The Regular Monthly Meeting of Dupont Borough Council was called to order at 6:07pm following an advertised executive session at 5:30 for personnel issues. The meeting was called to order by President of Council, Mark Kowalczyk.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

Mr. Kowalczyk began by announcing the executive session for personnel matters and apologized that it ran a little late.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 12, 2026 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL 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 PRESENTED.
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 APPROVE THE BILLS FOR PAYMENT
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 THE PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS FROM JUNE 9, 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.
Motion: Mr. Karkut
Second: r. Jones
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, Business Consultants

General Fund – $111,605.12
Payroll Fund - $31,126.88
ARPA FNCB Cash - $.38

Admin 4249 Debit Card - $245.38
Police 2121 Debit Card - $764.12
Refuse Fund - $151,392.95
Sewer Maintenance Fund - $434,201.66
Liquid Fuels - $149,785.36
Police Pension Fund - $1,180,257.90
Special Fund - $25,318.26
Clock Memorial Fund - $ 102.13
Fire Victims Fund - $60.12

Tax Collector's Report: Submitted by Susan Gregory, Tax Collector
Check received in the amount of $8,892.12 deposited into the General Fund
Balance Collectable Beginning of Month - $ 64,883.46
Less Face Collections for the Month - $ 9,062.96
Less Discounts: $ 80.84
Balance Collectable End of Month - $ 55,820.50

Mayor's Report: None

Police Report: Chief Doran read the statistical report for May as follows:
Criminal arrests-3, traffic citations issued-79, non- traffic citations issued-2, appearances in county court-4, appearances in magisterial court-26, motor vehicle accidents-7, assist to ems/fire – 4, assist to other police dept.-5, alarms-1, thefts-3, vandalism-2, disorderly conduct-3, pfa violations/service-3, domestic reports-3, suspicious activity-4, dui arrest-1, assault/harassment-5, miscellaneous calls-35, building checks-32. Mileage: Car # 1 F150 – 76,734; Car #2 Charger – 61,967; Car #3 Explorer – 39,635. Magistrate Fines Collected: $1,960.93.

Solicitor Report: None

Engineer's Report: Bob Naegele updated on the following: (1) Quail Hill Road Repairs/Astound Insurance Claim – Still waiting to hear back from insurance company. Patty reached out to them and the representative is off until the 10th. If we do not hear back, he suggested the solicitor get involved. (2) Quail Hill Pump Station – Provided information on VFD vs 3 Phase Power. He looked at the maintenance reports that we have gotten from contractors over the past several years. There is a rotary inverter in there that basically converts the single phase to three phase. That can cause some grief. One recommendation he made was VFD or 3 Phase power. He is waiting for a response on what is more reliable, but believes it will be 3- phase. There is cost differences. Once he gets the information he will pass on to council. (3) DEP Growing Greener – Received Notice of Violation from DEP and is working on a letter to be sent in response which is due in 30 days. Bob will share the draft with Council to review prior to sending it to DEP. (4) Emergency Action Plan – Ready to Submit to DEP. Bob explained this is in case there was ever a major flood issue. We have two small ponds up above, which are tributary to the creek and come into the flood channel. These are out of town. If there was ever a dam breach in conjunction with a major storm, this is the exercise. (5) Collins Creek – Should have an update at the end of this month for council to review. He asked if any other complaints came in and if not we will stick with the original scope of work laid out to address the hot spot areas. Then that has to go to DEP for permitting. (6) Police entrance – It is 60% complete, siding is going up. There was an issue with the roof that overhangs the garage doors and police area. They found the shingles are 3-tab and some of the wood and waterproofing is bad. They estimated to repair the entire back roof portion which is about 4

feet by 80 feet. Patty mentioned a grant application in the future for new roof for the entire building so for now the contractor can try to just match what is there for the new addition. The cost estimate to replace the back section is $ 7,900.00. (7) Garage – They excavated for the garage and ran into a few surprises there as well. They uncovered an old steel septic tank in the ground that was used before the sewers went in. The recommendation we got from multiple sources was to pump that out and fill it with sand and leave it in place and work around it. The other option is to excavate it out and that would be more costly. The existing sewer line is there and the water line is behind it. Need some direction from council. The pump out is estimated at $680. We estimate it at 1500 gallons and then the cost to fill with sand. Other than that, they are going to put in the foundation piers in for the garage to get that going. (8) Liquid Fuels project – The stormwater work is done. Some surprises there also with pipe sizes. They will be milling tomorrow weather permitting. Mark questioned if the drain on Hillside is low enough. Bob will look at this after the meeting.

Fire Dept. Report: Chief Hudzinski was on an incident and Mr. Jones read the report as follows: Total incidents for the month -15. Paid staff Responses-9, Volunteer-6. Motor Vehicle Accident – 8, Commercial Structure Fire – 1, Fire Police -1, Wires down – 2, EMS Assist – 2, Brush Fire -1. Jurisdiction: Dupont-10, Hughestown-2, Avoca-2, Duryea-1.

EMS Report: Mr. Jones reported that Hughestown responded 31 times to Dupont in May. Also, they attended the VFW Memorial Day Service and the 125th Anniversary Duryea Borough. They were recently awarded last month an LSA Grant for a new ambulance. This will be the second one this year. Effective June 1st they are staffing two ambulances every Monday through Friday they will have two crews on from we pm to 8 pm. That is the highest call volume throughout the area. Other organizations are struggling with staffing. Also, Joey noted that he found out today that our own Christian Yacovelli was nominated by Geisinger for their Emergency Medical Services Provider of the Year Award. That was based off recognition of his outstanding professionalism, courage and heroic actions during the responses to the structure fire in Dupont in December and the hospital fire in Dickson City.

EMA Report: The siren was tested on Memorial Day and started out the parade. Joey thanked Dave Bojnowski for checking the batteries. The fire department siren was also tested. Just before coming her we had a hazmat incident on the interstate that was in Dupont Borough. There was a bus that blew its fuel tank and it was right over a storm drain. I had to make a bunch of phone calls and they are sending out an emergency response team and Datum Products will be responding. They are an environmental company to clean everything up. Joe will be participating in the talent energy drill with the county. That is a federally evaluated drill that happens every year. If there is a nuclear incident with the power plant, they staff the entire the emergency operations center with all different aspects of the county including state police and Joe will be serving as public information officer for it.

Code Enforcement Report: Mr. Jones noted everything is status quo.

Crime Watch Report: Bob Price noted the meeting in May was to discuss the 250th anniversary party over at the park. A lot is in place for that including food trucks and vendors coming to it. Crime Watch is meeting twice this month to finalize the plans, one on the 16th at 7 pm and the other on the 30th at 7pm. Bob is asking for help for the event. The more volunteers the better.

Bob Naegele added to his report at this time regarding being notified of the crack in the acrylic at the basketball court. We looked at it and there is a crack there. We are not sure what caused it. We asked

the contractor to look at it. We have not heard back from them yet. Bob doesn't think it is pavement related.

Council President's Report: Mark reported the following:
Trash 66.56 tons, comingle 4.99 tons, paper 8,98 tons
Mileage 12,311-packer; recycler-50,198 ; 6500-7,643; 3500-26,453; pickup-13,897

Mark updated the following: (1) Compost – Stanley Knick resigned from the Compost Commission. Mark will be asking for a motion to appoint Bruce Knick as his replacement and Mark will be the Alternate. (2) Awarded grants 2 police cars, and VFW roof and flooring. The VFW does a lot for the Veterans and we felt it was appropriate to help them out. (3) Zoning approval was granted at the County for an apartment complex. It is the old elementary school on Lincoln Street. It will 12 apartments up to 16 apartments. (3) Bob mentioned Wayco will be starting the patch work in town. They completed the drain work on Hillside and Center. This is not curb to curb paving. This is being funded through the liquid fuels account monies carried over from 2025. Curb to curb would require ada ramps which is an added expense. The patch work includes 200 block of elm, hillside by gas station, and bottom of hillside by country fireplace, and part of the 100 block of center where they did the drain work. (4) There is also a motion to switch bag to garbage bags for 2027. People are abusing the stickers. It is not everyone. They are using contractor bags and overstuffing them with one sticker. Also, I learned tonight that they are putting yard waste in the bags rather than waiting an extra day for pickup. This is costing extra tipping fees at the landfill. It will cost extra for the bags but will save money in tipping fees and collection process. (6) Along with the street paving going on now, we have multimodal grant applications in that will be awarded in July for street paving. We have other grant applications to put in and will be discussing which streets to put in for funding paving. (7) We need a new riding lawnmower. It is at least 10 years old. We need to look into this in the very near future.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORTS AS PRESENTED:
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 ADOPT RESOLUTION 5 OF 2026 APPOINTING BRUCE KNICK TO COMPOST COMMISSION
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 ORDINANCE 1 OF 2026 REESTABLISHING POSITION OF BOROUGH MANAGER
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 APPROVE AEC (ADVANCED ELECTRICAL) QUOTE $3500 FOR POLICE ENTRANCE ELECTRIC
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 APPROVE WASTE ZERO QUOTE FOR 2027 REFUSE BAGS –
Mr. Knick questioned the motion. Has no problem going back to the bags. But being that we are short handed with the DPW department, maybe not this year, but in the future consider contracting out the trash. Bruce brought up the cost of CDL, getting other work done. This might address both problems at once. Mark agreed that he investigated this in the past but it never went through. He is not against it. Mark stated options are an excellent idea and something to look into. Bruce added costs to repair the packer. Mark added grants to get a new packer in the future. This can all be looked into. Bruce said whether we hire another borough worker, or whatever we do, we are going to spend it somewhere. Mark agreed it is something to investigate. He added there are a lot of smaller companies that recently started up and are doing collections like that and they may come in at a reasonable rate for us. It is a good idea because options are always good, Mark stated. We have to deal with this right now. Joey asked if the mil of the bags is the same. Patty stated 2mil. Patty stated we have time if you want to look into private contracting. Mark asked how soon do we need to know to get the bags in. Patty stated by October. At his time, Mark called for tabling the motion. Joey asked about bidding it out. Now is the time to work on it before the fall to make the final decision.

Joe Karkut stated every town that contracted will double or triple the garbage fee for the residents of this town. One third of our residents are senior citizens. To impose that fee on them. I don't think - we tried this twice before and gave it to a contractor then cancelled it and the contractor said he would never bid this town again. Joe talked about his relative paying $400 a year. Bruce said is son pays $275 year and is allowed three bags and a bulk item a month. They don't recycle. So that would be two days the borough workers don't pick up trash or recycling. Mark stated this is just a motion to investigate it further. Joey in his position which everybody knows is negotiating with another municipality to do our garbage and that price is substantially cheaper than going private. That is also an option to look into as well.

MOTION TO TABLE APPROVING WASTE ZERO QUOTE FOR 2027 REFUSE BAGS $25,817.60
64,000 30 X 35 2.0 MIL PURPLE DRAW STRING (4 RLS OF 13 = 52) FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION
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.

Sharon Ziobro questioned with regard to the garbage bags, what if people still have stickers left over. Mark stated it will be allowed after the first of the year for a limited time, if we go that route. There is not a definite answer at t his time, but it was discussed. Second, there was a discussion to put a monument up by the Sacred Heart Cemetery, has that been discussed. Mark noted the grant is good until 2028. He is personally work on that project and Greg at the monument shop is going to do the stone. There are certain stipulations within that grant. It is going to be done. If Mark had to guess, it will be started this fall, at least the hardscape and then finish landscaping up in the spring. We will not let that money go to waste.

Mr. Evanchick, Liberty Street – Wanted to bring up a few things: (1) Shout out to our trash/recycling guys because they do a good job. We too are way over on stickers. (2) If you do change trash are you still doing recycling. Mark stated there is no definite answer on that too, but I would think so. (3) Glass goes in the trash. (4) See the police patrolling a lot, shout out to the police. (5) Compost facility – can residents take material up there. It is open certain hours Bruce noted. Patty added for liability reasons it is best for municipal trucks only since we pick up curbside. However, if you are doing a large project removing shrubs and have a truck loaded you can do it. (6) The dpw guys did great job with the pipe on Liberty and Harding Street and keep it maintained. (7) Is Liberty Street being patched or paved. Mark noted that is a priority. This recent project with Wayco, the bids came in too high to include that part. We were going to patch it originally, but now we think the direction the council is going in is to do complete paving because that first section of street is bad. Mark noted that is the next priority street in the round. (8) Mr. Evanchick stated there is a storm drain on Liberty/Monroe that is sunk down, or if it is operable or no. Mark noted he will have the dpw guys check it out. There are a few others, grant street, that we need to look at. Some of them the dpw guys can fix, others will need to be contracted out. (9) On the corner of Liberty and Center water puddles in that area. Just keep that in mind when they pave. Mark agreed that is a priority and grants take time. We applied in the winter and are waiting til July to see if they are awarded.

Sharon Ziobro - Does code enforcement handle when garbage is not picked up whether it be for no stickers. Mark stated code enforcement is more violations with cleanliness. Sharon mentioned a property on Lackawanna Avenue. She feels they are playing the system. There are about six bags out there no. They put them out a day or two after the garbage pickup. Mr. Karkut stated that is growing there is about nine bags out there now. Patty stated one tenant came in for stickers yesterday. Mark stated yes that is code enforcement. Mr. Jones will text the code officer. Mayor Lello also stated she heard they are burning n the back too. Patty noted that is a three- unit building. Mr. Jones asked about what time they are burning. Sharon stated as soon as it gets dark. Joey asked to be notified and he will take a ride over. Code enforcement will check this out.

George Jendrey - Are you considering a per bag fee. He still has three years of bags left and now stickers. If you terminate them, maybe we should go with a fee and per bag. This way if you don't use them, you don't buy them. Mark stated all of this is going to be up for discussion once we get more facts in front of us. Mark added our garbage fee is a lot less and includes recycling and yard waste collection. We have to figure a way to balance it so we are not losing money or have to raise taxes because we cannot keep up with the garbage costs. We are at the early stages of this, it is only Juen, but we have to figure this out by October. When we get more information we will be discussing this in July and August. It is hard to answer what you are asking without the facts. George asked about setting up a dumpster at a location that is camera, would that help out the DPW. Mark stated it would help out DPW, it is the monitoring part that will be hard to control. It would have to be a set hour or behind a locked fence. Mark added that the packer used to be parked behind the building and people would throw bags in it all the time. He also mentioned Garden Road before the bridge was taken out and the trash dumped there. Thanked Geoge for his input.

Mr. Evanchick asked whether Council is going to make the final decision or is it going to involve public input. Mark stated it has to be publicized with a majority of council, but it will be discussed a lot more over the next several council meetings. We can do it right here with an advertised meeting.

Ron Ziobro - Electric bikes on Main Street and they think they have the right of way. Is it legal. Along with that, ATVs are rapid. Third, stop sign violations. It is even happening when buses are picking up the kids. It is a problem everywhere. Mark asked the Chief about electric bikes. Chief talked about all three issues. He brought up chasing the violators and the factors that are involved with that. They talked about scooters, hoverboards. Mrs. Ziobro talked about the electric bikes at night and tractor trailers up high not being able to see the bikes. Engineer Bob talked about the speed of the bikes pr the wattage of the bike. He knows of some municipalities that passed an ordinance and he will share those with Dupont. Basically, it gives the police the ability to cite someone for violating that ordinance. When the parents starting getting bills, it may slow it down. Mayor Lello talked about a 92 year old gentleman that rides a bike here from West Pittston and even to Scranton. Bob stated the problem with ebikes are young kids, they don't have the experience of traffic laws, and Mark added plus they have no fear.

Alberta Warunek - Brought up the American Flags that need attention on Main Street. Mr. Jones will take care of it. Mark offered his help.

Matters from Council:
Mr. Knick – Nothing
Mr. Jones – Short story – Horses on Main Street in Avoca.
Mr. Karkut – Received letter from Hughestown ambulance, second notice. Reminds residents of the membership drive.
Mr. Price – Hopes to have more volunteers for the 25^{0th} celebration and invites everyone to the meetings.
Alberta Warunek - Mentioned the 28/22 news station showing the bells and would like to see our bell featured.
Mayor Lello – Thanked Mr. Evanchick for his compliments for the DPW and Police tonight. She also mentioned the Food Drive on June 25th. The truck comes at 8:30 and we can use volunteers.
Mr. Kowalczyk – (1) 250th Anniversary of our Country. Happy 4th of July - have a great holiday. (2) Big Boy train southbound through Dupont by Choo Choos somewhere between 11 and 12 on Saturday, and then northbound on Sunday to Steamtown. Supposedly there are 50,000 people that follow this. Chief added it is not stopping at Choo Choos. The biggest thing is expect an overflow of people, people camping out, blocking driveways, etc. There is even watch parties popping up on Facebook. Mrs. Ziobro asked if VFW will allow parking. Chief noted that is private property, have to ask VFW. Jokingly Mark brought up parking fee $20, 3 people per vehicle. Food and Refreshments at a nominal cost. Bob asked if he had a permit and Mark laughed saying it's in Avoca. The next meeting is set for July 14th at 6pm.

Motion to Adjourn. Time: 7:08pm – Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia McDonald
Secretary

Adopted and Approved

Mark Kowalczyk
Council President