

## City Council Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2024

City Council Chambers, City Building, 16 West Scribner Avenue, DuBois, Pennsylvania on Monday, September 9, 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 (by phone), and Jennifer Jackson. Also present were: City Manager, Shawn Arbaugh; City Solicitor, Tom Breth; Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer, Zac Lawhead; City Engineer, Mike Haynes; Interim Police Chief, Shawn McCleary; City 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

Council met in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel, legal and labor negotiations.

### Public Comments on Agenda Items Only

#### Kristen Vida – Chestnut Avenue

“Regarding #7, the Waste Management Proposed Commercial Increase, if this increase is outside of the existing contract, would it be appropriate to bid out the service or consider allowing commercial property owners to select their own garbage provider? Regarding #13, the Treasurer’s Work Area Relocation. I know in Sandy Township the Treasurer works from home, so I’m curious what the City Ordinance says about providing office space for the Treasurer. Our City Manager had stated that the Treasurer’s workplace was relocated to Council Chambers to protect the security and confidentiality of the City of DuBois. Given that Lisa LaBrasca Becker serves as an elected official and is not a City employee, can you provide details into what led to that action? I know as a resident, I would like to know what behaviors contributed to that and if any City employees who work in the Treasurer’s office, if they came to the City Manager’s office and expressed concerns that led to those actions.”

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

“I wanted to comment on #19 (Tree Planting) and #20 (Grant for Downtown Trees). I don’t know what you all have. I know I already presented at the Redevelopment Authority Meeting for the corner of West Long and Jared and for 40 W. Long. The downtown is eligible for a community grant through Xylem for trees and treescapes for up to \$10,000.00 and I wanted to present that to you.” Reasinger said he will meet with Shirley to discuss this and they will bring the conclusion of that meeting back to Council.

### Approval of Minutes

#### City Council Minutes – August 26, 2024

The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Jackson that Council approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of August 26, 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 September 5, 2024, in the amount of \$12,344.55. Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

The motion was made by Dietz and seconded by Aughenbaugh to pay the General Fund Purchase Order Listing by Vendor Name dated September 5, 2024, in the amount of \$234,894.29. Roll call was as follows: Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### **Waste Management – Proposed Commercial Increase**

Ed Yahner and Ralph Zonner from Waste Management gave a presentation regarding the proposed rate increase for commercial business. In 2020, we started a new billing service where the City does the billing. Yahner explained that their costs have increased: 25% for landfill disposals, 300% for recycling services and 332% for CNG fuel. Labor costs have increased approximately \$20,000.00. The proposed increase is to recover operational increases. They strive to build careers, not just provide jobs for their employees, most of whom are from Clearfield or Jefferson County. Yahner believes Waste Management serves the City well and the 8.5% increase to the City is a good value to the customers. Zonner addressed overfill issues and customer service contact information. Reasinger discussed the cost for a four-yard container at his business in Sykesville. Yahner did not have information in front of him but stated their increase to the City is 8.5%. Although there is an increase, contract provisions protect the City. It may cost a little more, but the value the customers get is superb. Additionally, Waste Management provides a lot of services to the City at no cost. Reasinger requested Yahner provide him with additional financial reports to support the proposed increase.

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**Norman Schaffer Conditional Use Application – 11 McClure Street**

The City received a conditional Use Application from Norman Schaffer for a garage at 11 McClure Street. There were several Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law that we found. The four basic issues that were found from the conditional use hearing are:

- 1) “The amount of floor area used for such occupation shall not exceed 25% of the total floor area of the dwelling.” There was no testimony or evidence submitted by the applicant for this criterion.
- 2) “No more than one nonresident shall be employed.” There was no evidence presented by the applicant as to how many employees will be employed.
- 3) A sufficient number of off-street parking spaces shall be provided as deemed necessary...located within 10 feet of a side or rear lot line and shall be paved with bituminous material.” There was no testimony or evidence submitted by the applicant for this criterion.
- 4) “The activity or occupation shall be conducted entirely within the dwelling by an owner/occupant of the dwelling.” Here, the applicant testified and provided photographs that the proposed home occupation – an automobile service station – would be operated out of a detached garage, not inside the structure.

The Conditional Use application did not meet the criteria of that Ordinance, so our Solicitor’s recommendation is to deny the request for conditional use. The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Aughenbaugh that Council deny the request for conditional use. Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

**Tire Recycling Event – October 2, 2024 – 7:30 am to 2:30 pm**

This is a community service event in conjunction with the Clearfield County Solid Waste Authority. The City of DuBois will hold a one-time tire recycling event on October 2, 2024, at the City Garage, 10 Parkway Drive. Residents may bring up to four (4) light car or truck tires. This is a free event for DuBois residents. Sandy Township will hold their Tire Recycling Event on September 30 for Sandy Township residents.

**Approval to Advertise Regeneration Timber Harvest – Compartment 1**

Kenny Kane with Generations Forestry explained this is part of the regeneration harvest cycle. Due to the success with the most recent harvest of Compartment 9, they will only be harvesting half of the originally planned area. The fieldwork will be completed in the next 2-3 business days. He recommends a bid closing date of October 9 or 11 so the results can be presented at the October 14 Council meeting. The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Jackson to approve advertising for the Regeneration Timber Harvest of Compartment 1. Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

**Game Commission – Land Exchange Agreement**

This has been in the works for approximately 15 years. The City and PA Game Commission have reached an agreement for a land exchange. The City has 170 acres south of I-80 which will be exchanged for approximately 204 Game Commission acres between Compartment 1 and acreage on the watershed property. As mentioned, the Game Commission is allowing the City to timber their land prior to the exchange. This will be an excellent benefit all around; for the City, it will provide for economic development for the area. Arbaugh recommends moving forward with the agreement. The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Dietz to approve the Land Exchange Agreement. Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

**City of DuBois Police Minimum Municipal Obligation 2025 - \$405,788.00**

Arbaugh explained that some of this will be covered by State aid. The City receives 2 units per officer which will probably equate to \$10,000.00 per officer. The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Dietz to approve the Police MMO for 2025 in the amount of \$405,788.00. Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

**Treasurer’s Work Area Relocation**

This is an informational item to let the residents know the Treasurer’s Work Area is now located in Council Chambers. The Treasurer will continue to be available to residents in this location.

**Fair Housing Resolution No. 2024-0388**

This is a required annual housing resolution for the CDBG program. It lists what to do if you’re discriminated against in rental or purchase of home or leasing or financing of housing and lays out the process as to how to report that. The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Jackson to approve the Fair Housing Resolution No. 2024-0388. Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

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### **MBE/WBE Resolution No. 2024-0389**

This is an annual resolution in support of the CDBG program. It states our goals for 5% for Minority Business Enterprises and 3% for Women Business Enterprises. That's our goal when we award contracts under the CDBG program. The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Dietz to approve the MBE/WBE Resolution No. 2024-0389. Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

### **650 DuBois Street, Generational Land LLC – Lot Consolidation**

Lawhead reported the lot consolidation of the former Kohlhopp's block plant property is to combine three lots into one parcel allowing the current owner to develop the land without concerns of crossing lot lines. Lawhead along with Haynes and the Planning Commission have reviewed the request and everything is in order. Planning Commission recommends Council approve the lot consolidation. The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Aughenbaugh that Council approve the lot consolidation at 650 DuBois Avenue, Generational Land LLC. Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

### **Keystone Core Services – Blighted Property Inventory Agreement - \$8,000.00**

Council is working to remove blighted properties from the City. Keystone Core Services will inventory the blighted properties in a designated area, rank them in order of priority and recommend funding sources and methods to cure the dilapidation. Having an outside agency perform the inventory will remove the appearance of favoritism. This item wasn't specifically budgeted, but it does fall under removal of buildings so there is room in the budget under that line item. The motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Aughenbaugh to approve the Keystone Core Services Blighted Property Inventory Agreement in the amount of \$8,000.00. Roll call was as follows: Aughenbaugh, yea; Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

### **Downtown DuBois – Update**

Shirley Dahrouge, manager of Downtown DuBois, Inc., gave a brief overview of what Downtown DuBois does. "As a Main Street program, our purpose is to revitalize and preserve the historic character and economic vitality of our downtown. By fostering and encouraging collaboration among local businesses and collaboration and building relationships with government and the community we aim to create a vibrant, attractive, and sustainable center for commerce, culture, and community life. Our efforts focus on economic development, historic preservation, community engagement, and design and aesthetics. In Spring 2024, Downtown DuBois, Inc., was selected as one of 30 communities nationwide to receive Equitable Entrepreneurial Ecosystem (E3) pilot program and funding. We have completed Phases 1-3 which included in-person meetings and virtual workshops and are preparing for Phase 4. In addition, a group of people from sources such as North Central, CareerLink, the Chamber, Launchbox, and DCED are putting together information to do walk through meetings with the downtown businesses.

Our current projects include the empty lots at the corner of Long and Jared and 40 W. Long, Downtown DuBois Matters campaign program, Downtown DuBois Visitor's Guide, façade grants (\$29,000.00 still available), food truck Mondays, Saturday morning Farmer's Market, Scarecrow Decorating Contest, Grapes and Hops Walk, Bingo (resuming for the winter), Wreaths for Businesses fundraiser, Brighten the Night, Small Shop Saturday, Elf on the Shelf and Photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and Holiday Church tour.

We are very happy with the results of the State budget passed the end of July which added \$20 million to help assist with Main Street programs. Most remain as previously defined. As outlined in the new information, we are eligible for funding once we are designated. As of right now, our program is still on track for applying for Main Street designation. Bill Arrowood would expect us to submit our application early in the first quarter of 2025. The next steps would be to start looking at the results of the perception survey and the market data and start crafting a transformative five-year strategy. The Perception Survey is still live for everyone to complete. It is imperative that everyone take a couple minutes to complete the survey. Thank you."

### **Tree Planting**

Reasinger announced that 50-70 trees will be planted this fall thanks to grants from both Domtar and Giant (parent company of Martin's). The more volunteers we get to help plant the trees, the less the cost will be to the City.

### **Grant for Downtown Trees**

Reasinger has obtained three places from which the City can purchase containers for this project. He believes placing these planters and flowers downtown, approximately 5-6, will help sell DuBois and attract new business downtown.

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### REPORTS

All department reports have been received and everyone is very busy. Reasinger thanked everyone for their hard work.

#### Public Comments

##### Lisa Gabler – Downtown DuBois, Inc. and Farmers Insurance

Gabler presented several downtown concerns. “To keep an open line of communication, we wanted to bring a few concerns to the board in general. When you’re talking about the large three-foot, four-foot pots, there are a lot of sidewalks that aren’t wide enough. I have customers who travel on scooters or wheelchairs. We do need to make sure to be very aware not to block sidewalks for accessibility. We have three overlapping issues that affect the downtown group, community members and downtown business owners. One is homelessness. There is an increasing number of homeless congregating in the downtown areas. There is a recent issue of the removal of a marble bench in the Pershing parking lot. We had more than one reason given to us as to why it was moved. Park benches play an important role in urban spaces. We have to have areas for people to rest and socialize. Removing the benches in order to deter homelessness is not effective. It actually negatively impacts the broader community. Benches serve everyone in the City. We go down for Food Truck Mondays to get something to eat or drink, you want a place to sit down. You can’t take away benches. We actually planned on putting more benches and we would appreciate them not being taken away when we put them in. (Reasinger said they would need approval.) Obviously, homelessness is a complex challenge – housing, mental health, drugs. There’s a lot of different reasons and causation. Removing benches does not address any of the root causes. It only shifts the visibility to some other area. We want public spaces to be welcoming for all, including picnic areas. We don’t want public gathering spaces to be taken away.

The next part of this is skill games and associating negative activities. These gaming locations are placed strategically to take advantage of our low-income residents in the downtown. Along with that comes pockets of homelessness and drug and criminal activity. Homeless people are sleeping inside the gaming locations. Community residents are offered drugs when they go in. Can you imagine walking into Luigi’s or any of our bars and being offered drugs from some random stranger? This is not appropriate, and it brings a lot of other issues into our downtown. We have overdoses on Jared Street. We have people breaking into the machines. City Council proposing to add a \$1,000.00 fee to each machine per year doesn’t do anything. They might make that in a week, or sometimes a day. It doesn’t address the other issues. Philadelphia has banned them entirely. Why can’t we? It’s like three lines in their City code. Our downtown footprint should not be a haven for drug activity, homelessness and crime. It exacerbates the already difficult job we have trying to improve the aesthetics, economic development and livability in our downtown space.

Previously, we were in discussions with the former Police Chief about a designated beat cop. A police officer downtown is needed on foot to be able to walk into these locations to help deter some of the criminal activity and unlawful loitering. There are people who are afraid to walk their dogs at night downtown. Yes, we have lights now, which is great. Now we can see all the loitering and homelessness. Police officers are frontline ‘boots on the ground’. I know it’s bigger than them, it’s not all their job. We have a greater community need to address these issues – there are state, county and local programs. We want to reopen the discussion with the City and the Police Department. If you live in town, you know where people gather to do drugs. If you knew the cops would be walking in and out randomly, it’s going to at least bring some of that down. These things have been kind of noticed lately, in everybody’s face pretty blatantly. We do appreciate you giving us time to give our good stuff that we’re doing, but also to keep open communication with the City about things that we’re seeing, specifically in the downtown, that are concerns.”

##### Lisa LaBrasca Becker – City Treasurer

“This week is 911. I didn’t know if the City of DuBois is going to be open or if there is going to be a special thing in the park. That’s very important.” Arbaugh noted the City Building will be closed from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for a staff meeting. He mentioned Treasure Lake will hold a memorial service beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the memorial there.

##### Michael Clement – 17 N. Brady Street

“Mayor, I know there has been a lot going on, but I just want to thank the Council, quite frankly. It’s not easy to do the right thing. Our leadership is stepping up to do the right thing for our City on many issues. We even saw one tonight over Waste Management. It doesn’t go unnoticed by me. About a year ago, I had a radio program with then acting Mayor Ed Walsh and Sandy Supervisor Sam Mollica to talk about garbage with me for a moment. It seemed like a lot of money was coming back to the City of DuBois. There was a huge debate about whether or not it was a slush fund or whatever. We’ll let authorities and everyone else figure that out. My question, and I hope you consider this because I asked the then Mayor, ‘if we’re taking back all this money, why not use it to give a tax break to the folks who make all this

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### Michael Clement – 17 N. Brady Street (continued)

available in the first place?" I wanted to ask Mr. Yahner, "Why do we get all this money back?" If you can save the taxpayers money, that's what we should be doing instead of a rate increase. I also want to point out that doing the right thing isn't always popular. You guys are taking a lot of heat for things that you've, quite frankly, inherited all this mess that we find ourselves in. I know of not one thing that new City Council has done except be in cleanup mode for the last year plus since this has started. The last 8-9 months, whatever it is now that we have a new Council, where every day it seems that something else pops up that we have to deal with. It becomes a big issue for people because still, the truth isn't being told. And when our community hears the facts, they're going to back this City Council because the facts speak for themselves. So, I just want to applaud you and, please, the DuBois people, the very best of our City can handle the truth and that's going to come out. It's no secret that this investigation is still going on. It's no secret that you were subpoenaed the other day. We know that you were. Tell the truth about every issue coming out, Mayor, so when people put their stories in the newspaper or whatever, let the residents hear it because they can handle it. I thank you for doing the right thing because it's not easy."

### Mark Zmitravich – W. Weber Avenue

"I wanted to ask Mr. Yahner how long our timeline is for our landfill up at Kersey. I used to read about that stuff in the paper about they get denied different places and Kersey's has been there for quite a long time now. That's going to affect the City greatly if it ever does not take that trash from us." Reasinger said he would try to find that out for the next meeting.

### Deb Mechling – Monroe Street

"I want to thank Lisa Gabler for opening our eyes to the reality of what is going on in our area. We've all seen it and we all turn a blind eye to it and it is long past time to address it. I would love to see the skill games out of here. I also want to thank Michael Clement for his lauding of what Council has been attempting to do. The issue I want to talk about tonight is on May 8, 2024, I filed a Right to Know request about a concern I had. My request was for an explanation as to why on March 20, 2024, former City Solicitor Toni Cherry was in a 45-minute meeting with City Treasurer Lisa LaBrasca Becker in a restricted area of the City building behind closed doors. What business was so private that it was necessary to be behind closed doors with our former City Solicitor? On May 14, I received a letter in the mail from our City Manager Shawn Arbaugh." Mechling read the letter which included the following response: "The request did not seek any specific documents and therefore cannot be granted or denied under the Right to Know law". "My simple question, months later, still remains unanswered. When it is necessary for me to raise questions or requires an explanation of the issue with the City Treasurer, our meetings are in the foyer at the window and generally people are in line behind me overhearing whatever business I am addressing. Transparency has been demanded by the DuBois taxpayers with the appointments of new Council members in January 2024. The optics of a closed-door meeting between former Solicitor Cherry and City Treasurer LaBrasca Becker leaves many more questions than answers."

### Bill Baruffalo – W. Washington Avenue

"We're talking about these skill machines. We should look into it that they aren't removed out of the clubs. I'm personally involved in a club, and they do monitor who comes in and plays them. And the money that comes back, at least at this club, is put back into the community for the fire companies, the schools, the ball games. An increase in the amount would affect what we put back into the community." He then described problems the club is having with their Waste Management container involving pick-up service, customer service contact issues, and a busted container lid. "If they want an increase, they'd better provide better service." Lisa Gabler clarified, "The downtown's problem is not with skill games in clubs, bars and some convenience stores that are being monitored. "Our issue is with the ones in the downtown footprint that are unmanned or have very limited oversight. I agree, absolutely, the clubs do put a lot back into our communities."

### Sam Mollica – Sandy Township Supervisor

"I was just wondering if Council was going to consider, with all the pension problems that are coming up, maybe trying to go to Act 47 as a distressed community. Maybe we could get more grants if that is something that could be done once we consolidate to save tax dollars for the new City? Just for a short period of time. I don't know how much work that would be to try to do."

### Shirley Dahrouge – Downtown DuBois, Inc.

"Back to the skill gaming. As a parent of two teens, one of the things with the unmanned skill game locations is you're opening up a door for teenagers to go. Number one, teenagers are not permitted to gamble. The gambling age is 21 in the State of Pennsylvania. They are unmanned so teenagers have an open door to go in which presents problem number two. The drugs. With people going in and selling drugs you are basically providing, as a community we're all providing locations by keeping them open drug use to children and teenagers and that is a huge concern as a parent and, also the downtown, keeping our downtown safe for everyone."

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### Kristen Vida – Chestnut Avenue

“So, my questions were not addressed that I asked to be addressed on the agenda. I think many people are tuning in and commenting. It’s an elected official. This is not an employee. What led to the relocation of Lisa LaBrasca Becker’s office space? It’s a fair question. Michael Clement did a great job. We’re adults. We deserve the truth.” Reasinger replied, “We have a comment on that.”

### John Meaney – Olive Avenue

“I read in the paper all the time about all the employees that were fired, Joe Mitchell, and then you hire somebody else with the same background. You’re letting them all go and replacing them all with Sandy (Township) people. What’s going on here? This town is in a big mess right now and taking away original employees who can help you. You need to blend evenly, not just with Sandy people. This is DuBois City and Treasure Lake got us in this big shooting match because Sandy Township didn’t take care of it. That’s my personal opinion because I see a lot of people being let go and being replaced by people that had the same credentials and I don’t understand why. That’s why we’re getting all these lawsuits now.”

### Nancy Moore – Green Ridge Drive

“In the past I have suggested we do like other municipalities do, handle the skill games by zoning and legislation locally. We can’t wait for the State. God knows when they’ll ever come up. There are many municipalities who have done that including Sykesville who is a little ahead of us. And do we have a Drug Task Force?” Reasinger and Jackson both confirmed we do.

### Dave Rupprecht – Sandy Township

“The games of skill and waiting for the State. They are the Pennsylvania games of skill. Does the State have a vested interest in keeping them going?” Reasinger replied, “They want to tax them.” Rupprecht continued, “That’s what I mean. They have a vested interest in the PA games of skill thriving where our downtown communities may not have that same desire.”

Solicitor Breth said, “City Council has asked me to read a statement. I’m going to try to modify it a little bit to incorporate a couple of things that were brought up this evening. ‘On September 4, 2024, the City Treasurer Lisa Becker provided local media with a copy of her letter to City Manager Shawn Arbaugh in which the City Treasurer made numerous self-serving and false allegations against the Mayor, City Council and the City Manager. Sadly, her letter is yet another example of the City Treasurer’s willingness to mislead and distract the public from the true issues facing the City of DuBois. Since January, this City Council has worked diligently to address many of the issues brought to light by the criminal indictments filed against the former City manager. Most of the City employees have worked cooperatively with City Council. Unfortunately, a few individuals have worked to undermine City Council’s efforts to bring accountability, integrity, transparency and true public service back to the City of DuBois. The City Treasurer is one of those individuals. City Council took appropriate steps to safeguard its efforts and protect the best interests of the City of DuBois while at the same time providing the City Treasurer with the resources needed to fulfill her duties. The relocation of the work area for the City Treasurer will not impact the operation of any of the City offices. It is business as normal for the residents of the City of DuBois and the services being provided by the City of DuBois. If the City Treasurer needs to meet with somebody, she will be provided an opportunity to meet in a secure confidential area if there are questions. The City has chosen not to air all of the reasons why they came to this decision because, quite honestly, City Council is focused with addressing the true issues that are facing the City of DuBois, not some actions on behalf of one of the elected officials that is contrary, in the opinion of City Council, to the true issues that the City needs to address. The City Council considers this matter closed. If it continues to be a public issue, at the election of the City Treasurer, City Council will have no choice but to continue to address this matter and address this matter in a public forum. City Council is focused on more important issues, to speak quite frankly, and they’re focused on moving this forward without getting embroiled in a distraction.’ That’s all I have to say on behalf of City Council. Thank you.”

Reasinger addressed skill games. “We are working on a Skill Games Ordinance. It’s a little complicated.” Breth, addressing Gabler said, “All of your comments have been part of our discussions. We completely understand the issues. It’s the unattended games of skill. The unattended games of skill, frustrating as it is, it’s not gambling in Pennsylvania, as crazy as that seems. If it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it’s a duck in my opinion. I’ve looked at Philadelphia’s and made a note and I’ll follow up on that. I’ve gotta tell you who is most upset about this, the casino industry. We’ve looked at Philadelphia’s efforts in the past and I will revisit that because I’m unaware of what you mentioned this evening and we’ll take a look at what Philadelphia has done and take a look at it. City Council has discussed it. It’s difficult because it is legitimate responsible business owners that are operating it in the correct manner and helping, benefiting VFWs and others that truly use the money for the benefit of the community and do it in the right way. I’ll continue to communicate with City Council, but all of your concerns they’re aware of and they brought into the discussions.”

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Arbaugh addressed the comment about City employees. “We’re bringing people over to do double-duty work. We’re in the middle of a consolidation so those employees are going to come together. We’re just moving a little quicker than we would have hoped to, bringing those folks together with billing and some other opportunities that we can consolidate now to save the taxpayers money.” Reasinger added, “We are presently looking for somebody to be Assistant Manager/Economic Development Coordinator, somebody with experience. We have 300 acres that needs to be developed in the future. The rest of the questions will be answered in two weeks. We need to do a little research on them.”

Council Member Comments

Councilman Jim Aughenbaugh

“Speaking of Joe Mitchell, I’d like to thank Joe Mitchell for his years of service to the City of DuBois. He did do a lot of different operations in the City helping out wherever he could and I think it’s a shame he still doesn’t work for us.”

Councilman Shawn Dietz

“This has already been discussed a lot, but I think the locations that are exclusively games of skill are an issue in the City and in the Township. I hate when I see the signs when another one is coming locally. I think we’ll work hard to address that. Unmanned skill games are a concern. We will work hard to address that. I don’t think it’s as much of an issue when it come to the clubs that have a machine or two.”

Mayor Pat Reasinger

“Chief (McCleary), I’d like to get together with you sometime this week and discuss some of the issues that were talked about tonight. Maybe the three of us or any Council member that wants to be involved.”

Adjourn

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

ATTEST:

Korbi Slocum

APPROVED:

