BOROUGH OF DUPONT

LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

600 Chestnut Street | Dupont, Pennsylvania 18641 | 570-655-6216 | www.dupontpa.gov

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 11, 2026

Mayor: Elaine Lello	**Council President: Mark Kowalczyk**
Vice President: Joseph Jones	Council: Joseph Karkut | Robert Price | Bruce Knick
Borough Manager: Tony Guariglia Borough Secretary: Patty McDonald	Solicitor: Eric Dingle | Engineering: CNA Associates

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Council President Mark Kowalczyk called the August 11, 2026 Regular Meeting of Dupont Borough Council to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. President Kowalczyk welcomed Borough Manager Tony Guariglia, PhD, who thanked the Mayor, Council, and residents for the opportunity to serve.

Roll Call: Mark Kowalczyk, Joseph Jones, Joseph Karkut, Robert Price, and Bruce Knick were present. Mayor Elaine Lello was also present. All members were present.

2. APPROVAL OF JULY 14, 2026 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Motion to adopt the minutes of the July 14, 2026 Regular Meeting and place them on file, as corrected.

Correction recorded: the VFW flooring project was awarded to D & M Construction; Hi Tech was the subcontractor and had been listed in error.

Motion by Bruce Knick; second by Joseph Jones.

Roll call vote: Unanimous - Motion carried.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Motion to accept the correspondence.

Motion by Joseph Jones; second by Bruce Knick.

Roll call vote: Unanimous - Motion carried.

4. BILLS FOR PAYMENT

Motion to approve the bills for payment.

Motion by Joseph Karkut; second by Robert Price.

Roll call vote: Unanimous - Motion carried.

5. PART-TIME POLICE OFFICERS

Motion to appoint part-time police officers from August 11, 2026 through the next regular meeting of Council, with no guarantee of work.

Officers appointed: Bryan Besecker, Jennifer Kumpas, Christopher Fargione, Joseph Delaney, and Mitchell Rennick.

Motion by Joseph Jones; second by Joseph Karkut.

Roll call vote: Unanimous - Motion carried.

6. REPORTS

Treasurer

The Treasurer's report was presented. Fund and account balances were reported for the General Fund, Payroll Fund, ARPA account, administrative and police debit-card accounts, Refuse Fund, Sewer Maintenance Fund, Liquid Fuels Fund, Police Pension Fund, Special Fund, Clock Memorial Fund, and Fire Victims Fund.

Tax Collector

The Tax Collector's report for July 2026 reported total collections of $2,891.16.

Mayor

No separate Mayor's report was presented at this point in the agenda.

Police

The monthly Police Department activity report was presented, including calls and incidents, vehicle information, and magistrate fines of $910.20.

Solicitor

Solicitor Eric Dingle reported on concerns involving e-bikes. He advised that available municipal sample ordinances generally apply only to municipal property and that broader regulation of roadway use is limited. PennDOT guidance has been requested, and the Solicitor will report back when additional information is received.

Engineer

- Grant eligibility questions remain under review regarding proposed electrical/upgrades work; the prior grant administrator is no longer in that position.
- No further DEP response had been received regarding the Borough's Growing Greener grant correspondence.
- The sewer matter near 300 Gill was believed resolved, but documentation, photographs, and/or video remained outstanding.
- A DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund application was submitted with an estimated project cost of approximately $1.3 million.
- Preliminary Collins Creek plans were presented. Additional neighbor input and field review were recommended before DEP permitting and bidding.
- MS4 outfall inspections were completed, and the annual report was on schedule for submission by the end of August. Future permit cycles are expected to include changed requirements.

Fire Department

The Fire Department reported 26 calls for July: 6 paid-staff responses and 20 volunteer responses. Calls included motor vehicle accidents, structure fires, wires down, EMS assists, a vehicle fire, a hazmat incident, a flooded basement, investigations, and a tree-down call. Mutual-aid activity included responses in Dupont, Hughestown, Avoca, and Duryea.

EMS

Hughestown EMS reported 41 responses into Dupont during July. The ambulance also attended Dupont's 250th anniversary celebration. An additional Chevy 3500 ambulance has been ordered and is expected to be completed in late 2027.

Emergency Management

The EMA Coordinator reported attendance at quarterly training featuring the American Red Cross and advised that additional direct-contact information was provided to improve emergency response coordination. Participation in the upcoming Talen Energy federally evaluated drill was also reported.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement reported 13 notices of violation, 10 citations issued through the magistrate, and 7 rental inspections completed.

Crime Watch

Crime Watch reported that the 250th Anniversary/Party in the Park event was well attended. The planned movie was not shown because of technical difficulties and is expected to be rescheduled indoors in September. The next Crime Watch meeting was announced for August 25 in Council Chambers.

Land Bank

No Land Bank meeting was held. A pending property matter was discussed with the Land Bank and a response remained outstanding.

Greater Pittston Regional Compost Facility

A grant application for a replacement grinder/chipper is due in September. Avoca will sponsor the application, Pittston Township will co-sponsor, and coordination will continue with Dupont. The group favored seeking equipment similar to the existing machine rather than a substantially more expensive larger unit.

Council President

- July refuse/recycling totals were reported as 65.12 tons of trash, 4.39 tons of commingled recyclables, and 7.85 tons of paper. Vehicle mileage was also reported.
- A PennDOT Multimodal grant application remains pending for portions of Penn Avenue, Wyoming Avenue, Lackawanna Avenue, Everhart Street, and Spruce Street. A verbal indication was reported as favorable, with formal action still pending.

- A separate DCED grant application submitted July 31 includes additional street work, including portions of Liberty Street and Stanton Street.
- An emergency sewer-line condition on Skytop Drive was reviewed. The damaged section appears associated with a prior water-service installation; the Borough will proceed with repair and may pursue recovery from the responsible party.
- A pump-station electrical issue followed a lightning event; North End Electric was contacted.
- Quail Hill pavement-repair negotiations remain ongoing.
- PennDOT indicated that paving from Quail Hill toward Dupont and Avoca is planned as a separate project for next year.
- The VFW flooring project was reported approximately 85% complete.
- Public Works will be scheduled to address smaller roadway, drainage, and blacktop repair areas as soon as practicable.

Motion to accept the reports as presented.

Motion by Joseph Karkut; second by Joseph Jones.

Roll call vote: Unanimous - Motion carried.

7. ACTION ITEMS AND MOTIONS

Luzerne County Act 13 Grant Application

Council approved submission of an Act 13 application for handicapped-access improvements and playground-related improvements at Memorial Park, including an ADA-compliant access route at the Elm Street/front entrance. The anticipated grant request was discussed at approximately $40,000.

Motion by Joseph Jones; second by Robert Price.

Roll call vote: Unanimous - Motion carried.

2027 Non-Uniform Pension Plan Minimum Municipal Obligation

Council approved the 2027 financial requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation for the non-uniform pension plan in the amount of $4,340 and appointed Mark Kowalczyk as Chief Administrative Officer.

Motion by Joseph Jones; second by Robert Price.

Roll call vote: Unanimous - Motion carried.

2027 Police Pension Plan Minimum Municipal Obligation

Council approved the 2027 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the police pension plan in the amount of $0 and appointed Mark Kowalczyk as Chief Administrative Officer.

Motion by Joseph Jones; second by Robert Price.

Roll call vote: Unanimous - Motion carried.

Municipal Recovery Recycling Agreement

Council approved a three-year agreement with Municipal Recovery for recycling services for commingled plastics and cans, excluding glass, at $20.00 per ton.

Motion by Bruce Knick; second by Robert Price.

Roll call vote: Unanimous - Motion carried.

Borough Cell Phone/Line for Cybersecurity

Council approved purchase of a Borough cell phone/line through the Borough's carrier for general municipal use, primarily to provide a single Borough-controlled point for multi-factor authentication and banking/security authorization codes.

Motion by Joseph Jones; second by Joseph Karkut.

Roll call vote: Unanimous - Motion carried.

Grant-Required Change Orders

Council approved and authorized payment of grant-required bond/change-order costs related to the garage/security entrance and VFW project under D & M Construction: garage - $1,740; security entrance - $1,596.

Motion by Joseph Jones; second by Robert Price.

Roll call vote: Unanimous - Motion carried.

Skytop Drive Sewer Line Repair

Council approved the estimate and work for repair of the Skytop Drive sewer line in the amount of $12,850. The matter was discussed as a necessary repair, with funding to come from the Sewer Maintenance Fund.

Motion by Joseph Jones; second by Joseph Karkut.

Roll call vote: Unanimous - Motion carried.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Towing services. Mr. Miller asked about the Borough's towing arrangements. Council advised that a formal plan is being developed with the Police Department, Council, and Mayor for consideration by the September meeting. Insurance, licensing, emergency coverage, preference for qualified local providers, and the possibility of a bid process were discussed.

Liberty Street. A resident asked about Liberty Street paving and pothole conditions. Council advised that Liberty Street is included in a pending grant application and that temporary patching/repair work will be scheduled through Public Works while grant funding is pending.

Refuse bags and stickers. Questions were raised regarding the transition to refuse bags and the continued use of existing stickers. Council indicated that bags are expected for the new year and that a transition period for existing stickers will be established, with final details still to be determined.

9. COUNCIL AND MAYOR COMMENTS

- Council requested that the towing procedure and refuse bag/sticker transition be finalized so residents can receive clear and consistent information.
- Council members welcomed Borough Manager Tony Guariglia and recognized his work with Borough staff and technology/administrative improvements.
- Council members thanked Crime Watch, volunteers, participants, and residents for the successful Dupont 250th Anniversary/Party in the Park event.
- Mayor Lello announced a food drive for August 27 and cautioned residents against relying on unconfirmed social-media information regarding refuse stickers and bags.
- President Kowalczyk announced a Polish Club outing planned for Saturday, September 12. The first block of Elm Street is expected to be closed for safety during the event.
- Council discussed recognition received through the Land Bank for rehabilitation of a previously blighted property in Dupont and requested that a copy of the recognition be displayed at Borough Hall.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of Dupont Borough Council was announced for Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION

These minutes were approved by Dupont Borough Council on Sept 8, 2026, as presented / as corrected.

Borough Manager