

DUBOISTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY JANUARY 23, 2025
4:30 PM

MEETING MINUTES

The General Council meeting was called to order at 4:32 pm by Harry Rogers, Council President.

Present were, Harry Rogers, Marc Drier, Kate Weaver, Patrick Melloy, Norman J Cowden, Dori Rankinen, John McCormick, Ann Marie Baker Borough Manager, Shawn Millard

Absent Mayor Richard Knecht, Mike Rodgers

Public Comment – Robert Welter Summer Street – sent email that he requested the Borough Manager read to council during public comment. As for the noise ordinance, I just want the borough to realize that all the money that has been received from the VFW could go away and somebody needs to inform the boat club that this will affect them with their year-end party. I am all for imposing time limits on outside events, but we need to be smart about this Friday and Saturday until 9 is smart early is not

Kathy Wither Valley Street – All have received her concerns in previous meetings, but she wanted to express that she wants council to make sure they listen to the residents on this.

Motion #1 was moved and seconded (Norman Cowden/John McCormick) to approve the setting the tax collector pay rate at 4.00 per bill for the 2025 year.

Motion #1 carries by a Unanimous Vote (6-0)

Name	Nomination	Motion	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
John McCormick			x	x			
Patrick Melloy				x			
Harry Rogers				x			
Dori Rankinen				x			
Mike Rodgers							x
Norman Cowden		x		x			
Shawn Millard				x			
Mayor Knecht							x

Motion #2 was moved and seconded (John McCormick/Norman Cowden) to accept the Tax Milage rate ordinance for 2025.

Discussion there was no tax increase for the 2025 year

Motion #2 carries by a Unanimous Vote (6-0)

Name	Nomination	Motion	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
John McCormick		x		x			
Patrick Melloy				x			
Harry Rogers				x			
Dori Rankinen				x			

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Mike Rodgers							X
Norman Cowden			X	X			
Shawn Millard				X			
Mayor Knecht							X

Discussion on the noise ordinance was conducted, and the following is some of what was discussed:

Norman Cowden wanted clarification on why the noise ordinance that we have today was not able to be enforced. The Solicitor did state that the ordinance that the borough has today is enforceable, but the council can make changes or additions if they feel they would like to. John McCormick also wanted to ask if the ordinance was enforceable.

Norman Cowden asked the borough manager why the police could not enforce the ordinance that we have currently. The Borough Manager advised that the police will enforce the ordinance if they are contacted. The noise complaint must be given to the police as the issue is happening and the police will go and investigate and enforce if they need to. The police department advised that they have addressed noise complaints in the borough.

The council received documentation in the previous meetings from the borough manager as well as resident Kathy Wither on noise issues and information from PLCB. The Borough Manager also included additional documentation for the council with examples of other ordinances and entertainment district rules and regulations permitting outdoor music/. entertainment and articles that other areas have had to address noise complaints from commercial businesses with outdoor music.

Katie Caputo was not at meeting for the public comment period so the President permitted her to speak, and she again expressed her concern for the noise from the outdoor parties Music/Bands playing music outside at the VFW under the pavilion and expressed that she hoped council would take her family in consideration when making a decision on the noise ordinance. The Pavillion area is for picnics not Live Music. She is asking that the council is mindful of the PLCB state laws to not make our ordinance overseed the state.

Shawn Millard wanted to express his thoughts on setting time limits on amplified music outside. Discussed the decibels and the footage that you can hear amplified music.

Attorney suggested that the council should be careful to add decibels but that adding amplified music restrictions could be made.

Paul McKinley Winter Street wants to keep the ordinance the same but said look at the business district only not the entire borough. He suggested the VFW put up a privacy fence to help block the noise. He is worried about the residents not being able to enjoy music in their own yard. Discussion on the outdoor entertainment vs noise.

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John McCormick asked the residents in attendance what would work for them. What compromise could the council do for them and the VFW. He stated that the commander of the VFW did admit that some of the bands were loud, and they were not having them back this year. John stated that maybe we should wait to see how the commander is going to fix the issue as he advised us in the earlier meetings that he wants to be a good neighbor and work with keeping noise level down.

Kathy Wither wanted to make sure that the council was making ordinance stricter than state PLCB

The solicitor explained what unreasonable nuisance would be. Complaints of noise must be sent to the police as a complaint so that they can effectively enforce.

Motion #3 was moved and seconded (Shawn Millard/Dori Rankinen) to approve the changes to the existing ordinance that amplified music heard 75 feet beyond property line between the hours of 9pm to 8am is presumed to be unreasonable and a nuisance and advertise for the February meeting approval of the addition to the current noise ordinance.

Motion #3 carries by a Unanimous Vote (6-0)

Name	Nomination	Motion	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
John McCormick				X			
Patrick Melloy				X			
Harry Rogers				X			
Dori Rankinen			X	X			
Mike Rodgers							X
Norman Cowden				X			
Shawn Millard		X		X			
Mayor Knecht							X

Public Comment #2 None

Motion #4 was moved and seconded (Dori Rankinen/Shawn Millard) to adjourn at 5:49pm

Motion #4 carries by a Unanimous Vote (6-0)

Name	Nomination	Motion	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
John McCormick				X			
Patrick Melloy				X			
Harry Rogers				X			
Dori Rankinen		X		X			
Mike Rodgers							X
Norman Cowden				X			
Shawn Millard			X	X			
Mayor Knecht							X

Approved:

Ann Marie Baker

Date:

2/13/25

Motion:

John McCormick

Second:

Patrick Melloy

Date:

2/13/25