

The Regular Meeting of the Donora Borough Council was held on February 12, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Donora Municipal Complex. The meeting was called to order by Council President Casey Perrotta and following the Pledge of Allegiance, the following members were present: Mr. Bizzell-Boyer, Mr. Brice, Ms. Kitchens, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Rands and Mr. Wilson. Also present were: Mayor Donald Pavelko, Solicitor Steven Toprani, Police Patrolman Shemansky, Code Officer Luke Snatchko, Street Department Supervisor Dean Fronzaglio and Borough Administrator Michael Thornton.

Mayor Pavelko issued a Proclamation to Anthony and Theresa DiDonato for serving the Borough of Donora for their retirement of owning Anthony’s Italiano.

BOROUGH OF DONORA
WASHINGTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
PROCLAMATION

Honoring Anthony and Theresa DiDonato
Owners of Anthony’s Italiano
557 McKean Avenue, Donora, Pennsylvania

WHEREAS, Anthony and Theresa DiDonato, beloved members of the Donora community, opened the doors of Anthony’s Italiano at 557 McKean Avenue on August 15, 1977; and

WHEREAS, for more than forty-eight years, Anthony’s Italiano has served as a cherished gathering place in the Borough of Donora, providing delicious food, warm hospitality, and a welcoming atmosphere to generations of residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, through their dedication, perseverance, and commitment to quality, Anthony and Theresa DiDonato built more than a successful small business — they built lasting relationships, strengthened community ties, and created countless memories for families, friends, students, workers, and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Anthony’s Italiano stood as a testament to the value of hard work, family ownership, and local entrepreneurship, contributing to the economic vitality and civic spirit of the Borough of Donora and Washington County; and

WHEREAS, upon the closing of Anthony’s Italiano on January 11, 2026, the Borough recognizes not only the end of an era, but also the extraordinary legacy left behind by Anthony and Theresa DiDonato through nearly five decades of service to this community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough of Donora hereby expresses its deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation to Anthony and Theresa DiDonato for their unwavering dedication, their entrepreneurial spirit, and their steadfast commitment to serving the residents of Donora; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the Borough of Donora honors and celebrates the lasting impact of Anthony’s Italiano and extends best wishes to Anthony and Theresa DiDonato in their well-earned retirement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Borough of Donora to be affixed this 12th day of February, 2026.

Presentation to Anthony and Theresa DiDonato occurred.

Opening of Bids

Guest Speaker

George Newsome, DCED, Strategic Management Planning Program (STMP) Grants. Provided overview of the state’s involvement through the Department of Community and Economic Development. Government Policy Specialist through the Governor’s Center for Local Government. Mr. Newsome’s job is to help us make our vision come through with funding. Grants are not free. Usually there is a percentage for matching funds.

Scott Nedrow, Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority, Local Match Funding increases. Increase from \$3,500.00 up to \$14,400.00 is supposedly to take effect between June 2026 through June 2027. The borough will have to sign a resolution that we would be financially responsible for remitting the payment prior to June 2027.

Mr. Nedrow complained to council regarding the coal truck traffic on Meldon Avenue (State Route 837).

Public Address of Agenda Items

Minutes

Mr. Rands requested a motion to approve the January 8, 2026 meeting minutes. Second by Mr. Wilson. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Bizzell-Boyer, Mr. Brice, Ms. Kitchens, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta, Mr. Rands and Mr. Wilson (7): Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Ms. Kitchens requested a motion to approve Borough Council Meeting Rules of Conduct Policy. Second by Mrs. Pavelko.

Mr. Brice requested a motion to table the prior motion for Borough Council Meeting Rules of Conduct Policy. Second by Mr. Bizzell-Boyer. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Bizzell-Boyer, Mr. Brice, Ms. Kitchens, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta, Mr. Rands and Mr. Wilson (7): Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Finance

Mrs. Pavelko read aloud the Payroll Report for the month of January 2026 - \$134,076.92.

Mrs. Pavelko read aloud the Treasurers Report for the month of January 2026 - \$1,430,728.88

Mrs. Pavelko made a motion to accept the Payroll Report and Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2026 as read. Second by Ms. Kitchens. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Bizzell-Boyer, Mr. Brice, Ms. Kitchens, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta, Mr. Rands and Mr. Wilson (7): Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mrs. Pavelko made a motion to accept the Bill Report for the month of January 2026 as read. Second by Mr. Brice. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Bizzell-Boyer, Mr. Brice, Ms. Kitchens, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta, Mr. Rands and Mr. Wilson (7): Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mrs. Pavelko made a motion to adopt the 2026 Borough of Donora revised budget as presented and advertised. Second by Mr. Wilson.

Mr. Bizzell-Boyer asked to tell the public what the changes were: added a line item for Portnoff Law Firm, moved salary from Street Dept. to Street Commissioner line item and added \$15,000 into non-uniform healthcare.

A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Bizzell-Boyer, Mr. Brice, Ms. Kitchens, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta, Mr. Rands and Mr. Wilson (7): Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mrs. Pavelko made a motion to approve the Borough of Donora borrowing an amount not to exceed \$1.0 million to complete the new public works project due to a shortfall in LSA Grant funds awarded by the State and County. Second by Mr. Bizzell-Boyer.

Mr. Thornton: We have been awarded LSA grants from the State and County. However, we still have a shortfall in funding to finish the project. RACW does not want to have to go through the bidding process a second time in case of rising costs. We may not need the \$1.0 million, but RACW wants to have a cushion in case additional funding is not received. We also need to construct a 500 ton salt bin because the bin we have does not have the capacity that we need. We also would have to move our fuel tanks, gasoline and diesel tanks.

\$880,000.00 was the total grant money that we received.

Mr. Perrotta: How long is this loan being taken out for? What is the set interest rate for this loan?

Mr. Wilson: Do we have to take out a \$1.0 million loan?

Mr. Thornton: 15 year period for the loan (\$7,000/month) with a 6% interest rate.

Mr. Rands: How much does 1 mil bring in?

Mr. Perrotta: \$133,161.11

Mrs. Pavelko: What does the \$880,000.00 cover for the building?

Mr. Wilson made a motion to table the prior motion. Second by Mr. Bizzell-Boyer.
A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Bizzell-Boyer, Mr. Brice, Ms. Kitchens, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta, Mr. Rands and Mr. Wilson (7): Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Health, Sanitation and Code Enforcement

Mr. Brice read aloud the following reports for the month of January 2026:

Registration Fee Report - \$3,590.00 (January) / \$3,590.00 (YTD)

Rental Inspection Report - \$250.00 (January) / \$250.00 (YTD)

Occupancy Report - \$350.00 (January) / \$350.00 (YTD)

Sanitation Report - \$113,785.00 (January) / \$113,785.00 (YTD)

Delinquent Sanitation Fees - \$88.06 (January) / \$88.06 (YTD)

Fines Collected - \$35.00 (January) / \$35.00 (YTD)

Street Opening – 10 (January) / 10 (YTD)

Total Street Opening fees: \$13,195.00 (January) / \$13,195.00 (YTD).

Building Permit Report – 5 permits/\$4,121.00 (January)

Construction cost \$412,100.00 (January)

YTD: 5 permits/\$4,121.00 – construction cost \$412,100.00

Mr. Brice made a motion to approve the reduction of the penalty rate assessed to 2024 delinquent sanitation bills from \$300.00 to \$280.00 to reflect the original ordinance filed. Second by Mrs. Pavelko. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Bizzell-Boyer, Mr. Brice, Ms. Kitchens, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta, Mr. Rands and Mr. Wilson (7): Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Recreation

Mr. Wilson read aloud the Palmer Park Report for the month of January 2026.

\$1,040.00 (January) / \$1,040.00 (YTD)

Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve permission for a “Forest Therapy” program to operate occasionally in Palmer Park with no fee. Second by Mr. Rands. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Bizzell-Boyer, Mr. Brice, Ms. Kitchens, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta, Mr. Rands and Mr. Wilson (7): Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Community Affairs and Municipal Building

Ms. Kitchens read aloud the Banquet Hall Report for the month of January 2026.

\$500.00 (January) / \$500.00 (YTD)

Ms. Kitchens made a motion to adopt and approve a Social Media Policy for borough employees, pending review of the Teamsters Union Representatives for Uniform and Non-Uniform employees. Second by Mrs. Pavelko.

Solicitor Toprani spoke briefly regarding 1st Amendment rights.

Mrs. Pavelko made a motion to table the prior motion regarding a Social Media Policy for borough employees, pending review of the Teamsters Union Representatives for Uniform and Non-Uniform employees. Second by Ms. Kitchens. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Bizzell-Boyer, Mr. Brice, Ms. Kitchens, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta, Mr. Rands and Mr. Wilson (7): Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Highways and Streets

Mr. Bizzell-Boyer would like to thank the residents for moving their cars during the snowstorm. Next year, we are going to have to plan better because there were issues that arose through the snowstorm.

Mrs. Pavelko asked if it was because we did not have a large sized truck to handle what was needed.

Mr. Bizzell-Boyer made a motion to approve adding Gordon Anderson as a part time snow call-out driver at a pay rate of \$20.50 per hour, with no fringe benefits. Second by Mrs. Pavelko. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Bizzell-Boyer, Mr. Brice, Ms. Kitchens, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta, Mr. Rands and Mr. Wilson (7): Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mr. Bizzell-Boyer made a motion to approve handicap parking at 808 Walnut Street for Vanessa Rambharose. Second by Ms. Kitchens. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Bizzell-Boyer, Mr. Brice, Ms. Kitchens, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta, Mr. Rands and Mr. Wilson (7): Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Public Safety

Mr. Rands read aloud the police report for the month of January 2026.

Complaints Answered:	182 (January)	182 (YTD)
Ambulance Assists:	11	11
Accident Investigations:	6	6
Burglar Alarms:	15	15
Lock Outs	3	3
Home Security Checks	0	0
Assist Fire Department	2	2
Fire Alarm	0	0
Police Assists	9	9
Borough Ordinances	12	12
*Traffic Citations	7	7
Traffic Warnings	5	5
Towed Abandoned Vehicles	0	0
Tagged Abandoned Vehicles	4	4
*Non Traffic Citation	0	0
*Criminal Arrests	8	8
Total Offenses Reported:	36	36
Total Arrests:	15 (January)	15 (YTD)
Mileage Report:	1,332	1,332
Financial Report:		
Overtime:	\$6,962.96 (Jan)	\$6,962.96 (YTD)
Court Time:	\$ 549.08 (Jan)	\$549.08 (YTD)
Total Revenue Received:	\$1,112.27 (Jan)	\$1,112.27 (YTD)

Mr. Rands read aloud the fire report for January 2026.

Total Incidents	19 calls
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Mr. Rands read aloud the EMS report from Rostraver West New Emergency Services.

2025 – Year End	1,131 calls
January 2026	77 calls

Mr. Rands requested a motion to hire Patrick D. Schmidt, Jr. as a part time police officer, at a starting pay rate of \$30.26 per hour with no fringe benefits as per the current collective bargaining agreement. Second by Mrs. Pavelko.

Mr. Perrotta stated that Mr. Schmidt is a DOT truck inspector.

A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Bizzell-Boyer, Mr. Brice, Ms. Kitchens, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta, Mr. Rands and Mr. Wilson (7): Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mr. Rands requested a motion to hire Thomas C. N. McCarthy as a part time police officer, at a starting pay rate of \$30.26 per hour with no fringe benefits as per the current collective bargaining agreement. Second by Ms. Kitchens. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Bizzell-Boyer, Mr. Brice, Ms. Kitchens, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta, Mr. Rands and Mr. Wilson (7): Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mr. Rands requested a motion to hire James P. Fleckenstein, Jr. as a part time police officer, at a starting pay rate of \$30.26 per hour with no fringe benefits as per the current collective bargaining agreement. Second by Ms. Kitchens.

Mayor Pavelko stated that Mr. Fleckenstein is a DOT truck inspector.

Dyno Nobel has granted the borough police verbal permission for use of their certified scale for weighing these trucks.

A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Bizzell-Boyer, Mr. Brice, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta, Mr. Rands and Mr. Wilson (6): Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: Ms. Kitchens (1) Motion carried.

Mr. Rands requested a motion to appoint Office Mark Shemansky as “Acting Chief of Police” of the Donora Police Department, effective February 12, 2026. Second by Mrs. Pavelko.

Mr. Wilson: Very emotional because the era has changed because Superintendent Brice and Chief Rands were from Donora. To Officer Shemansky: Would you give us the same type of respect that Superintendent Brice and Chief Rands provided to us?

Officer Shemansky began his Donora career here in 1998 and then left the police field and returned back to the area after coming back to police work.

Mr. Lamb states that the job has to be posted.

Mr. Brice recommends removing “Acting Chief” and making Mark Shemansky the “Chief of Police.”

Mr. Rands amended the motion to remove “Acting” from the title of Chief of Police. Second by Mr. Wilson.

Motion by Mr. Bizzell-Boyer to table this issue. Second by Mr. Brice. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Bizzell-Boyer (1): Nays: Mr. Brice, Ms. Kitchens, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta, Mr. Rands and Mr. Wilson (6) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mr. Rands requested a motion to appoint Officer Mark Shemansky as “Acting Chief of Police” of the Donora Police Department, effective February 12, 2026. Second by Ms. Kitchens. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Bizzell-Boyer, Mr. Brice, Ms. Kitchens, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta, Mr. Rands and Mr. Wilson (7): Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mr. Rands requested a motion to accept the resignation of Office Howard Rider, effective February 2, 2026. Second by Ms. Kitchens. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Bizzell-Boyer, Mr. Brice, Ms. Kitchens, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta, Mr. Rands and Mr. Wilson (7): Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mr. Rands requested a motion to amend the agenda to add the Appointment of the Borough’s Emergency Management Coordinator. Second by Mr. Bizzell-Boyer. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Bizzell-Boyer, Mr. Brice, Ms. Kitchens, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta, Mr. Rands and Mr. Wilson (7): Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mr. Rands requested a motion to appoint Joshua Lamb as the Emergency Management Coordinator for the Borough of Donora. Second by Mrs. Pavelko.

Mrs. Pavelko would like to thank Josh for putting in time and helping us.

A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Bizzell-Boyer, Mr. Brice, Ms. Kitchens, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta, Mr. Rands and Mr. Wilson (7): Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

President of Council: No report.

Mayor: Columbia Gas will be starting soon on their line replacement in town for the Phase 1 project of 2026.

If anyone comes knocking at your door, make sure they have photo ID.

Announcements: We are looking for any borough resident(s) that would be interested in sitting on the following committees:

- Civil Service Commission (1 Resident)
- Zoning Board of Appeals (1 Resident)
- Planning Commission (2 Residents)
- Parks & Recreation (2 Residents)

The Borough of Donora is looking for applicants for our Turnkey position. Applicants must be able to successfully pass a background check and have all required clearances.

The next 125th Anniversary meeting will be held on February 25th in the Council Chambers.

Mrs. Pavelko would like to thank Mornak's and the Mon Valley Sewage Authority.

Food Bank is Monday.

Public Officials

Mr. Toprani: No report.

Acting Chief Shemansky: No report.

Mr. Fronzaglio: No report.

Mr. Vince: Absent.

John Wankulitz: Absent.

Luke Snatchko: Brought up regarding sale of properties on Repository Sale.
301 Third Street
113 & 109 Modisette Avenue (duplex)
0 Seventh Street
917 Heslep Avenue

Old Business

New Business

Non-Agenda Items

Mr. Albert Pfinner – Castner Avenue: The park was not cleared during the snow storm.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:06 PM