The Regular Monthly Meeting of Dupont Borough Council was called to order at 7:00pm on Tuesday evening, September 12, 2023 by President of Council Stanley Knick Jr.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

MOTION TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 8, 2023 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL AND PLACE ON FILE.
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 ACCEPT 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. 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 SEPTEMBER 12, 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. 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.

REPORTS:
<u>Treasurer's Report:</u>
General Fund - $192,811.05
Payroll Fund - $3,069.52
ARPA Fund - $ 104,697.28
Computer Grant - $99,861.00
Debit Admin - 288.11

Debit Police - $128.38
Refuse Fund - $ 122,337.99
Sewer Maintenance Fund - $ 351,460.77
Liquid Fuels Fund - $ 227,809.75
Police Pension Fund - $1,109,295.74
Special Fund - $ 127,535.04

Tax Collector's Report – Month of August
Check deposited into general fund - $2,046.28
Balance Collectable Beginning of Month - $22,188.35
Balance Collectable End of Month - $ 20,328.10

Mayor Report – None

Police Report – Chief Doran read the August statistical report:
Criminal arrest-2; traffic citations issued-36; non traffic citations issued-10; appearances in county court-3; appearances in magisterial court-27; motor vehicle accidents-8; assist to ems/fire-12; assist to other police dept. – 8; alarms-2; thefts-6; vandalism-3; disorderly conduct-3; pfa violations-1; domestic reports-4; suspicious activity-8; assault/harassment-3; drug offense-1; miscellaneous calls-35; building checks-32; code enforcement notice-10; Vehicle Mileage: F150- 47,456; Explorer-19,004; Explorer-16,736. Magistrate Fines Collected: $537.71.

Solicitor Report – None

Engineer Report- (1) Collins Creek - We reached out to DEP to fund the bank stabilization on Florence and Heidi Lane and that change order was rejected. We will have to look into other funding sources. (2) New Multimodal Grant application to DCED for paving was submitted. (3) We worked on cost estimate for an application to OCD for ada ramps on streets and demolition of 249 Lidy Road. (4) Attended the annual inspection with the Flood Channel. We are waiting on the report. (5) Multiscape flood control project, they keep saying they will be back. They haven't come back. I suggest we send them a strong letter that we will go after their bond. (6) Stell is in a similar spot with the growing greener grant, they are behind schedule. They still have work to do with inlets and pipes on both sides of the road. Stan said he believed they were starting the inlets this week. Bob noted they keep saying that but no activity yet. Stan then questioned the change order for work on Collins Creek that Stell was the lowest bid on that one. We will need to look at paying that through the Borough. We need to move Stell because that grant expires December of this year. Stan stated we have had a lot of rain. Bob said they said if the creek has high water they would begin the inlets. Bob noted no inlets are on site. (7) On a better note, the Quail Hill project is ready to go. All paperwork is in. (8) Bob talked about a motion on the floor tonight for Ashburn Advisors. They are a grant compliance company, they do work with PennDOT all the time. They are very good at it, very thorough. We are working with them on another grant. They expedite the payment to you. What happens is the Borough has to pay the contractor first, get cancelled check to Penn DOT and they send the money back. Ashburn will help expedite that. (9) Received email regarding Suscon Road Bridge. They want to have a meeting at 10am on Friday. They uncovered a pipe which part is in Pittston Township and part in Dupont up towards the bridge. Bob will be there. Mark

Kowalczyk will be there. They are almost done up there. The pipe is deteriorated and they requested a site meeting.

Code Enforcement Report - Joey read the report from Officer Tamburello: 10 Quality of Life Tickets, Twelve Non Traffic Citations given to Magistrate, Nineteen rental inspections completed – 12 passed and 7 of which are calling for reinspection. Fourteen cases closed due to compliance. Starting in November, once the fire department gets with the driver we will get a training session going to get them to help with the rental inspections so next year we can complete the rest. Sixty eight letters were sent out and most were returned. A final notice was sent out and we are just waiting on those to be returned.

Crime Watch Report – July we had Representative Jim Haddock speak at our meeting. Stash was there and a bunch of people showed up. It was a great meeting. He talked about a bunch of stuff in the State, he talked about stuff in town. We had a good time with that. The next meeting is September 26th at 7 pm. We will discuss the Trunk or Treat which is tentatively scheduled for October 28, time to be determined yet or rain date the 29th, at Sacred Heart Parking Lot. Hope people come out to help us out.

Council President Report -Trash – 63.20 tons; comingle 5.2 tons; Paper- 8.49 tons. Mileage: 6500-492 ; Packer – 69,410; Recycling Truck – 4,738; New Packer - 2,390; F550- 47,300; Mack – 4,545; Green Pickup – 6373; Bucket Truck-1047; Black 3500- 5,998. We did advertise the old packer for sale. No bids received yet. American Asphalt will be starting their work beginning of October for Quail Hill project; Multiscape planning to finish work on creek channel, but as Bob mentioned, we may have to give them a little push. Stell is still working in Lidy's Creek. Theya re supposed to begin the drainage work on Almond, Jackson, Everhart, Holden. Playground equipment is due October 19th.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORTS:
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 APPROVE CONTRACT WITH ASHBURN ADVISORS LLC TO ADMINISTER MTF GRANT QH AND SHARE COSTS WITH PITTSTON TOWNSHIP 60/40 TOTAL CONTRACT 19,500 (Dupont $11,700 and Pittston Townshp $7,800)
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 ADOPT RESOLUTION 8 OF 2023 APPROVING SUBMITTAL OF LSA GRANT APPLICATION FOR LED SIGN, AWNING FOR ADA RAMP, FRONT STEPS AND SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS TO POLICE ENTRANCE

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 RENEW 3 YEAR AGREEMENT WITH MUNICIPAL RECOVERY FOR RECYCLING OF COMINGLE AND PAPER $25.00/ TON COMINGLE FEE AND $10 PAPER REBATE

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 SIGN CONTRACT WITH AMERICAN ASPHALT FOR QUAIL HILL PROJECT THROUGH MULTIMODAL GRANT

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 AGREEMENT WITH LUZERNE COUNTY ELECTIONS FOR USE OF DPW GARAGE FOR PITTSTON TOWNSHIP FOR NOVEMBER ELECTION

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 APPLY FOR LINE OF CREDIT THROUGH FNCB BANK FOR MULTIMODAL GRANT QUAIL HILL PROJECT RESOLUTION 9 OF 2023

Stan explained we are meeting with them tomorrow at 10 am. We have to pay up front and then we will be reimbursed from the grant. Mr. Kowalczyk asked Bob if it is guaranteed to come back to us. Bob stated the money is in place. Mark questioned it and Ashburn will oversee that process. Stan stated we will write the check and then Township will reimburse us their portion 40%. Dupont share is 60%, Pittston Township is 40%. Mark asked about the line of credit being closed after that. Stan explained we have a second project for the borough streets and will keep the line of credit open for that project also. Dupont is the signee on the grant.

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 APPROVE HOUK TREE SERVICE TO CUT TREE AND REMOVE STUMP AT PARK $1100. This tree was damaged with recent storms.
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.

Matters from Residents: (summary of issues brought before council)

1. Joe Cigan questioned the motion to sign contract with American Asphalt. Stan explained this one is Quail Hill project. The other project includes Gill Street. Bob Naegele stated they are still working on designing ada ramps for that project. Mr. Cigan asked about 124 Main Street and whether the borough received anything back on the compliance complaint. Third, Mr. Cigan asked about the zoning office. It appears to be working out well. Does council agree with that. Have any challenged it yet?

2. Jamie Marcellini, 109 Curtain Street - I live at 109 Curtain and I would like to request an officer to sit at the corner of Main and Curtain Street . The amount of people that use that turn, and the children on that corner. Cars going over the tracks are almost air and to pull out of Curtain is almost impossible. When they make the turn they don't even stop at the stop sign. If I try to go down to Main Street, and someone cuts that turn fast, I was almost hit head on multiple times. Stan agreed he lives there and sees it and asked Chief Doran to address that. Secondly, for two years I have been asking for someone to come look at the alley. It is dipping and she is having a lot of issues with her house. I asked to to have someone come look at it. Everytime I have spoken to Patty she said she will have someone come over. Four years now I am living there and not once has someone cut the grass or touched the alley. Me and the neighbor cut it. I asked her about it she said we cut once a week and we are not going to cut it if it is already done. I asked how long do you want me to keep it high. We get cited if we don't keep up the maintenance on our property. I am asking for something simple, come fill in the spot that turns into a puddle and then goes into my basement. It is the alley to the left off Curtain. Mark said he will look at fixing it when he does the other alley up near Simpson. Stan said Erik has to send homeowners a letter to remove the fence and set a date. Mark addressed Jamie that he is up Curtain Street everyday and tomorrow morning he will look at it. We are correcting an alley problem at the top of Curtain Street in the next several weeks. We can take care of this at the same time, add millings, remove grass, level it off. We will work on that.

3. Lou Posly, 243 Lidy Road - Going back in time, he has spoken with Mike Carroll about sound barriers and he totally agrees that there needs to be a noise barrier on the east end of Dupont along 81. He promised me for years he was going to work on it. He understands it takes time to get through legislature. Now, he is in the position and I asked Council to call him. Stan stated he has a call into him but hasn't heard back. Stan will refer this issue to Mr. Price, because Mr. Price here with the Crime Watch Meeting and at that meeting Stan brought up to Representative Haddock about the jake brakes on 81 and used Lou's name. Mr. Price stated Rep. Haddock stated there is nothing we can do about it. It is state law the way it is. It did not pass any noise

surveys that was done for it so it is not on the books right now. Rep. Haddock said it is not called jake brakes. Lou asked if it was asked of Rep. Haddock to get legislature through. Mr. Price stated Rep. Haddock told us what the law states. Lou asked if Mr. Price asked for the law to be changed. Alberta stated he also said some of the truck drivers deliberately use the brakes. Lou asked Mr. Jones to find out what he said. Mr. Jones looked up noise: it says stress related illnesses, high blood pressure, speech interference and hearing loss. Lou said it says a lot more. Stan stated we did our job and asked him and that was the answer given. Maybe sign a petition or call your representative.

Jamie Marcellini spoke on the issue why can't we, if it is bothering these residents. Stan stated it is above Council. Mark added it is governed by federal laws. That is the major problem because Its interstate. It is governed with weight restrictions with trucks. Federal weight laws when driving on Interstate. Doesn't matter on state roads. Lou talked about sound barriers. Mark said if you look at the plans for 81 expansion. They start right at the Avoca exit and go north. Penn DOT is not going to finance any projects on I81 until the Turnpike decides what ii is going to do with their entrance ramps from 81 to Turnpike . The Turnpike is paying for this bridge replacement up here. PennDOT is not going to say we will spend 10 million to put up sound barriers up and the Turnpike comes in to destroy them. Lou said there are sound barriers there now for years. The only place is in Avoca, where Mike Carroll lives or mother and father and up in Dunmore where Denaples is. If you know somebody it gets done.

Mr. Cigan repeated the statement of Jamie Marcellini, Stand by Your People. Jamie repeated it 100%. Lou said absolutely right. Mr. Cigan said you are just council in Dupont, but you do represent the residents in the town. Mr. Cigan stated you can make a lot of noise. The laws are applied unevenly around the state without a doubt. Dupont has been neglected over the years, no way to dispute that. There are places in the state with sound barriers, trees and mountains. Even Mike Carroll is wrong on a lot of things. Stan added he asked about sound barriers and even said you are ok with taking houses off of Dupont, to put Navy Way Road in and now take more houses off us to put the bypass to the Turnpike, there is no problems taking the houses off us, but there is problems giving us sound barriers. Mr. Cigan noted that is a good point. Jamie asked when is the next meeting… Mark asked if it can be included with part of the turnpike project. That is our next chance to get them done, but that is years away.

Joe Karkut added that Marcia Tomasewski asked him to bring up at the turnpike meeting about sound barriers and they agreed they are taking it back to Harrisburg to discuss when they are putting in the beltway. Once it is finalized there will be another meeting here in Dupont to show us what exactly is being done and how many properties are being taken. Jamie asked if the public allowed. Mr. Cigan brought up the round abouts and the jersey barriers where they are put. They are put where not needed. All the way down to Dupont then they stop. It would take down tire noise.

Don Battista? – He also said the engineers in District 4 have been working on this since his tenure here as a representative, said the bank has to be modified. In all the years Mike has negotiated with these people this is the first time the bank modification and costs associated

with it, just this last round of negotiations was mentioned. Stan stated he is not saying he is giving up, he is just giving the answers that he gets. Lou said Jim Haddock represents us. He said nothing he can do about it. He comes around looking for votes. Don said Jim said nothing about the jake barriers. The sound barriers is a law. Lou said you can change the law.

Alberta Warunek – Drain and water issues at her property and the work the water company is doing. She doesn't need anymore water issues. Joey said they fixed one spot and then other issues arose. Bob added they have to divert the water til they complete the work.

Matters from Council and Mayor.

Joe Jones – Nothing

Mark Kowalczyk – Project outside, waiting for decision made at the September 16th meeting.

Mayor Lello – When Jim was here at the Crime Watch meeting, he talked about the bills being passed in the House of Representatives passed 150 bills. Those bills have to go to the Senate. Do you think the Senate is going to pass bills for Dupont to put sound barriers up. Maybe they will pass 5 bills. Do you think they will pass 150. Lou said that is politics. Exactly that is politics Mayor said. What control do we have over that. Lou said we have a lot of control, put pressure on them. Mayor Lello stated we have to go to the Senate, we have to go to Cartwright.
Jamie added so if someone complains for ten years, that just goes out the window, what am I suppose to do, that is your job. Alberta stated she has been coming to these council meetings for 40 years and never heard people complain about sound on 81. Lou said he has been complaining for years.

Bob Price – Nothing.

Joe Karkut – Nothing.

Stan – I'm always here, the rest of council is here. Our ears are always open, and we will try. He calls, he stops in their offices, I live here too and my concerns are the same as yours. Lou addressed Stan that he was the one complaining not anyone else. Stan apologized.

Motion to Adjourn. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia McDonald
Secretary

Adopted and Approved,

Stanley Knick Jr.
Council President