

**MINUTES**  
**City Council Meeting**  
**City of Butler, Pennsylvania**  
**March 23, 2023**

Mayor Dandoy called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Mayor Dandoy and Council members Reese, Shearer, Christy, and Herr were present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag followed an invocation given by Reverend Kimberly van Driel, First English Lutheran Church.

**PRESENTATION:**

Tony Pratt and Will Baker from NexTier Wealth Management and Clem Rosenberger (President/CEO – NexTier Bank) presented a strategic plan for the City's consideration.

**Mayoral Annual Report:**

"When I was at the PA Municipal League conference in Penn State last week, at one point I had to review a section of the code and I saw something in the duties of the mayor that said...

*"The mayor shall submit an annual report to council and the public that includes recommendations on ways to improve efficiency of the city government based on the prior fiscal year and any other recommendations the mayor deems to be in the public interest."*

So I texted Solicitor Breth and asked him, in the context of the City Code, what does "shall" mean?

He replied "The term 'shall' means mandatory... no discretion."

It doesn't say "when or how" that report should be given but, with this "shall" in mind, I thought I would put together a few thoughts about this last year in City Government.

The first decisions out of the gate for me and my fellow council members were two of the best ones we made. Faced with an empty seat because of my election as mayor, we began the process to select a new council member and decided on Councilman Dan Herr. Right after this decision, we were faced with another open seat upon the passing of our friend and councilman, Mike Walter. We began the process again and settled on asking Councilman Fred Reese to join us.

These have been important and wise decisions.

Along with Councilman Christy and Councilman Shearer, it has been my privilege and, yes, my pleasure to serve with these men. Our work together has been cordial, productive, and free from the many of the unpleasanties and vitriol that have plagued other councils and governing bodies everywhere. I thank them all for their dedication and time spent in the service of our citizens.

Of course, we can't get anything done without the talents and hard work of the employees of this city. It is my philosophy to make sure the right people are on board in the right places. Then, the best management style is to get out of their way and let them apply

their talents, facilitating and supporting as best as we can, intervening only when called for.

We are fortunate that our City Employees have by and large performed well and have moved this city forward. That is the most fundamental goal I have.

In particular, I thank all department heads including John Evans, Rod Huey, Tom Shuler, Jim Chiprean, Chief Switala, Chief O'Neil, and every employee who works with them in their departments. I extend thanks to Treasurer Linda Graham Greek and Controller Barb Hall. I count on and value the counsel and work of Solicitor Breth; it is vital to our success. And you'll indulge me if I name the people I work with every day, Kerry Dowdy, Marlys Frederick, and Anna Pritts.

Of course, in addition to our employees, there are our volunteers including commission and authority members and committee members. They also use their talents and work diligently for only the most intrinsic of rewards: for the good of the community. On a personal note, I wanted to single out Veronica Walker at the Redevelopment Authority for her hard work and commitment and being another among the many who has taught me a great deal.

I'll close the thank you section with special thanks to Mindy Gall and her commitment to our city and its residents. Meeting in her office today, Rod Huey said that she worries more about things in the city than anyone else. She turned to me and said, "I don't worry that much, do I?" I said, "Yes, you do!" And, even when it drives us all crazy, it's a very good thing. Worrying about the details keeps us all honest and keeps things from slipping through the cracks. Thank you for your dedication ... and for worrying, Mindy.

As far as specific accomplishments from the last year, some highlights:

- Approval of a 1.3 million dollar grant to improve our parks and playgrounds, pointing out again that the proposal was put together under pressure but with great professionalism and competence.
- Continued improvements to the streetscape including initiatives begun under the previous administration.
- Completion of the Sullivan Run Project.
- Successful and safe staging of festivals, parades, Foodie Fridays, and other events on our city streets ... with more to come.
- Improved communications with state, county, and township elected officials and leaders.
- New businesses, new investments leading to potential high impact development such as the Penn Theater and the former middle school.

There is MUCH more to come.

So much of the future success will be dependent on the work that we've done in moving along the initiative that is the BASA sale. Working in conjunction with other dedicated and talented people in the Township, BASA, and the legal and communications team that we have retained, we stand on the edge of a generational change for the City of Butler. Upon completion of this deal, this city will never be the same. Councilman Shearer has said that the most important decision he will make as a councilperson is the one to select a manager for these assets. If we do this right, they will last far into the future, for generations of city residents. The right investments will bring great positive growth to our city. The benefits of citizenship will exponentially improve while the cost of citizenship will stay flat: there will be more "bang for the buck."

There are many NEEDS in this city. There are numerous WANTS. The charge I put in front of this council, our employees, and our citizens is to diligently work to carefully utilize these assets and meet these wants and needs with foresight and fiscal responsibility.

I said often that I have the most selfish of motives: I want a better Butler for my family, my grandchildren and many more for generations to come. That hasn't changed. We ALL want that. The future is bright, filled with potential. I hope everyone connected even in the most remote and distant manner uses their energy to achieve what I KNOW we can achieve."

Motion by CM Shearer with a second from CM Christy to approve the agenda for the regular meeting of March 23, 2023. All voted aye.

Motion by CM Reese with a second from CM Shearer to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 23, 2023. All voted aye.

Motion by Mayor Dandoy 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 February.

Mayor Dandoy announced a new event to be held on May 6, 2023 by Butler Downtown, called "**Sips in the City**".

#### 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 February. Motion by CM Reese. Second by CM Herr. All voted aye.

#### COUNCIL REPORTS/ACTIONS

##### Councilman Reese

1. Motion for the introduction and first reading of **City Ordinance No. 1815**, an ordinance of the City of Butler, Pennsylvania amending the City's traffic control schedules contained in Chapter 245 of the codified ordinances of the City of Butler by making permanent the experimental regulations previously adopted by city council on a 90-day trial basis. Second by CM Herr. All voted aye.

### Councilman Shearer

2.Motion to approve a payment in the amount of \$3,749.20 to the County of Butler for debt service for the **Butler County Infrastructure Loan Payment**. (Note: This payment is for the current interest; due May 1st.) Second by CM Reese. All voted aye.

### Councilman Christy

3.Motion to accept the resignation of Anne Thomson from the **Planning and Zoning Commission** effective immediately. Second by CM Shearer. All voted aye.

4.Motion to submit plans to Firestone Building Products for post warranty alteration of the Public Safety Building roof for an electrical conduit penetration necessary to the install of the Plymovent vehicle exhaust extraction system in the fire station apparatus bays. Second by CM Shearer. All voted aye.

### Councilman Herr

5.Motion to approve **City Resolution No. 2023-03-23**; for the project "**City of Butler – Emily Brittain Playground Rehabilitation**". Second by CM Reese. All voted aye.

6.Motion to approve an agreement with the **Butler Youth Lacrosse Association** to utilize Memorial Park and Father Marinaro Park beginning March 24<sup>th</sup> and ending June 16<sup>th</sup> for their Spring Youth Lacrosse Season contingent upon execution of the lease agreement and the receipt of proof of insurance. Second by Christy. All voted aye.

7.Motion to approve the quote from **VHC Vantine Heating and Cooling**, in the amount of \$5,750.00 for the replacement of the heating system in the parks department. Second by CM Shearer. All voted aye.

### Mayor Dandoy

8.Motion to approve closing Main Street from West Pearl Street to Wayne Street for the **Memorial Day Parade**, sponsored by Veterans Services, to be held on Monday May 29, 2023, from 10:15 AM until 12:45 PM. Second by CM Christy. All voted aye.

9.Motion to approve a revolving loan (loan from the Housing Redevelopment Assistance Fund) to **Tim Yerace/Kenmac Rentals, LLC** in the amount of \$80,000.00 per the recommendation by the Butler Downtown Revolving Loan Committee. Second by CM Shearer. All voted aye.

The City Treasurer presented a Monthly Intake Report for February 2023.

The City Controller presented bills for payment as follows: from the general fund - \$714,352.15; from the parking fund - \$47,342.69; from the capital projects fund - \$162.00 and from the liquid fuels tax fund - \$44,465.27; for a **grand total of \$806,322.11**. Motion by Mayor Dandoy with second from CM Shearer to approve payment of bills as presented. All voted aye.

### **March Public Announcement - Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)**

As part of an ongoing education plan, we would like to remind local residents to properly clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program, or donate unused paints to local organizations. Also, sweep and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar. Always protect your hands, eyes, and ears when working and touching construction materials containing chemicals. If you are unsure how to properly dispose of construction waste, please contact your local municipality. Never dump anything into the storm sewer system.


- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

April 7<sup>th</sup> – closed for Good Friday

Mayor Dandoy adjourned the meeting at 8:09 PM.

SUBMITTED:

APPROVED

  
Melinda F. Gall, City Clerk

  
Robert A. Dandoy, Mayor

