The Regular Monthly Meeting of Dupont Borough Council was called to order at 6:00pm on Tuesday evening, October 8, 2024 by President of Council, Stanley Knick.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

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

MOTION TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2024 REGULAR MEETING 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.
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 BILLS FOR PAYMENT
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 APPOINT PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS FROM OCTOBER 8, 2024 TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL WITH NO GUARANTEE OF WORK: Bryan Besecker, Duane Saunders, Jennifer Polemitis, Christopher Fargione, Michael Sniscak, Bryan Morris, Brian Jacobosky, Erik Danaher, and Daniel Dmitrovic.
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.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report:

General Fund - $35,320.14 as of 10-8-24
Liquid Fuels Fund - $114,535.21
Payroll Fund - $37,077.18 as of 10-8-24
Refuse Fund - $145,430.33
Sewer Maintenance Fund - $371,147.50
Special Fund - $83,905.11
Clock Fund - $415.00
ARPA - $8,785.07

Tax Collector's Report: submitted by Susan Gregory, Tax Collector
Check deposited into General Fund - $1,477.80
Balance Collectable end of Month $21,748.83

Mayor Report: None

Police Report: Chief Doran read the monthly report for September as follows:
Criminal arrests-1; traffic citations issued-67; non traffic citations issued-8; appearances in county court-6; appearances in magisterial court-44; motor vehicle accidents-15; assist to ems/fire-8; assist to other police dept.-14; alarms-4; burglaries-2; thefts-4; vandalism-1; disorderly conduct-6; pfa violations-1; domestic reports-5; suspicious activity-9; DUI Arrest-1; assault/harassment-4; miscellaneous calls-35; building checks-28; code enforcement/rental inspection-21; Mileage: Car # 1 F150 – 60,848; Car #2 Explorer – 29,275; Car # 3 Explorer – 27,079. Magistrate Fines Collected: $2,917.81.

Fire Department Report: submitted by Chief Don Hudzinski Jr.
Total incidents-15; Paid staff responses-5; Volunteer responses- 10. Incident Type: fire alarm-1; motor vehicle accident-8; fire dept. investigation-1; EMS assist-1; wires down-1; fuel spill-1; rental inspection-2; Jurisdiction: Dupont Borough – 12; Avoca Borough-3.

EMA Report: Joseph Jones reported an incident at the Petro Truck Stop involving tractor trailer damage which resulted in fuel/oil leak (40 gal) into the storm drain. County and DEP were notified. A sock was placed in the area of Lidy Creek as a precaution. The trucking company contacted a company to do the cleanup.

Code Enforcement Report: Councilman Jones read the monthly report submitted by Code Enforcement Officer as follows: 13 notice of violations issued, 2 rental inspections completed, 11 citations issued at the magistrate office.

Crime Watch Report: Bob Price noted the meeting last month topic was the upcoming Trunk or Treat Event scheduled for October 26th from 5 to 7 pm at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church parking lot. The next meeting is scheduled for October 29th at 7 pm in the Borough Building. Stan noted the pumpkins are ordered.

Council President Report:

Stan reported the following: Trash-66.89; Comingle-4.56 tons; paper-8.07 tons. Mileage: packer-6391; recycler-44,717; 14,017; F550-53,411; Green Pickup-9,222; 6500-496.

Solicitor's Report: None

Engineer's Report: Bob updated the following: (1) Multimodal paving - Most of the ADA Ramps are complete. We are waiting on gas line depths over on Walnut and Wyoming to see if we can fix the stormwater situation. They are anticipating milling late next week and then pavement. (2) Stormwater on Gill is ongoing. (3) Hemlock Basketball courts – Multiscape is doing the ADA ramp there so Pennsy can complete the paving (4) Basketball project – Multiscape is moving along with that project. It came up to add lights for the courts. We are working on style and pricing. There were two lights one for each court over there. They were not sports lights. If doing through the grant he recommended sports lights. They are waiting on PPL to remove the power. Multiscape will remove the poles. The decision on where the lights and conduit will go has to be made relatively soon, but I am waiting on pricing. (5) Liquid fuels pave project is closed out. That was Pennsy Supply. (6) Quail Hill project – we added the lights and there was a backorder on the matching color for the light poles. Patty noted they were green to match what is already in the development. Patty noted the Dupont section is getting wood poles. This was agreed to hold off until the spring. (7) Hose Company – that project was awarded to Scranton Electric and once we receive the drawings and pick out the units that project will move along. (8) The annual MS4 report was submitted.

Mark Kowalczyk questioned the engineer regarding the drainage project on Gill and Spruce and he discussed with Mr. Cigan the deteriorating curb at the top. It was decided to put in an asphalt curb to keep it simple. Mark wants to make sure that the curb is included in the final plan. Bob also mentioned the curb on Everhart and Walnut and they are looking into some type of bonding agent to repair that curb. Stan asked for Pennsy to provide a quote to do the repair. Bob also noted up on Gill Street they found a sanitary manhole that was buried.

Council President Report: Stan continued his report with the following updates: (1) Demolition of 249 Lidy will be done in the spring through Luzerne County Office of Community Development (2) ADA Ramps on Spruce Street intersections with Lackawanna, Wyoming, Penn, Everhart, Hillside, Elm, Hemlock, Pine, Oak, Ash will be done in the spring through Luzerne County Community Development (3) Police security entrance will be done in the spring (4) Phase II of the Hemlock Street memorial park will be done in the spring.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORTS
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.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTIONS FOR LSA GRANT APPLICATIONS AS FOLLOWS:
#8 Fire Alarm System for Borough Building $28,987.00
#9 Pump Station Replacement Upgrades - $190,000.00
#10 Repaving Lackawanna, Wyoming and Spruce Streets – $931,600.00
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 HAVE THE FIRST READING OF THE PROPOSED 2025 BUDGET
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.

Patty read the following:
General Fund - $918,200.00
Refuse Fund - $167,650.00
Liquid Fuels - $ 97,000.00
Sewer Maintenance Fund - $ 71,7360.00
Special Fund - $83,000.00
Total for all operating budgets for 2025 = $1,337,580.00

This proposed budget reading includes no increase in taxes, refuse or sewer bills. We did just receive increases in employee medical coverage rates for 2025 and those will be adjusted and included in the second reading of the proposed 2025 budget which will take place at the November regular meeting of Council.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE FIRST READING OF THE PROPOSED 2025 BUDGET
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 SIGN GRANT ADMIN AGREEMENT WITH ASHBURN ADVISORS – 17,500 FOR
Multimodal grant for Street Paving and ADA Ramps
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.

Stan explained the next motion with regard to the Water Company taking over the sewers. They are requesting the borough sign a confidentiality agreement. Mark questioned the residents being informed or asking residents their opinion. Erik explained the agreement. Patty asked if Council wants a meeting with the water company. Mark stated absolutely. We are just council representing the public and he feels it is a major decision.

Mr. Cigan questioned this motion. Stan explained the water company wants to buy the sewer system. They made an offer on what it is worth. Mark brought up the rain tax. Stan felt the offer they propose would be enough money in the bank, and the interest would allow Dupont not to charge residents for refuse or taxes. If we were able to do that, it might be a good deal. Mark wants to know what are you allowed to charge the residents of this town before we sell our sewer lines. Our sewer lines are one of the newest in town. We pay a maintenance fee of $40 now what are we going to have to pay for maintenance in a few years., $200, $300 or more. The fine print is what you have to watch. I don't want the residents to not know what the stipulations are on this. I am willing to meet with them and see what they have to offer. Obviously they are looking to expand their business. Stan added, years ago DEP told him Dupont should be charging too low rates for the sewers. We should be charging quarterly.

MOTION TO TABLE SIGNING CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT WITH PA AMERICAN WATER COMPANY AND REQUEST A MEETING WITH COUNCIL
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.

Matters from Residents:

(1) Ann Fryzel – Brought up the casino and promised rebates to property taxes. The company is going to do something to benefit themselves. Appreciates council's concern on this.
(2) Joe Cigan – Zoning Hearing scheduled October 22nd regarding waste transfer station. Mark, Erik will be attending. Joe asked about the best way to represent the interests of the town. Erik noted last conversation was to have one person from the towns speak on behalf of all residents. This is the only hearing scheduled this date. Erik suggested everyone can speak unless they limit it.
(3) Sharon Ziobro – Any information regarding Glodzik used car lot. Stan noted it is for sale and he is supposed to remove the rest of the vehicles. Sharon asked if the Borough could apply for a grant to put a green space there. Patty noted for land acquisition, the grant will only pay what the land is appraised at. They are asking $199,900 and it includes the trailer. Patty does not believe the grant would approve $199,900 for that piece. It is 350' x 150'. Joe Cigan brought up the Penna. Association of Boroughs has grants. The other item is whether DEP would be involved and issues that might come up with what is on the property.
(4) Jamie Merlino – Introduced himself with Hughestown EMS. Thanked everyone for appointing Hughestown as the primary EMS provider. We currently work closely with Dupont Fire Department, it is actually coming on one year. We are committed to public service. He is here to answer any questions residents have. He explained the fundraiser drive, the billing issues and offered to provide a copy of the letter before it goes out to the residents. Tina Stoshick spoke about the last meeting and the issue that Township was not considered effectively. She went on about paid people will come and go, ems and fire don't have the numbers they had years ago, and we all assist each other. We are all fighting for staff and even share coverage or staff. Stan stated the decision was made. Please understand it has nothing to do with service, it is that Pittston Township was not brought in to see what they would offer. Jamie talked about letters of intent. Tina stated it was suggested, there was no formal, sit down, communicated meeting to say this is what we are going to offer the town, this is what Pittston will offer, this is what Hughestown will offer. This way they can make a better full decision other than having two ems members on this council, so they would all have an understanding of what we bring to the community, your community, City community. etc. Tina stated the first communication they had with this council was the first week of January 2024. Our President showed up with letters and information to Patty. Tina wished Hughestown the best. Jamie also said his communication was a month later. A lot of people don't know what is involved in EMS /Fire because they don't do it.

Matters from Council and Mayor:

Mr. Jones – The next meeting falls after Veterans Day,. Thank a Veteran. Be safe on Halloween, use caution children will be out and about. The program with Hughestown and paid driver he is proud of. There has not been any issues with response time.

Mr. Price - Trunk or Treat. Be safe on Halloween. The Lions Club will sponsor safety stations and the Crime Watch will have a safety station on Smith Street.

Mr. Kowalczyzk – Have a happy and safe Halloween. And as they said, be safe and watch out for the kids. If you see something suspicious call 911. There are a lot of organizations in town having great events for the kids. The baseball has an event also. It brings the town together.

Mayor Lello - Food Drive October 24th. Be careful out there on Halloween night.

Mr. Karkut - See you at Trunk or Treat. Come over we will give you some candy. Hope the weather is good.

Mr. Knick - Be safe. Any problems, call 911.

Matters from Audience. Ellen wished Stash well with his operation.

With no further business before Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:45pm by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia McDonald
Secretary

Adopted and Approved

Stanley Knick, jr.
Council President