

**MINUTES OF DUBLIN BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The December 11, 2023, meeting of Borough Council was held in Borough Hall at 119 Maple Avenue, Dublin; PA. Council President Jeffrey Sharer, called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Mayor:	Chris Hayes	
Council:	Jeffrey Sharer	Brent Smith
	Matthew Mayes	Robert Olsen
	William Benonis	Timothy Hayes
	Philip Kessler	

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Borough Manager:	Colleen M. Pursell
Borough Solicitor:	Michael Kracht, Esq.
Borough Engineer:	Thomas F. Zarko, P.E.* / Brian Cicak, P.E.
Police Chief:	Michael Regan
Fire Chief:	Kevin Nugent
Emergency Management Coordinator:	Michael Tuttle

*Not Present

**Late Arrival

2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** President Sharer led Council and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Council President Announcements:** President Sharer thanked Council Members Bill Benonis and Bob Olsen for their years of service. He also thanked Tom Zarko, who was not in attendance, for all his years of service as Dublin Borough's Engineer.

4. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** There were no comments at this time.

5. **Approval of Minutes:**

- 5.1. **Minutes of Meeting of November 27, 2023:**

Motion by Mr. Timothy Hayes, seconded by Mr. Benonis and unanimously carried, the minutes of the November 27, 2023 meeting were approved, as presented.

6. **Payment of Bills:**

- 6.1. **Bills List dated December 11, 2023, in the amount of \$46,871.42 (all funds):**

Motion by Mr. Benonis, seconded by Mr. Timothy Hayes and unanimously carried, Council approved the bills list dated December 11, 2023, in the amount of \$46,871.42.

Ms. Pursell noted that the bills list includes payment to the Dublin Town Center for the Holiday Gathering. The remaining balance for the Holiday Gathering is \$0.

7. Borough Official Reports:

7.1. Dublin Fire Company: Chief Nugent provided Council with the November 2023 report. They responded to seventeen (17) calls. One (1) call was in the Borough.

7.2. Mayor: Mayor Hayes thanked the Dublin Town Center and the other businesses who supported the Holiday Gathering.

7.3. Borough Manager: Ms. Pursell provided Council with her November 2023 report. Additionally, she announced that the Borough had an SSO on December 10, 2023 due to the excessive amount of rainfall.

7.4. Chief of Police: Council was provided with the Police Report for November 2023, which included 134 total incidents. Pennsylvania State Police handled 2 calls overnight during the month. Baton certification was completed by Sergeant Kirk, Detective McClelland, and Officer Bastek. Control Tactics/Use of Force training was completed by Chief Regan, Sergeant Kirk, Officer Bastek, Officer Brodbine, and Officer Smith. The Bus Patrol school bus violation program processed thirty-seven (37) violations for November of which sixteen (16) were approved for citations. Chief Regan attended training on dealing with autistic individuals.

7.5. Borough Engineer: Mr. Cicak reported that Mr. Zarko was finishing the Sewage Treatment Plant and Collection/Conveyance System Consent Order and Agreement Status Report to be submitted to DEP. The Borough had an SSO violation at manhole # 19 and # 23 by Twin Oaks Pumpstation. The Consent Order keeps the fines to \$500 per incident. CKS is working on gathering a list for the water service inventory per the Lead and Copper Rule.

7.6. Borough Solicitor: There was no report at this time.

8. Discussion Items:

8.1. Dublin Borough Regional Authority Public Hearing: Mr. Kracht opened up the hearing to discuss Dublin Borough adopting an Ordinance to add Dublin Borough Regional Authority. Council would like to start up the Authority to help with financing and help to receive grants for projects. For documentation, he marked "Exhibit A"; Ordinance No. 337, the creation of Dublin Municipal Authority. Once Council approves the Ordinance, the panel for the Authority can be set up. "Exhibit B"; the hearing at tonight's Council Meeting. "Exhibit C"; the proof of publication that was placed in the Intelligencer. "Exhibit D"; Council will adopt the Authority, then it will be advertised. Mr. Kracht opened the hearing up to the public. They may ask questions or have comments about the Ordinance, there were no questions or comments, the hearing was closed.

8.2. Consideration of Authorization to Adopt of Ordinance No. 337:

Motion by Mr. Timothy Hayes seconded by Mr. Benonis and unanimously carried, Council adopted Ordinance No. 337, The Creation of Dublin Borough Regional Authority.

8.3. ACE Hardware Outside Signage – 161 N. Main Street: Mr. Rob Loughery introduced Mr. Micheal Mott, who is the owner of Ace Hardware. Mr. Mott's sign application for Ace Hardware was denied, as it was not in compliance with Dublin Borough's Sign Ordinance. Mr. Loughery indicated according to the Ordinance, each sign shall be 30 SF or 1 SF for every linear foot of retail space. The proposed Ace Hardware signs are 177.19 SF each and the two (2) smaller signs are 18 SF each. He explained the signs for the existing businesses in the Shopping Center and the old Dublin IGA sign, are all out of compliance. Mr. Loughery added that the old IGA has two frontages now. His future goal is to change all the signs in the Shopping Center to be the same format.

The Ace Hardware sign will be on both frontages with the Benjamin Moore and the Stihl sign. Mr. Loughery and Mr. Mott are asking Council to appeal the Sign Ordinance, by approving their denied sign application. Mr. Loughery added that they would also like to add window signs by using vinyl window covers. They would also like to add tinted vinyl coverings to the windows at the Dollar General Store so that the public would not view the back of shelving from the outside.

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Loughery if there were any other options for Dollar General aside from adding the vinyl coverings to their windows. Mr. Loughery will look into it. Mr. Smith likes the professionalism of Ace Hardware and would like to concentrate on them, not the Dollar General at this time. Mr. Mott stated that all the windows at Ace Hardware will have shelves against them like the Dollar General and the window vinyl signs will help. Mr. Kracht clarified that an application has not been submitted for window vinyl signs. He asked Mr. Loughery if he came to Council for permission to put in the window vinyl signs in all of the Shopping Center stores in addition to the appeal for the denial of his application. Mr. Loughery replied that he is here before Council to ask for Ace Hardware only and he will come to another Council Meeting to discuss the other tenants at Shopping Center, if needed.

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Olsen and unanimously carried, Council approved the ACE Hardware Signs, excluding the vinyl window covers, to include two (2) ACE Hardware signs, (1) Stihl sign and (1) Benjamin Moore sign which is non-transferable to any other future business.

Mr. Mott clarified what the vinyl window covers will look like and where they will be located. He showed Council some samples of what it looks like in his Pennsburg store. Mr. Timothy Hayes asked if they would change the vinyl window covers periodically. Mr. Mott explained they are expensive, and they last a long time, so most likely they would not change them.

Motion by Mr. Mayes, seconded by Mr. Timothy Hayes and unanimously carried, Council approved the vinyl window covers limited to Ace Hardware only.

8.4. Sale of Police Tasers: Chief Regan explained that the police have nine (9) tasers to decommission. Accredited Security will purchase them from the Borough. Once Accredited Security receives the tasers, they will complete an inspection of them to determine values. Mr. Smith asked who they resell the tasers to. Chief Regan stated it could be other police departments, not the public.

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Benonis and unanimously carried, Council approved Dublin Borough Police Department to sell the nine (9) obsolete tasers to Accredited Security.

8.5. 2024 Budget Adoption: Mr. Smith stated that Ms. Pursell has done an excellent job with the budget. He also mentioned there is no tax increase, but there will be some other rate increases, which they could not avoid. There was a trash increase, but it would have been higher if they had kept the current trash hauler. The sewer rates had to increase because of capital investment and I&I activity.

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Kessler and on a vote of 6-1, Council adopted the 2024 Municipal Budget.

8.6. Resolution No. 2023-13, Fixing Tax Rate on Real Property for the 2024 Fiscal Year: President Sharer noted there is no tax rate change.

Motion by Mr. Benonis, seconded by Mr. Timothy Hayes and unanimously carried, Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-13, Fixing the Tax Rate on Real Property for the 2024 Fiscal Year.

9. Committee Reports: There were no reports at this time.

10. Public Comment: There were comments at this time.

12. Comments from Council Members: Mr. Kracht congratulated Mr. Hayes on graduating with a degree in Public Administration.

13. Executive Session: President Sharer announced Council would be meeting in Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter and will not be reconvening.

14. Adjournment: Upon motion by Mr. Smith, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date Approved: 01/09/2024

Colleen M. Pursell
Colleen M. Pursell, Manager/Secretary

