

The Regular Meeting of the Donora Borough Council was held on August 13, 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 Steve Toprani, Borough Administrator Michael Thornton, Code Official John Wankulitz, Acting Police Chief Mark Shemansky, Fire Chief Patsy Vince and Street Department Supervisor Dean Fronzaglio.

Guest Speaker

Public Address of Agenda Items

Cindy Brice – Regarding Civil Service Commission – asked if Mrs. Rodriguez was sworn in?

Minutes

Mr. Brice requested a motion to approve the July 9, 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.

Finance

Mrs. Pavelko read aloud the Payroll Report for the month of July 2026 - \$148,691.23.

Mrs. Pavelko read aloud the Treasurers Report for the month of July 2026 - \$1,805,941.91.

Mrs. Pavelko made a motion to accept the Payroll Report and Treasurer's Report for the month of July 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 read aloud the Bill Report for the month of July 2026 - \$445,174.61.

Mrs. Pavelko made a motion to accept the Bill Report for the month of July 2026 as read. 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.

Mrs. Pavelko read aloud the Tax Collection Report for the month of July 2026 - \$391,407.98.

Mrs. Pavelko made a motion to accept the Tax Collection Report for the month of July 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 purchase dilapidated buildings located at 857 Heslep Avenue (Parcel 240-012-00-02-0006-00) and 702 Walnut Street (Parcel 240-031-00-05-0016-00) from the Washington County Repository list. Second by Mr. Rands.

Mr. Wilson: How much are these properties costing the borough?

Mr. Perrotta: Approximately \$150.00 plus filing fees.

Mr. Bizzell-Boyer: Is there a demolition plan?

Mr. Perrotta: 702 Walnut Street there is a possible person that is interested in this property for rehabilitation, and we can pull it from the repository list and the Washington County Land Bank will work with the person if he truly is interested in rehabilitating it. The only issue would be if this plan goes through, the Borough would have to share the tax proceeds with the Washington County Land Bank for a period of five years.

Mr. Rands: Is this one of the cement houses in Cement City?

Mr. Perrotta: Yes it is. Its was Mrs. Marilyn Sambol's old house and one of her children has recently passed away.

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 July 2026:

Registration Fee Report - \$735.00 (July) / \$18,081.65 (YTD)

Rental Inspection Report - \$100.00 (July) / \$3,900.00 (YTD)

Occupancy Report - \$450.00 (July) / \$2,200.00 (YTD)

Sanitation Report - \$7,750.00 (July) / \$421,082.23 (YTD)

Delinquent Sanitation Fees - \$150.00 (July) / \$694.75 (YTD)

Fines Collected - \$0.00 (YTD)

Street Opening – 0 (July) / 23 (YTD)

Total Street Opening fees: \$0.00 (July) / \$16,723.00 (YTD).

Building Permit Report – 13 permits/\$1,952.00 (July)

Construction cost \$195,200.00 (July)

YTD: 52 permits/\$11,042.54 – construction cost \$1,104,254.00

Notices of Violation – 23 (July) / 113 (YTD)

Citations Filed – 36 (July) / 126 (YTD)

Mr. Brice made a motion to approve the subdivision of the Krolik Plan located at 526 Eighth Street, in lieu of not having a quorum for the Donora Planning Commission. 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. Brice made a motion to authorize the Borough Solicitor to draft an ordinance permitting the Borough of Donora to file Municipal liens on property owners and to collect filing fees and attorney costs associated with the filings. 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. Brice made a motion to authorize the advertisement of the sanitation service contract for competitive bidding, subject to the Solicitor's review and approval of the bid documents. 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.

Recreation

Mr. Wilson read aloud the Palmer Park Report for the month of July 2026.
\$1,840.00 (July) / \$11,590.00 (YTD)

Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve purchasing bronze recognition plaques for the Larry Senko Walking Trail, Deacon Dan Towler Pavilion and Robert D. "Bob" Megela RC Airfield in Palmer Park. 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. Wilson made a motion to approve the internet upgrades and the addition of firewall hardware for the security system in Palmer Park, with a one time cost not to exceed \$3,500.00 in addition to the monthly fees through Comcast. 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 July 2026.
\$625.00 (July) / \$3,750.00 (YTD)

Ms. Kitchens made a motion to appoint Roderick Wilson to the Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority to finish the remaining portion of the 5-year term ending on December 31, 2028.
Second by Mrs. Pavelko.

Mr. Bizzell-Boyer: Were there any other applicants?
Mr. Perrotta: Yes, Mr. Frederick Berestecky also applied.
Mr. Bizzell-Boyer: Did he previously serve on the board?
Mr. Perrotta: Yes, he did.
Mr. Perrotta feels that this should not be an elected official and it should be a volunteer resident of the Borough.

Mrs. Pavelko: Sees no problem with a councilman being on the board.
A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Brice, Ms. Kitchens, Mrs. Pavelko and Mr. Wilson (4): Nays: Mr. Bizzell-Boyer, Mr. Perrotta, Mr. Rands (3) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0)
Motion carried.

Highways and Streets

Mr. Bizzell-Boyer read aloud the Steet Department Overtime Report for the month of July 2026.
\$2,090.69 (July) / \$25,261.47 (YTD)

Public Safety

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

Complaints Answered	245 (July)	1,464 (YTD)
Ambulance Assists	12	56
Accident Investigations	6	46
Burglar Alarms	5	45
Lock Outs	1	11
Home Security Checks	0	0
Fire Department Assists	2	18
Fire Alarm	0	3
Police Assists	8	50
Borough Ordinances	6	81
*Traffic Citations	73	366
Traffic Warnings	30	156
Towed Abandoned Vehicles	3	5
Tagged Abandoned Vehicles	26	66
*Non Traffic Citation	4	24
*Criminal Arrests	18	117
Total Offenses Reported:	160 (July)	815 (YTD)
Mileage Report:	2,667 (July)	14,233 (YTD)
Financial Report:		
Overtime:	\$5,826.38 (July)	\$52,757.06 (YTD)
Court Time:	\$558.19 (July)	\$7,145.36 (YTD)
Total	\$6,384.57 (July)	\$59,902.42 (YTD)
Police Reports	\$120.00 (July)	\$750.00 (YTD)
DC 27-1-02 Fines	\$748.20 (July)	\$6,841.69 (YTD)
PSP Fines	\$0.00 (July)	\$1,090.42 (YTD)
Parking Tickets	\$20.00 (July)	\$133.00 (YTD)
Total Revenue Received	\$888.20 (July)	\$8,815.11 (YTD)

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

Total Incidents	37 calls	148 (YTD)
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Mr. Rands read aloud the EMS report from Rostraver West New Emergency Services.

July 2026	88 calls	582 (YTD)
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Mr. Rands requested a motion to approve increasing the current pay rate for the Turnkey position from \$14 per hour to \$20 per hour. Second by Mrs. Pavelko. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Bizzell-Boyer, Ms. Kitchens, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta, Mr. Rands and Mr. Wilson (6): Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Abstain: Mr. Brice (1) Motion carried.

Mr. Rands requested a motion to hire applicant Kristopher Marciak as Turnkey, at a pay rate of \$20 per hour, with no fringe benefits, provided all appropriate clearances have been received. 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.

A lengthy discussion took place between council members regarding the Civil Service Committee; speaking about swearing in committee members and also alternate members.

President of Council:

In regards to the Second Street Extension plan, this was the old Eliza Grant Park Plan Subdivision which was donated to the Borough of Donora from Carroll Township back in 1955. During that time, all of the parcels in this Eliza Grant Park Plan have a Covenant Runners with the Land Clause built into their Chain of Title on Washington County Deed Book 944, pages 477 through 483.

UNDER and SUBJECT to the following conditions and restrictions which shall be deemed to be covenants running the land, to wit:

1. No building or structure shall be erected or maintained on said premises other than such as shall be erected for and used as a dwelling, at least one story in height above the surface of the ground, for single – family occupancy, and its necessary outbuildings. The word dwelling shall not be deemed include and shall not permit the erection, maintenance, or use of what are commonly termed trailers, or basement or foundation dwellings.
2. Every such dwelling shall have land curtilage thereto with a frontage of at lease 85 feet on said Route No. 62145 and extending back therefrom the full depth of the land conveyed.
3. No such dwelling of part thereof shall be erected or maintained less than 65 feet distant from the center line of said Route No. 62145.
4. The owner of any dwelling so erected shall at the time of erection install and at all times thereafter maintain on said premises a proper septic tank for the treatment of waste from all toilets, unless said toilets are connected to a public sanitary sewer, and no outside toilets shall be constructed or maintained on said premises.
5. No horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, or goats shall be kept on said land and when poultry is kept thereon, the same shall at all times be confined in a tight enclosure.

Mayor:

The Borough of Donora will be holding a Town Hall Meeting specifically regarding Palmer Park. The Dek Hockey Grant may be able to be amended since the Dek Hockey project has been labeled as “dormant.” The Department of Community & Economic Development along with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources are willing to possibly amend the grant application for Palmer Park to change the project from Dek Hockey to something that the Borough would like, however, this is not going to be up for the Elected Officials to decide. The DCNR and DCED want this advertised in the newspaper along with social media and during the town hall meeting, they want PUBLIC input on what should be constructed in the area of where the Dek Hockey arena was going to be placed.

Announcements:

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

- Civil Service Commission Alternate (1 Resident)
- Zoning Board of Appeals (1 Resident)
- Planning Commission (4 Residents)
- Parks & Recreation (2 Residents)

Public Officials

Solicitor Toprani: No report

Acting Chief Shemansky: No report

Mr. Fronzaglio: Two sewer repairs coming up. Dennis having surgery and will probably be out for three months.

Chief Vince: Absent.

John Wankulitz: 275 trash citations have been delivered to District Court and they are working on more.

Old Business

New Business

Mr. Wilson requested a motion to advertise for a Borough Street Commissioner position. Second by Ms. Kitchens. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Brice, Ms. Kitchens, Mrs. Pavelko, Mr. Perrotta, Mr. Rands and Mr. Wilson (6): Nays: Mr. Bizzell-Boyer (1) Absent: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Non-Agenda Items

Kevin Davis, 1299 McKean Avenue – Thanks Council for taking care of the Spanish Club and would like to thank the street department for cleaning up his neighborhood. Is it possible for next year to hire 4-5 part time employees to help the street department with grass cutting.

Also, with the Civil Service Commission, the Alternate(s) always move into the full time spot if there is a vacancy. Mr. Davis announced that he will be turning in his letter of resignation from Civil Service due to the fact that he will be moving out of Pennsylvania.

Melissa Argyle, 685 Meldon Avenue – Questioned Council regarding who is responsible for the sidewalks in front of Donora Towers? Mr. Perrotta replied that the borough owns all sidewalks, however, it is the property owner's responsibility to maintain, fix, etc., all sidewalks.

Pennsylvania, the land underneath a public sidewalk typically sits within a public right-of-way owned by the municipality or the state, but under the Pennsylvania Borough Code, the abutting property owner is legally required to construct, repair, and maintain the sidewalk at their own expense.

Ownership vs. Responsibility

- **The Right-of-Way:** The physical space for a streetside sidewalk is usually public property or an easement held by the borough.
- **Maintenance Duty:** The Pennsylvania Borough Code (1801) grants the borough council power to require property owners to pave, repave, and keep adjacent sidewalks and curbs in a safe condition.
- **Liability:** Property owners are generally held responsible for clearing ice, snow, and fixing dangerous tripping hazards on the sidewalk in front of their land.

Dennis Fisher, 625 First Street – Was going to ask Council how to apply for the Mid Mon Valley Transit Board Position, but realized that Mr. Wilson was appointed during the meeting.

Mrs. Pavelko requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. 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.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:10 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD AT 5:15PM PRIOR TO THE COUNCIL MEETING