

## City Council Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2024

City Council Chambers, City Building, 16 West Scribner Avenue, DuBois, Pennsylvania on Monday, May 13, 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: City Manager, Shawn Arbaugh; City Solicitor, Thomas Breth; Public Works Director/Engineer, Chris Nasuti; Zac Lawhead, Codes Officer; Interim Police Chief Shawn McCleary; 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 the Sandy Township lawsuit, police negotiations and personnel on the agenda.

### Public Comments on Agenda Items Only

#### Gregg Gillaugh – DuBois Days

"First of all, I'd like to thank Council for considering the items on the agenda tonight for DuBois Days. We have quite a bit scheduled Friday through Sunday. Some of the items are on flyers I've provided for you. Sunday's schedule will come out in the next week or so. Obviously, we need the special event permit authorization for City Park. Everything is solid for all three days and is moving along. We also appreciate you also considering usage of the pool. I just want to say thank you, I appreciate all your assistance. This is a learning experience for myself and some others as well. I appreciate everyone's help, Shawn and Chris Nasuti and many others. There also is a list of the music scheduled."

#### Kathleen Clement – Chestnut Avenue

Regarding Items #9 and 13 (free swimming and fireworks for DuBois Days), "With budget issues, kind of expensive"; #17 (2024 budget error and modification), "What is it?"; and #18 (existing City debt), "How much?"

### Approval of Minutes

#### City Council Minutes – April 22, 2024

The motion was made by Gelfand and seconded by Jackson that Council approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2024, as presented. Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

### Registry of Invoices

The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Dietz to pay the Auto Draft Check Register by Check ID dated May 2, 2024, in the amount of \$26,297.95. Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

The motion was made by Gelfand and seconded by Dietz to pay the General Fund Purchase Order Listing by Vendor Name dated May 9, 2024, in the amount of \$505,227.27. Jackson questioned what the \$10,000.00 for Waterfalls was for and if it is grant money. Nasuti reported it was to replace several of the pumps and maintenance. It is not funded by grant money. Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Redevelopment Authority Cooperation Agreement

The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Gelfand to table the matter pending further discussion. Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### DuBois Days – Special Events Permit Authorization

This is to approve the request for the use of the City Park for DuBois Days from June 14-16, 2024. The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Gelfand to approve the request. Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

#### DuBois Days – Pool Usage Request

The request has been made to allow free entry to the pool from 3:00 p.m. to close on Friday, June 14, 2024, and all day on Saturday, June 15, 2024. The motion was made by Gelfand and seconded by Jackson to approve the request. Jackson stated, "Kathleen, I have your concerns about the budget, but I feel the citizens deserve something. If we need to make some tweaks somewhere else, we're working on it. The

## City Council Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2024 (continued)

residents deserve something through all of this. That's the least we can do." Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Proclamation – Memorial Day – Monday, May 27, 2024  
Councilwoman Jackson read the following proclamation:



# PROCLAMATION

## MEMORIAL DAY

May 27, 2024.

WHEREAS, each day as Americans we enjoy the freedom of peace, prosperity, and independence. These are virtues upon which the United States was built and don't that bind us together as a nation.

WHEREAS, on "MEMORIAL DAY" we pause to remember that freedom comes at a great cost.

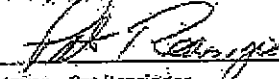
WHEREAS, throughout history, in fields, skies and seas around the world, American military personnel have stood tall to oppose the enemies of freedom. Many of these brave servicemen and women gave their lives to defend our liberty and uphold the promise of our democracy.

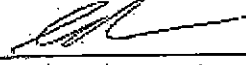
WHEREAS, the first "MEMORIAL DAY" was observed in 1868 in remembrance of soldiers who died in the Civil War. For 155 years, our nation has set aside this day to pay homage to American patriots who have taken service to our country.


WHEREAS, as Americans we honor their spirit and courage, we remember the generations of sacrifices made by our armed forces and their families, and we continue to pray for those now serving on our behalf.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of DuBois, Pennsylvania, hereby call upon all citizens to observe Monday, May 27, 2024, as "MEMORIAL DAY", and ask that this day be observed with appropriate ceremonies.

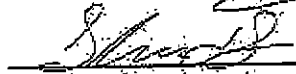
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have set our hands and caused the Official Seal of the City of DuBois, Pennsylvania, to be affixed this thirteenth day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-four.

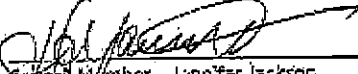
  
Mayor – Pat Reasinger

  
City Manager – Shawn Arbaugh

  
Council Member – James Aughenbaugh

  
Council Member – Elliot Gelfand

  
Council Member – Shane Dietz

  
Council Member – Jennifer Jackson

ATTEST:

  
Veronica Slocum

CITY OF DUBOIS, PENNSYLVANIA

City Council Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2024 (continued)

Proclamation – Knights of Columbus 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Councilwoman Jackson read the following proclamation:



# PROCLAMATION

125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF COUNCIL #519  
DUBOIS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

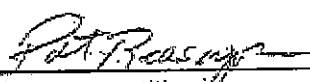
MAY 13, 2024

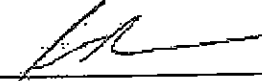
WHEREAS, the Monsignor Michael Urbanas Council #519 of the Knights of Columbus of DuBois, Pennsylvania, chartered on May 30, 1900, is celebrating its upcoming 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and:

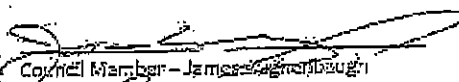
WHEREAS, the Charter of Council #519 of the Knights of Columbus has been unbroken since 1900 and its members have served God, country, and community without interruption all those years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of DuBois, Pennsylvania, recognizes and congratulates the Monsignor Michael Urbanas Council #519 of the Knights of Columbus for its 125 years of service to the DuBois area.

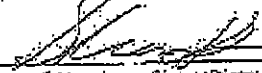
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have set our hands and caused the Official Seal of the City of DuBois, Pennsylvania, to be affixed this thirteenth day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-four.

  
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Mayor – Pat Reasinger

  
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City Manager – Shawn A. Baugh

  
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Council Member – James Agnewbaugh

  
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Council Member – Elliot Gelfand

  
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Council Member – Shane Dietz

  
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Council Member – Jennifer Jackson

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

CITY OF DUBOIS, PENNSYLVANIA

## City Council Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2024 (continued)

### Reschedule May 27, 2024, Council Meeting for May 28, 2024, at 6:00 pm

Because May 27, 2024, is Memorial Day, the motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Dietz to move the City Council meeting to Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at 6:00 pm. Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

### Award Fireworks Quote for June 15, 2024

The City of DuBois received three bids for the fireworks. The low bid was from Celebration Fireworks in the amount of \$8,500.00. Arbaugh noted that we have used this company in the past and they put on fantastic displays. Reasinger pointed out we had budgeted for \$10,000.00. The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Gelfand to award the fireworks contract for June 15, 2024, to Celebration Fireworks in the amount of \$8,500.00. Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

### Award Sodium Bisulfite Bid

Nasuti reported there was an omission in the tabulation. At the April 22, 2024, meeting, the award was given to Barber's Chemicals. The low bid was actually from SAL Chemical. Both companies are aware of the error. The recommendation is to award the Sodium Bisulfite contract for June 1, 2024, through May 31, 2025, to SAL Chemical at \$2.91 per gallon. The motion was made by Dietz and seconded by Jackson to amend the previous award of the bisulfite bid. Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

### Authorize Execution of Local Counsel/Zoning Board Solicitor Engagement Letter

The City of DuBois has been looking for a local solicitor to handle zoning hearing board and code enforcement issues at the magistrate's office. The recommendation is to enter into an agreement with Cicchinelli Fortunato LLC, in the amount of \$175.00 per hour for local legal assistance. The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Gelfand to approve the recommendation of Cicchinelli Fortunato LLC at the rate of \$175.00 per hour. Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

### Becky Hoover Resignation

Unfortunately, we received a letter of resignation from Becky Hoover. Her last day will be Tuesday, May 28, 2024. The motion was made by Gelfand and seconded by Jackson to accept Hoover's resignation. Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

### 2024 Budget Error and Modification Recommendation

In working through the budget, there were some errors found on specifically the loan principal and loan interests of what was budgeted and what was actually needed to meet that expenditure. Additionally, there were some errors found on insurance and workman's compensation. The total is a deficit in the amount of \$919,154.97. Working with staff we did come up with a plan to modify the budget to account for that to balance the budget for 2024. Our recommendation is that we execute a resolution at our next meeting to address those budget issues with the modification we set out. We can post those projected modifications on the website.

### Existing City Debt – Update

Council asked Arbaugh to look into existing debt, specifically several variable interest loans out currently. I am working with a financial advisor on whether it makes sense to refinance some of or all of those debts into a bond issue. We are working through that right now. I discussed our information with them and they did provide a recommendation. We have a call set up for later this week to ask some questions and go through some of the details before we make any decisions. The six loans we have out currently are:

| Year | Project  | Issue Amount    | Current Rate | Current Balance |
|------|--|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 2006 | Sewer  | \$ 1,388,614.00 | 2.416%       | \$ 240,246.29   |
| 2012 | Recreational/<br>infrastructure                      | \$ 9,000,000.00 | 5.7255%      | \$ 5,637,565.98 |
| 2013 | Fire Hall addition/<br>water lines/water<br>tank     | \$ 4,664,523.00 | 5.7219%      | \$ 2,965,014.67 |
| 2015 | Water line/police<br>garage addition/<br>streetscape | \$ 4,400,000.00 | 5.7222%      | \$ 3,169,798.56 |
| 2021 | Water improvements                                   | \$ 4,500,000.00 | 2.06%        | \$ 3,622,092.73 |

## City Council Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2024 (continued)

|      |                               |                         |    |                  |
|------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----|------------------|
| 2023 | Sewer Treatment Plant         | \$ 83,883,897.00        | 1% | \$ 41,996,928.18 |
|      | <b>Total Outstanding Debt</b> | <b>\$ 57,631,646.41</b> |    |                  |
|      | Water                         | \$ 11,577,277.01        |    |                  |
|      | Sewer                         | \$ 44,587,231.86        |    |                  |
|      | General                       | \$ 1,467,137.54         |    |                  |

Reasinger requested the information also be put on the website. Arbaugh hopes to have more information at the next meeting.

### DeLean Shepherd Retirement

We received a letter of retirement from DeLean Shepherd effective tomorrow (Tuesday, May 14, 2024). The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Gelfand to accept Shepherd's retirement. Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

### Coke Hill – Water Line Project Update

We continue to receive complaints about the road issues on Coke Hill. With the upcoming project work, we are waiting until after the work is completed to pave the roads. Due to budget constraints, we are replacing the sections in most need. There are two areas of concern. The first is Division Street, Orient Avenue, North Court, and South Court. In 2023, we submitted a grant application to the LSA (local share) program. Hopefully in the third quarter of 2024 we'll find out if we get that grant award. The project is already designed and ready to go, so we'll be able to start that right away. The other section is Green Glen Drive between the two Orient Avenue intersections. That is about 1,200 feet in length. Working with Sandy Township, we think we have the materials in-house to do that. So as soon as we get a little further in our lead and copper studies that are mandated by DEP this year, we're going to try and complete that work this year with our own forces. The paving will then be done in 2025. If there are any needs in the meantime, we'll try and patch as best as we can. If we don't get the grant, we'll have to tackle that ourselves. Reasinger asked about the type of grant. Nasuti replied, "It is a 100% grant."

### REPORTS

- Redevelopment Authority
- Codes/Zoning
- Engineering
- Police Department
- Street Department
- Water Department
- Water Plant
- Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Information Technology
- EMS

Arbaugh has received monthly written reports from the above departments.

### Manager's Report

Currently our Fire Departments are going through an ISO inspection. It is a very tedious process. Arbaugh commended Chief Federici who is handling that well. Sandy Township recently went through one and it was very beneficial.

Chris Nasuti and I are meeting with DEP tomorrow. They have some concerns with our timeline to finish the construction of the Wastewater plants. Hopefully we can come to a mutual agreement to extend those deadlines.

We will be advertising for the timber cut on some of the reservoir property. We should have those for Council to approve at the second June meeting.

We have been inundated with Right To Know requests. It has taken up a ton of staff time and resources. Some of them are redundant. We're going to start advertising those on the website so everybody has the information and cuts back on the duplicated requests.

We have discussed the dilapidated structures. That is a primary concern of Council. We did look at different tools to utilize. Ultimately, we need to update the Ordinance on dilapidated dangerous structures. We have some enforcement mechanisms that we can use to fast-track some of the demolitions we need to do here in the City.

## City Council Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2024 (continued)

### Public Comments

#### Shirley Dahrouge – Downtown DuBois, Inc.

“I just wanted to say thank you to Chris and the City crew for accommodating this past weekend for our chocolate event even though we had some last-minute changes. I also wanted to thank everybody who attended the E3 with Main Street America. An email will be going out this week for our next virtual one. Also, I know Chris and Shawn are going to meet tomorrow with DEP. I will have DCED in town tomorrow to meet at my office from 1-3 pm, so if you’re able to stop by we’ll be discussing the programs that will be eligible for us going for designation.”

#### Kathleen Clement – Chestnut Avenue

Clement had several questions. “Shawn, the 2012 \$9,000,000.00 which is down to \$5,000,000.00. Are those ball fields that are still being paid for? Also, you said water. So, I would imagine the waterfalls?” Arbaugh replied, “It’s not the waterfalls. It is infrastructure related to recreation. We did look at trying to do a deep dive to find out specifically where these funds were allocated to. The accounting with this was very difficult to follow. There were numerous bank accounts opened up. We don’t see anything nefarious going on such as missing money. It looks like how the money was allocated to different banks accounts then pulled in when cash reserves got low, it’s not easy to say that X number was spent on ball fields or X number was spent on the waterline because of how the cash flow was set up.” Clement asked, “But we still owe \$5,000,000.00?” Arbaugh confirmed, “5.6 million”. Clement said, “So the ball fields aren’t free.”

“What job did DeLean Shepherd hold that she retired from?” Arbaugh replied, “She was the Finance Director.”

“Was there anything remarkable in the reports that were given? Did you notice anything remarkable in Redevelopment or Codes? Anything remarkable that we should know about?” There were a lot of different things. The Water Department did a lot of flushing which is a huge task for us to do every year, but it keeps the water nice and fresh. Nothing I would say remarkable, but normal stuff but different times of year different things change. Chris alluded to one thing as far as on the water side. We’re doing a lead and copper line inventory which is something new, a lot of work, that’s required to be submitted to DEP by mid-October.”

“And, Becky Hoover, what job did she resign from?” Arbaugh replied, “She was the Assistant Treasurer.” Clement asked, “Is her job going to be replaced? Was it part-time or full-time?” Arbaugh replied, “It was a part-time position so we’re still looking to see what to do with jobs specifically because we have consolidation right down the road. We don’t want to hire people then have too many people here in a year and a half when consolidation takes place. We’re looking at it holistically right now and going to make a transition plan to determine how to handle those vacant positions.”

“All this money, shouldn’t we be looking at an emergency loan from the state or aren’t we there yet?” Arbaugh replied, “The one loan from the state is a PennVEST loan for 1% so it’s very low interest, very low rate. We are going to talk about this more on Wednesday at the Consolidation meeting, but one of the things we will be looking at is creating a budget/tax structure/user fee sub-committee so we can really dive into this and see what the impacts will be on the two municipalities when they come together.”

“Who is cleaning up after DuBois Days? Who will we be paying to clean up or will the people hosting it be cleaning up?” Arbaugh responded, “We will have some employees available to help with the trash and such, but Gregg.”

#### Bev Kurts – Rainbow Drive

“At the last meeting, we had a person here who was very upset with the behavior of the Police and made quite a few comments. You (Breth) were going to work with him. Could you give us an update on what happened?” Breth replied, “I have communicated with him as well as two other individuals. Communication continues. I am still waiting for some additional information that was promised that I still haven’t received, but like everyone else, our schedules are busy. We’re patiently waiting. The Chief has given us an update this evening on his involvement with the individuals. He gave an update to Council at Executive Session, so we’re following through on the promises that were made.”

#### Ron Trzyna – South Avenue

“When you’re putting this stuff out on the Internet or on the homepage about the loans, is there any way you could put what the prior interest rate was before they signed onto the new variable rate on the loans?” Arbaugh replied, “We can check for that. We’ll definitely put what we have into a very simple spreadsheet for folks.”

Back when I was City Manager, we had a lot of state contracts, and you bought equipment and traded in equipment. There’s nothing for that in any of the budgets right now, it doesn’t appear. Have you looked

## City Council Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2024 (continued)

### Ron Tryzna – South Avenue (continued)

at any of that, because you have a Vactor truck, you have a street sweeper, and I don't know how you're going to replace those things when the time comes. Before, that money was always put away on a yearly basis and when the time came, I don't know who did the new negotiations on all these purchases of equipment and everything else but really, I'm concerned. Just on the Vactor truck. If it goes down, you guys are going to have some major issues because it's not going to be fixed right away. I was wondering if you had a chance to look at any of those." Arbaugh replied, "I haven't had a chance to look at any of that, but I will say that Sandy Township has a fairly new Vactor truck, so we would share services if we needed to. We do have that redundancy built in. It's one of those things where we probably need one for the combined municipality but it's something we're looking at." Tryzna continued, "Even with a lot of the mower that we had. Now we're running around all over town gassing up these things where before, they ran those mowers, the John Deere mowers, and they ran really well. Now, we're in a new, we're buying from somebody else and it's just very questionable at this point."

### Deb Mechling – Monroe Street

Mechling had several questions and comments. "I have just a couple of things. On the DuBois Days pool, I agree with Jen, I think it's the least we can do for the citizens with everything they've been going through. But I am curious. In the past few years, what was the cost for the pool days, the free admission? I just wondered if maybe, you know, throw a number that, how much did that cost us in the past? You don't have to answer right now." Reasinger asked Nasuti to check into it. Nasuti replied, "I would say check on the attendance. It won't cost us anything additional. We're going to have those people there." Reasinger added, "We're not going to hire any more staff." Nasuti said, "We may lose revenue, but we won't have any additional expense." Reasinger said, "Actually, we may have new families that try the pool and say, 'We want to buy a ticket' so I don't think it's going to cost us a lot of money."

Mechling asked, "On #17 (2024 Budget Error and Modification Recommendation), who oversaw that error? Who was responsible for overseeing those accounts that the error was missed of the \$919,000.00 deficit?" Arbaugh responded, "That's typically a Finance Director responsibility." Reasinger added, "But, all of Council looked at that budget, including myself. I did not see it. I'm so sorry." Nasuti said, "It was ultimately me." Mechling continued, "And will the Finance Director position be filled, or will that wait until consolidation?" Arbaugh replied, "We're going to evaluate it. So, we're going to see how we can operate in the interim. If we feel we really need to bring someone in, then we're going to make a recommendation to bring someone in."

Mechling asked, "The upcoming timber cut. Will those dollars be used to balance the budget again?" Arbaugh replied, "Those will be used to help balance the budget." Reasinger interjected, "Some of it. Not all of it." Mechling asked, "What will the rest be used for?" Arbaugh replied, "It will go into the Capital Reserve Fund." Mechling continued, "Is there an update on the accounts that we had to get a subpoena for at S&T Bank for the Fire Department accounts? Did we ever get that information?" Breth replied, "Yes, we did." Mechling asked, "Was it satisfactory?" Breth replied, "We're continuing to evaluate it."

### Kristin Vida – Chestnut Avenue

"I have a slew of questions, but first I want to make the comment that last Tuesday members of the Police Department attended a Rotary meeting, and I will say they gave a very memorable experience and program. I think you should be very proud of them, in particular, Officer McCleary, Roy and Rhed. It was very informative. It was a great conversation with community members. They were asked some very good questions and Ace stole the show. It was enjoyable to see him there as well. Last evening, I had the opportunity to attend the homerun derby for the Small College World Series. It was a great event. I really hope that more local people attend these events. We have a lot of money invested in the infrastructure here and I was very disappointed once the derby ended, everyone left. All the teams left, and they had a beautiful fireworks display. Hopefully within the next week people do get out for that event."

"The questions I have, because I'm not very educated on some of this banking information, can you explain to me what ultimate, how do you decide to go with a private banking institution versus bonds and going through a state program? Can you talk about that briefly?" Arbaugh replied, "Yes. One of the things we'll look at, we may get, usually bonds when the interest rate is higher on normal loans like a commercial loan through a bank. Usually bond markets are a little bit down so we get a better interest rate, so it's one thing we look at, do we recognize a better interest rate from a bond issue compared to a typical bank commercial rate. That's one of the things we'll evaluate. We look at refinancing these." Vida continued, "OK. You did mention some of these loans were refinanced, so the payments on those refinanced loans, did the payments go down?" Arbaugh replied, "No, they didn't go down." Vida asked, "So, did we receive a reimbursement?" Arbaugh explained, "Those loans were refinanced and additional money was taken out. For example, the \$9,000,000.00. There was a loan refinanced and then additional money taken out at a good interest rate at the time, but then it was only fixed for a certain period of time. I think the \$9,000,000.00 loan was fixed at like 2.5 percent, something pretty low, for a three-year period,

## City Council Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2024 (continued)

then reset to the variable interest this year.” Reasinger interjected, “They should have been locked in at a lower rate.” Vida said, “I was curious about the variability.” Reasinger said, “You don’t take a variable interest rate when interest rates are low because you knew they were going to go up.” Arbaugh said, “Usually there’s a cap on it, 6-6.5%. The rate is a little lower than that with the economic climate right now.” Vida continued, “This is a lot to comprehend. I’m sorry. I have to be careful what I say. So, with all these financial issues and the consolidation study, was this information shared at that time, when we were preparing for consolidation, going through the study, was this stuff discovered?” Arbaugh replied, “I think we knew the debt, but maybe not that it was a variable interest rate ultimately, and also there were two loans that weren’t taken out yet when this information was provided. The new wastewater plant was just 2023. There’s also a 2021 loan that was taken out after the information was already provided for the consolidation study.” Vida continued, “I just wanted to make sure there weren’t any surprises.” Arbaugh said, “The interest rates were a surprise. That’s one thing I don’t know if we anticipated.”

Vida said, “Going back to the ball fields, I’ve often heard of and I remember our former mayor speaking about all the positive things and about the income the area receives especially when it comes to the hotels and restaurants, but what I would like to know is how much money does the City as an institution get? Are we charging Penn State to play on our fields? What income is the City itself receiving from these?” Reasinger clarified, “From the ball field or from the tournaments?” Vida replied, “All of it.” Reasinger explained, “We actually pay for the tournaments to come here.” Nasuti clarified, “Just this one.” Arbaugh said, “We do charge a fee for rental of the fields, a certain fee for practices and a certain fee for games.” Reasinger added, “And Penn State gives us a fee every year to use it.” Jackson asked, “So you’re saying that we pay for the small ball to come to DuBois, we pay for that?” Kathleen Clement asked, “How much?” Jackson replied, “I have no idea because, Kathleen, that is the first I’ve ever heard that spoken.” Arbaugh said, “So my understanding is that they submit a Request for Proposals nationwide and municipalities respond to those Request for Proposals. I believe our proposal was \$25,000.00. Then, we provide some staff support. A lot of it is kind of unpaid staff support, but we do have some dedicated staff members that basically are at their call and beckon.” Vida continued, “I think, not just myself, but I think everyone here and people watching would appreciate a breakdown of those costs because it’s always been put out there that everything’s paid for with grants in this City.” Reasinger said, “Ball fields are not all paid for with grants. They got grants for them, but most grants are 50-50.” Vida responded, “And I realize that. You know I know that, but the average person doesn’t, and I think people...” Reasinger said, “That’s why I asked Chris about that one loan. It’s 100% loan. Most of them are 50-50.”

Vida continued, “People are misled, and I think what people need to realize is \$2.5 million is all we receive in property taxes annually and we have debt of what, \$100,000,000.00? I don’t know if it’s customary that we’re always borrowing from the water and sewer authority or business or why our water and sewer rates keep going up because we’re covering this debt. I just think if that’s the case we need to be in the know about that and exactly how much debt we have and what our water and sewer bills are financing.” Reasinger said, “If you look at the budget, we have separated water, sewer and general fund. That’s something I asked for. So, you can look on the budget and see the profit of the sewer fund, profit of the water fund and you can see what goes into the general fund. They use that to balance the budget.” Deb Mechling added, “Plus trees.” Reasinger said, “Yes. There was more money spent than what came in for 20 years. We will not do that here.” Vida asked, “We’re not going to file for bankruptcy, are we?” Reasinger replied, “No.” Arbaugh explained, “That one of the things we’re working on as part of this consolidation effort. That’s why, again, Wednesday we’ll hopefully get a subcommittee approved to really start digging into this because our consolidation agreement requires us by February of next year to have that tax structure in place. To get that tax structure in place we need to know what the budget is or have a really, really good idea of what that budget is, and we need to know what those user fees are for water and sewer. We’re kind of hoping to tie this all together holistically, starting in June.” Reasinger said, “We really didn’t have a choice to build a sewer treatment plant.” Vida replied, “I know that, Pat, and I understand why our fees would go up for that, but not for the other. Thank you.” Reasinger said, “We plan on spending less than what we take in. That’s this Council. What happened before, we’ll deal with it. We’re still very solid. We’re still making all the payments. We’ve never missed one. We always have money in the general fund. We’re in good shape, well, okay shape – not great shape. But we’ll work through it. It will work. I’m confident of that. There’s a lot. It’s not easy and there’s a lot going on, so we have to deal with it.”

### Charlie Mechling – Monroe Street

“A lot of what we just got done talking about, but I’ve been hearing about millions of dollars for a loan here and billions of dollars for a loan there. Did I hear that the interest we’re paying is about a million dollars a year?” Arbaugh replied, “I don’t know that specific number, sir, but it’s something we’ll look into.” Reasinger added, “You’ll be able to see that on the budget. When the budget comes in, it’s all on there. I don’t remember the exact number myself.” Mechling continued, “I understand everyone was handed a mess. I get it. I guess what I want to know, is there a plan put together to get us out of this



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### Charlie Mechling – Monroe Street (continued)

mess so we are getting more in, because if we're paying a lot of money in interest, the only people to benefit are the financial institutions. Is there a plan that's going to get us headed in the right direction, and I know it's not going to happen overnight, I get that, to start working us to a better direction. Is there financial advice? I don't know if that's your forte? I don't even know, Shawn." Arbaugh answered, "Right now, we're working with a financial advisor which, he took a look and does see some benefit to refinancing three of the outstanding loans into one bond issue, so that is something we are going to evaluate in the next 2-4 weeks. Additionally, staff worked really hard on identifying areas where we think we can cut the budget due to certain items that may not be needed, so we have a pretty lengthy plan to address the shortcomings that were identified." Jackson added, "Charlie, this Council I know at least three of us are dedicated to getting us out of this mess that we've been handed here and we are working diligently to do what we can – cut costs – do what we can and we brought Shawn on board a little earlier than intended but we're doing what we can." Mechling responded, "I get you're going to have to start a trajectory and work towards it. I know it's not going to happen overnight. Just a plan that's going to be working." Reasinger added, "Bonds are expensive to do, so we have to look at the savings versus the cost of the bond. It's complicated, that's why we have help." Deb Mechling said, "Thank you for all your hard work, too."

### Michael Clement – 17 S. Brady Street

"Two questions. One, it seems like there's still an investigation going on somewhere at some level. I would imagine, Mayor, we're still cooperating?" Reasinger replied, "Absolutely, 100% cooperating." Clement continued, "But there have been more subpoena requests and things of that nature." Reasinger replied, "I think everything's been answered now, hasn't it?" Nasuti answered, "Correct. Any subpoena we have had issued to us has been responded to." Reasinger added, "We've given them all the information they've requested." Clement continued, "Number two. I know we're talking about budgets, and I know you're going to look at everything. Every department in our City could be eligible for cuts? It seems like we've got a short change. I think some departments might have some more money than others. Are we willing to cut across the board?" Arbaugh replied, "Working with staff we did develop a pretty good plan to make cuts where we could. And, it does impact, I think, every department." Reasinger added, "Some more than others because of the situation. We'll put that on the website and you can see where we cut and where we couldn't cut, so that will all be out there where you can see." Clement replied, "Excellent. Thank you."

### Kathleen Clement – Chestnut Avenue

"How about summer employment? I mean, \$15.00 an hour for a teenager to take care of, what, cemeteries? I mean, yes, the investment needs to be there, but \$600.00 a week is a lot of money." Arbaugh replied, "It's kind of multifaceted, but one of the things is we're required to maintain our flood control project which takes a lot of resources. If we paid our Public Works Department, they make tremendously more than that especially when you factor pensions and medical costs. That number is enormous to have them do, it's a discount and it's something we're required to do from numerous agencies. Additionally, just to even cut grass, we have a lot of areas, a lot of land we own and it's a savings to have the summer help do that as opposed to our public works department." Reasinger added, "And, if we went any lower, Chris, I'm not sure we'd get as many as we have." Nasuti replied, "We had to raise the number." Reasinger said, "We had to raise it to get people to do it." Clement asked, "So, a teenager wouldn't work for \$10.00/hour?" Reasinger replied, "No. College kids wouldn't work for \$10.00/hour." Arbaugh added, "A majority of them are returning summer help, so they are familiar with equipment, familiar with the job. So, it's definitely a benefit to bring them on." Trzyna asked, "How many summer help employees do you have?" Arbaugh replied, "I think we have 19." Trzyna asked, "Did you turn anyone away? I know last year we talked about this." Nasuti replied, "We did. We have 19 this year and one already said she has a different job, so we are operating with 18." Reasinger added, "You can't even keep them for \$15.00. There's a tremendous amount of grass in the City. Go down the walkway. They keep that all. We have to keep it by law, we have to keep that clear. And you don't want the park being high. There's a lot of grass, and a lot of summer maintenance."

### Council Member Comments

#### Councilwoman Jennifer Jackson

"The pool pass discount ends May 24, 2024, so if you want a pool pass at the awesome City pool, do that. As somebody mentioned baseball. We have beautiful facilities here, but our local people need to go out and support it. We have it. It's not going anywhere, so we have to make the most of it. Please utilize going to see these teams. They're here. The fireworks were fantastic last night. The police department, Shawn (McCleary) was at Executive Session. I also heard about the meeting at Rotary, so great job! Things may look bad but we're truly working as hard as we can to make this the best place to live."

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### Councilman Elliot Gelfand

“Welcome to the College World Series and everyone that’s visiting out town. Let’s welcome them. I welcome them. We’re glad that they’re here. I want to reiterate what everyone else has said. Get out to the games. It’s going to be nice this week, so support all the people that are in town. I want to thank some long-serving employees who are stepping down this week. Becky Hoover and DeLean (Shepherd) have served this City for a long time, and we appreciate their service and wish them the best in their next endeavors.”

### Councilman Shane Dietz

“Shawn mentioned the flood control projects that are out there that we’ve done over the past few years. I’m thankful for that because I can think back to 2013 we had some flooding. I know this spring we had some high water. It didn’t come up over the banks. Hopefully that’s due to some of the work that’s been done over the years.”

### Councilman Aughenbaugh

“The City crews work hard and so do the college kids to keep the City looking nice and they need to be commended for that. Great events using the ball fields, the DuBois City Classic was recently held. Not the greatest weather, but a lot of that depends on the turnout that comes even to the Small College World Series with being able to be in town to go to some of the games and stuff, so hopefully, the weather is nice in DuBois this week for them. I’m glad they’re here. There’s some great ballgames out there, so if you can get out there, get out there and watch them.”

### Mayor Pat Reasinger

“I was at the ball field last night, too, and there was a lot of kids in the outfield shagging balls for the home run derby, but I bet I saw only four or five citizens. There are some pretty good teams out there, but I’m not sure we do a great job of advertising it. (Several members of the audience agreed.) Shawn called me and I said, ‘Yeah, I’ll do that.’ I threw out the first pitch – and I did OK, too – but I wouldn’t have known about it. We need to advertise that. Hotel rooms were filled up from Clearfield to Clarion and all the hotels in DuBois and all the restaurants are full. What the City actually receives of that money isn’t a lot, but you know what, there’s not a profit at the library. There’s not a profit at the pool. There’s probably not going to be a profit at the ball fields for the City, but they are great, wonderful things you have in this City to enjoy. They’re expensive and we’re going to keep them as busy as we can and get out of them what we can get out of them. I have to say, I’ve worked with Becky on Redevelopment (Authority) for like 20 years. Fabulous, fabulous person. I’m very sad to see she’s leaving. And, DeLean has helped me tremendously. Every question I asked she turned around and handed me all the information. Every question, anything I ever asked. We’re going to miss both of them very, very much.”

### 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: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

ATTEST:

Kerbi Slocum

APPROVED:

