

City Council Meeting Minutes – April 22, 2024

City Council Chambers, City Building, 16 West Scribner Avenue, DuBois, Pennsylvania on Monday, April 22, 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, Shane Dietz, Elliot Gelfand and Jennifer Jackson. Also present were: City Manager, Shawn Arbaugh; Interim City Solicitor, Thomas Breth; Public Works Director/Engineer, Chris Nasuti; 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 issues, water bills, pension, and the injunction.

Public Comments on Agenda Items Only

None

Approval of Minutes

City Council Minutes – April 8, 2024

The motion was made by Gelfand and seconded by Jackson that Council approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2024, as presented. Roll call was as follows: Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Registry of Invoices

The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Jackson to pay the Auto Draft Check Register by Check ID dated April 18, 2024, in the amount of \$35,937.14. Roll call was as follows: Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Dietz to pay the General Fund Purchase Order Listing by Vendor Name dated April 19, 2024, in the amount of \$325,205.34. Roll call was as follows: Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

The motion was made by Dietz and seconded by Aughenbaugh to pay the PennVEST Check Register by Check ID dated April 18, 2024, in the amount of \$1,459,362.93. Roll call was as follows: Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Redevelopment Authority Cooperation Agreement

The Redevelopment Authority Cooperation Agreement was distributed to Council in March for review. This is an annual agreement. The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Gelfand to table the matter until Council receives input from Arbaugh who sits on the Clearfield Redevelopment Authority Board of Directors. Roll call was as follows: Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

DuBois Public Library Request for Funding

The recommendation is Council deny the funding request of \$49,000.00 because they state in the application they have the money for the grant match. Also, the request was received after the 2024 Budget was passed. The City owns the library building and has money budgeted to assist with annual maintenance. The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Gelfand to decline the grant match requested by the library. Roll call was as follows: Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Downtown DuBois, Inc. Contract Update

Breth revised the proposal into a contract. "I incorporated the numbers that were contained within the proposal, so Council just needed to clarify what level of financing you were willing to provide." The request was for \$20,000.00 with an additional matching \$10,000.00 if Downtown DuBois, Inc., was able to raise \$10,000.00 from corporate sponsorships and another \$10,000.00. Reasinger would like to see the stipulation that the group receive accreditation be put into the contract. "The way it helps the City and them the most is if they get accreditation. It would have to be spelled out in the contract that it would have to be obtained before they get any more money. I think \$40,000.00 is a little steep for DuBois right now. The request came in after we set our budget, and it is a considerable amount." Gelfand said, "I think the people who want to support the downtown need to see the City is on board as well. Once the City supports them, you'll see a lot more support from the community. It's pretty common for cities to support their downtown groups as we've seen in the evidence presented to us. The benefits and additional funding sources we'll be able to access through partnering with the downtown group will

City Council Meeting Minutes – April 22, 2024 (continued)

Downtown DuBois, Inc. Contract Update (continued)

pretty much pay for itself.” Considering the budget, Reasinger would like to see the money broken down as \$20,000.00 for this budget year and the other \$20,000.00 coming from next year’s budget.” Lisa Gabler from Downtown Dubois clarified the amounts requested. “The proposal was \$20,000.00 to help cover operating costs for this year, then a \$10,000.00 match only if we raise \$10,000.00 in corporate sponsorships. The other \$10,000.00 was based through the redevelopment authority specifically to increase façade grant funding. We already do \$50,000.00 a year and we use that every year. That comes from DCED.” Downtown DuBois, Inc., is willing to request the \$10,000.00 for façade grant funding directly from the City’s Redevelopment Authority.

The motion was made by Gelfand and seconded by Aughenbaugh that Council approve \$20,000.00 this year and the matching \$10,000.00, if raised, to be paid after the first of the year (2025). Roll call was as follows: Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Appointment of Municipal Solicitor

Two responses to the RPF for Solicitor were received. One from Breth’s firm (Dillon, McCandless, King, Coulter & Graham, LLP) from Butler and another firm from Pittsburgh. The recommendation is to maintain Tom Breth as Solicitor for the City of DuBois. A question was raised as to the length of the appointment. Breth explained, “I serve at the pleasure of Council, so it’s day-to-day. I made it clear to Council that I’m here to assist the City in the short term to deal with the issues that are before the City. In the short term, there’s going to be consolidation. I am happy to continue to work with the City if it is the desire of Council up to consolidation, but I do not, with all due respect to everybody – we love everybody we’re working with – the firm is greatly appreciative of the opportunity to assist you. This isn’t a long-term gig for me. I’m about an hour and a half away.”

The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Gelfand to appoint Tom Breth from Dillon, McCandless, King, Coulter & Graham as Solicitor. Roll call was as follows: Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Recommendation to Award Bids

Architectural Services

The recommendation is to award architectural services for the municipal building’s addition to KTH Architects. This was approved by the Joint Board. The reason Council has to approve this individually is the contract with DCED is specific to the City of DuBois and DCED. The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Aughenbaugh to accept the recommendation and award the architectural services to KTH Architects subject to the Solicitor’s approval of the final written contract. Roll call was as follows: Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, abstain; Reasinger, abstain. Motion passed 3-0.

Chemicals

Aughenbaugh asked how the chemical costs compare to last year. Nasuti stated, “Most of them were right in the same ballpark.”

- 130- 50# Bags Sodium Fluoride (Coarse or Granule) – \$92.46/bag – Univar USA

The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Jackson that Council accept the recommendation to award the contract to Univar USA in the amount of \$92.46/bag. Roll call was as follows: Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

- 3,500 – 50# Bags Light Soda Ash - \$17.31/bag – Univar USA

The motion was made by Gelfand and seconded by Dietz that Council accept the recommendation to award the contract to Univar USA in the amount of \$17.31/bag. Roll call was as follows: Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

- 13 – 2000# Cylinder Liquid Gas Chlorine (Water Plant) - \$2,357.00/cylinder – Univar USA

The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Jackson that Council accept the recommendation to award the contract to Univar USA in the amount of \$2,357.00/cylinder. Roll call was as follows: Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

- 16 – 2000# Cylinder Liquid Gas Chlorine (Sewer Plant) - \$2,357.00/cylinder – Univar USA

The motion was made by Gelfand and seconded by Dietz that Council accept the recommendation to award the contract to Univar USA in the amount of \$2,357.00/cylinder. Roll call was as follows: Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

City Council Meeting Minutes – April 22, 2024 (continued)

Chemicals (continued)

- 5 – 275 gallon IBC Liquid Permanganate - \$2,743.14/tote – Shannon Chemical
The motion was made by Gelfand and seconded by Aughenbaugh that Council accept the recommendation to award the contract to Shannon Chemical in the amount of \$2,743.14/tote. Roll call was as follows: Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

- Approx. 1,000 gals Per Month – Sodium Bisulfite Solution Liquid - \$3.185/gal. – Barber's Chemical
The motion was made by Gelfand and seconded by Dietz that Council accept the recommendation to award the contract to Barber's Chemical in the amount of \$3.185/gallon. Roll call was as follows: Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

- 5 -55 Gallon Drum Heavy Duty Degreaser - \$552.86/drum – Clearfield Wholesale
The motion was made by Dietz and seconded by Jackson that Council accept the recommendation to award the contract to Clearfield Wholesale in the amount of \$552.86/drum. Roll call was as follows: Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Pavement Markings

The bids for work in both the City and Sandy Township were higher than expected. We are going to work with Matt Cook at Sandy Township to revise projects that will fit within our budget. The recommendation is to reject all bids. The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Gelfand to accept the recommendation and reject all pavement marking bids. Roll call was as follows: Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Garage Boiler Replacement

The recommendation is to award the replacement of the boiler at the City Garage to Epic Heating & Cooling for \$19,495.00. The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Gelfand to accept the recommendation and award the contract to Epic Heating & Cooling in the amount of \$19,495.00. Roll call was as follows: Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Cat Control

The only bid received was from Purrfect Paws Cat Rescue. The recommendation is to award the contract to Purrfect Paws for 2024. The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Gelfand to accept the recommendation and award the contract to Purrfect Paws. Roll call was as follows: Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Reasinger, abstain. Motion passed 4-0.

Union Township Municipal Authority Water Agreement

Union Township purchases water from the City of DuBois. There was some wording we wanted to get consistent. We have been using the same calculation for years. This will just document/memorialize those calculations. It has not changed the calculation. The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Jackson to approve the revised agreement with Union Township Municipal Authority. Roll call was as follows: Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Request from Goodwill Hose Company #5 to Close South State Street from Rumbarger Avenue to Spring Avenue – June 17-21 from 18:00 – 22:00 and June 22 from 12:00 – 23:00

This is an annual request for Fireman's week. The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Dietz to approve the road closure request as presented. Roll call was as follows: Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Recommendation from Watershed Committee to sell D-Tag permits for deer hunting in 2024

We have done this for the past few years per recommendation from our Forester. It is essentially extra tags to try and control the deer population and regenerate forest re-growth. The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Jackson to accept the recommendation of the Watershed Committee to sell D-Tag permits for 2024. Roll call was as follows: Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Public Comments

Matt White – owner of Aztec Linear, Inc., 1 Quarry Avenue

White asked why the line painting bids were rejected. Arbaugh stated the prices were higher than the City had budgeted. "If you have to prioritize, is it budgetary constraints? Is that the problem?" Arbaugh explained, "We're going to take a look at both programs for Sandy Township and DuBois and re-bid it out." White suggested, "If you would, you might think of the safety, the ones you want high visibility like

City Council Meeting Minutes – April 22, 2024 (continued)

Public Comments (continued)

school crosswalks or high traffic like the Boulevard and prioritize those. High ticket items are railroad crossings, very expensive, whereas unit line pricing for double yellow lines or anything like that is virtually inexpensive. Arrows and things like that are expensive and some of them are very visible as it is but may not meet reflectivity standards but are very visible and lit. So, you can consider all of that and if you need help, we're available." Nasuti said, "We have been driving around and looking at them and will be out again on Wednesday. Ideally, we'd like to paint them all, but there are prioritized ones we have to do."

Shirley Dahrouge – Downtown DuBois, Inc.

"Main Street – thank you Mayor and Council for tonight. I also want to thank Chris Nasuti for the last several months working so well with him as acting City Manager. I want to thank him and Ken Carr for all their help this weekend with our annual Spring cleanup. That was a wonderful event, and we appreciate all the help you've extended throughout all of this. I want to say thank you to our Beautification Committee, those that have donated and all the participants. We had a wonderful turnout, and our downtown and surrounding area is looking very clean. It's great timing because we have Main Street America coming in this Wednesday and you (Council) all have been invited. I hope many of our Council and City leaders can attend. We have been taking sponsorships for our flower pots and have had a great response. Down to Earth flower club maintains at the City building, Pershing lot and the library, but we do the flower pots dispersed throughout downtown. We have our Chocolate Festival coming up May 11. Shawn, we look forward to working with you."

Leo Brooks – Assistant Fire Chief

"The fire department has been very busy since I've been here last as far as calls and community stuff. We did church washdowns before Easter. We did downtown washdown last night. We cleaned up all the winter debris to help the businesses out. Also, it's great training for our young guys with nozzles and hooking up to hydrants. We're doing a mock crash at the high school on May 16. The Township fire department is involved with that along with DuSan, the police, Mr. Baronick, and the coroner. We try to make it as realistic as possible to deter the kids from driving impaired on prom. We have a couple fundraisers still going on. The Volunteers have their fireman's platter. If you haven't gotten tickets, see one of those guys or see me. Fourth Ward has their chicken barbeque at 11:00 a.m. on Mother's Day, May 12. I want to thank everyone for Third Ward's meatloaf dinner. We sold out in an hour! Next weekend we have our Mod Four for our fire school. Our young people will be doing their final testing. These folks deserve a lot of credit – 200 hours of training to volunteer to serve the community. It's impressive. These young people could be doing a lot of other things, but they dedicate themselves to that. If you have Facebook, check out our Facebook page. We're trying to get the community to know our firefighters a little better and be more recognizable in the community."

Mark Kolash – E. Washington Avenue

Kolash brought up concerns about communication with the City office. Breth explained, "Sir, I will deal with this. Before you leave this evening, I will give you my business card that will include my cell phone number and email address. You communicate directly with me. I will share the information with the City Manager and City Council. Send me whatever you have, and I will communicate with you regarding this matter. It's a very serious allegation and Council takes it very seriously. Now that you've brought it to their attention directly, I will respond to you immediately. This is not the correct forum for this type of information to be exchanged."

Council Member Comments

Councilwoman Jennifer Jackson

"I want to thank the fire department. As a business owner downtown, I'm a little particular about how my properties look. I love clean streets, so I thank them. I appreciate it. And thanks, Chris, it's been great working with you. I know it's been a good four months. Welcome aboard, Shawn."

City Manager Shawn Arbaugh

"I just want to thank City staff and City Council for the warm welcome. I look forward to working here. I want to thank the DuBois City Police. We had a pretty major event in Sandy Township that they were instrumental in helping and assisting us with, so thanks again for all your help."

Councilman Elliot Gelfand

"Welcome, Shawn. I look forward to working with you. Chris, I can't thank you enough. Great job! You got thrown into an impossible situation and did the best anybody could have done. We appreciate all your time and effort to keep the City on the rails for as long as you did. I look forward to continue working with you as Engineer and as we move towards consolidation. Good job, much appreciated."

City Council Meeting Minutes – April 22, 2024 (continued)Councilman Shane Dietz

"I wanted to thank everyone that donated their time and energy to the Spring cleanup and the street washdown. The sidewalks and streets look pretty good."

Mayor Pat Reasinger

"Chris, thanks. You've been very helpful to us. Shawn, good luck."

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: Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, nay; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 4-1.

ATTEST:

Yonbi Slocum

APPROVED:

