

City Council Meeting Minutes – October 14, 2024

City Council Chambers, City Building, 16 West Scribner Avenue, DuBois, Pennsylvania on Monday, October 14, 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 (by phone). Also present were: City Solicitor Tom Breth; Public Works Superintendent, Scott Farrell; Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer, Zac Lawhead; City Engineer Mike Haynes; 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

Council met in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss legal matters, the library audit, litigation, security and personnel.

Public Comments on Agenda Items Only

None

Approval of Minutes

City Council Minutes – September 23, 2024

The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Dietz that Council approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2024, as presented. Roll call was as follows: Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Registry of Invoices

The motion was made by Gelfand and seconded by Aughenbaugh to pay the Auto Draft Check Register by Check ID dated October 9, 2024, in the amount of \$12,134.19. Roll call was as follows: Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, 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 October 10, 2024, in the amount of \$383,115.82. Roll call was as follows: Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

PA Department of Environmental Protection – Consent Order and Agreement

Farrell explained, “The DEP is not satisfied with the timeline on the new wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Arbaugh has been in negotiations with DEP and has reduced the penalty quite a bit in the consent order. We have a new permit that starts in November of this year. With the new plant not being able to run with the new equipment, we will be cited for not using UV disinfectant. We’re using chlorine right now. The new plant won’t be up and running until at least next summer or fall.” The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Dietz to sign the Agreement with DEP. Roll call was as follows: Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Signatory Resolution No. 2024-0391

This resolution, required by DEP, names the signatories for the DEP Agreement. The motion was made by Gelfand and seconded by Aughenbaugh to approve Resolution No. 2024-0391. Roll call was as follows: Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

T.E.D.E. Foundation Presentation

As part of the Changing Spaces Campaign, Vai Day from the T.E.D.E. Foundation advocated for the need for adult height adjustable changing tables in public spaces. “These changing tables will allow for proper community inclusion of people with disabilities. Providing this equipment will not only meet a basic need but send a powerful message that everyone deserves to be treated with respect and dignity.” Day provided the Mayor with resources and welcomed an opportunity to have a discussion with Council.

Approval to Award bid for Regeneration Timber Harvest – Compartment 1

Kenny Kane with Generations Forestry reported on the bid opening that took place on Friday, October 11, 2024, for the timber harvest of Compartment 1. The bids received are:

Gutchess Lumber Co., Inc.	\$427,139.00
Northwest Hardwoods	\$361,974.00
Brownlee Lumber	\$350,000.00
Emporium Hardwoods	\$345,154.00
St. Mary’s Lumber	\$205,014.35

City Council Meeting Minutes – October 14, 2024 (continued)

Approval to Award bids for Regeneration Timber Harvest – Compartment 1 (continued)

The recommendation from our forester is to accept the highest bid from Gutchess Lumber Co. Reasinger asked if Compartment 1 is part of the land swap (with the PA Game Commission). Kane replied, "It is, but not all of the land in the land swap will be harvested. Some will stay wetland forever. Compartment 2 was thinned back in the early '90s, but access there is very poor for the value of the timber."

The motion was made by Dietz and seconded by Gelfand to award the bid to Gutchess Lumber in the amount of \$427,139.00. Roll call was as follows: Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Kane also addressed a question that came up during a recent Watershed committee meeting regarding the number of dead trees near the Penfield exit on I-80. Kane explained that those trees died because they were not sprayed for gypsy moths. Kane thanked Council for investing the money to protect the watershed. "The spraying that was done at the watershed in 2023 saved millions of trees, saved tens of millions of board feet of saw timber feet, and millions of dollars of the asset the City owns in timber was protected by that spray."

Adopt new Right-to-Know Request – Standard Form

The state's Office of Open Records has updated the Right-to-Know Request form. It is Council's wish to adopt and use the standard form. The motion was made by Gelfand and seconded by Aughenbaugh that Council adopt the state's standard Right-to-Know form and all future amendments as the Right-to-Know form used by the City of DuBois. Roll call was as follows: Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval to change November 11, 2024, meeting date to November 12, 2024 – Veteran's Day

Because the second Monday in November is Veteran's Day the motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Dietz to move the Council meeting to Tuesday, November 12, 2024. Roll call was as follows: Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

CDBG Application Resolution No. 2024-0392

This resolution is authorization to submit the 2024 CDBG application. The motion was made by Aughenbaugh and seconded by Dietz to adopt Resolution 2024-0392. Roll call was as follows: Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

E-Bikes on walkway/sidewalks - Discussion

Reasinger has received calls of concern about e-bikes on the walkway and sidewalks. E-bikes fall under the same law as regular bicycles, which are permitted on the sidewalks except for in the business district. He would like to make these areas safe for everyone. Interim Police Chief McCleary asked for people to pay attention and be considerate. Reasinger emphasized that pedestrians always have the right of way so cyclists should get to the side or stop and let the pedestrians go by. Signage will be updated.

Approval to authorize Clearfield County Redevelopment Authority to submit PHARE grant application in the amount of \$100,000 on behalf of the City of DuBois to address code violations and downtown beautification

This is to authorize Lisa Kovalick from the Clearfield County Redevelopment Authority to submit a PHARE grant application on the City's behalf. These funds, which are to help fight blight, can be used for things like sidewalks, a roof or painting. The motion was made by Gelfand and seconded by Dietz to authorize Clearfield County Redevelopment Authority to submit the PHARE grant application on behalf of the City of DuBois. Roll call was as follows: Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0.

Game Commission Land Swap Letter and Agreement

The land swap is economic opportunity for the City. Kane explained the land the City is receiving has easier access for the outdoorsmen and women of the region. City property is for public hunting which will help reduce the deer population and that, in turn, will help protect future regeneration. Easier access also brings a higher timber value. Reasinger added that the property will be easier to develop commercially. The motion was made by Gelfand and seconded by Aughenbaugh to approve the land swap agreement. Roll call was as follows: Jackson, yea; Gelfand, yea; Dietz, yea; Aughenbaugh, yea; Reasinger, yea. Motion passed 5-0. [The land agreement previously had been approved at the September 23, 2024, meeting.]

Reports

Reports were received from all departments.

City Council Meeting Minutes – October 14, 2024 (continued)

Public Comments

Avianna Gillaugh – DuBois Days

Gillaugh read a statement on behalf of the DuBois Days committee thanking the community, City Council, City employees, local businesses, volunteers and others for “supporting and entrusting us to help facilitate a community-based event in a year in which our community arguably needed it most”. The committee would like to work together with the DuBois and Sandy Township fire departments on next year’s event and hopefully bring back the parade. “This event was and is for the community, funded by the community, and the proceeds are going back to benefit the community.” A check from the proceeds of DuBois Days in the amount of \$11,456.40 was presented to Council to go toward a City park project.

Linda Clark – Reams Street

“You opened up the door speaking of e-bikes on the sidewalks and things of that nature. I’m assuming when you talk about safety, then you also are talking about parking on the right of way and blocking sidewalks with vehicles. I think that needs to be addressed as well. I think it would be helpful so that when I take my grandchildren down the streets that they can ride their bicycle and not go out into the street and that pedestrians can walk. I think it’s really important.”

Council Member Comments

None

Adjourn

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

ATTEST:

Konbi Sloceem

APPROVED:

