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COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE

HELD:

Monday, July 12th, 2021

TIME:

7:00 P.M.

LOCATION:

DUNMORE COMMUNITY CENTER
1414 Monroe Avenue
Dunmore, Pennsylvania

C O U N C I L M E M B E R S :

MICHAEL DEMPSEY, President - absent

THOMAS HALLINAN, Vice President

CAROL SCRIMALLI - absent

VINCE AMICO

THOMAS EHNOT

JANET BRIER

ELIZABETH ZANGARDI

MICHAEL P. PERRY, Esquire, Solicitor

TIMOTHY BURKE, Mayor

VITO RUGGIERO, Borough Manager - absent

MARIA McCOOL, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

2

3 ATTY. PERRY: Roll call, Mrs.

4 McDonald Zangardi.

5 MS. ZANGARDI: Here.

6 ATTY. PERRY: Mrs. Scrimalli. Mr.

7 Ehnot.

8 MR. EHNOT: Here.

9 ATTY. PERRY: Mr. Dempsey. Mr.

10 Hallinan.

11 MR. HALLINAN: Here.

12 ATTY. PERRY: Mr. Amico.

13 MR. AMICO: Here.

14 ATTY. PERRY: Mrs. Brier.

15 MS. BRIER: Here.

16 ATTY. PERRY: Public comment on

17 agenda items.

18 MR. HALLINAN: Any public comment on

19 agenda items only?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. HALLINAN: Seeing none.

22 ATTY. PERRY: Motion to approve the

23 minutes.

24 MR. HALLINAN: Can I have a motion

25 to approve the minutes of the last meeting?

1 MS. BRIER: I'll make it.

2 MAYOR BURKE: Maria, mark me down
3 here as in the roll call.

4 MR. EHNOT: I'll second the motion.

5 MR. HALLINAN: I have a motion and a
6 second. On the question? I will not vote
7 because I was not here. All in favor?

8 MR. EHNOT: Aye.

9 MS. ZANGARDI: Aye.

10 MR. AMICO: Aye.

11 MS. BRIER: Aye.

12 MR. HALLINAN: Abstain.

13 ATTY. PERRY: Motion to approve and
14 pay the open bills.

15 MR. HALLINAN: I'll look for a
16 motion to approve and pay the open bills.

17 MS. ZANGARDI: I'll make that
18 motion.

19 MS. BRIER: I'll second.

20 MR. HALLINAN: On the question?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. HALLINAN: All in favor?

23 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

24 MR. HALLINAN: So moved.

25 ATTY. PERRY: Number six is a motion

1 to adopt Resolution No. 2021-1; an amendment to
2 the Scranton-Abington Planning Association
3 Intergovernmental Cooperative Implementation
4 Agreement, SAPA.

5 MS. BRIER: I would like to make a
6 motion to table that.

7 MR. HALLINAN: I'll look for a
8 motion, please.

9 MS. BRIER: Oh, I'm sorry. I'll
10 make a motion to table.

11 MR. HALLINAN: I need a second on
12 that.

13 MS. ZANGARDI: I'll second that.

14 MR. HALLINAN: All in favor.

15 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

16 MR. HALLINAN: Any against?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. HALLINAN: Motion is tabled.

19 ATTY. PERRY: Number seven, motion
20 to adopt Resolution No. 2021-3, an application
21 to apply to the County of Lackawanna for a
22 Community Re-invest grant for the purpose of
23 carrying out the Bucktown Music Fest, AKA
24 Hallapalooza.

25 MR. HALLINAN: I'll look for a

1 motion.

2 MR. AMICO: I'll make that motion.

3 MR. HALLINAN: Can I get a second?

4 MR. EHNOT: I'll second that.

5 MR. HALLINAN: On the question?

6 MR. AMICO: Just on the question,
7 we'd like to thank the Lackawanna County
8 Commissioners, the community -- their
9 Department of Community and Economic
10 Development and thank them for being the major
11 sponsor for this event. It will be the next
12 four weekends, right?

13 MR. HALLINAN: Yes, the next three
14 weekends.

15 MR. AMICO: Next three weekends,
16 four including yesterday at Dunmore Corners.
17 And it was wonderful for our community. And
18 Mr. Hallinan here spearheaded this and it's
19 just great for our community. So again, I'd
20 like to thank the County Commissioners and
21 specifically thank Mr. Hallinan for taking lead
22 on this. Thanks.

23 MR. HALLINAN: Thank you, Vince.
24 All in favor?

25 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

1 MR. HALLINAN: Against?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. HALLINAN: So moved.

4 ATTY. PERRY: Number eight, motion
5 to send correspondence to Pennsylvania Auditor
6 General, Timothy L. DeFoor requesting a
7 performance audit of the Department of
8 Environmental Protection Agency regarding the
9 approval of Phase III of the Keystone Sanitary
10 Landfill expansion application.

11 Request is in conjunction with the
12 Council of the City of Scranton unanimously
13 approved June 14th, 2021.

14 MR. HALLINAN: Thank you, Mickey.
15 I'll look for a motion.

16 MS. ZANGARDI: I'll make that
17 motion.

18 MR. HALLINAN: A second?

19 MR. AMICO: I'll second that.

20 MR. HALLINAN: On the question?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. HALLINAN: All in favor?

23 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

24 MR. HALLINAN: Opposed?

25 (No response.)

1 MR. HALLINAN: So moved.

2 ATTY. PERRY: Number nine, personnel
3 matters; motion to hire two probationary
4 laborers for Department of Public Works. Both
5 hires will replace two vacant laborers
6 positions and is subject to the 90-day
7 probation period; A, Joseph Clemente; and B,
8 Matthew Murray.

9 MR. HALLINAN: I'll look for a
10 motion to hire these two gentlemen.

11 MR. EHNOT: I'll make that motion.

12 MS. BRIER: I'll second.

13 MR. HALLINAN: On the question?
14 I'll look for a vote, please. All in favor?

15 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

16 MR. HALLINAN: Those opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. HALLINAN: So moved.

19 ATTY. PERRY: Motion to hire the
20 following applicants for 2021 Summer Recreation
21 Program pending background slash child abuse
22 clearances and Director Kearney's review:

23 Colleen Blockberg, Cristian Buckley,
24 Alexis Chapman, Gianna Cordaro, Anthony
25 Colborn, Nathan DeSando, Carlie Finan, Nora

1 Haggerty, Olivia Leo, Elizabeth McNeff,
2 Kathleen Oven, Sophia Pacewicz, Hunter
3 Robertson, Nico Ruggiero, Anthony Sabia,
4 Nicholas Sinkevich, Anna Talutto, Cailey Waters
5 and Isabella Waters.

6 MR. HALLINAN: I'll look for a
7 motion to hire these kids for the Summer
8 Program.

9 MR. AMICO: I'll make that motion.

10 MR. HALLINAN: I'll look for a
11 second.

12 MR. EHNOT: Second.

13 MR. HALLINAN: On the question?

14 MS. ZANGARDI: I have a question.

15 What was the name after the Olivia, Elizabeth
16 McNeff?

17 ATTY. PERRY: Yes.

18 MS. ZANGARDI: And then Kathleen
19 Oven?

20 ATTY. PERRY: Yes.

21 MS. ZANGARDI: Sophia Pacewicz.

22 ATTY. PERRY: Yes.

23 MS. ZANGARDI: What was the next
24 one?

25 MR. HALLINAN: Marichak was omitted.

1 And the last name was taken off.

2 MS. ZANGARDI: Okay. All right.

3 MR. HALLINAN: On the question,
4 anybody else? This is our summer program. We
5 run it every year. It's a six-week summer
6 program that Mr. Kearney runs. And we bring in
7 some, you know, kids over 18 that also help
8 out. And it's a nice program for the
9 community.

10 It gives the kids something to do.
11 And I'm glad we're having it. And I hope we
12 could move forward with everything in life
13 since COVID. But I'm looking for a vote,
14 please. All in favor?

15 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

16 MR. HALLINAN: Those against?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. HALLINAN: So moved.

19 ATTY. PERRY: Ten is Treasurer
20 financial report, Mr. Burton.

21 MR. BURTON: Good evening, Council.
22 The month of June, it turns out it wasn't a
23 very favorable financial month. But that comes
24 as actually no surprise. It's -- it was
25 actually budgeted as a nonprofitable month.

1 The major driving force was the real
2 estate taxes. The collection pretty much comes
3 to a halt in the summer months. And it was
4 mostly revenue driven. The average revenues
5 for the first five months was 1.4 million.
6 Revenue for this month was \$375,000. So that's
7 quite a big dip.

8 There was no outstanding -- no out
9 of the ordinary landfill fees or franchise fees
10 or any insurance rebates or anything out of the
11 normal revenue-wise for the month. So net loss
12 for the month of June was \$498,000.

13 Again, there was no major expenses
14 driving the loss. It was just a revenue
15 shortfall. So through six months we're
16 actually showing a 1.2 million dollar loss.
17 But that again is due to the fact that we're a
18 cash basis accounting.

19 And People's loan payoff or the
20 pension loan was paid off in March. So if we
21 add that back in, we're actually running 1.2
22 million dollars net profit for the year.
23 Again, this month there was no out of the
24 ordinary revenues to report.

25 A sharp dropoff on the tax

1 collections. There was no draw on the TAN.
2 And as far as expenses, nothing major. We did
3 make our \$40,000 MMO payment. Nothing out of
4 the ordinary, just your basic payroll benefits
5 and basic repairs and maintenance.

6 MS. BRIER: What did you say we did
7 make the MMO?

8 MR. BURTON: We did make the MMO of
9 \$40,000.

10 MR. HALLINAN: Mark, would you --
11 did I interrupt you? Are you --

12 MS. BRIER: No, I'm good.

13 MR. HALLINAN: How much money do we
14 have in liquid fuels tax approximately or do
15 you just want to get me that number if you
16 don't have it off the top of your head?

17 MR. BURTON: Off the top of my head
18 I think it's close to \$750,000, somewhere in
19 that ballpark.

20 MR. HALLINAN: So it would be good
21 to get some money --

22 MR. BURTON: We did make one draw on
23 it last year, maybe two. So with the surplus
24 last year coming into this year -- and we did
25 receive maybe \$450,000 I think it was.

1 MR. HALLINAN: Do we have any more
2 coming in this year from liquid fuels or no?

3 MR. BURTON: I don't --

4 MR. HALLINAN: Okay. And just so
5 the audience knows, liquid fuels taxes -- money
6 that we get from the gas usage and a formula
7 that is used with the roads that we have and
8 have to maintain that the state reimburses us
9 for.

10 So that money could only go back
11 into roads whether it's through salt or paving
12 which is my point of I'd like to take a couple
13 hundred thousand and do some blocks at least,
14 you know, some small street because, I mean, I
15 don't know about the rest of Council, the
16 biggest complaint -- I mean, one of the biggest
17 complaints I get is the streets need to be
18 paved. It's horrible.

19 I mean, like, I looked into a few,
20 like, Grove Street from, you know, Clay Avenue
21 down to Madison because the water company is
22 supposed to do some coming up. I'd love to tie
23 into that so at least we have one main artery
24 that's, you know, paved or, you know, certain
25 things that -- I'm sure we could talk about it.

1 But that is something that I want
2 out there. We have that money. We should use
3 it.

4 MR. BURTON: I'll get you an exact
5 number.

6 MR. HALLINAN: Yeah, I just want to,
7 you know, I would say in my mind -- I'm sure
8 Council has to decide on it. Like, there would
9 be nothing wrong with taking \$200,000 out of
10 that and do some roadwork somewhere, do a
11 little bit each year. It means a lot more than
12 doing nothing at all. So thank you, Mark. Do
13 you have anything else?

14 MR. BURTON: No.

15 MR. HALLINAN: Anybody have any
16 questions for Mark? Thank you.

17 ATTY. PERRY: Number 11, public
18 comment.

19 MR. HALLINAN: Anybody have any
20 public comment? Anybody want to address
21 Council at this time? Yes, sir. Just state
22 your name and address for the record.

23 MR. BARTOS: What time do you start,
24 6:00?

25 MR. HALLINAN: 7:00.

1 MR. BARTOS: Seven? And it's
2 already getting to the questions? I haven't
3 been here in a while. Joe Bartos, Sunset
4 Drive, Dunmore, 110. This might be a stupid
5 question. When are you going to pave the
6 roads?

7 MR. HALLINAN: We just talked about
8 that. I just spoke about that.

9 MR. BARTOS: Oh, you did?

10 MR. HALLINAN: Yes, sir. I'd like
11 to get something in place and start doing
12 things.

13 MR. BARTOS: Everybody like what he
14 said? You have to pave them. You can't fix
15 them. They're so deep. You know that, right?

16 MR. HALLINAN: Yeah, and there's
17 different things we could look at. Like, you
18 know, like, if a part of a block is ruined, why
19 we would pave the whole street or if there's,
20 you know, maybe we could look into a like oil
21 and chip on alleys rather than, you know, doing
22 a paving --

23 MR. BARTOS: Chestnut Street, the
24 whole thing from Drinker to --

25 MR. HALLINAN: Mr. Bartos, so you

1 know, Chestnut Street is being done by the
2 water company. And then also after that we
3 have -- we've secured a grant a few years ago
4 which Council approved that we're going to be
5 doing curbing, sidewalks, and what do you
6 call it --

7 MR. AMICO: Stormwater.

8 MR. HALLINAN: Stormwater management
9 through that whole area.

10 MR. AMICO: Chestnut Street is being
11 done from the corners --

12 MR. BARTOS: Last year we got that
13 answer.

14 MR. AMICO: If you're on Chestnut
15 Street now you could see heavy equipment there.
16 It's currently being worked on. They are
17 upgrading the stormwater system. They're
18 upgrading the water lines.

19 MR. BARTOS: But that doesn't help
20 the people that have to drive over it. You
21 have to drive over them every day too.

22 MR. HALLINAN: Oh, absolutely. But
23 I said that that's one main artery that will
24 be --

25 MR. AMICO: The work is being

1 completed right now. We can't expedite what --

2 MR. BARTOS: All right. What road
3 are you going to pave this year? How many
4 roads?

5 MS. BRIER: We don't have --

6 MR. HALLINAN: We don't have a plan
7 right now.

8 MR. BARTOS: You don't have a plan
9 yet?

10 MR. HALLINAN: No, that's what I
11 just brought up and we'd like to sit down and
12 talk about it because obviously you have to do
13 something now to get into November. You'd have
14 to do a plan right now by the time the
15 engineers look it over and then you get into,
16 you know, the paving company bidding on it.

17 MS. BRIER: We received a grant from
18 the State of Pennsylvania for municipal
19 planning.

20 MR. BARTOS: I'm getting old. I
21 can't hear.

22 MS. BRIER: We applied for a grant
23 from DCED. And we were approved for it. And
24 we set it out to bid and PEL came in and said,
25 you know, that -- they replied to the RFP. And

1 then they came in and spoke to us.

2 So now we need to vote on whether we
3 will hire PEL. It will cost the Borough about
4 \$30,000. But I think it's money well spent.
5 That's my opinion because we never had a plan
6 in Dunmore for paving, for anything.

7 MR. BARTOS: I believe that.

8 MS. BRIER: Well, we never had one
9 that I knew of anyway. So my hope is we will
10 get some, you know, professional support people
11 who know municipal law. I don't know municipal
12 law. I'm not an expert. I don't think anyone
13 on this panel is.

14 But we need to get a plan. I
15 totally, totally, utterly, completely agree
16 with you that Dunmore needs to get a municipal
17 plan that will include paving the streets, etc.

18 MR. BARTOS: Didn't we get any
19 federal money from COVID or from what's going
20 on that we could use?

21 MS. BRIER: The Rescue Plan. They
22 won't let us use that for paving. But we have
23 applied. Mark Burton applied for that money a
24 month ago right, Mark? So the application is
25 into the state because now it's a state thing

1 that -- again, it's the DCED in the state and
2 we -- Mark was able to get the -- pretty
3 complex application completed and in on time.
4 So now we're in a wait and see. We should get
5 over a million dollars over three years.

6 MR. HALLINAN: I don't think it will
7 be for paving. We'll see. There's going to be
8 certain restrictions to that money, Mr.
9 Bartos. But I hope we have an answer for you
10 and move forward with some kind of paving --

11 MR. BARTOS: Before it snows?

12 MR. HALLINAN: Yes, sir. That would
13 be the best part because we can't do paving in
14 the snow.

15 MR. BARTOS: Anybody live on Somers
16 Street or near it -- Somers Street going up the
17 hill to Smith? Nobody knows where that is?

18 MR. HALLINAN: I know exactly where
19 it is.

20 MR. BARTOS: The whole thing is
21 like --

22 MS. BRIER: The whole town. We need
23 a plan. We need an overall plan. We can't say
24 someone comes in and complains so we do that
25 one and the next day. We need a plan.

1 MR. BARTOS: -- to start to plan.
2 It's already July.

3 MR. HALLINAN: I got you, Mr.
4 Bartos.

5 MR. BARTOS: Am I stupid here or
6 what?

7 MR. HALLINAN: No, sir.

8 MR. BARTOS: I haven't been down
9 here. These guys know me over there and all of
10 that stuff. But I'm just trying to help
11 everybody. Every time you drive over a -- and
12 hit them big potholes, one of your wheels goes
13 that much more -- a little more out of
14 alignment.

15 And then you got a big, you know,
16 after a while it's flat. My granddaughter got
17 a flat on one of the streets. So, okay, you're
18 working on it.

19 MR. HALLINAN: Thank you,
20 Mr. Bartos. I appreciate your input for this
21 evening.

22 MR. BARTOS: All right. I'll be
23 down next month. Thank you.

24 MR. HALLINAN: Thank you. Anybody
25 else want to address Council at this time?

1 (No response.)

2 MR. HALLINAN: Seeing none. Public
3 officials, Mayor Burke.

4 MAYOR BURKE: I visited a park
5 today. They were pretty busy up St. Anthony's
6 today for the first day. They had over 20
7 people there. Sherwood seemed like they have a
8 good group of kids up there and down here. I
9 think we have 14 assigned there. So I think as
10 more people find out about it, it will get
11 busier. That's all I really have to say. I
12 have nothing else.

13 MR. HALLINAN: Thank you, Mayor.
14 Didge?

15 MR. JUDGE: Nothing.

16 MR. HALLINAN: Nothing? Chief.

17 CHIEF DENAPLES: I only have one
18 thing tonight. We replenished our supply for
19 smoke detectors. If any residents need any
20 smoke detectors, call fire headquarters and
21 we'll install them.

22 MR. HALLINAN: I'm sure the Scranton
23 Times could probably help us out with that
24 little information there.

25 MS. BRIER: So it's for households,

1 Chief?

2 CHIEF DENAPLES: Yes.

3 MS. BRIER: Anybody in Dunmore can
4 get one. And you guys install them, right?

5 CHIEF DENAPLES: We have to install
6 them through that program. We can't just --
7 when 16 had the program we were able to just
8 pass them out and the resident could install
9 them. With this program we have to actually go
10 out and install them.

11 MS. BRIER: That's great.

12 CHIEF DENAPLES: All they need to do
13 is call the fire headquarters at 570-348-1730,
14 set up an appointment and when the residents
15 are home, we'll go out and install them. We
16 have that program going on for about four and a
17 half years. And then they were backed up on
18 order. And then the Red Cross -- we just got
19 our shipment two weeks ago. So they sent us 30
20 more.

21 MS. BRIER: Is there a limited
22 amount of detectors available or -- say you got
23 50 people who wanted them.

24 CHIEF DENAPLES: So once we get down
25 to about 10 left, the gentleman said I could

1 reach back out to him and he'll send us 30
2 more.

3 MS. BRIER: That's great.

4 MR. HALLINAN: Thank you, Chief.
5 Chief, would you get in touch with Vito or and
6 get that out -- Vince will take that care and
7 get that on our website, okay?

8 CHIEF DENAPLES: Sure. I'll shoot
9 Vince an email.

10 MR. HALLINAN: Thank you very much.
11 I appreciate that.

12 MS. BRIER: It's a great program.

13 MR. HALLINAN: Janet, do you have
14 anything tonight?

15 MS. BRIER: No. I just want to
16 thank you for doing the Sunday concerts. I
17 think it's a wonderful, wonderful thing for our
18 community. That's all.

19 MR. HALLINAN: Thank you. Vince?

20 MR. AMICO: No, I have nothing this
21 evening. Thank you very much.

22 MR. HALLINAN: Beth, nothing?

23 MS. ZANGARDI: I'm good. Thank you.

24 MR. HALLINAN: Mr. Ehnnot.

25 MR. EHNOT: No. The last show of

1 the festival Mr. Hallinan said he's going to
2 sing the last two songs.

3 MR. HALLINAN: They'll leave after
4 that. No, I want to thank everybody -- all the
5 sponsors, Lackawanna County Commissioners who
6 reinvest into our community for the arts,
7 Didge, our DPW, our police, Council here that
8 approved it.

9 So, you know, it's not a one-man
10 show. It certainly isn't. As the newest
11 Council members that are coming in, it's a
12 group effort. And Dunmore works with Dunmore.
13 The businesses that stood up and came to the
14 plate and supported us was phenomenal.

15 So that's all I have. And thank you
16 very much for coming. Have a good night. I'll
17 look for a motion to adjourn.

18 MR. AMICO: I'll make that motion.

19 MR. HALLINAN: Second?

20 MR. EHNOT: Second.

21 MR. HALLINAN: All in favor?

22 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

23 MR. HALLINAN: Thank you all for
24 coming.

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2
3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and
4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the
5 notes taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy
6 is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my
7 ability.

8
9
10 _____
11 Maria McCool, RPR
12 Official Court Reporter
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