

City Council Meeting Minutes – March 25, 2024

City Council Chambers, City Building, 16 West Scribner Avenue, DuBois, Pennsylvania on Monday, March 25, 2024, at 6 p.m.; Council convened at their regular City Council Meeting with Mayor Pat Reasinger in the Chair. Other Council Members present were James Aughenbaugh (by phone), Shane Dietz, Elliot Gelfand and Jennifer Jackson. Also present were: Interim City Manager/City Engineer/Public Works Director, Chris Nasuti; Interim City Solicitor, Thomas Breth; Code Enforcement Officer, Zac Lawhead; Redevelopment Authority Director, Joe Mitchell; Interim Police Chief Shawn McCleary; Treasurer Lisa LaBrasca Becker; City Controller David Volpe; and Administrative Secretary, Korbi Slocum.

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

Executive Session (legal and personnel issues)

Council met in Executive Session prior to tonight’s meeting to discuss legal and personnel issues.

Mayor Reasinger clarified a comment from the March 4, 2024, meeting regarding his water bills. “One other thing I’d like to say is, there was a water bill in a tenant’s name. When it was discovered, it was immediately changed.”

Public Comments on Agenda Items Only

There were no public comments on agenda items.

Approval of Minutes

City Council Minutes – March 11, 2024

The motion was made by Gelfand and seconded by Dietz that Council approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2024, as presented. Roll call was as follows: Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Registry of Invoices

The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Gelfand to pay the Auto Draft Check Register by Check ID dated March 21, 2024, in the amount of \$5,230.44. Roll call was as follows: Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

The motion was made by Dietz and seconded by Jackson to pay the General Fund Purchase Order Listing by Vendor Name dated March 21, 2024, in the amount of \$315,247.24. Roll call was as follows: Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Gelfand to pay the PennVEST Check Register by Check ID dated March 20, 2024, in the amount of \$1,638,950.22. Roll call was as follows: Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Gelfand to table payment of \$7,000.00 to Purrfect Paws until an RFP for services can be put out ‘just to be on the safe side’. Roll call was as follows: Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Reasinger, abstain. Reasinger abstained because his wife is the Director of Purrfect Paws. Motion passed 4-0.

Resolution of Condolence – Charles Thomas “Tom” Swauger, Sr.

Jackson read the Resolution of Condolence which was signed by Council and will be given to the family.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of DuBois was saddened to learn of the death of our former Fire Chief and exemplary citizen, Charles Thomas “Tom” Swauger, Sr., on March 15, 2024; and

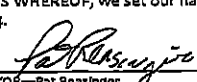
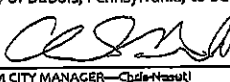

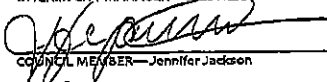


WHEREAS, Charles Thomas “Tom” Swauger, Sr., joined the DuBois Volunteer Fire Department in 1956, was a member of Volunteer Hose Co. #1 and served as Fire Chief in 1971 and 1972 filling this important position with distinction and advantage to the taxpayers of the City of DuBois; always conscientious to the highest degree in his position of trust and moved only by the best interests of his fellow citizens. Chief Swauger served on many boards and committees, most notably being a delegate to the Relief Association for more than 50 years. The DuBois Volunteer Fire Department was truly a lifelong calling for Chief Swauger as he was an active member in the department until the day of his passing.

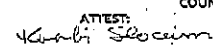
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body in Council assembled this 25th day of March 2024, that it express its deepest regret and sorrow at the loss of, Charles Thomas “Tom” Swauger, Sr., and hereby officially extend an expression of profound sympathy to his family for their personal loss.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and that a copy thereof be forwarded to the family of Charles Thomas “Tom” Swauger, Sr.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of DuBois, Pennsylvania, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by a majority vote of the DuBois City Council at a regular meeting held on March 25, 2024, and said Resolution has been recorded in the Minutes of the City Council and remains in effect as of this date.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we set our hands and cause the Official seal of the City of DuBois, Pennsylvania, to be affixed this 25th day of March 2024.

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|  _____ MAYOR—Pat Reasinger |  _____ INTERIM CITY MANAGER—Chris Nasuti |
|  _____ COUNCIL MEMBER—James Aughenbaugh |  _____ COUNCIL MEMBER—Jennifer Jackson |
|  _____ COUNCIL MEMBER—Shane Dietz |  _____ COUNCIL MEMBER—Elliot Gelfand |

ATTEST:

 Korbi Slocum

City Council Meeting Minutes – March 25, 2024 (continued)

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading of Council Bill No. 1982 – Amend Industrial Sewer Use Ordinance

This is an Ordinance of the City of DuBois amending Chapter 340, Article V, Section 340-43.2 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of DuBois to update the Maximum Allowable Loading Limits of the Industrial Sewer Use regulations. The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Gelfand to accept the second reading of Council Bill No. 1982 – Amend Industrial Sewer Use Ordinance. Roll call was as follows: Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

RFP for Municipal Solicitor – Proposals Due by April 1, 2024

This is for information to remind everybody the deadline is April 1 for the Municipal Solicitor position.

Downtown DuBois Request for Financial Support

At the last meeting Shirley made a presentation. The information is in the Council packet. Has Council made a decision as to whether or not they are providing financial support, in-kind support, or how you want to move forward? Jackson made the motion to offer \$20,000.00. Gelfand explained, "In the additional proposal that we were sent by the president of the Downtown Board, they amended their request to ask for \$20,000.00 and an additional \$10,000.00 for matching if they can raise \$10,000.00 from corporations or entities in the community. There was an additional \$10,000.00 for redevelopment. Can we consider a motion to give the \$20,000.00 and the \$10,000.00 if they are able to raise those funds and grants?" Breth replied, "You need to have a contract with them for what they're spending the money on and the services they are providing." Reasinger said, "We do have a contract but I'm not happy with it because it does say 'per year'. I'm not happy with making a long-term commitment." The contract will be given to Breth for review.

The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Gelfand to table the matter until Breth can review the contract and advise Council. Roll call was as follows: Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0. Reasinger explained, "The big part, so it benefits the City and your group, is getting the federal accreditation." That process takes about a year to complete.

NEW BUSINESS

YMCA – Memorial Park Facility Reservations

A letter was received by Program Director Zac Wilcox requesting the use of some facilities: two tennis courts on Tuesday evenings from 5:00-7:00 pm from May 21 through August 6 for Spring/Summer tennis lessons, two tennis courts on Wednesday evenings from 5:00-5:45 pm from July 10-31 for youth tennis lessons, 1 basketball court on Monday evenings from 6:00-9:00 pm from June 3 through July 29 for Summer basketball league, and the football field on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 4:15-5:15 pm from April 8 through May 15 for youth wiffle ball league. The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Gelfand to approve the request from the YMCA. The reservations will be posted on the doors of the facilities. Aughenbaugh asked if there are any other reservations for these facilities. Nasuti replied, "Not to my knowledge. Because there is no formal process to reserve these facilities, I wanted to bring it here and get Council's approval." Roll call was as follows: Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Request Authorization to Bid 2024 Pavement Markings

This is pavement markings for our streets. We're doing this in cooperation with Sandy Township. This is an annual project for center lines, crosswalks, turning arrows, all the safety precautions we need to have at our intersections. The motion was made by Dietz and seconded by Gelfand to approve authorization to bid for 2024 pavement markings. Roll call was as follows: Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Request Authorization to Bid 2024 Chemicals

This is for chemicals we use at the water plant, sewer plant and swimming pool. We bid them out annually to get competitive prices. The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Dietz to approve authorization to bid for 2024 chemicals. Roll call was as follows: Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Recommendation to Award W. Washington Avenue Waterline Construction Contract

This is our CDBG project on W. Washington Avenue. We recommend awarding it to Smith Landscaping pending approval of their federal clearance through the www.sam.gov website. The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Gelfand to approve awarding the contract to Smith Landscaping pending their federal approval. Roll call was as follows: Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

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Recommendation to Award Bids

Concrete Patching

We had a bid opening and received one bid from Clear Run Construction Company in the amount of \$845.30 per cubic yard. This is a two-year contract for 2024 and 2025. The previous rate we paid was about \$780.00 per cubic yard. The motion was made by Gelfand and seconded by Dietz to award the contract to Clear Run Construction for 2024 and 2025. Roll call was as follows: Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Bituminous Patching

We had a bid opening and received two bids – one from BK Asphalt and one from Glenn O. Hawbaker. The low bid was \$73.00 per square yard from BK Asphalt. The previous rate we paid was \$67.00 per square yard. We recommend awarding the bid to BK Asphalt for 2024 and 2025. The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Dietz to award the contract to BK Asphalt for 2024 and 2025. Roll call was as follows: Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Resolution No. 2024-0379 Authorizing and Approving the Issuance of Debt with Sandy Township in the Form of the Section 108 Loan

This is their loan through CDBG for Platt Road sewer project. Breth said, “We had sent a red-lined revision back to Sandy Township. They’ve responded. There were concerns with respect to language asking Council to ratify prior actions. It’s my understanding that the project has been completed. I’m not aware of what those prior actions were, so I can’t counsel you on that section. They sent a red-lined version back basically putting that language back in. If you’re comfortable ratifying with that language in there, that’s up to you. The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Gelfand to approve Resolution No. 2024-0379 authorizing and approving the issuance of debt with Sandy Township in the form of a Section 108 Loan. Roll call was as follows: Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Resolution No. 2024-0380 Juniata Lake Restroom Project

This is to put a restroom over at Juniata Lake Park. We need a resolution from Council so we can apply for that through a DCNR program. The restroom will be located near the pavilion and will be open year-round. The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Dietz to approve Resolution No. 2024-0380 for the Juniata Lake restroom project. Roll call was as follows: Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

West Weber Avenue Railroad Crossing

A resident has asked about turning West Weber Avenue at Franklin into a two-way crossing. Right now, it’s a one-way railroad crossing. I reached out to PennDOT and the railroad and it looks like we’re going to be able to do that. I need to get information from the railroad and then we’ll have to file with the PUC, so it’s going to take a couple of months. This is an update on the progress we’ve made.

Memorial Park Construction Loan and Line of Credit

Last year, we received a loan line of credit to do the field improvement project in the park. We only have until the end of next week to draw down. Our options are to close it or request a year’s extension. We don’t have any plans or use for the loan right now. The motion was made by Gelfand and seconded by Jackson to allow the line of credit to sunset. Roll call was as follows: Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement

This was discussed at the Joint Board meeting on Wednesday for Shawn Arbaugh to be the City Manager for both City of DuBois and Sandy Township and for me (Nasuti) to serve as the Engineer for both the City of DuBois and Sandy Township. If passed, that agreement would become effective April 22, 2024. Each would receive an additional \$15,000.00 per year and anticipate being present in each building most days during the week. The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Gelfand to approve the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement as presented. Roll call was as follows: Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Public Comments

Leo Brooks – Assistant Fire Chief

“First, I want to thank you for the Resolution for Chief Swauger. We had discussed coming here once a month to give an update on what’s happening in the Fire Department. We want to do something for our members for the specific achievements they do. We are doing church washdowns. We’re going to be at the Sunny 106 Kids’ Fair April 7 from 12:30-3:00 pm at Central Catholic High School giving firetruck rides. CenClear is having an event for child abuse prevention month on April 13 at 10:00 am and we will be there with the trucks. The downtown washdown is planned for Sunday, April 21 at 6:00 pm. Fire School is going on. We’ve had the trucks and guys volunteering their weekends with the kids. The City has several

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Leo Brooks – Assistant Fire Chief (continued)

young people participating in that. As far as fundraisers, 3rd Ward is having their meatloaf dinner April 7 at 11:00 am. The Volunteers will have their Fireman's Platter sale on May 19th. We have a member at 3rd Ward who has 70 years in the department on March 7th. You probably know him, Sam McNaughton. He is still active and comes to every meeting and fundraiser. He deserves to be recognized by the community. (The audience responded with a round of applause.)

Charlie Mechling – Monroe Street

"In regards to the Treasurer's insistence on a motion being made to open an account for the new Neighborhood Fund, my question to the Treasurer is, Did you insist on motions being made to open the many accounts that were opened for Mr. Suplizio using the City's EIN number for his personal use?" LaBrasca Becker replied, "I never saw an EIN number. The only EIN number I saw is on my tax reports. The Neighborhood Fund Pat brought to us in January; it was opened without it getting permission first. Then I realized, after reading the minutes, it wasn't voted on, so I asked Council to vote on it which our Solicitor suggests that happens all the time. So, I took our Solicitor's advice, and I asked Council to vote on it. Good question. That's how it will be from now on."

Deb Mechling – Monroe Street

"There has been much talk recently concerning the bonuses quietly paid to key members of our DuBois government from 2014 to 2022. The paying of bonuses of any kind is highly unusual and not a common practice in municipal government. Greg Primm, past president for the association that advocates for professionalism and ethics in local government said that 'giving bonuses to government employees without a clear policy or public discussion is not a practice that I have ever seen any municipality do or I'm accustomed to seeing in any way, especially bonuses in the amounts given in DuBois'. That quote was taken from the Spotlight PA, November 9, 2023, the title of the article written by Min Xian and Angela Coulombus, investigative journalists, was titled "Richest Little City". Min and Angela obtained a Right To Know from our DuBois Right To Know Officer. At present, that Officer is Chris Nasuti. The gatekeeper prior to Mr. Nasuti was Toni Cherry. The action of paying bonuses was not voted on by the prior DuBois City Council. This proposal was quietly brought about by our former City Manager. This past bonus policy is very timely and needs attention now because at this time our present Council is going through the process of terminating Mr. Suplizio from his former position as City Manager. These monies should be paid back to the City by Mr. Suplizio who enacted this policy on his own for nine years. This issue should be part of the negotiation for the termination of his contract. It is also worth nothing, when the bonus monies were paid to key staffers, no checks were issued. The bonus dollars were deposited into the individual payroll accounts. Also, an interesting observation was, after the three raids by the Attorney General in April of 22, there were still bonuses paid out in December even though an investigation was being conducted on our City Manager concerning the financial practices of our City. The bonus policy was in effect from 2014 to 2022. Nine years this was going on.

In 2022 alone, our Finance Officer's bonus was \$12,665.54; our Public Works Superintendent's bonus was \$5,397.60; our Public Works Director/Engineer's bonus was \$7,907.65; our Redevelopment Director's bonus was \$8,582.78; our Water Billing Coordinator's bonus was \$599.44; our Deputy Treasurer's bonus was \$1,260.48; our Police Chief's bonus was \$11,146.08; our Code Enforcement Officer's bonus was \$2,339.22; our City Manager's bonus was \$64,215.46; our IT Director's bonus was \$1,000.36; our Administrative Clerk's bonus was \$645.36; our other Administrative Clerk's bonus was \$354.09; our Administrative Secretary's bonus was \$1,342.66. If you were to total up the salary for the former City Manager for all nine years, the amount would be \$955,045.00. Nine years of bonuses for our past City Manager was \$157,358.54. The attorney fees also paid to our former City Manager approved by prior Council were \$274,000.00. The total is \$1,586,403.50. That is a lot of money from our small City. The bonus and lawyer fees need to be paid back. One question that I have that keeps niggling me is, Why did no one report these bonuses? Not the Treasurer, not the Deputy Treasurer, not the Treasury Clerk, not the City Controller, not the Finance Director, not the Finance Clerk. Let us not forget – the bonuses in question are our tax dollars."

Breth responded, "I think Mrs. Mechling did a pretty nice job summarizing my comments. Our records indicate that the bonus would go back even further than 2014." Reasinger interjected, "2008." Breth continued, "They go back, from what we've been able to determine, to 2008. Obviously, your questions with respect to all the individuals – elected and employees of the City that are charged with protecting the taxpayers and expenditure of taxpayer funds. I take my responsibility as Solicitor very seriously. That's part of my charge as a Solicitor is to make sure the City Council does things and in the appropriate legal manner. How that much money could go out of taxpayer accounts without there being City Council approval, without it coming to the public so the public could understand is beyond my, I've been doing this for a long time, and I represent a lot of governmental entities. The concept of bonuses being awarded is not something that we've ever. We've done supplemental payments for additional responsibilities and unique circumstances. Those are always publicly approved, so obviously it's one of

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Deb Mechling – Monroe Street (continued)

the issues we are looking at. One of the other issues that we're looking at, there are, I believe, 12 maybe 13 bank accounts that have the City's EIN number that do not go through the standard procedure for the City Manager to sign off, the Treasurer, the Controller, and another City representative. Those signature cards have individuals that aren't elected or employees of the City. That's another area where, once again, to me, as somebody that works in this area in the legal field, that's why you hear when a bank account gets opened up, City Council approves that bank account being opened up. They approve the folks on the signature cards. That's taxpayer money. I don't care the source of the money. Once it hits a bank account with the City's EIN number, that is taxpayer money. That money has to be expended under the authority of City Council, and it has to be audited. Many of these accounts, it's my understanding, have never been audited. That's shocking to me as a Solicitor that you would have taxpayer funds, EIN numbers, which signifies that those monies are the City's monies and they not be audited. I don't know how that happens, but it's one of the things that City Council has asked me to take a look into. It takes time to look into these things. Yes, City Council is working on it with me with the City Manager. We're going to try to sort through this, try to get answers. As we get answers we'll try and share that information as best we can with you. There are a number of personnel issues that are related to many of the things we're talking about. Those personnel issues are progressing through the process and, when appropriate, City Council will have on their agenda and share their actions with respect to those personnel matters as they can in a public forum. So, that you very much for your comments." Mechling thanked Breth for responding.

Reasinger added, "The bonuses weren't just to key employees. I think everybody in this building, any non-union, I think, Chris, almost every non-union..." Nasuti replied, "She read them all."

Breth added, "I think it's important to note that there are elected officials and employees that are specifically charged with the job, responsibility and the elected statutory responsibility to make sure public funds, City funds, are expended properly. There are City employees that receive performance bonuses that have absolutely nothing, their job isn't to do that. And, not to say that, I don't want them painted with too broad of a brush. And I'm not saying anybody's doing that, but I think that it's important, for those individuals that received bonuses, I'm assuming that a vast majority of them didn't think there was anything wrong with it because it's not within the purview of their job responsibilities to make sure that City Council approved it. When somebody says, 'You're going to receive a bonus' those individuals, most of them probably said, 'I assume that's gone through the appropriate approval process'. It's really those that had the fiduciary obligation, that had the elected responsibility, had the job responsibility to make sure that those bonuses were appropriately approved. Those are the ones that City Council really needs to understand, how did the system break down, how does it need to be corrected moving forward so that we don't ever see this again and looking backwards saying, can we recoup that City taxpayer money, in appropriate circumstances can it go back to the residents that pay the taxes? So, that's what we're working on."

Shawn Lesky – DuBoisLIVE

"My question is for Attorney Breth. The 13 accounts, can you ballpark for us what those might total?" Breth replied, "Shawn, I wish I could. I really can't. Some of them are very small and some of them there's absolutely legitimate reasons to have those accounts. The question is, why aren't they being audited, why aren't they under the control of the Mayor and City Council. Why aren't the expenditures out of those account going through the appropriate expenditure process that City Council should be following when they're managing taxpayer money of any kind." Lesky then asked, "So, the bonuses, when they were paid electronically, which elected officials or employees would have been the ones to initiate the EFTs?" Breth replied, "We're still looking at that and, quite honestly, I haven't had an opportunity to speak with those individuals. So, before I start naming people I want to show them the courtesy of an opportunity to meet with them and have an opportunity for them to respond and answer the questions before I start publicly." Lesky continued, "Those 13 accounts, are they being used in any way now or are they more or less frozen and grounded and pending?" Breth answered, "No, those 13 accounts are still active. Once again, I don't want to imply that anybody that's utilizing any of those 13 accounts is misappropriating funds in any way. I'm just telling you that there's 12 or 13 accounts out there that have the City's EIN number that aren't being audited, that aren't being scrutinized by the Controller and the Treasurer and City Council and Finance Director. That's an issue. So, we need to unwind that issue. We need to work collaboratively with folks to transition that under the supervision and control of City Council, the Controller, the Treasurer, the Finance Director, all the other responsible individuals so that those funds can – and the auditor. I haven't mentioned the auditor – but the auditor – the City's new auditor, will most certainly audit those funds annually." Lesky asked, "Has there been a wide net cast to see if the City's EIN number has been used at any other banks throughout the Commonwealth or the United States?" Breth replied, "A net has been cast. Whether it's wide enough is yet to be seen. But, yes." Lesky continued, "I didn't know if there companies like Checks Systems, for example, that could".

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Shawn Lesky – DuBoisLIVE (continued)

Breth said, “Efforts have been made to identify financial institutions that we may be unaware of that have City EIN accounts. We’re not done looking. That process, moving on.”

Tom Gusky – S. State Street

“He kind of stole my thunder. I was wondering, this river of money that flows through here, who was it that allowed this money to go to these different people? And, Counselor, you mentioned these bonuses, you almost make it sound like ‘Well, golly, it’s OK’. Those are some pretty substantial bonuses. I don’t know if you ever worked a regular job, but bonuses like that, I’ve never seen bonuses like that. The manager, that last one was \$65,000.00. That’s over \$1,000.00 a week for a bonus. ‘Who’s watching this stuff?’ is my question. Who is making that to happen, allow to make that happen. So, you’re probably still working on it, but it’s just staggering. Who is ‘guarding the guards?’” Jackson replied, “We’re guarding now, Tom. We are guarding now.” Gusky said, “I hope we can get it straightened out.”

Richard Phillips – Tozier Avenue

Speaking to Reasinger, “A couple of weeks ago I asked you about tenants, about water bills being in the landlord’s name. I asked you twice. You told me you had the records in your truck. Not true. Is that what you were talking about earlier when you stated...” Reasinger replied, “Yes. I’ve answered that. I addressed that.” Phillips continued, “How does that work? How do you get away with it that long? You’re not new at the rental business. Somebody at the City...” Reasinger responded, “I don’t know.” Phillips said, “Come on, that’s not an answer. That’s not an answer. How come everybody else has to do it and you got away with, you’ve been renting how many years?” Reasinger replied, “I’ve been a landlord since 2019.” Phillips said, “You didn’t know this?” Reasinger answered, “No.” “That’s unacceptable to me,” Phillips stated. “I’m an uneducated person and I know that. I have rental places. I think you bold-face lied to me and I would suggest you resign.” “That won’t be happening,” Reasinger responded. Phillips then said, “I suggest somebody on Council asks you to resign and I want a second. It’s totally unacceptable. How can you sit there and run, be the Mayor, when you don’t even know the rules?” Reasinger responded, “I don’t know the Water Department rules. I didn’t...” Phillips interrupted, “You don’t know the landlord rules? They tell you that as soon as you run the place.” At that point Breth spoke up. “Sorry, this just really isn’t, the Mayor has answered your questions. I appreciate you expressing your opinion, but I don’t think there’s anything the Mayor is going to say to change your mind.” Phillips said, “No, he’s a liar. On this renters, I still object to people wanting to come into my rental property, and you (Reasinger) should, too, because if you’re a landlord, I think this is not good and that’s my story.”

Michael Clement – 17 N. Brady Street

“I have a comment about this. I’m curious, first off, as to how Mr. Phillips knew that bill existed that way. Second off, if it exists, it certainly has to be on the City of DuBois and not a resident. We need this building to start taking responsibility for the way they have things listed. It’s not the Mayor’s fault. You were a resident when this happened. This would have happened, seems year ago. I know don’t know how a private resident knows...” Reasinger said, “I wasn’t on Council then.” Clement continued, “I’m confused by that which means, I think probably somebody in this building told him. But, guess what, that shouldn’t happen. We should not be using offices in our City to be going after residents. So, Mayor, please do not resign. Please ignore that comment. Thank you.” Phillips said, “Right to know.”

Phil Tabone – Sandy Township

“I wasn’t here at the last meeting, but you’re talking about putting a levy or a fee on these apartments that the landlords own. What I want to know, there are people in St. Michael’s Terrace, Gray’s apartment buildings, and the high rise across from Frank’s Pizza. How are they going to handle all the people that are on HUD in there. Who’s going to pay that? They have to get that money from the tenant.” Reasinger asked, “What money are you talking about?” Tabone answered, “This \$50.00 that you’re going to apply...” Jackson asked, “Can I answer this? There is so much misinformation about a landlord-tenant agreement. People were looking at the agreement that was put out from the former Council which was Diane Bernardo. We have not looked, that agreement has nothing to do with this Council. We have not discussed it at all. Chris is working on a draft. We have nothing in writing. We have not talked about fees. Nothing. So, there is so much, I know I’ve had people coming to me forming a lynch mob which, hey, I’m all for it. But there’s nothing we’ve even worked on. We have no idea what fees, what we’re requiring, nothing at this point.” Tabone said, “But eventually this is going to happen is what you’re saying.” Jackson replied, “Eventually there will be something, but we don’t know if there’s going to be inspections, if there’s going to be fees. We don’t know anything. Right now, you’re presuming stuff that we haven’t even talked about yet. We are hoping that some landlords will come to Chris or Council and talk, in a nice manner – or Shawn Arbaugh who will be up here – but we want to work this out that it is good for the City, it’s good for the landlords and it’s good for the tenants. But we don’t have anything yet with fees, nothing at all. Chris has been doing some research on the agreement, so for everyone to start already in an uproar, there’s no reason. We haven’t talked about it at all. As you can see, we have a lot bigger fish to fry right now. This is something we’d like to work on in the future for the betterment of this

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Phil Tabone – Sandy Township (continued)

community. There's no \$50.00 fee. Phil, we don't even know what the fee would be because we haven't discussed it." Tabone commented, "But, eventually there's going to be a fee." Jackson replied, "We don't know. We haven't talked about it. So, all the presumption, we don't know what it's going to look like at all. And, like I said, this isn't at the forefront right now. We have a lot of other things to worry about right now." Tabone asked, "It won't get pushed through without people knowing?" Jackson responded, "Absolutely not. We are hoping that people come to us and talk to us. I know people have already come to my flower shop. It is what it is. I'm a landlord, too. I have quite a few units. Somewhere along the line we need to be proactive instead of reactive, but we are not going to push through something without input from the many landlords in this community." Tabone said, "What I'm saying, to, is Sandy Township hasn't joined up with this organization yet, OK. And they should have an input about what's going on with fees because they're not even involved in it. Just like that resolution it would go right over to Sandy Township when Sandy Township goes with the City." Jackson replied, "We have Shawn Arbaugh coming in here and he's going to be our fearless leader along with Chris as his sidekick. And we'll work on it. We're going to try, Phil."

Council Member and Staff Comments

Interim Police Chief McCleary

"I just want to remind everybody that it's starting to get nice out. More kids will be out running around, kids on bikes, pedestrians. Just be careful when you're out there driving around. Make sure you're watching for kids or people to walk out in front of you because it happens quite a bit. Also, be aware the motorcycles are starting to come out, it's hard to see them at times. Be aware of that. We will be having more patrols at the City park now because people are going to start utilizing that. Also, Assistant Chief Roy gave me a good idea. We're going to have a couple of guys on bikes during the day and evenings for the City park and walkways, around Showers Field."

Code Enforcement Officer Zac Lawhead

"Dumpster Day is next week, so everybody remember to bring their ID and water bill." Reasinger added, "It's the first Wednesday of the month, so bring your ID with you and a water bill that shows you're a citizen of the City and you can use those. They take anything. They even put it in the dumpster for you." Nasuti added, "No construction debris." Mitchell said, "And no tires."

Treasurer Lisa LaBrasca Becker

"I just want to remind everybody the City will be closed on Friday for Good Friday."

Councilwoman Jennifer Jackson

"I'd like to thank Leo Brooks from the Fire Department. I think it would be great that we have a monthly report. I also think it would be nice to recognize, along with the Fire Department, also the Police Department and City employees to give them some recognition going forward. I'm excited with the (Intergovernmental Cooperation) Agreement and, Phil, I promise we're not going to push through a rental agreement without any input." Tabone replied, "I didn't say you were going to. There's a lot of holes in the works there." Jackson continued, "The agreement you saw, we're going to work on." Tabone said, "You realize the people who are renting are going to end up paying the \$50.00 and \$30.00 a year. There's so many people on HUD right now, it's pathetic. Actually, HUD doesn't have room for them." Jackson finished, "We're going to work on it. It's nice to see people here. Thank you, Chris. Thank you, Tom."

Tabone said, "I have a question. You just said about the water bill, you can use that dumpster. If you're in Sandy Township you can use your water bill?" Reasinger replied, "No, you have to be a resident of DuBois." Tabone said, "Well, if you get your water bill from the City that would prove to them that you're in the City." Lawhead clarified, "We bill for the trash, too, through the water bill. So, if your trash has to be billed through the water bill, you can use the dumpster on Dumpster Day."

Solicitor Tom Breth

"Blessed Easter to everyone. Have a safe and blessed Easter."

Mayor Pat Reasinger

"Thank you for coming. I've been here for six months or so and I will tell you that I've never seen a business like the City where everybody knows their job. All the employees know their job, and they do their job. I see them and I talk to them. I'm here all the time. The firemen, you know, you don't even think about the firemen until there's a great big fire and you see pictures and stuff, but they're out there every day. They're doing a great job and they go through a lot of training, a lot of work. We have some great employees and great police and firemen and everything. It's a great City."

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Shane Dietz

“I’d just like to wish everyone a happy Easter.”

Adjourn

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

ATTEST: Kenli Sloam APPROVED: 