**DUQUESNE BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

**JULY 19, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER** The regular meeting for the Duquesne Board of Aldermen was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Bill Sherman.

**ROLL CALL** Answering Roll Call were Aldermen Jane Baine, Becca White, Myra Gonzalez, Chris Ellsworth and Mayor Bill Sherman. Also in attendance was 13 Guests.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** to the United States of America was led by Mayor Bill Sherman.

**INVOCATION** was read by City Clerk Melody Cundiff.

**AGENDA** Motion made by Becca White, seconded by Myra Gonzalez to approve the agenda as presented. Voting in favor were Baine, White, Gonzalez and Ellsworth. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**MINUTES FROM 6/21 REGULAR MEETING** Motion made by Jane Baine, seconded by Becca White to approve meeting minutes as presented. Voting in favor were Baine, White, Gonzalez and Ellsworth. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT** Approved and filed for Audit

**BILL SUMMARY** Motion made by Chris Ellsworth, seconded by Becca White to approve the payment of the bills with the exception of Blevins Asphalt until the punch list is complete. Voting in favor were Baine, White, Gonzalez and Ellsworth. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**COURT REPORT** Board approved report and filed for audit.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT** Police Report was presented to the Board by Sergeant Jonathan White. He stated that there was one police vehicle that needed to go in for repairs due to a powering steering problem. Then they have a second vehicle that has something that is slowly draining the battery. He also stated that they were hoping to be looking for a couple of applicants in the next couple of months.

**BILL 21-16: Duquesne City Park Rules** Motion made by Jane Baine, seconded by Becca White, to place Bill 21-16 on first reading by title only.

City Attorney Mike Talley started the discussion by saying he put this bill together last minute and is asking for it to be reviewed closely. He went on to explain that 240.010 gives the Board the option to make changes, 240.020 gives the police the authority, 240.030 gives that stated hours for the park, and 240.040 lists the prohibited activities.

Motion made by Jane Baine, seconded by Myra Gonzalez to place Bill 21-16 on second reading by title only.

Office Brian Wenberg asked about some definitions on the prohibited activates such as camping, golfing, and organized sports. Rick Gamboa from the Park Committee spoke up stating that everything was taken from other codes from 6 to 9 different cities. He went on to say that this is simply a vehicle for the police to say “this is not allowed” as definitions can be found in any dictionary. Officer Brian Wenberg stated that he would be willing to write up some suggestions for clarification in the ordinance.

Motion made by Becca White, seconded by Jane Baine, to table until the August meeting and discuss with the Police Department to expand more details. Voting in favor were Baine, White, Ellsworth and Gonzalez. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**BUSINESS LICENSE APPROVALS** Motion made by Becca White, seconded by Myra Gonzalez to approve the Business Licenses as presented. Voting in favor were Baine, White, Gonzalez and Ellsworth. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**REVISIT MOTION ON CELEBRATION CHURCH FIRE VARIANCE**  City Attorney Mike Talley stated that the 2018 Building Code and the 2018 Fire Code does not make provisions allowing the Board of Aldermen to grant variances for automatic sprinkler system requirements. They do provide for a fire watch which falls under the jurisdiction of the local fire chief. He found nothing stating that the Board has the power to pass a motion. He would recommend a motion to rescind the previous motion passed at the June meeting.

Motion made by Jane Baine, seconded by Becca White to rescind the approval of fire watch program that was approved at the June 21, 2021 meeting. Voting in favor were Baine, Gonzalez, White and Ellsworth. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**UPDATE ON CITY MATTERS** Mayor Bill Sherman thanked everyone for the comments about the Round A Bout. Alderman Baine also asked if the Nelson Enterprises will be willing to take care of other signs and was told yes as he has time. Alderman Chris Ellsworth asked if the punch list for the roads does that include redoing the round a bout and he was told that Blevins was going to revisit that area as well.

**SEWER PUMP QUOTES** Mayor Bill Sherman stated that the dynamics of the float heads have to match the load that is put on the pump which means the load on the pump is the distance you have to push the waste and the amount of lift that is in that and the pressure that you have to maintain. So that is why there are two different quotes for each lift station. The Kenser lift station has a much longer push then Crestwell. Kenser lift station has issues with water every time it rains. Alderman Chris Ellsworth stated that he feels this is an emergency expenditure. Mayor Bill Sherman stated he is asking for an emergency declaration to purchase one new pump at each lift station location.

Motion made by Jane Baine, seconded by Chris Ellsworth, approving the Mayors’ recommendation to purchase a new pump for each lift station location and include installation and proceed with this purchase. Voting in favor were Baine, White, Gonzalez and Ellsworth. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**ALDERMAN INTERACTION** Alderman Jane Baine asked why Officer Wheeler was sent to Jefferson City for training. She was told that it was for basic maneuvers training in order to cover the city from any liability. Alderman Chris Ellsworth stated that he has been receiving complaints on streets and he would like to hear from Mike Atkinson at the August meeting as well as a spokesman for Blevins Asphalt.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** Mickey Sherman, 825 S. Duquesne spoke to the Board concerning the high grass and trash in and around the Crestwell Pump Station to make the lot clean and safe.

Ashley Harrell, 4320 E. 23rd spoke to the Board about the HOA with Schuber Mitchell and asked who it falls back on and she was told that the responsibility falls on Schuber maintaining the trash and retention basin.

Gary Heilbrun, 4015 E. 25th spoke to the Board stating that he was still listed as the Police Commissioner, Street Commissioner and Public Works Director as appointed and asked why he had not been contacted about any of the issues that are currently being dealt with.

Arnold Terry, 1705 Melissa Terry Lane spoke to the Board about a culvert issue at 16th and Duquesne. There is a 24 inch culvert running under Duquesne which is an old clay culvert. He was telling them that this culvert needs to be updated.

Edward Shay, 1711 S. Duquesne spoke to the Board about the pipe going through his yard carrying a lot of water that is destroying his property. He was asking the Board for a plan to disperse the water and asked if the Board could talk with the City Engineers.

Kerry Divine, 314 Morgan Court spoke to the Board about limits on expenditures. She was told that in our code 135.060 allows purchases up to $1,500 without competitive bids, $1,500-$3,000 is open market without competitive bids with approval of Board of Alderman and above $3,000 requires competitive bids and 135.070 allows for emergency purchases with no limit.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**APPOINTMENT OF NEW POLICE CHIEF** Alderman Becca White recused herself and left the room. The Mayor stated that the hiring committee met and conferred and he would like to appoint Sergeant Jonathan White as our new City Police Chief with a starting salary of $53,216 per year effective beginning with the next pay period.

Motion made by Chris Ellsworth, seconded by Myra Gonzalez to approve the appointment of Sergeant Jonathan White as the new City of Duquesne Police Chief. Voting in favor were Baine, Gonzalez, and Ellsworth. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Alderman Becca White was then invited to come back in and rejoin the meeting.

**NEW PHONE SYSTEM QUOTES** Mayor Bill Sherman spoke to the Board about the fact that we are having glitches with our current phone system. It was suggested that we check with Mediacom and a couple of other companies for some quotes. This will be tabled until the August meeting.

**UPDATE ON COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES:** Alderman Chris Ellsworth stated that Planning and Zoning met on July 12th and voted on the lot consolidation for Terrace Green. Their next meeting will be August 2nd at 6PM.

Rick Gamboa spoke on the Park Committee stating that bids have gone out for the walking trail and the bids will close on July 29th at which time the bids will be opened. Donny Allen is currently working on Bell Tower quotes and Becca White is working on supporters for a Butterfly Garden. The next Park meeting will be September 16th at 6PM.

Alderman Becca White stated that the DQPD Activities Committee will be having a meeting on Wednesday July 21st at 11:30AM.

**OTHER BUSINESS DEEMED NECESSARY:** Nothing

**SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME** The next Board meeting will be August 9, 2021 at 6PM.

There was no further business, a motion was made by Jane Baine, seconded by Becca White to adjourn the meeting. Voting in favor was Baine, White, Gonzalez and Ellsworth. Nays: None. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:11PM.