come down and educate us all on forest management at the reservoir.

### Pension Plan

Councilman Reasinger said he has done some extensive research on the Pension Plan. Dave was right, I talked to Dave before I came to the meeting about it. Our actuary.... the actuary that is coming in real recent, is going to be at 8% assumed interest rate that we get on our pension is 58% funded. That is very poor, and that is at 8%. I have asked several times like four times for 7, 7 ½ and 8. Today I asked for a 3% increase in pay over those years I have yet to get that. The one that is coming is going to be 58% and the MMO is 766 or 764. Nasuti said the numbers that we just received on Thursday or Friday. We do have a Pension Committee meeting scheduled for September 8<sup>th</sup> so we will get a little more concrete information then and can meet with them face to face and dialog, but we are looking into the pension. It is something that needs addressed obviously. Mr. Glass brought that up, I have been in touch with him and invited him to the meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> as well. We are working on the pension; it is not being ignored. Reasinger went on and stated that the Uniform one for the Police is in very good shape. He then asked DeLean if it was at 6.25 or 6.50; it's at 90% will a very low interest rate. It is in very good shape. DeLean asked if he means the assumed interest, he confirmed, she believes it's at 6.50. Reasinger said it's a decent amount. It's the Non-Uniform for all the other workers in the city that is trouble. He said there were a couple of letters, and we should get a report from S & T Bank very soon on the S& T ones the Police Pension. There is another fund that runs the city workers. I would ask that we move that from 8 this year to 7.5. I think moving it to 7 is just too much in one year. I think we should move that to 7.5. We talked to a financial advisor that suggested that to us. That would make the city pay more money in; in fact, they are going to have to sooner or later anyway. Let's get ahead of the game, sure up the pension plan and make it good for all the workers that are going to retire and all the ones that already have retired. There was no, when the change was made there was no actuarial report done that, I'm aware of. Nasuti said we will investigate and see what we can find. Councilman Aughenbaugh said on the Pension Board, the way it was made up I'm pretty sure it was through an ordinance. Nasuti said it is. Councilman Aughenbaugh feels we'll have to change the ordinance, because talking there should be a financial advisor on the pension committee. Reasinger said he did the research, but he is no expert, they need

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### Pension Plan (Cont'd.)

someone to advise either a CPA, someone familiar with pensions, or a financial advisor on that. Reasinger said he doesn't know how to get that started with an ordinance.

**Kristen Vida** asked when was the last time the Pension Committee met. Reasinger said in 2019; Walsh said prior COVID. Reasinger said, they will be meeting again on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Vida asked about the ordinance, were they to meet annually, bi-annually? Nasuti said at least once a year. Nasuti continued, that we do have some issues that we need to address. I would like to gather all the information, get the information on how to change that ordinance so we can appoint other people. We can invite guests. September 8<sup>th</sup> we will have guests there, they can assist our committee in assessing the situation. Reasinger said it is not terrible because we have time. Time is on our side; in ten to twenty years' time this can be fixed. I don't want to scare anyone or anything like that. It is good it was identified and will be fixed. Walsh said he and Pat met on Friday with a gentleman and he said that it's not in good shape, but he said if you start now, it will be in good shape in twenty years. If we keep going at this rate, we are in trouble.

**Bob Swope** said he probably shouldn't say this, but this is my opinion and my opinion only. It does not involve any other city employees or anything like that. I would please ask that we look at all the information, get all the information you need, and talk to whoever we need to before you bring this back again. This is giving us a bad name, it's making you guys look like your giving out free money, like Herm was giving out free money, it's making the city employees look like idiots and I don't want that to happen. I would appreciate it if you guys would get all the information you need and for the community to hold on, please let them do the work, please. There has been a lot of gossip some of it is not true and we know it's not true, please let them get their information first before you start hanging us, them, and everyone.

### Scribner Avenue Parking Lot

We actually have the grant application to do some parking work and we have parties' interest in also purchasing the lot to improve on their own. So, we will fully investigate both options. We would like to advertise the property to see if we can get interested parties to purchase the lot and develop it. It's the parking lot across the street, the S & T Parking Lot. The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Dietz that Council authorize advertising for bids, just because you advertise doesn't mean you have to sell it, for the Scribner Avenue Parking Lot. Roll call vote was as follows: Dietz, yea; Bernardo, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Reasinger, yes; Walsh yea. Motion passed 5-0.

### City Treasurer, Lisa LaBrasca Becker

She would appreciate it if everyone was kind to the staff out there. There is a lot going on, we are the front, the faces, and we would appreciate it if you would be kind. As far as the Controller, the City of DuBois is very primitive with what they are allowed to do; we compare the checks with the receipts. We don't have a full-time Controller in the City of DuBois; we are elected by you. We take our orders from Council and pay the bills, that is what we do. We have all done a great job of it, if you have questions you can come to me personally.

### City Controller, David Volpe

I'm the current Controller. I'm here if you ever have any questions instead of assuming that you know what I do or assuming that maybe I am doing something wrong come and see me. I consider myself a pretty friendly person. You are welcome to call me, call the city office, they can give me a message. I will happily call you back. If it is permitted, you can see what I do when I do it, I don't have anything to hide.

LaBrasca Becker asked to add to that, Dave does not have an office and I barely have an office; I'm usually in the front, so we don't really have full time offices. But we are here.

Volpe asked Ms. Frank her name, I have been thinking about that a lot. When I walk in this room it's filled with negative and there are so many nice things that are going on in this town. Like all of you new people who will be up here, I'm sure you want to be respected and trusted and we want that too. I get kind of disgusted whenever I come to these meetings, and it is all negative negative negative. I think we all need to listen to what Melody said and remember that we all live here and we all want what's best.

## City Council Meeting Minutes – August 28, 2023 (Cont'd.)

### Interim City Manager, Chris Nasuti

Couple of positive things. We had a new guy start in the Water Department today, Mike Borelli retired it took as a while to make sure had it in the budget, advertised in the paper, welcome Derek Heckathorne to our water group today. Working with a group that is interested in putting together a volunteer fair. Clearfield County did that last week or two weeks ago need, there is interest here to put together a fair where organizations can get together in one place. People can sign up for different organizations, not the City of DuBois but other places to be able to give back. People looking for opportunities to help out in the city. Coke Hill sewer project is done, there are a couple of little things to check up on, things they need to complete but other than that its done. Division Street traffic light the new signal is up and the old one is out. They are fixing the radius now so the trucks can make the turn. Hopefully they will be out of there in the next few weeks. The Sewer Plant is doing well, the treatment basins are in place, the power building is going up. The sewer work on the northside and southside of the stream is moving along well. The bridge is complete, the road is almost complete so we do have some good things going. Aughenbaugh asked if it was on schedule. Nasuti confirmed.

### Adjourn

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

ATTEST:

Becky Noor

APPROVED:

[Signature]