The regular meeting of Dupont Borough Council was called to order on Tuesday evening, July 14, 2026 at 6:03pm by President of Council Mark Kowalczyk.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

Mr. Kowalczyk announced an advertised executive session was held at 5:15 pm for personnel and legal matters.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 9, 2026 REGULAR MEETING AND PLACE ON FILE.
Motion: Mr. Karkut
Second: Mr. Jones
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Knick, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

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

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

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF CHRISTOPHER FARGIONE AS FULL TIME POLICE OFFICER AND OFFICER JENNIFER ANDERSON AS FULL TIME POLICE OFFICER. OFFICER FARGIONE & OFFICER ANDERSON REQUEST TO STAY ON AS PART TIME.
Motion: Mr. Karkut
Second: Mr. Price
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Knick, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO APPOINT THE PART TIME POLICE FROM JULY 14, 2026 TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL WITH NO GUARANTEE OF WORK: Bryan Besecker, Jennifer Kumpas, Michael Sniscak, Eric Danaher, Joseph Delaney, Mitchell Rennick, Christopher Fargione, Jennifer Anderson.
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Karkut
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Knick, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

REPORTS:
Treasurer's Report – Submitted by Albert B. Melone Company
General Fund - $55,661.60
Payroll Fund - $3,811.88
ARPA Fund - $$.38
Admin 4249 Debit Card - $146.74
Police 2121 Debit Card - $764.18
Refuse Fund - $151,515.41
Sewer Maintenance Fund - $446,860.97
Liquid Fuels - $144,637.23
Police Pension Fund - $1,180,257.90
Special Fund - $25,320.34
Clock Memorial Fund - $102.14
Fire Victims Fund - $60.12

Tax Collector's Report: Submitted by Susan Gregory, Tax Collector
Balance Collectable – Beginning of Month - $ 55,820.50
Less Face Collections for the Month - $14,259.27
Plus Penalties - $45.35
Less Discounts - $30.94
Total Collected and Deposited into General Fund - $ 14,273.68

Mayor's Report: None

Police Report - Chief Doran read the June 2026 report as follows:
criminal arrests-2; traffic citations issued-34, nontraffic citations issued -5, appearances in county court-7, appearances in magisterial court-14, motor vehicle accidents-7, assist to ems/fire – 6; assist to other police dept. – 5, thefts-2, vandalism-4, disorderly conduct-9, pfa violations/service – 2, domestic reports-5, suspicious activity-3, dui arrest – 1, assault/harassment-3, drug offense-1, miscellaneous calls-26, building checks-32. Mileage: Car #1 – F-150, 77,131; Car #2 – Charger – 63,575, Car #3 Explorer – 40,463. Magistrate Fines Collected - $975.85.

Solicitor's Report: None

Engineer's Report: (1) Pump Station – Three Phase Power - Bob explained the conversations with PP&L with regard to issues at the pump station. Estimate is about $144,000. There may be additional costs to moving controls and upgrades. Need to verify that the grant will cover the costs to run power from McAlpine Street to the pump station. We can install VFD's but three phase is a long term solution but more costly. LSA Grant, $190,000 Expires 6-30-28. (2) Flood Channel inspection occurred. (3) The final EAP report was done. The flood impact study. (4) Growing Greener Grant – DEP came out with their Notice of Violation Letter and at the site meeting we were told it would be an inspection report. We had thirty days to respond. We did respond within the deadline with an itemized response to each of the questions or concerns. (5) Mike Fenick met with representative from Sacred Heart Church regarding parking and line painting. Walnut has concerns such as parking, driveways, parking on the opposite side from the church. Options are proposing no parking certain hours or you can restrict to parallel parking. Mr. Karkut added his comments with mass times and Mrs. Ziobro asked about angle parking like on Wyoming Avenue. Bob explained angle parking and Mrs. Ziobro brought up not following the no parking signs. Bob explained legal issues, not doing it properly and have clearances or have traffic issues and

something happens. Mark stated Wyoming Avenue is a one way street. Mark stated if it is a one way, Everhart cannot handle the traffic. That light only lets a few cars out. Bob stated angle parking can add three feet and maybe that is all that is needed. Mrs. Ziobro stated she parks in her driveway. The neighbors park on the street. Mr. Ziobro stated now they jump the curb, park on the grass and feels with the large parking lot they should be using that lot. Mark asked Mr. & Mrs. Ziobro if they objected to no parking signs from their driveway to the corner. Mr. Ziobro stated would it be during church attendance or all the time. Mark stated all the time. Mr. Ziobro said thinking about that, his visitors park there. Mark agreed to leave this open for further discussion. Bob suggested meeting with the Church again and mentioned the concerns expressed here. (6) Sewer Issue on 300 Gill Street - we are not exactly sure what happened noting that DPW Mike was there and sent pictures. Looking at what he sent, there were two laterals up there. One was a 2 inch to a 4 inch connected to the main. The other four inch was not connected to the main. What is interesting is that the gas line is on that side of the road where the lateral was not connected was replaced about four years ago before we paved Gill Street. If it is not a full house it can take a few years to realize there is a problem with the sewer, especially if there was a second lateral connection. Bob was also made aware that the water company did work up there about a year ago. He does not know how the lateral was disconnected but it was terminated in the ground that caused the problem. The question is how to we prove what happened. It seems that one of the utility companies created the problem. The sewer was operational for 35 years and all of a sudden two utility companies did work and now there is a problem. Stan Knick added he was there and the one lateral was patched. There was a boot and coupler on there, so someone touched it. Bob passed on some of the pictures to council. Bob will get with Mike to write up a report and hand it off to Erik to see if you want to leverage the two utility companies. The bill from Rossi Rooter is $7800. (7) Working on Collins Creek Bank Stabilization Project. I should have a draft for council review prior to the next meeting. It may not be a bad idea to invite some of the residents that wanted this project or are affected by the project. (8) The garage and police addition are on going. He thought they were going to pour the floor this week. They are waiting to get the shingles on the police addition roof. (9) Wayco Paving project is complete. Mike provided Wayco the punch list. (10) We will be starting the MS4 outfall inspections this week. Patty stated she received the permit invoice from DEP for $500 for MS4. She will send a copy to Mike for his files.

Mark asked Bob about the three phase power for the pump station. Bob agreed it is the most stable solution. The grant expires we believe 2027. Bob will email the grant agency to verify it will cover the power upgrades and control upgrades as part of the grant. There is single phase there now. You can upgrade it and convert to three phase or you run the three phase and still use the VFD controls to control the power.

Fire Dept. Report: Chief Hudzinski read the report for June as follows:
Total incidents-10; Paid staff responses-2; volunteer responses-8. Motor vehicle accident-2, fire police-2, wires down-1, EMS assist-1, Vehicle Fire-1, Search-1, Hazmat-1, Gas Leak-1. Dupont Borough-8, Hughestown Borough-1, Avoca Borough-1.

EMS Report - Mr. Jones reported Hughestown EMS responded 33 times into Dupont in the month of June.

EMA Report – Mr. Jones will be attending the quarterly training two weeks from today and will be there as the public information officer in August.

Code Enforcement Report - Mr. Jones noted Chris Yacovelli issued 11 notices of violations, 12 citations with magistrate and 9 rental inspections were completed in June.

Crime Watch Report: Bob Price reported they are moving forward with the 250th celebration for July 25th. There is a meeting tonight following the council meeting to discuss the event. There will be another meeting next Tuesday to finalize the plans.

Landbank Report - Bob Price attended the last meeting. There are two properties next on the list. One in Duryea and one in Pittston. There is legislation being proposed right now to get more money for additional projects. Patty added there was a recent article in the paper featuring the new home through the Landbank project on Coolidge Street in Dupont. Pittston City was awarded the Community Partnership Award for 2026 for the project. Joe Chacke will travel to California in October to accept the award at the ICMA Annual Conference. Bob added the Landbank received an award from the State for the work they have done so far.

Compost Report - Bruce updated Council that two front tires on the loader and thanked employee Jodi Mitchell for staying after hours with McCarthy until it was done.

Council President Report – Trash 81.62 tons, 4.41 tons comingle, Paper 8.12 tons. Mileage on the vehicles: Packer – 12,731; 3500 – 27,536. Mark updated council on the motions for several grant applications including more street paving. Wayco completed what we could spend out of the liquid fuels and they did a great job with the patch project. We are going after full streets. Grants take time to be approved. We already have the first set in with the PennDOT multimodal. We are waiting on approval for that. I am going to ask for a motion for the DCED multimodal grant which is a continuation of some of the streets we applied for in the original grant and adding some other streets that are in disrepair and need paving. We tried to do one street done with the liquid fuels but did not have enough money to do at the time. Another grant will go in for a dump truck with plow and spreader and other small equipment as well. Luzerne County Office of Community Development grant application to replace the culvert on Walnut Street between Gill and Everhart. We have done patch work on that in the past but need a permanent replacement. Construction on the garage is going well. Memorial Park is next that should be in the fall.

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

MOTION TO ALLOW ENGINEER AND PATTY TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE THREE PHASE ELECTRIC IF THE GRANT ALLOWS
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Price
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Knick, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO APPOINT WHETHER FULL TIME OR PART TIME BOROUGH MANAGER AS ADVERTISED:
Motion by Mr. Jones, to appoint Tony Guariglia as a part time borough manager and also with this motion to keep Patty McDonald on as borough secretary for up to 20 hours a week.
Second: Mr. Knick
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Knick, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION APPROVING PAYMENT TO WAYCO FOR PAVE PATCH PROJECT FROM LIQUID FUELS FUND. $51,863 (61,310- 9,447 CHANGE ORDER)
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Karkut
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Knick, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION APPROVING PAYMENT TO WACO FOR STORM DRAIN PROJECT FROM SEWER MAINTENANCE FUND $20,100. Mark explained that is for 2 drains on Hillside and the drain and pipe 100 block of Center Street
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Price
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Knick, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

At this point, Patty asked on the motion for borough manager did all council say yes. Council responded yes.

MOTION APPROVING SUBMITTAL OF QUESTIONNAIRE FOR 2027 FUNDING TO LUZERNE COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR REPLACEMENT OF WALNUT STREET CULVERT BETWEEN GILL AND EVERHART WITHIN LOW TO MODERATE INCOME AREA $309,504
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Karkut
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Knick, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #6 OF 2026 FOR GRANT APPLICATION TO BE SUBMITTED UNDER DCED MULTIMODAL GRANT PROGRAM FOR PAVING STREETS: Sections of Liberty, section of Stanton, Sections of Everhart, Lackawanna, Wyoming, Penn
Motion: Mr. Karkut
Second: Mr. Knick
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Knick, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION # 7 OF 2026 FOR GRANT APPLICATION TO BE SUBMITTED UNDER LSA LUZERNE COUNTY FOR TWO POLICE SUVS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT $124,753.49
Motion: Mr. Karkut
Second: Mr. Price
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Knick, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #8 OF 2026 FOR GRANT APPLICATION TO BE SUBMITTED UNDER LSA LUZERNE COUNTY FOR DPW EQUIPMENT UPGRADES INCLUDING 1 TON DUMP TRUCK WITH PLOW AND SPREADER, MINI EXCAVATOR, AND XMARK MOWER
Motion: Mr. Knick
Second: Mr. Jones
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Knick, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO APPROVE APPLICATION BE SUBMITTED UNDER LUZERNE COUNTY ACT 13 FOR RECREATION EQUIPMENT, PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT, PAVILION OR GAZEBO FOR MEMORIAL PARK
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Karkut
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Knick, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO HAVE SOLICITOR SUBMIT COUNTER SETTLEMENT REQUEST UNDER CLAIM # 64035 ASTOUND ROAD REPAIR CLAIM QUAIL HILL Original Cost: $12,500 increased since then to $14,000 Offer from Insurance $8,500 Patty asked if we are agreeing to the $8500? Erik responded he is being given permission to negotiate a settlement.
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Price
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Knick, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE SETTLEMENT FROM FARMERS INSURANCE FOR THE GUARRAIL DAMAGE ON NAVY WAY ROAD Original Cost Estimate: $1704 Insurance Amt. $572.76
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Karkut
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Knick, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

Mr. Kowalczyk noted the E-Bike Ordinance is off the agenda until next month pending further review.

MOTION 2027 Refuse - **MOTION TO MOVE FORWARD AND APPROVE REFUSE BAGS OR STICKERS FOR 2027 REFUSE COLLECTION AND HOLD ON CONSIDERING PRIVATE HAULER UNTIL 2028**
Motion: Mr. Jones to approve refuse bags and hold off on private hauler
Mr. Evanchick asked for the motion to be repeated and asked what about stickers left over can people use them. Mark stated it will be discussed but we will allow them to be used for a limited amount of time or up to a certain point. The main motion is to go ahead with the bags for next year. There will be a window where you can use them. You will not be cut off in January.
Second: Mr. Karkut
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Knick, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

MOTION TO AWARD VFW FLOORING PROJECT TO HI TECH FLOORING (costars)
Note: Correction noted at the August 11th meeting – AWARD PROJECT TO D&M CONSTRUCTION.
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Karkut
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Knick, yes.
Motion Carried 5/0.

Matters from Residents:

At this time, Patty asked the start date for the Borough Manager. Mr. Kowalczyk responded July 27, two weeks. And, Patty asked if there is anyone on council that has a former relationship with the borough manager being hired that would affect their decision and maybe abstain from the vote. Mr. Knick and Mr. Kowalczyk noted they do know the person.

Alberta Warunek, Penn Avenue asked several questions with regard to the new hire and whether if anyone from Dupont applied. The response was the position was field based on the interviews held and his experience. It is part time. There are certain duties for the position. Patty will be staying on part time that was part of the motion. Patty stated the new borough manager will be here at the next council meeting and everyone will get to meet him. Mark stated people in Dupont do not like change. We are taking the smart road. Let's try it. Time will tell. Patty has been asking for me to fill the position since I became President. Patty is hoping to complete the projects underway with previous awarded grants. Let's give him a chance and see what happens.

Mr. Evanchick – Resolution 6 grant for paving. What is the timeline on that. Mark noted they open in July and are due by September. They should be awarded in the fall. Bob Naegele added with the budget being passed, it should be on schedule. Mr. Evanchick asked what are our chances of getting it. Mark explained we have an excellent chance of getting it but the point is how much will we get. That goes with any grant. Sometimes we have a little left over and can go further, and sometimes we don't have enough and have to cut back on the scope of work. We are applying for everything we can.
Mr. Evanchick questioned the discussion last month pertaining to trash. Mark noted it was a minor discussion to look into private hauler and we are tabling that. Right now it is not being considered for 2027 and may not be considered for 2028. Times change as we move on and it is basically what is good for the town. We have to leave our options open Mark said.

Mr. Evanchick asked if the Refuse Fund covers the total costs for picking up the refuse or is it funded from other sources. Does the refuse fund self-sustain the refuse expenses. Stan Knick noted last year, the refuse fund had a surplus after everything was paid.

Stanley Knick - Questioned if they are going to demolish the fire damaged home. Mr. Jones explained he was there and there was no insurance on the property. Code Enforcement was there and posted unfit for habitation stickers. BHW was called to inspect the home and condemn it. They were advised they have to clean up the yard and get a plan in place to get rid of the property. They put it up for sale and there have been several people interested in buying it. Mr. Evanchick added it is listed on Zillow for $25,000. Stanley Knick addressed Bob Price to see if the Landbank would purchase it for $25,000. Mr. Jones agreed that is a great idea. Stan also stated at the same token, it would be additional to rip the building down.

Sharon Ziobro – Just an observation, the apartment building across from the church. At the last meeting we mentioned that building playing the game of putting the garbage out after the guys pick it up on Thursday or Friday. I don't know if anyone talked to them, but it worked for one week. Now they are putting it out again on Wednesday and Thursday again. There was a bear on Lackawanna Avenue and it went right for the bags. Patty stated she spoke with the owner and he said I guess it is time to sell the building. The Borough should be citing the tenants. Joey explained the process that the property owner gets cited and it is up to the Judge to say cite the tenants. Mark asked that code enforcement follow up with this. Mr. Jones will look into the quality of life ordinance and follow up.

Matters from Council and Mayor:

Mr. Knick – No

Mr. Jones – No

Mayor – Food distribution July 23 at Holy Mother of Sorrows Church hall. Everyone is welcome to show up at 8:30. It is a fun day.

Mr. Price – Invited everyone to come out on July 25th for the celebration for the PA 250. If anyone wants to help you are welcome. There are a lot of gift baskets and events planned. Alberta added anyone here at the council meeting should stay for the crime watch meeting afterwards.

Mr. Karkut – No.

Mr. Kowalczyk – 20th anniversary of the Dupont Softball Tournament. It is their 20th year. I don't know if they are going to be doing it after this year. They always did a wonderful job, the whole group that runs the T Ball association there. They always donate the money to various organizations in town and they have done that throughout the years. Stop buy and buy some tickets and support them. Following week is as Bob mentioned is the 250th anniversary here in town and Bob and everyone is doing a great job setting it up and I look forward to seeing everywhere there as well.

Motion to adjourn at 6:56 pm. Motion: Mr. Karkut, Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia McDonald
Secretary

Adopted and Approved

Mark Kowalczyk
Council President