

COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
February 17, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 PM by Councilman-at-large Rosas followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Councilmen Michalski, Rivera, Gonzalez, Councilwoman Szukala and Councilman-at-large Rosas.

Also present: Mayor Dolce, City Attorney Szot, City Treasurer Woods, Fiscal Affairs Officer Halas, Public Works Director Gugino, Clerk, Board of Assessors Mleczko, Building Inspector Zurawski, Director of Development Neratko, Personnel Administrator Heyden and Police Chief Ortolano.

Absent: Fire Chief Ahlstrom

Certification of Tuesday February 03, 2015 meeting was read by City Clerk Joiner.

RESOLVED: That the reading of the minutes of February 03, 2015 be dispensed with.

Motion by Councilman Gonzalez to accept the minutes as presented. Seconded by Councilman Rivera.

Carried, all voting aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mary Rees 433 Dove Street read the following statement:

“Mayor Dolce, Members of Council and Department Heads. Good Evening:

I’m Mary Rees, 433 Dove Street, Dunkirk, here on behalf of the community improvement organization, Revitalize Dunkirk, to tell you about a project we’re planning to provide large flower planters for three blocks of Central Avenue between the railroad berm and 6th Street.

We believe that placing up to 18 large containers full of colorful, professionally designed plant arrangements along the busiest part of the city’s main thoroughfare would not only be a source of pleasure and civic pride to all who pass by, but would also promote commerce by attracting more traffic to the area.

We have been impressed by a variety of styles of downtown flower planters seen in Hamburg, Buffalo and many other cities and believe we can do the same thing here. Several of Revitalize Dunkirk’s Beautification Committee members—Joan Houck, Skeeter Tower, Susan Michaels and Nicole Waite—have begun research over the past year with local businesses about sizes, styles and costs of containers best suited to our weather and the area we have in mind.

We’re beginning fundraising efforts with a Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation “Community Pride” matching grant, which has an application deadline of March 1, and we want to be sure we have your permission and support as we proceed. We plan to solicit funds from individuals, businesses, clubs and civic organizations to pay the balance of the cost by sponsoring individual planters.

Some of you are already aware of this idea. Over the past year, other Revitalize Dunkirk members have discussed details of this idea with some Common Council members, as well as with employees of the Dunkirk Local Development Corporation and the Public Works Department, to troubleshoot potential problems and work on solutions. We are hopeful that the Mayor and members of the Common Council will see this project as a valuable and exciting opportunity and be willing to partner with us to make it happen.

We know that the City's current budget does not allow for undertaking this project on its own, but here is what you can do to help:

- Grant official permission (in a resolution, or whatever is necessary) for us to place planters at mutually agreed upon intervals along Central Avenue, taking into account existing ordinances, pedestrian safety, and parking issues, as well as aesthetics.
- Agree to accept any completed planters as City property, as a gift from Revitalize Dunkirk.
- Partner with Revitalize Dunkirk to find practical and inexpensive solutions for keeping the planters watered throughout the growing season and storing them, if necessary, over the winter.

We understand that accepting a gift of streetscape planters could be a problem for you, since there is no personnel to maintain them or winter storage space that may be necessary. Revitalize Dunkirk plans to recruit volunteers to "adopt" individual planters for maintenance such as weeding and deadheading. Perhaps the City could provide watering services and, if needed in the fall, personnel and equipment for transporting containers to a winter storage facility, such as a local greenhouse. One greenhouse estimates an annual storage fee of \$200. If the project is realized, perhaps the City could find unallocated funds to cover this modest cost, as well.

If you are in favor of this plan, we would greatly appreciate a brief letter of support for this project from the Mayor and/or Common Council members (as soon as is practical, in your normal course of business) to append to our grant application. Such a letter of support would reassure NCCF that any monies granted us for this purpose would not be wasted through lack of appropriate coordination with and interest on the part of City officials.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring this proposal to your attention and for carefully considering it."

Steve Rees, 433 Dove Street, Dunkirk, on behalf of Revitalize Dunkirk, extended an open invitation to the next Revitalize Dunkirk meeting that will be held at the Incubator on Thursday February 19th at 6:30 PM.

Harriet "Skeeter" Tower, 438 Swan Street, Dunkirk, thanked the Mayor for taking the next step on behalf of the Adams Art Gallery, advised that Academy Heights is looking for a letter of support for a grant proposal for neighborhood banners and hopes there will be no issues with oil tanker safety going through the city. Ms. Tower than advised that the Director of the Preservation Authority will be making a site visit to the city at the end of next month and hopes that the Landmark Commission will have been formed by that point so the group can assure the Director that the residents are serious about preserving historical buildings.

Mike Civiletto, 436 Swan Street, Dunkirk, former president of the Historical Society, inquired to the Mayor as to the payment status of the City Historian Robert Harris, reminded that a Historian has to be appointed yearly and advised that CSX has had 110 violations last time it was inspected and hopes that something is being done to prevent any oil tankers from being derailed.

Mayor Dolce advised that Mr. Harris has been paid.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR INCLUDING DISAPPROVAL MESSAGES:

Mayor Dolce advised that has spoken to representatives from Senator Schumer's Office, will pass the public's concerns on as the Senator is working on this with his committees and advised that he hasn't had successful communication with CSX in regards to the oil tankers.

Mayor Dolce advised that he appreciated the proposal from Ms. Rees and would also like to make additions of benches, trees and receptacles, reminded that the presentation on the Fire Hall Study from Pacheco Ross Architects will be at 6:15 PM following this Council Meeting and hopes to have a date set by the end of the week for the State of the City.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC AND PETITIONS:

Request from Scott Mekus on behalf of Dunkirk High School Class of 1989 to use a portion of City owned property located at the High School on July 4th for approximately 30 minutes for the Marauder Trotter 5K Run/Walk.

Councilwoman Szukala asked Police Chief Ortolano and Public Works Director Gugino if they were ok with the new location.

Police Chief Ortolano and Public Works Director Gugino advised that they had no issues with where the event was taking place.

Councilman Rivera thanked City Clerk Joiner for her work with the sponsor to come to this request and advised he hopes to see this event yearly.

Councilman-at-large Rosas advised a motion was needed to approve and refer to DPW, Police, Fire and Law Departments, contingent on prior proof of appropriate insurance by the sponsor and by all participating vendors or contractors naming the city as additional insured and that all city property is left in the same condition as prior to the event.

Councilman Gonzalez made a motion to approve. Seconded by Councilman Rivera.

Carried, all voting aye.

Request from Dunkirk Fast-Pitch Team to use the Stadium, Kochs & Veterans Fields on July 17th to the 19th, waiver of the curfew for all three days, and permission for a food stand around the Stadium for that weekend.

Councilman-at-large Rosas advised a motion was needed to approve and refer to DPW, Police, Fire and Law Departments, contingent on prior proof of appropriate insurance by the sponsor and by all participating vendors or contractors naming the city as additional insured and that all city property is left in the same condition as prior to the event.

Councilman Michalski made a motion to approve. Seconded by Councilman Rivera.

Carried, all voting aye.

Loudspeaker application from Bart's Cove for live bands from May 1st thru November 29th.

Loudspeaker application from Dunkirk Memorial Post #62 for a live band from 3:00-6:00 PM for a Chicken BBQ.

Councilwoman Szukala made a motion to approve. Seconded by Councilman Rivera.

Carried, all voting aye.

Notice of Claim from Maria Soto for damages to her vehicle allegedly caused by a city vehicle.

Councilman-at-large Rosas advised a motion was needed to refer to Law Department.

Councilwoman Szukala made a motion to refer. Seconded by Councilman Gonzalez.

Carried, all voting aye.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Councilman Michalski thanked Revitalize Dunkirk for taking the initiative to help beautify downtown and advised that he would support their proposal.

Councilman Michalski inquired to Mayor Dolce for an update on the Bertges Property payments.

Mayor Dolce advised that he has met as recently as last month with the Bertges Family and the County IDA, who is acting as a liaison, and is hoping to have this resolved within the next few months.

Councilman Rivera thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting despite the weather, wished Mr. Rutland "good luck" with his show tomorrow and advised Mrs. Rees, Ms. Tower, Mr. Civileto and Mr. Rees that they have his support.

Councilman Rivera inquired to Mayor Dolce for an update on the Historical Board and the Cable Access station and thanked him for his due diligence with the DLDC situation.

Mayor Dolce advised that next month seemed like a nice target to have the Historical Board set up by and that he has met with two potential co-managers for cable access. He explained that one would work with the students while the other will work with the technical aspects, both would stay under the original budgeted amount and that he hopes to have a resolution shortly.

Councilman Gonzalez thanked Mrs. Rees and Revitalize Dunkirk for their work, advised he will support their efforts and that the next Personnel Meeting is scheduled for February 23rd at 4:30 PM in the Mayor's Conference Room.

Councilman Gonzalez inquired to Mrs. Rees if she has reached out to local businesses for support.

Mrs. Rees advised that the grant is minimal and that they would be looking for substantial donations from local businesses.

Councilwoman Szukala advised Council will be on WDOE at 8:45 AM on February 26th, asked Building Inspector Zurawski for an update on the Land Bank properties and inquired to Mayor Dolce for an update on the Marina construction.

Building Inspector Zurawski advised that all four properties are out for bid on the asbestos abatement with bids due March 3rd and that they were grouped together with hopes that there would be a better price.

Mayor Dolce advised that he has spoken to Mr. Gambino this past Friday and hopes to hear back from him again real soon.

Councilman-at-large Rosas thanked everyone for attending the meeting and reminded everyone that anyone interested in the Brownfield Opportunity Act Step 2 Grant Steering Committee should contact Director of Development Neratko.

Director of Development Neratko advised he recently met with the DEC and Department of State, expects of have a kick-off meeting for the Steering Committee within the next couple of weeks, DEC cleanup on the Willow Brook pond site will be cleaned to commercial standards and the DEC is completing the design phase for the demolition along Lucas Avenue with the buildings hopefully being taken down this Fall.

Public Works Director Gugino advised that he and City Engineer Woodbury attended a kickoff meeting in Mayville and will be meeting with a FEMA Representative to work on the City possibly getting reimbursed for all funds related to the November winter storm.

PRE-FILED RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION #4 -2015
FEBRUARY 17, 2015

BY: THE ENTIRE COUNCIL

AUTHORIZING BUDGET MODIFICATIONS
(February 2015)

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that some expenses will exceed their entire budgetary essentials, and it is anticipated that some appropriations will have surpluses for Fiscal Year 2015, ending December 31, 2015; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Fiscal Affairs Officer is hereby authorized and directed to make the following modifications to the Fiscal Year 2015 budget:

FUND 2

Description: Water Quality Report – Internet, could not scale back the subscription.

<u>ACCOUNT NO.</u>	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>LINE</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
002.8330.4009	Water Laboratory	Advertising / Fees	\$ 575
002.8330.4022	Water Laboratory	Repair / Maintenance	\$ (575)
		TOTAL	\$ -

FUND 2

Description: Repairs to faulty chlorine line at water treatment plant.

<u>ACCOUNT NO.</u>	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>LINE</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
002.8320.4021	Water Purification	Repair / Maintenance	\$ 700
002.8320.4115	Water Purification	Sewer Fees	\$ (700)
		TOTAL	\$ -

Carried, all voting aye.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilwoman Szukala moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman Gonzalez.

Carried, all voting aye.

Adjourned at 6:06 PM

Nicole Joiner, City Clerk
