

The Regular Meeting of the Donora Borough Council was held on February 8, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Donora Municipal Complex. The meeting was called to order by Council President Cynthia Brice and following the Pledge of Allegiance, the following members were present: Mr. Berestecky, Mrs. Brice, Mr. Brice, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta and Mr. Thompson. Also present were: Mayor Donald Pavelko, Street Department Dean Fronzaglio, Fire Chief Patsy Vince, Code Enforcement Officer Joseph Volpe, Chief Neal Rands, Borough Solicitor Steven Toprani and Borough Administrator Michael Thornton.

Opening of Bids

Public Address of Agenda Items

Mr. Nedrow questioned council if it is covid money being used to repair the building. Mr. Thornton stated that it is CDBG money and that the borough does not have a total dollar figure as of yet. He said that per Nathan it may be all of our allotment for this year and may go into some funds for next year. Mr. Nedrow said that he sat and talked with Mr. Thornton regarding the switch to Washington Financial. He feels that the most important thing is the safety of the deposits with the FDIC. He said the analysis between Washington Financial and the other banks clearly favors Washington Financial.

Minutes

Mrs. Pavelko requested a motion to approve the December 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes, December 28, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes, January 2, 2024 Reorganization Meeting Minutes, January 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes and January 18, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes.. Second by Mr. Perrotta. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Berestecky, Mrs. Brice, Mr. Brice, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta and Mr. Thompson (7): Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

President of Council

Mrs. Brice offered her condolences to the families from the accident today.

Public Address:

Finance

Mrs. Pavelko read the Payroll Report for the month of January 2024 - \$66,825.07.

Mrs. Pavelko read the Treasurers Report for the month of January 2024 - \$1,362,316.12.

Mrs. Pavelko made a motion to accept the Payroll and Treasurers Report for the month of January 2024 as read. Second by Mr. Thompson. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Berestecky, Mrs. Brice, Mr. Brice, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta and Mr. Thompson (7) Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mrs. Pavelko read the Bill Report for the month of January 2024 - \$249,841.05. Mrs. Pavelko made a motion to accept the Bill Report for the month of January 2024 as read. Second by Mr. Perrotta. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Berestecky, Mrs. Brice, Mr. Brice, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta and Mr. Thompson (7) Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mrs. Pavelko read the Tax Collector's Report for the month of January 2024. Mrs. Pavelko made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report for the month of January 2024 as read. Second by Mr. Thompson. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Berestecky, Mrs. Brice, Mr. Brice, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta and Mr. Thompson (7) Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mrs. Pavelko made a motion to approve Washington Financial as the new borough bank depository. Second by Mr. Perrotta. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Berestecky, Mrs. Brice, Mr. Brice, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta and Mr. Thompson (7) Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mr. Thompson took a moment to thank Mr. Thornton and the finance committee for finding a financial institution that will save the borough money and give more for our money than we were receiving from the previous bank.

Mrs. Pavelko made a motion to approve Resolution for use of 2024 CDBG funds to replace front entrance to the borough building. Second by Mr. Brice. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Berestecky, Mrs. Brice, Mr. Brice, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta and Mr. Thompson (7) Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2024-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF DONORA, WASHINGTON COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO ALLOCATE CERTAIN CDBG FUNDS FOR THE BOROUGH BUILDING ACCESSIBILITY PLAN.

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Donora wishes to construct a entrance to the Borough Building to provide for better stability and accessibility; and

WHEREAS, the both the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and County of Washington provide funding and program opportunities designed to encourage and support local initiatives for growth, development and community stabilization; and

WHEREAS, Council for the Borough of Donora received certain funds from the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) administered by the Redevelopment Authority for the County of Washington (RACP);

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of Donora Borough, Washington County, Pennsylvania:

THAT the Borough shall allocate CDBG grant funding as stated above, and that the Council President or his designee is authorized to enter into any agreement or execute any document to advance the same, which may be submitted to RACP. Or other program and project administrator, as required.

DULY ADOPTED the 8th day of February 2024, by the Council of the Borough of Donora, Washington County, Pennsylvania, in lawful session duly assembled.
Borough of Donora, Washington County, Pennsylvania

Mrs. Pavelko made a motion to approve 2024 Spring Repository Sale consent form with reservation of properties to be determined by the Administration. Second by Mr. Perrotta. Solicitor Toprani suggested taking a closer look at the list to see if there are any properties that need focused on. If the borough does not respond back to the county, all listed properties will be available for sale. Mrs. Brice told the citizens to contact the borough building if they are interested in purchasing a blighted property. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Berestecky, Mrs. Brice, Mr. Brice, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta and Mr. Thompson (7) Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Health, Sanitation and Code Enforcement

Mr. Perrotta read the Building Permit Report for the month of January 2024.

Mr. Perrotta read the Registration Fee/Rental Inspection/Occupancy Report for the month of January 2024.

Mr. Perrotta read the Sanitation Report for the month of January 2024.

Mr. Perrotta read the Street Opening Reports for the month of January 2024.

Mrs. Pavelko made a motion to appoint Casey J. Perrotta as the interim Building Code Official for the Borough of Donora; and to approve such a resolution to forfeit any financial compensation while enforcing the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code Act through the Department of Labor and Industry. Second by Mr. Berestecky. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Berestecky, Mrs. Brice, Mr. Brice, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Pavelko and Mr. Thompson (6) Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: Mr. Perrotta (1) Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2024-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF DONORA, WASHINGTON COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING A BUILDING CODE OFFICER.

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Donora wishes to timely and efficiently process building permits under applicable state law; and

WHEREAS, the state law permits the appointment of a Building Code Official to discharge such duties, namely those found under the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code as enforceable through the requirements of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry; and

WHEREAS, Council for the Borough of Donora has not been able to secure the services of a certified building code inspector;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of Donora Borough, Washington County, Pennsylvania:

THAT the Borough shall appoint Casey Perrotta, a current council member, to the position of Borough Building Code Official, waiving and forfeiting any and all forms of compensation or remuneration, save those fees to be received by the Borough of services rendered. By waiving any compensation, Casey Perrotta is in compliance with the Pennsylvania Ethics Act and conflict of interest laws. This appointment shall be effective once all requisite certifications are filed with the Borough and the position is submitted to the Borough's liability carrier.

DULY ADOPTED the 8th day of February 2024, by the Council of the Borough of Donora, Washington County, Pennsylvania, in lawful session duly assembled.
Borough of Donora, Washington County, Pennsylvania

Recreation

Mr. Berestecky read the Palmer Park Report for the month of January 2024.

Mr. Berestecky made a motion to approve installation of a bat house in Palmer Park in the clearing at the top of the hill, to be paid for by CNX. Second by Mrs. Pavelko. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Berestecky, Mrs. Brice, Mr. Brice, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta and Mr. Thompson (7) Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mr. Berestecky and Mr. Fronzaglio spoke about how a net was installed to prevent bats in the pavilion, but now they are nesting in the net. Mr. Fronzaglio thinks the only solution is to install a ceiling in the pavilion at an approximate cost of \$1200. This decision will be made at a later date, per Mrs. Brice.

Community Affairs and Municipal Building

Mr. McDowell read the Banquet Hall Report for the month of January 2024.

Mr. Thompson made a motion to appoint Scott Nedrow for the MMVTA Board position for the five-year term beginning retroactively to January 1, 2024 and concluding on December 31, 2028. Second by Mr. Brice. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mrs. Brice, Mr. Brice, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Pavelko and Mr. Thompson (5) Nays: Mr. Berestecky and Mr. Perrotta (2) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mrs. Brice met with the MMVTA director regarding the board terms. When Mr. Berestecky took over Mr. Fisher's position, there was only three months left. He was a year and a half in when Mr. Parquette made the motion. It was not for a five year term, it was for the remaining of the five year term. Back in 2019, a mistake was made in which there should've been an appointment, but there wasn't. Someone should've been appointed in January 2019 with the term ending December 31, 2023.

Mr. Berestecky stated that he did attend the January 2024 MMVTA meeting representing Donora Borough. He also attended the Committee meeting in February 2024. There is a motion in the books that was voted on and approved and the minutes were also approved putting himself on the board for a five year term through December 2024.

Highways and Streets

Mr. Thompson made a motion to repair large excavator utilizing 2024 budget funds for availability on future demolition jobs. Second by Mrs. Pavelko. Everyone is in agreement that the repair to the machine is necessary, but an exact dollar amount is unknown at this time. Mr. Fronzaglio said he could possibly have this information within a week. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mrs. Brice, Mr. Brice, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta and Mr. Thompson (6) Nays: Mr. Berestecky (1) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve placement of “Customer and Loading Zone” parking in front of Hanna’s store. Second by Mrs. Pavelko. Mr. Fronzaglio said this would span approximately 155 feet. Solicitor Toprani recommended naming it “Loading Zone”. Mrs. Brice suggested “15 minute customer and loading zone.” She said if the parking becomes a problem, council can revisit it. Mr. Berestecky asked Mr. Fronzaglio what was done for the other merchant on First Street. Mr. Fronzaglio believes it is the same, “customer parking loading zone”. He was asked to double check it to make sure so that the borough stays consistent. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Berestecky, Mrs. Brice, Mr. Brice, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta and Mr. Thompson (7) Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Public Safety

Mr. Brice read the police report for the month of January 2024.

Mrs. Brice told everyone that the Donora Fire Company submitted a letter requesting a Tax Credit for Volunteer Firefighters in regards to local tax.

Mayor

Mayor Pavelko discussed eliminating blight. 2019 Grass Roots Plan: 5 goals to formulate a plan to combat blight. Upon networking with Mon Valley Alliance, the borough was advised that the county has money available to help combat blight in communities. The Mayor asked Mr. Perrotta to spearhead this plan to research properties for demolition.

Public Officials

Mr. Toprani – No report.

Mr. Rands- No report.

Mr. Fronzaglio – No report.

Mr. Vince – No report.

Mr. Joe Volpe – For the month of January 2024, there were 18 street openings invoiced, 2 recreational fire pit permits issued, 7 lien letters issued, 3 zoning permits issued and 7 occupancy inspections done in which all passed.

Old Business

Mr. Berestecky asked what transpired at the meeting regarding Donora Elementary Center. Mrs. Pavelko said the meeting was productive and held at the Donora Public Library. In attendance was herself, Mr. Brice, Scott Nedrow, Reverend Holmes and Darla Holmes. Mr. and Mrs. Brice both said anyone can attend. It will not violate the Sunshine Act. They are just in the idea phase. Mrs. Pavelko is working on getting the feasibility study from CCAC from 2016 and 2017.

New Business

The borough is seeking letters of intent from individuals interested in joining the Borough Civil Service Commission. The three seats are all vacant.

Non-Agenda Items

Renee Brooks: Thank you to Patsy Vince and all of the firefighters and emergency responders for protecting her residence in the 1000 block of McKean Avenue for the fire on Christmas Eve.

Scott Nedrow: The fire department did a great job for the fire and it could have been worse. The borough needs a plan to combat blight. We have 400 properties; we have the land bank. It sounds like we are missing the boat with the land bank. The Mon Valley Alliance – there is a possibility of millions of dollars available to help combat this blight.

Janet Bulko: Donora Smog Commemorative Committee is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23, 2024.

Kally Balog: There will be a vendor event – 2024 benefitting Mon Valley Youth & Teen – 6th and McKean Avenue – Saturday, August 10, 2024 from 10am to 5pm.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:30 PM