

The Regular Meeting of the Donora Borough Council was held on November 14, 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 and Mr. Perrotta. Also present were: Mayor Donald Pavelko, Street Department Dean Fronzaglio, Chief Neal Rands, Fire Chief Patsy Vince, Borough Solicitor Steven Toprani and Borough Administrator Michael Thornton.

Opening of Bids

Public Address of Agenda Items

Minutes

Mr. Perrotta requested a motion to approve the October 10, 2024 meeting minutes. Second by Mr. Brice. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Berestecky, Mrs. Brice, Mr. Brice, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Pavelko and Mr. Perrotta (6): Nays: (0) Absent: Mr. Thompson (1) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Finance

Mrs. Pavelko read aloud the Payroll Report for the month of October 2024 - \$63,121.14.

Mrs. Pavelko read aloud the Treasurers Report for the month of October 2024 - \$1,510,116.55.

Mrs. Pavelko made a motion to accept the Payroll Report and Treasurer's Report for the month of October 2024 as read. 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. Perrotta (6) Nays: (0) Absent: Mr. Thompson (1) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mrs. Pavelko made a motion to accept the Bill Report for the month of October 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 and Mr. Perrotta (6) Nays: (0) Absent: Mr. Thompson (1) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mrs. Pavelko made a motion to accept the Tax Collection Report for the month of October 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 and Mr. Perrotta (6) Nays: (0) Absent: Mr. Thompson (1) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mrs. Pavelko made a motion to remove Thomas Thompson from signature cards for all Donora Borough checking accounts at Washington Financial Bank. Second by Mr. Perrotta. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Berestecky, Mrs. Brice, Mr. Brice, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Pavelko and Mr. Perrotta (6) Nays: (0) Absent: Mr. Thompson (1) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mrs. Pavelko made a motion to add Casey J. Perrotta, Council Vice President, to the signature cards for all Donora Borough checking accounts at Washington Financial Bank. 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. Perrotta (6) Nays: (0) Absent: Mr. Thompson (1) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Health, Sanitation and Code Enforcement

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

Building Permit Report – 6 permits/\$620.00 (October)
 Construction cost \$62,000.00 (October)
 YTD: 45 permits/\$157,327.00 – construction cost \$15,811,782.00

Registration Fee Report - \$195.00 (October) / \$26,502.50 (YTD)

Rental Inspection Report - \$150.00 (October) / \$4,990.00 (YTD)

Occupancy Report - \$250.00 (October) / \$4,150.00 (YTD)

Sanitation Report - \$8,241.01 (October) / \$411,542.55 (YTD)

Delinquent Sanitation Fees - \$116.88 (October) / \$2,365.86 (YTD)

Fines Collected - \$561.01 (October)

Street Opening – 0 (October) / 42 (YTD)

Total Street Opening fees: \$0.00 (October) / \$10,500.00 (YTD).

Recreation

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

\$425.00 (October) / \$14,790.00 (YTD)

Community Affairs and Municipal Building

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

\$1,450.00 (October) / \$4,150.00 (YTD)

Mr. McDowell made a motion to approve a resolution to support the Mon Valley Sewage Authority Local Share Account project. 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. Perrotta (6) Nays: (0) Absent: Mr. Thompson (1) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mr. Marracini thanked the council for their support and stated publicly that there will NOT be any increase in the sewage bills for 2025.

Highways and Streets

Public Safety

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

Complaints Answered:	342 (October)	3,221 (YTD)
Ambulance Assists:	4	82
Accident Investigations:	6	77
Burglar Alarms:	0	104
Lock Outs:	1	18
Total Complaints:	353	3,464
Total Offenses Reported:	43	411
Total Arrests:	17	140
Mileage Report:	2,631	23,797
Financial Report:		
Overtime:	\$2,091.98 (Oct)	\$60,333.67 (YTD)
Court Time:	\$0.00 (Oct)	\$2,910.38 (YTD)
Total Revenue Received:	\$2,091.98 (Oct)	\$63,244.05 (YTD)

Mr. Brice made a motion to approve a handicap parking permit at 129 Ida Avenue at the request of Mr. Joseph Federer. Second by Mrs. Pavelko.

Question: Mrs. Pavelko understands that there is a tight parking situation in Cement City. One sided street parking – Mrs. Pavelko would like to table this for further discussion.

Motion by Mr. Perrotta to table this motion. 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 (6) Nays: (0) Absent: Mr. Thompson (1) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mrs. Pavelko made a motion to approve a handicap parking permit at 78 Allen Avenue at the request of Louise Kowall. Second by Mrs. Pavelko. Mr. Fronzaglio advised that there are no issues at the Allen Avenue location. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Berestecky, Mrs. Brice, Mr. Brice, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Pavelko and Mr. Perrotta (6) Nays: (0) Absent: Mr. Thompson (1) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

President of Council: No report.

Mayor: Would like to commend everyone for assisting at the Halloween Parade especially Patrolman Hromada for volunteering his time working the Halloween Parade.

Would like to commend Mr. Fronzaglio and the Street Department for demolishing the blighted buildings in Donora.

Would like to commend Councilman Perrotta.

Twinkle Brite Nite is November 29 from 6pm – 8pm

Public Officials

Mr. Toprani: Letter from Mrs. Judy Gray received November 12, 2024 requesting a copy of the report from her zoning hearing.

Requesting an executive session at 7:00 pm

Chief Rands: No report.

Mr. Fronzaglio: Five properties are demolished, three are remaining. Mr. Thornton explained the situation regarding the Methodist Church at 5th and Thompson regarding the demolition. We attempted to obtain county funding to demolish this building, however the funding was not awarded for this project.

Mr. Vince: No report.

Old Business

New Business

Mr. Perrotta made a motion to amend the agenda to reflect the library funding 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 and Mr. Perrotta (6) Nays: (0) Absent: Mr. Thompson (1) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mrs. Pavelko made a motion to assist the library with \$10,000.00 in funding to erect a fence around their property line. Second by Mr. Perrotta. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Berestecky, Mrs. Brice, Mr. Brice, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Pavelko and Mr. Perrotta (6) Nays: (0) Absent: Mr. Thompson (1) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

St. Andrews Church – They are bringing Thanksgiving dinner to you for all public service officials that are working the holidays.

Non-Agenda Items

Heather Gwaley: Dog situation on 12th Street and Thompson Avenue.

Demolition of house next to their property. Question regarding combining parcel numbers for an open lot.

Roderick Wilson: Tax payments due? Please contact Mrs. Vitalbo for any tax related questions.

Asked Chief Rands to have increased patrols throughout the night on 7th Street.

Mentioned about increased criminal mischief at Donora Elementary Center.

Samantha Shuemaker: The church at 5th and Thompson condemned.

Library funding - \$4,000 is not enough

What about turning the DEC building into an alternative learning center?

Mr. Perrotta made a motion to recess this meeting until Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 6:00pm. Second by Mrs. Pavelko. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Berestecky, Mrs. Brice, Mr. Brice, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Pavelko and Mr. Perrotta (6) Nays: (0) Absent: Mr. Thompson (1) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

RECONVENED COUNCIL MEETING – November 21, 2024 at 6:00 pm

The following members were present: Mr. Berestecky, Mrs. Brice, Mr. Brice, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Pavelko and Mr. Perrotta. Also present were: Mayor Donald Pavelko, Street Department Dean Fronzaglio, Fire Chief Patsy Vince and Borough Administrator Michael Thornton.

Meeting reconvened with discussions regarding the garbage bill increase with an estimate of 1,908 customers. The garbage bill \$365,000.00 divided by 1,900 = \$192.11. Proposal for the garbage bill to be \$240.00 discount rate prior to March 31st, then the flat rate fee of \$300.00 as of April 1st. The borough ordinance states that the garbage bill shall be paid (or postmarked) by June 30th. This ordinance would need to be amended to reflect the new discount date of March 31st.

The landfill is one of the largest hills across the river. Who knows how much longer this landfill is going to exist?

Mr. Perrotta made a motion to approve the following tax rate for the fiscal year of 2025:

Real Estate	8.625 mills	\$1,151,083.10
Fire Tax	0.125 mills	\$16,682.36
Recreation	0.219 mills	\$29,227.50
Library	0.031 mills	\$4,137.23
Occupational Tax	\$3.00	
Per Capita Tax	\$5.00	
Total:	9.0 mills	

Mr. Berestecky has questions regarding the budget. He feels that a 2.113 increase is too much for us to raise.

Second by Mr. Brice. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mrs. Brice, Mr. Brice, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Pavelko and Mr. Perrotta (5) Nays: Mr. Berestecky (1) Absent: Mr. Thompson (1) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mrs. Pavelko made a motion to increase the refuse assessment to \$300.00 per year with a discount amount of \$240.00 up until March 31st. Second by Mr. Brice. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Berestecky, Mrs. Brice, Mr. Brice, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Pavelko and Mr. Perrotta (6) Nays: (0) Absent: Mr. Thompson (1) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mr. Thornton recommends the hiring of a part time street department employee due to the upcoming retirement of street department personnel. In this situation, they can be trained by current employees. Starting rate of \$18/hour, then after 90-day probationary period. With us hiring an employee, there should be no interruptions of service within the department.

Mr. Berestecky made a motion to approve the hiring of a part time employee for the street department for the fiscal year of 2025. Second by Mr. Perrotta. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Berestecky, Mrs. Brice, Mr. Brice, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Pavelko and Mr. Perrotta (6) Nays: (0) Absent: Mr. Thompson (1) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mr. Perrotta made a motion to approve the proposed 2025 budget as presented. Second by Mrs. Pavelko. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mrs. Brice, Mr. Brice, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Pavelko and Mr. Perrotta (5) Nays: Mr. Berestecky (1) Absent: Mr. Thompson (1) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mr. Perrotta made a motion to authorize the quotation of \$10,228.35 from FSN to rewire the borough building for the new phone system, including the internet, phone and fax lines. Second by Mrs. Pavelko. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Berestecky, Mrs. Brice, Mr. Brice, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Pavelko and Mr. Perrotta (6) Nays: (0) Absent: Mr. Thompson (1) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

Mr. Berestecky made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second by Mrs. Pavelko. A vote was taken to the call of roll: Ayes: Mr. Berestecky, Mrs. Brice, Mr. Brice, Mr. McDowell, Mrs. Pavelko and Mr. Perrotta (6) Nays: (0) Absent: Mr. Thompson (1) Abstain: (0) Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

ADJOURNMENT: 7:24 PM