The Regular Monthly Meeting of Dupont Borough Council was called to order at 6:00pm on Tuesday evening, December 10, 2024 by President of Council Stanley Knick Jr.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence for past council member Joseph Timinski Jr.

Roll Call:

Mr. Knick – Present
Mr. Karkut – Present
Mr. Jones – Present
Mr. Kowalczyk – Present
Mr. Price – Present
Mayor Lello - Present

MOTION TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2024 REGULAR MEETING AND PLACE ON FILE.
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
Second: Mr. Jones
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO ACCEPT CORRESPONDENCE.
Motion: Mr. Karkut
Second: Mr. Jones
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
Second: Mr. Jones
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO APPOINT PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS FROM DECEMBER 10, 2024 TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL WITH NO GUARANTEE OF WORK: Bryan Besecker, Duane Saunders, Jennifer Polemitis, Christopher Fargione, Michael Sniscak, Brian Morris, Eric Danaher, Brian Jacobosky
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
Second: Mr. Jones
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Submitted by Albert B. Melone Company
General Fund - $60,965.52
Payroll Fund - $18,762.50
ARPA Fund - $8,786.27
Admin Debit Card - $87.07
Police Debit Card - $131.34
Refuse Fund - $141,929.93
Sewer Maintenance Fund - $369,656.87
Liquid Fuels Fund - $108,368.67
Police Pension Fund - $1,082,758.23
Special Fund -$13,453.84
Clock Fund - $415.06

Tax Collector's Report: Submitted by Susan Gregory Tax Collector
Check deposited into the General Fund in the amount of $748.57 for November
Balance Collectable Beginning of Month - $20.596.52
Balance Collectable End of Month - $19,916.01
Face Amount of Collections: $680.51
Penalties: $68.06

Mayor Report: None

Police Report: Councilman Jones read the November report submitted by Chief Sean Doran
Criminal arrests-6; traffic citations issued-74; non traffic citations issued-2; appearances in county court-1; appearances in magisterial court-15; motor vehicle accidents-7; assist to EMS/Fire-16; assist to other police dept.-18; alarms-4; burglaries-1; thefts-2; vandalism-2; disorderly conduct-6; domestic reports-11; suspicious activity-5; dui arrest-1; assault/harassment-4; drug offense-2; miscellaneous calls-75; building checks-32; code enforcement/rental inspection-2; Vehicle Mileage: F150 – 62,901; #2 Explorer-29,830; #3 Explorer-29,166. Magistrate Fines Collected - $5,432.66.

Fire Dept. Report: Chief Donald Hudzinski Jr. reported the following for November:
Total Incidents-33; Paid Staff Responses-14; Volunteer Responses-19; Incident Type: Motor Vehicle Accidents-8; EMS Assist-3; CO Alarm-1; Residential Structure Fire:3; FD Investigation-1; Aircraft Incident-1; Vehicle Fire-1; Wires Down-10; Brush Fire-2; Rental Inspection-2; Public Assist-1; Jurisdiction: Dupont Borough-20; Hughestown Borough-6; Avoca Borough-3; Duryea Borough-1;Pittston Township-1; PA Turnpike-2.

EMA Report: EMA Coordinator Joseph Jones reported the following: Snow storm was the only issue this month. EMA,Fire, and DPW was out taking care of all the wires that came down. We had 10 actual 911 calls for wires down, but triple that in phone calls to the office or people flagging us down. 911 was overwhelmed with calls.

Code Enforcement Report: Councilman Joseph Jones reported the following: 13 notice of violations issued for the month, 4 non-traffic citations issued. After tonight we will be getting the IWORQ system in place to make it easier for the officers and the paid firefighters to upload the code enforcement and rental inspection reports.

Solicitor's Report: None

Engineer's Report: Bob Naegele reported the two projects being worked on currently are the Multimodal Paving Project which is pretty much complete. Payment application came in from Pennsy Supply. The change order deducts $238,996.60 and that brings us under the grant allotment. The grant was 778,000 this project came in at 773,000 so we have $5,000 left. There was discussion on patching the section of Lidy Road. That price came in at roughly $13,800.00. Patty and I discussed this numbers wise, and it is up to council to make the decision. The $5,000 left in grant has to be used or sent back. Patty was looking at the ARPA funds to be used as the overages on the stormwater part of the project since it came in under those numbers. That amount is a little shy of $9,000. The paving plant has shut down for the season. The contractor would come back in the spring to do that. We were out today apparently there are some liftingof pavement on Walnut Street. We have a maintenance bond they are still under contract. Pennsy is good with returning to the project site to remedy any problems. They will be back to make those repairs and the other work if council approves it. Stan stated we should look into that intersection and get another price to extend paving up to the bridge on Lidy Road in the spring. Perhaps an overlay on that section. Bob stated to do the additional work on Lidy doesn't require a change order because we are within the grant. Bob passed out the payment application copies to council members.

Second, the Basketball Court at Hemlock Park. They are making progress but it doesn't seem we will get the blacktop down. We are working with the contractor to see what they want to do or how they want to proceed. The basket poles are in, the bench poles are in, the fence poles are in. The fencing cannot be done until the blacktop is done. In addition to that the two grants for that area total $339,000. The base bid on that was $252,000. We added the lighting, permanent drive from Hemlock to the existing blacktop area, $9800. We did take some credits for sidewalk and grass restoration. The savings on that came out to $8500. The lighting is about $30,000. All these changes leave a balance $53,757.00. We are using some of the funds from the next phase to complete this part. That again is a council decision.

Crime Watch Report: Bob Price noted the November meeting was held and plans were finalized for the December 14th Childrens Christmas Party. Time is 4 to 6 pm. Members decorated the outside Christmas tree on December 8th. Bob again invited council, mayor and residents and childrens to attend. There is no meeting in December. The next meeting will be January 28th at 7 pm.

Council President's Report: Stanley reported the following: Trash – 62.06 tons; comingle – 5.27 tons; paper – 9.94 tons. Mileage: Packer -7,020; F550 – 54,059; C3500 – 15,102; Green Pickup – 9,664.

(1) Pump station – Nov. 22 storm caused power outage at the pump station, North end Electric went out and rented a generator which is still on site. There is a problem with the three phase converter and a new one is ordered. Once we confirm there is no need for the generator it will be returned. There is an insurance claim opened for this issue.
(2) Remind everyone snow plowing takes priority over trash and recycling picku
(3) To date 95 building permits were issued through BHW.
(4) (4) Refuse bills are ready for pickup and payment. The mailing will go out after the holiday.

MOTION TO ACCEPT REPORTS:
Motion: Mr. Karkut
Second: Mr. Jones
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

At this time, President Knick introduced Michael Fiorelli, Fiorelli Associates for the 2023 audit presentation.

Michael Fiorelli provided council and mayor with copies of the audit report. He began that his office is issuing an unmodified or clean opinion of the governmental funds as of year end 2023. An unmodified report is the highest level of insurance you can give of an audit, financial status.

Mr. Fiorelli read sections of the report:
Page 6 - Total Revenue - $2.1 Million
Total Expenditures - $2.1 Million
Revenues over expenditures - $39,000
Other financing sources – $6,600
Revenues over expenses general fund - $46,000
General Fund fund balance - $283,000

Mr. Fiorelli went over the grant projects - federal and state
Quail Hill Project - $500,000
Lidy Creek - $197,000
Packer Purchase - $246,000
Those were funded with state grants. The police and admin was through Luzerne County - $100,000. Adding those up is over $1 Million in state and federal grants. It is a lot of work to acquire those grants, then to administer them. This is not the first year that this has happened. Last few years we have received significant grant funding. I believe 2024 is going to be the same. I believe the Borough Secretary does a good job along with council.

Mr. Fiorelli went over the other fund balances:
Sewer Maintenance Fund brought in $98,000; Spent $85,000 Profit $4,400 Fund Balance $387,000
Refuse Fund - $165,000 Spent $156,000 Transferred $4,300 into general fund for some of the costs of packer $81,000
Liquid Fuels - $104,000 Spent $76,0000 Balance $210,000
Total Fund Balance as of 12-31-2023 = $963,000.

The money in sewer fund is committed to sewer projects, refuse for refuse related projects and the liquid fuels is restricted, outside agency that restricts use to roads and bridges.

Mr. Fiorelli also noted the borough staff were very cooperative and helpful during our examination. With no questions from those in attendance, Stan continued the meeting.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2023 BOROUGH AUDIT PREPARED BY FIORELLI ASSOCIATES.
Motion: Mr. Karkut
Second: Mr. Kowalczyk
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

Reading of Insurance Proposal from Risk Strategies (Joyce Insurance)
Ellen read the proposal breakdown provided.
Commercial Package Quote 2025-26 - $43,944 Expiring Premium - $40,012
Workers Compensation Quote 2025-26 $37,408 Expiring Premium - $35,630
Total Quote for 2025-26 $81,352 Expiring Premium - $75,642

MOTION TO APPROVE INSURANCE PACKAGE FOR 2025 THROUGH RISK STRATEGIES (Joyce Insurance)
Motion: Mr. Price
Second: Mr. Jones
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH PITTSTON CITY FOR IWORQ PROGRAM $2000
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
Second: Mr. Karkut
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO READ THE 2025 BOROUGH BUDGET AND 2025 TAX ORDINANCE
Motion: Mr. Price
Second: Mr. Kowalczyk
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

Ellen read the 2025 Budget as Follows:
General Fund - $918,200
Refuse Fund - $167,650
Liquid Fuels Fund - $97,000
Sewer Maintenance - $71,730
Special Fund - $13,453.84
Total for all operating budgets for 2025 - $1,268,033.84

MOTION TO ADOPT THE 2025 BOROUGH BUDGET AND TAXING ORDINANCE
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Kowalczyk
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

APPROVE SALE OF LEAF VAC TO PITTSTON CITY PER PROPOSAL $30,000
Mr. Kowalczyk questioned where the money will be applied, to what fund. Stan stated it can go into the street fund. Mark stated it was meant for street/drain cleaning. This can be discussed later.
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Kowalczyk
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

APPROVE TWO YEAR AGREEMENT WITH MUNICIPAL RECOVERY FOR 2025 RECYCLING NO GLASS
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Price
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

APPROVE TRANSFER OF $8785.53 FROM ARPA TO GENERAL FUND FOR STORMWATER AND STREET IMPROVEMENTS
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Kowalczyk
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER FOR MULTISCAPE FOR BASKETBALL PROJECT
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
Second: Mr. Jones
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER FOR PENNSY SUPPLY PAVING PROJECT
Motion: Mr. Price
Second: Mr. Karkut
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO APPROVE TO PAY ALL BILLS VERIFIED THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
Second: Mr. Karkut
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO ABSOLVE TAX COLLECTOR OF THE 2024 DUPLICATE
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Kowalczyk
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO APPROVE TO CLOSE ALL BOOKS AND RECORDS OF DUPONT BOROUGH FOR CALENDAR YEAR AND FISCAL YEAR 2024 AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
Second: Mr. Karkut
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO APPROVE PEOPLES SECURITY BANK AS DEPOSITORY FOR ALL BOROUGH ACCOUNTS FOR 2025
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Price
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO APPROVE ALL CURRENT APPOINTMENTS FOR 2025: Fiorelli Associates, Colwell Naegele Associates, Erik Dingle, Albert B. Melone Company
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Kowalczyk
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

Matters from Residents:

Mike Deangelo, McLean Street residents – Lengthy conversation with council and code enforcement officer on issues within McLean Street properties with regard to code violations.

Another issue was regarding trees overhanging properties - Councilman Kowalczyk responded. DPW employee Mike Meholic also responded.

Councilman Kowalczyk's response - You as a property owner can trim a tree straight up from property line. A homeowner is not responsible for a tree against an act of God unless there is something wrong with the tree. If you see a tree half dead you can report it and then the homeowner is responsible for pruning it or cutting it down so that no damage can be done. If it is a natural tree and there is nothing wrong with it and it is hanging over property you cannot force the homeowner to trim it.

Mike Deangelo asked who can he contact to take a look at a tree to see if it is healthy or not. Mark stated a certified arborist. DPW employee Mike Meholic knows a certified arborist from Penn State and he does multiple towns in the area.

Sabah Demace, McLean Street – Code enforcement question responded to by Officer Tamburello.

Matters from Council and Mayor:
Joseph Jones – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Mark Kowalczyk – Verification from Bob, Park Grant balance is about $53,757.00. Mark asked when the grant expires. Bob will check with Patty and get back to him. Is it an option to finish the parking area. Can we meet after New Years while they are there to figure out what we are going to finish with the remaining money. One other idea Bob noted was the drop off and possibly filling that in. Mark is

looking at finishing the parking area and then moving on with the field behind at a later time. A meeting will be set in January. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mayor Lello – Addressing McLean Street residents for sticking together like glue. That is commendable for today. You don't go to a neighborhood where everyone loves their neighbors. I see a big hot dog party in your yard. They agree they have a great neighborhood. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Joseph Karkut – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Stan Knick – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Please keep letting us know and we will look into all concerns. If it wasn't for the residents having pride in this town, we wouldn't have a town.

Robert Price – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia McDonald
Borough Secretary

Adopted and Approved

Stanley Knick Jr.
Council President