The Regular Monthly Meeting of Dupont Borough Council was called to order at 7:00pm on Tuesday evening, June 13, 2023 by President of Council Stanley Knick.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

Mr. Knick called for a short executive session for legal matter.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 9TH REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL AND PLACE ON FILE.
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 ACCEPT THE CORRESPONDENCE PRESENTED.
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 PAYMENT OF BILLS.
Motion: Mr. Jones
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 APPOINT THE PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS FROM JUNE 13, 2023 TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL WITH NO GUARANTEE OF WORK: Bryan Besecker, Duane Saunders, Jennifer Polemitis, Christopher Fargione, Michael Sniscak, John Tamburello
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Price

MOTION TO APPOINT OFFICER JOHN TAMBURELLO AS CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AND RENTAL INSPECTION OFFICER
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.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Submitted by Albert B. Melone Company, Business Consultants

General Fund - $251,656.25
Payroll Fund - $8,386.31
ARPA Fund - $104,661.75
Admin Debit Card - $357.81
Police Debit Card - $411.45
Refuse Fund - $139,296.46
Sewer Maintenance Fund - $336,560.27
Liquid Fuels - $252,664.28
Police Pension Fund - $1,109,295.74
Special Fund - $127,252.55

Tax Collector's Report: Submitted by Susan Gregory, Tax Collector

Balance Collectable Beginning of Month - $38,479.74
Less: Face Collections for the Month - $2,442.44
Balance Collectable End of Month - $ 36,037.30
Plus Penalties - $ 93.23
Less Discounts - $1.86
Total Cash Collected and Deposited into General Fund - $ 2,533.81

Mayor's Report - No Report

Solicitor's Report – No Report

Engineer's Report – Bob Naegele updated Council on the following: (1) Pioneer Construction - Waiting on them to come back and grout the sidewalks and weather strip on the door so we can close out the ada ramp project and stormwater project. They are owed a considerable amount of money and have not submitted a payment application to date. Council can send letter, or give them more time. (2) Multiscape – Flood Channel – They were working and just about done with a major portion of the work and then the storm came causing washout. DEP contacted us and Multiscape did cleanout the debris in the channel. They have to come back and do some work to fix some damage on the flood channel. DEP also walked the channel and identified same damages. They are also owed a sizable amount of money and haven't submitted a recent payment application. It is again council decision whether to push them harder to get these projects closed out. Stan addressed council and all agreed to send them a reminder at this point prior to issuing anything formal about lack of progress. Bob asked Patty to check the expiration dates on both grants. (3) Stell Enterprises - We contacted them and they were ready to come in but notified us of an equipment breakdown. Same thing, these guys did not start yet so again, does Council want to reach out to them. Patty asked if they were issued the Notice to Proceed. Both Bob and Patty will check into that. Shop drawings were in, contract was done. Not sure about Notice to proceed.

Code Enforcement/Rental Inspection - Joe Jones addressed this issue. Officer Tamburello was appointed tonight as Code Enforcement. Myself, Officer Tamburello, Chief and Harry Smith from Pittston have been working over the past month to get Dupont's Code department started. It has been successful so far. I

have been working with him over the past couple weeks. The first thing on agenda is the complaint form. So if anybody has a complaint there is a form at the front desk when you come in, fill it out. It will be put in a lock box or Officer's mailbox. He will also be out patrolling the town . Anyone in violation will be given a Notice of Violation first, this is like a verbal warning listing the violation and request to contact Code Officer. The next step after that will be Quality of Life ticket which we and the Chief will work on. That is similar to a parking ticket, if not taken care of it, there will be a fine. After that, if nothing is done a citation will be issued. We also have stop work orders. BHW still does the permits for Dupont. If you are working without a permit you will receive a stop work order to go get permit. We will purchase an IPad for Officer Tamburello and set up files for this program. As far as rental inspections, Officer Tamburello will be in Pittston City next week getting training on how to conduct the inspections. So far he has given out four notice of violations .

Rental Inspection Report - Ellen reported the following: Number of applications sent out in May was 17, returned 4, inspected 3. Fees owed to BHW is $220. To date 47 units have been inspected and all marked approved.

Police Report - Chief Doran read the May statistical report as follows:
Traffic citations issued-37; Non traffic citations issued-2; Appearances in county court-4; Appearances in Magisterial Court-13; Motor Vehicle Accidents-6; Assist to EMS/Fire-9; Assist to other departments-7; Alarms-7; Burglaries-1; Thefts-4; Vandalism-1; Disorderly Conduct-3; Domestic Reports-9; Suspicious Activity-4; Assault/Harrassment-4; Drug Offense-1; Miscellaneous Calls-31; Building Checks-67. Mileage: Car #1 #150 43,339; Car #2 Explorer – 16,538; Car #3 Explorer – 14,306. Magistrate Fines - $1,057.29.

Chief Doran examined three areas in town with regard to parking concerns. Curtain Street at intersection with Main Street; Grant Street at intersection with Main Street; and Hill Street from Lidy Road to Walnut Street. A report was submitted to Council.

Crime Watch Report – Bob Price reported there was a meeting in May and the officer attended discussing the different issues in town. We talked about events for summer and Christmas. The next meeting is June 27th. Hope to see more people here.

Council President's Report - Trash 64.52 tons; Comingle 5.68 tons; Paper 8.05 tons. Mileage: Packer 69,194; Recycler – 39,798; 3500 – 3,381; The new packer was put in service. The old packer will be bid out. The F550 was at City Line. The repairs cost $2,700 transmission line, wheel bearings etc. Stop signs were ordered and other minor items dealt with.

Stan also brought up the recent incident in the papers and on the news with the lost dog that was found in the creek channel. Underground waterways which is only a couple hundred feet. There was a lot of people there that got credit. Actually, there was a young girl there, Parker Jacek, 8 years old from Dupont that spotted the dog and that is how they found the dog. They never mentioned her name and I just wanted to give her credit.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORTS.
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 ORDINANCE 4 OF 2023 WITH REGARD TO PARKING BANS:
(Grant and Main, Curtain and Main, Hill Street) **AS ADVERTISED**
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
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 ADOPT THE 2018 INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE
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: (Summary of Comments)

Danielle Perrins - Follow up to the grant for the basketball courts. Did the Borough apply for the DCNR grant back in April. Patty stated the borough did apply for the DCNR grant using the $239,000 as a match for a total grant of $478,000. We also have the $100,000 grant for the back field Memorial Park. Stan also stated we just received an award of $45,000 for playground equipment. We have 18 open projects right now. Stan also addressed Bob Naegele on getting some of the streets out for paving. Danielle also asked if the DPW can cut inside the courts, they only did the sidewalk on Friday. Third, the issue with the dog waste on Laurel Street, is it possible to get a copy of the letter that was sent to the dog owner. Patty stated she will check she may have just sent a copy of the ordinance highlighting the section. Erik said he knows it was talked about. Patty will check the computer.

Joe Cigan – Would like to ask council to consider filing a compliance complaint against 124 Main Street. He provided council with papers that spell out the process of filing a complaint, how it happens, how long it takes. In Harrisburg, there are 29 different offices in the State that issue licenses for businesses, from barber shops to car lots, etc. There is certain criteria that has to be met. Joe continued explaining the paperwork he provided to council. Tony Klejnowski also joined in the conversation and read a letter as well as commended council on getting the inspection program up and running. That is another feather in your cap. Tony began with the junk yard coming into Dupont and spoke about his visit to Luzerne County. Luzerne County stated there are no junk cars on the property. One comment was that one man's junk is another one's treasure. This is someone in charge in the county. Tony read a letter written to be filed with the state. It included :the residents in Dupont take pride in their homes and community. This blight is seen by all residents that have to pass it everyday as they go about their lives. Please help us with your advice and direction. Joe Cigan expressed his thoughts: Complaint subject: Used Car Lot LAG Sales Co. Owner is Leo Glodzik, 124 Main Street, Dupont PA 18641 – Enclosed are five

documents filed with Luzerne County. In 2006 there were five permits, one to change the zoning from highway commercial to auto sales. Then he got a certificate of occupancy stating auto sales. Then there was a shed for auto sales. It is not in compliant with the county's own application. It says it has to be 30 foot frontage and so many feet behind it. Joe continued discussing the research he did on this issue. There was a clear intention of conducting an auto sales business on that property. Joe provided pictures of the property. Joe continued if you sell cars, they have to work, they have to have price on them. The cars have flat tires, it's a junk yard. Joe then read the letter that the town received from the County dated April 18th, 2023. It starts off about a complaint they received . Third paragraph says the site was inspected by a zoning staff member on 4-17-23 and encountered no violations at this time. Pictures were recorded. Apparently there is a car sales business operating at this site. No junk cars, or car parts sales were evident.

Stan responded and Erik Dingle responded talking about the other car lot in town. The county stated they were not aware and it will be straightened out. Erik stated we have tried. Our options have been meetings with the county, taking pictures etc. Erik may have a conflict of interest and the council may need to get another attorney for this matter. Erik stated you can file a mandamus and force them to do something. It will end up in court and they will do what they are supposed to. He is not sue where that would go. If this state process works, which he has not seen, if it works, would be super. Tony stated this is all the research Joe, I and Irene did. All the forms are there. You have to just submit them. Joe Cigan stated any citizen can file complaint. There is right to know laws. You don't need an attorney. It states in the paperwork a paralegal looks at it and decides whether it is pursuing. It goes through chain of command. Let the state do their job. Stan stated we will submit it. Erik if it works it is great, lets do it. Otherwise, if they will not our fallback is to file an action against the planning commission. You did all this work, let's try it.

Joseph Jones added that in the meantime, the International Property Maintenance Code Council adopted has a section on junk vehicles and a section for high grass and weeds. I suggest you file a complaint with the new form and we can address the problem that way and it will go before a judge. Stan wants to pursue the state complaint application. Stan stated Joey did a lot of work on the code enforcement program. Joe Cigan stated the council is moving in the right direction, inspecting apartments, accomplishing a lot. The junk yard is a reflection on all of us. It is not a good image for the town.

Joe Karkut – Thanked them for their time, attention and work. He commented on a visit to the county zoning commission office five weeks ago and met with the lady. There is no talking to that lady. I tried to explain the violations. Joe Cigan stated they were courteous, we spent an hour and fifteen minutes. They seem to operate in a bubble. He said that janguar over there, a picker may come by and want that. The state statues dominates. Stan ended with we will move forward with it.

Lauren Zurek – Follow up to her bills submitted for the sewer backup on Main Street. Erik responded that we submitted the claim to the insurance company. The carrier has had individuals come out and inspect it. They have denied coverage. Lauren stated they denied it claiming the backup was in her line on her property. It was her responsibility not hers. Erik stated the worst thing we can do is do anything we want to and ignore our coverage. If we do that, we will not have any coverage. Council has made an

offer to settle it. If you accept it, there will be a receipt and release for the funds and we will pay the amount. You have to see Patty she has a check and the release. Erik cannot tell the council to do something in violation of our coverage. Then something big comes along and they will not cover us. Lauren understands, but wants council to be aware the insurance company is falsely denying the claim. Erik cannot comment on that.

Sharon Ziobro – Joey, the information regarding code enforcement are they hard paper or will they be available on line. Joey stated we can put the forms on line. It would be a good idea to attach the information so people know what is involved. Joey will also include a link for the international property maintenance code.

Matters from Council and Mayor:

Mr. Jones – Nothing

Mark Kowalczyk - Patty knows more about it, but the grant awarded for outside to complete the monument area. What did we receive and what does it cover. Stan stated we received enough just for the monument. We have to cover the landscaping. Patty stated there is about $2800 toward lighting, landscaping, bushes, etc. she believes. Mark is planning to do a fundraiser project selling Veteran stones to install a border around the monuments. It he lines the front of the planting bed with engraved bricks, similar to what is out there. It will be a name and rank and if they served in a war. It will act as a border for the planting bed. There will be a charge for it. His installation is free. It will be a face to the monuments and the new monument. He is estimating the cost at $150 brick. The information ill be posted shortly and you can follow it in the progress paper in Ann Marie's article. Once Mark finalizes everything he will give it to Patty and we will move forward and take orders. Mark hopes to have it done for Veteran' day.

Mayor Elaine Lello – Food Pantry Thursday at 8:30.

Mr. Price – Nothing.

Mr. Karkut – Be Safe for the 4th.

Stan Knick - Thank you for coming and putting input in. We have a great little town and I understand there are concerns. Thank you Joe and Tony for doing all that work. I am proud to be here. He also mentioned Dupont is on Channel 16 a lot showcasing the flags and clock. There is no complaint that is too small. Can't fix everything overnight.

Adjourn by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia McDonald, Secretary

Adopted and Approved

Stanley Knick, Jr., Council President