

MINUTES
City Council Meeting
City of Butler, Pennsylvania
December 21, 2023

Mayor Dandoy called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Mayor Dandoy and Council members Reese, Shearer, Christy, and Herr were present. Mayor Dandoy requested a moment of silence in remembrance of Frank M. Krainbucher. The pledge of allegiance to the flag followed an invocation given by Mitch Natali, All Saints Parish.

ACTIONS AT THE FORUM MEETING HELD ON December 7, 2023:

1. Motion to direct the City Clerk to prepare and release a request for proposals (RFP) for traffic signal repairs for the years 2024 and 2025. Motion by CM Reese. Second by CM Shearer. All voted aye.
2. Motion to approve **City Resolution No. 2023-12-07** authorizing the issuance of Tax Revenue Anticipation Note Series 2024 in the amount of \$1,500,000.00. Motion by CM Shearer. Second by CM Christy. All voted aye.
3. Motion to accept the quote from **Armstrong** for the City's telephones and telephone and internet services. Motion by Mayor Dandoy. Second by CM Shearer. All voted aye.
4. Motion to approve a revolving loan (loan from the Housing Redevelopment Assistance Fund) to the **Penn Theater Performance Company** per the recommendation by the Butler Downtown Revolving Loan Committee. Motion by Mayor Dandoy. Second by CM Christy.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING December 21, 2023

EXECUTVE SESSION

Mayor recessed the meeting at 7:02 PM to discuss legal matters as well as a labor issue in an executive session.

Mayor reconvened the meeting at 7:13 PM.

PRESENTATION:

Chief Switala presented of certificate from the National Fire Academy to Lieutenant Timothy Iman of the Bureau of Fire for completion of the National Fire Academy's Managing Officer Program.

Mayor Dandoy thanked Controller Barb Hall and Councilman Fred Reese for their service to the City.

Mayor Dandoy wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Motion by Mayor Dandoy with a second from CM Shearer to approve the agenda for the regular meeting of December 21, 2023. All voted aye.

Motion by Mayor Dandoy with a second from CM Reese to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 21, 2023. All voted aye.

Motion by CM Herr with a second from CM Christy to acknowledge receipt of the monthly minutes from RACB, including the CDBG/HOME Program activities. All voted aye.

MONTHLY BOARDS AND AUTHORITIES LIAISON REPORTS

Liaisons gave brief reports from boards and authorities that met in November.

MONTHLY & ANNUAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS *(Note: Department Reports Distributed to Council electronically)*

Motion to accept the monthly reports from the Office of the City Clerk, the Police Department, Fire Department, Office of Business & Community Development/Code Enforcement, Department of Public Works and Parking Department for the month of November. Motion by Mayor Dandoy. Second by CM Christy. All voted aye.

COUNCIL REPORTS/ACTIONS

Councilman Reese

1. Motion to accept the proposal from **Bruce-Merrilees Electric Company** for traffic signal repairs for the years 2024 and 2025. Second by CM Shearer. All voted aye.

2. Motion to install "Butler Transit Only" parking zone at the space on West New Castle Street across from Butler Transit Authority's terminal, on a 90-day trial basis. *(Replacing the current "Catholic Charities Parking Only" sign.)* Second by CM Herr. All voted aye.

Councilman Shearer

3. Motion for the second reading and adoption of **City Ordinance No. 1818**, an ordinance of the City of Butler fixing the tax rate for Fiscal Year 2024. Second by CM Reese. All voted aye.

4. Motion for the second reading and adoption of **City Ordinance No. 1819**, an ordinance of the City of Butler adopting the annual budget and appropriating specific sums estimated to be required for the specific purposes of the City government as set forth therein during Fiscal Year 2024. Second by CM Herr. All voted aye.

5. Motion for the second reading and adoption of **City Ordinance No. 1820**, an ordinance of the City of Butler fixing the wages and salaries of employees of the City in conformance with the budget for Fiscal Year 2024. Second by CM Christy. All voted aye.

6. Motion to pay the second and final installment of the **2022 small borrowing loan** to NexTier Bank in the amount of **\$212,273.74**. (\$204,800.00 principal and \$7,473.74 interest) on December 29, 2023. Second by CM Herr. All voted aye.

7. Motion to approve a payment in the amount of \$77,036.22 to NexTier Bank for the City's **2021-Series General Obligation Bonds**. (Note: This payment includes principal of \$59,477.58 and interest of \$17,558.64; due December 31st.) Second by CM Reese. All voted aye.

8.Motion to approve a fee increase as requested by **AndCo Consulting** for financial advisory of the City's three pension plans, as recommended by the Pension Advisory Board. Second by CM Christy. All voted aye.

Councilman Christy

9.Motion to approve the Bureau of Fire becoming a partner organization with the Red Cross in delivering their Home Fire Preparedness Program and installing smoke alarms. Second by CM Herr. All voted aye.

10.Motion to accept the proposal from **Laurel Ford, Inc.**, in the amount of \$ 57,390.00 for the purchase of a 4WD pick-up truck to be used by the Bureau of Fire as a replacement for the Rescue vehicle. Funding is part of the FY2021 Community Development Block Grant. Second by CM Shearer. All voted aye.

11.Motion to accept the resignation of **Joshua Abbott** from the Butler Bureau of Fire, Effective December 24, 2023. Second by CM Reese. All voted aye.

12.Motion to approve the conditional hiring of **Brittany A. Hankins** as a full-time Firefighter in the City of Butler Bureau of Fire. Second by CM Shearer. All voted aye.

Councilman Herr

13.Motion to approve the HVAC Maintenance Agreement with **Vantine Heating & Cooling** in the amount of \$824.00 for the offices in the Tier Garage for the year 2024. Second by CM Shearer. All voted aye.

Mayor Dandoy

14.Motion to approve the employment renewal agreement with Robert S. O'Neill for the year 2024 contingent upon review by the city solicitor. Second by CM Reese. All voted aye.

15.Motion to approve the agreement with Gateway Engineers for professional services for the Father Marinaro Project. Second by CM Herr. All voted aye.

16.Motion to designate **BHS Occupational Health Services** or its successor as the city's Civil Service medical examiner. Second by CM Christy. All voted aye.

17.Motion to approve the promotion of **Lieutenant Richard T. Walters** to the rank of Captain within the City of Butler Bureau of Fire, effective upon his return to full unrestricted duty. The probation period will begin on the effective date of the promotion. Second by CM Shearer. CM Reese, CM Shearer, CM Herr and Mayor Dandoy voted aye. CM Christy voted no.

18.Motion to approve the resignation of Gary Vanasdale from the **City of Butler Parks, Recreation Grounds & Facilities Authority**. Second by CM Shearer. All voted aye.

19.Motion to reappoint Lance Calvert to the **Butler Area Sewer Authority** for a 5-year term ending December 31, 2028. Second by CM Christy. All voted aye.

20.Motion to accept the proposals for financial advisor of the BASA funds from NexTier Bank and PNC Financial Advisors. Second by CM Shearer. All voted aye.

21.Motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with AFSCME. Second by CM Shearer. All voted aye.

22.Motion to approve the leave of absence for **Daniel A. Decaria** for deployment on December 31, 2023. Second by CM Reese. All voted aye.

23.Motion to approve the conditional hiring of **Zachary Yates** for patrol officer in the City of Butler Bureau of Police. Second by CM Christy. All voted aye.

You are invited to enjoy the holiday season in Downtown Butler with free parking December 22, 2023 through January 1, 2024, at any street metered parking space. There are also 2 hours of free parking on Main Street. Enforcement will continue at the garages and parking lots. Come downtown. Get in the holiday spirit and enjoy the free parking and support your local shops and restaurants.

Mayor Dandoy announced that the City Building will close Friday, December 22, 2023, at noon for the holiday weekend.

The City Controller presented bills for payment as follows: from the general fund - \$888,382.90; from the parking fund - \$50,367.81; and from the liquid fuels tax fund - \$29,336.05; for a **grand total of \$968,086.76**. Motion by Mayor Dandoy with second from CM Shearer to approve payment of bills as presented. All voted aye.

December Public Announcement - Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)

As part of an ongoing education plan, we would like to remind local residents to follow the manufacturer's recommendations for salting driveways and sidewalks. If too much salt is applied, it will runoff into the storm sewer system and impact our local waterways. Please keep the de-icing materials away from landscaping and keep it isolated to the walkway or driveway.

Also, if you change the fluids in your automobile, please recycle the used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations. Do not dump these chemicals down the storm drains or dispose of them in the trash. If you want to temporarily store any of these chemicals on your property, just make sure that they are in sealed containers that will not rust or leak and try to keep them in a dry place.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- January is National Mentoring Month: an annual campaign to raise awareness of and celebrate the powerful impact of mentoring relationships, recruit new mentors, and encourage institutions to integrate quality mentoring into their policies, practices.
- City building closed Monday, December 25th in observance of Christmas and Monday, January 1st in observance of New Year's Day.
- Tuesday, January 2nd - Oath of Office and Reorganization Meeting at 11AM.

Mayor Dandoy adjourned the meeting at 7:47 PM.

SUBMITTED:

APPROVED



Melinda F. Gall, City Clerk



Robert A. Dandoy, Mayor

