

The Regular Meeting of the Donora Borough Council was held on July 11, 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 and Borough Solicitor Steven Toprani. Administrator, Michael Thornton, was absent.

Opening of Bids

Public Address of Agenda Items

Minutes

Mr. Perrotta requested a motion to approve the June 13, 2024 meeting minutes. 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.

Finance

Mrs. Pavelko read aloud the Payroll Report for the month of June 2024 - \$73,598.97.

Mrs. Pavelko read aloud the Treasurers Report for the month of June 2024 - \$2,221,521.86.

Mrs. Pavelko made a motion to accept the Payroll Report and Treasurer's Report for the month of June 2024 as read. 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.

Mrs. Pavelko read aloud the Bill Report for the month of June 2024 - \$569,149.28

Mrs. Pavelko made a motion to accept the Bill Report for the month of June 2024 as read. Second by Mr. McDowell. 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 accept the Tax Collection Report for the month of June 2024 as read. 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.

Mrs. Pavelko made a motion to enter into an agreement with the Mon Valley Alliance Foundation and the Commissioners of Washington County to participate in the Blight Mitigation Strategy Plan which the scope of the plan to include the Boroughs of Charleroi, Donora, and the City of Monongahela for 3 year term. 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 stated that the MVA submitted a proposal which will be voted on July 18th for a 3 year contract to oversee the blight project. Cost of the land bank will be paid for us each year and will help us take control of the blight in Donora.

Mr. Thompson asked if this would cost the taxpayers anything. Mrs. Pavelko stated that it will not cost the taxpayers of Donora anything.

Health, Sanitation and Code Enforcement

Mr. Perrotta read aloud the following reports for the month of June 2024:

Building Permit Report – 4 permits/\$411.00 (June)
 Construction cost \$41,100.00 (June)
 One permit applicant (Cooper Electric) still owes permit fees to the borough
 YTD: 11 permits/\$140,167.00 – construction cost \$14,015,800.00

Registration Fee Report - \$2,450.00 (June) / \$22,515.00 (YTD)

Rental Inspection Report - \$450.00 (June) / \$4,490.00 (YTD)

Occupancy Report - \$350.00 (June) / \$2,300.00 (YTD)

Sanitation Report - \$32,558.45 (June) / \$367,218.55 (YTD)

Delinquent Sanitation Fees - \$154.73 (June) / \$1,775.98 (YTD)

Fines Collected - \$1,118.45 (YTD)

Street Opening – 1 (June) / 40 (YTD)

Total Street Opening fees: \$250.00 (June) / \$10,000.00 (YTD).

Mr. Perrotta made a motion to authorize the President of Council to execute any and all documents pertaining to the demolition of 647 McKean Avenue (Parcel #210-013-00-09-0007-00). 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. Perrotta made a motion to enter into an agreement with Fayette Waste for a two year contract extension for 2025-2026 for an increased fee of \$54,413.65 which will bring the annual total amount to \$363,252.60 (an average of approximately \$30.00 per household). Second by Mr. McDowell. 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. Brice stated that we had to extend the contract due to if we bid this out for re-bid, a higher price would be given by all competitive refuse companies.

Mr. Perrotta made a motion to authorize the Solicitor to draft and amendment to Ordinance 1390 regarding updating the International Property Maintenance Code from 2012 Edition to “the most current edition”. 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.

Currently the borough is utilizing the 2012 edition, which is outdated by 4 editions as the codes are updated every 3 years.

Recreation

Mr. Berestecky read aloud the Palmer Park Report for the month of June 2024.
 \$500.00 (June) / \$11,100.00 (YTD)

Community Affairs and Municipal Building

Mr. McDowell read aloud the Banquet Hall Report for the month of June 2024.
 \$100.00 (June) / \$2,049.15 (YTD)

Mr. McDowell made a motion to authorize Mr. George Larson, of 428 Liberty Avenue, Donora, to assist with redesigning the borough website at no charge to the borough. Second by Mr. Berestecky. 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. Brice would like to thank Mr. Larson for his generous offer to assist us.

Mr. Larson is a borough resident and has volunteered his expertise in web design to the borough. Thank you Mr. Larson.

Highways and Streets

Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve a handicap parking spot in front of 678 Thompson Avenue (Marjorie Bogardus). 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.

Public Safety

Mr. Brice read aloud the police report for the month of June 2024.

Complaints Answered:	261 (June)	1,896 (YTD)
Ambulance Assists:	7	59
Accident Investigations:	6	48
Burglar Alarms:	16	65
Lock Outs:	3	15
Total Complaints:	293	2,037
Total Offenses Reported:	36	245
Total Arrests:	12	82
Mileage Report:	1,924	13,898
Financial Report:		
Overtime:	\$10,731.48 (June)	\$36,046.22 (YTD)
Court Time:	\$280.12 (June)	\$2,177.97 (YTD)
Total Revenue Received:	\$11,011.60 (June)	\$38,224.19 (YTD)

Mr. Brice made a motion to promote Police Patrolman David Hromada from part time to full time status, retroactive to July 1, 2024. 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.

According to PA Title 8, Section 1171, Officer Hromada will not be required to participate in the civil service procedures due to the Borough of Donora currently having less than three full time officers.

Mr. Brice made a motion to hire part-time police officer Michael Polinski at an initial pay rate of \$29.18 per hour with no fringe benefits as per the collective bargaining agreement. 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.

****The Borough is still accepting applications for Full Time Police Applicants to take the Civil Service Test. The Borough has extended the deadline “until filled” for Full Time Applications.****

****Part Time Police Officer Applications will remain open as needed.****

President of Council: No report.

Mayor: Kelly Balog will be having her annual Street Fair on Saturday, August 10th. It will be moved from 6th Street to 7th Street due to the parking lot being closed.

This will be the first event at the 7th Street Pavilion.

Like to thank the Public Safety Committee, Council, and Chief Rands for getting the Police Department back on track.

Mayor would like to Congratulate Marsha Lawson because she has earned the Certificate of Recognition for outstanding and dedicated service and was placed on the 2024 Municipal Clerks Honor Roll!
CONGRATULATIONS MARSHA!!!

Public Officials

Mr. Toprani: Stated that he had submitted a draft of the PODS Ordinance to Council and would like to have a motion to advertise the Ordinance for the first reading to occur at the August Council Meeting. Motion to be placed under Old Business.

Mr. Rands: No report.

Mr. Fronzaglio: No report.

Mr. Vince: No report.

Mr. Joe Volpe: 15 Notice of Violations, 5 were cleared, 7 were cited, 3 asked for extra time. 3 zoning certificates and 11 lien letters were issued.

Old Business

Mr. Perrotta made a motion to amend this evening's agenda to reflect a motion to advertise the PODS Ordinance at the Solicitor's request.. 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. Perrotta made a motion to advertise the PODS Ordinance as so the first reading of the ordinance will occur at the August Council Meeting. Second by Mr. Berestecky. 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.

New Business

Non-Agenda Items

Roderick Wilson:

Will be donating 5 additional tickets to Kennywood that Mrs. Pavelko and her committee will decide on who cannot afford them. He already donated 26 tickets.

Columbia Gas street repairs: Are they paving part of the street or are they paving the entire street? Mr. Berestecky had the same concern at the July 9th work session. They follow ordinances or if there is no ordinance, then they follow PennDOT standards.

Sanitation: Trash pickup in the 400 Block of 7th Street is not being picked up on a regular basis on Tuesdays which is their assigned day. Mr. Perrotta is sending an email to Fayette Waste at this time.

Thanked Council for what the borough did for Rhys Taylor's passing.

Ty Migliori:

Handicap parking for residents of Donora Towers-
Thank you for putting 4 handicap parking spaces in the lot across the street from Donora Towers

Steps at the parking lot are not handicap accessible

Complained there is not enough handicap parking in the parking lot between the Donora Towers and the Fire Station

Mr. Migliori was advised that the Borough of Donora has nothing to do with the parking lot between the buildings as it is privately owned by Donora Towers. He should be contacting Donora Towers with his request to add additional handicap parking spaces in the parking lot

Complaining about no handicap parking on Meldon Avenue in front of Donora Towers.

Mr. Migliori was advised that the reason there is no parking in front of Donora Towers is due to the fact that it is a FIRE LANE and not for any vehicles except Emergency Vehicles to park there.

Amber Trilli:

867 Thompson Ave - Regarding the newspaper article from the MVI on 07/14/2023, written by Max Robinette:

“While she spoke, Toprani found the property on the repository website and suggested a potential solution.

“The borough doesn’t normally try to acquire properties,” he said. “But this might be one we’d want to get control of. It would at least allow us to perform a demo perhaps.”

Toprani said while government bodies often have limited authority over private property, unpaid taxes give municipalities a foot in the door.

“It wouldn’t surprise me if this property has unpaid taxes. ... We’ll call tax claim and see if we can potentially move on the house,” he said. “I feel like a broken record because I say this every meeting: The Constitution protects bad property owners, too.

“What we have to be able to do, so we don’t violate property rights, is simple: We get title to them. We have certain resources that we can use to perform demolitions. Cleaning up that eyesore will improve property values.

“If you were interested in purchasing those lots, put them back on the tax roll and give you extra space, that seems like something we can do. It’s on the county list tonight — we just have to verify with tax collection before purchasing it.”

Council President Mike McDowell said code enforcement and council members will continue to stay in contact with Trilli and update her on progress.”

Janet Bulko:

Kennywood - Donora Day is Wednesday, August 14, 2024

Summer Bash - August 24, 2024

Will 618 McKean be demolished by then?

Council could not provide a definitive answer to this question as it depends on the Court Documents and Time Frame to demolish the Structure.

Would like to thank Steve Toprani for covering the cost of the Comedy Night Fundraiser.

Janet Takach:
416 Thompson Avenue

States that she has a rodent infestation on and around her property.

Believes it is coming from 414 Thompson Avenue.

Mr. Volpe will check into this matter.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Meeting for upgrades of the building set for Thursday, July 18th
at 10:00 am with Ken Kulak

ADJOURNMENT: 7:02 PM