

**BOROUGH OF ELIZABETH
MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 28, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

Chad Rager, President of Council, called the regularly scheduled council meeting to order via web conference due to the COVID-19 Pandemic at 10:00a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chad Rager, President of Council, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council Present: Mr. Rager, Mr. Miklos, Ms. Gephart, Mr. Guffey, Mrs. Morris and Ms. Smrdel.
Others Present: Mayor Boucher; Krisha DiMascio, Dodaro, Matta & Cambest, Solicitor; Chief Sombo; and Lauren Zang, Secretary
Council Absent: Mr. Shaner

CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None- Comments were due to be submitted via email to the Borough Secretary no later than Friday, March 27, 2020 at 12:00p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2020 Regular Council Meeting:

- Motion – Mr. Miklos
- Second – Mrs. Morris
- Voice Vote – Unanimous

BILLS

Motion to ratify the payment of the bills as submitted for a total of \$32,316.38:

- Motion – Mr. Miklos
- Second – Mrs. Morris
- Roll Call Vote – Unanimous

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion to approve the February 2020 Treasurer's Report:

- Motion – Mr. Miklos
- Second – Mrs. Morris
- Voice Vote – Unanimous

MAYOR'S REPORT

No report.

Chief Sombo reported the breakdown of calls for the period January 28, 2020 through February 24, 2020. Chief Sombo reported the agreement with Sam Vargo Kennels should be ready for next month, Addendum A is being reviewed by Vargo. In addition, the 2014 Police Cruiser is currently out of service due to engine breakdown. The price to replace the engine is over \$5,000. Chief Sombo received pricing from C. Harper Auto Group for a new vehicle at a cost of \$43,175.00. Lettering of the vehicle and the installation of the police radio are the only items not included in this cost.

Motion to purchase a new 2020 Police Cruiser in the amount of \$43,175.00 from C. Harper Auto Group with the line of credit through Farmer's Bank with an interest rate of 3.25%:

- Motion – Mrs. Morris
- Second – Ms. Gephart
- Roll Call Vote – Those in favor were Mr. Miklos, Mrs. Morris and Ms. Gephart. Those opposed were Mr. Rager, Ms. Smrdel and Mr. Guffey. Mayor Boucher voted yes to break the tie vote. Motion carries 4:3

TREASURER'S REPORT

No report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Ms. DiMascio reported that she has spoken with the Solicitor of West Elizabeth and they currently do not have the \$15,000 to pay the first quarter payment for police services. They expect to have a partial payment to us soon.

In addition, Ms. DiMascio stated she does not recommend waiving the building permit fee for the Elizabeth Sanitary Authority. There is no written agreement in place waiving the fee for street openings. Street openings need to be submitted to the Borough as all others are submitted.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT

No report.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Reported by Chief under the Mayor's report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Finance

Mrs. Morris stated she is working on gaining online access for the Farmer's line of credit and suggests having a committee meeting to discuss current finances.

Public Safety

Chief stated the rumor of an Elizabeth Borough Police Officer having COVID-19 is false and he investigated. However, there has been one reported case of COVID-19 in the Borough. Chief is to close the park until the pandemic is cleared. Officers are operating on a modified schedule and not responding to nonemergency calls. Chief requested a motion to be made to purchase reusable respirators for the officers at a cost of \$19.90 per unit.

Motion to purchase reusable respirators for the police at a cost of \$19.90 per unit:

- Motion – Mr. Miklos
- Second – Mrs. Morris
- Voice Vote – Unanimous

Parks & Recreation

Addressed under Public Safety

Ordinance

Look into Moose Demolition permit.

Personnel

No report.

Economic Development

Continue brainstorming for new ways to generate revenue.

Planning

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion to approve the authorization to obtain a credit card from PNC Bank for official Elizabeth Borough business:

- Motion to table – Mrs. Smrdel
- Second – Ms. Gephart
Solicitor to review policy for usage and credit limit.

It should be noted for the record Ms. Gephart left the conference call.

NEW BUSINESS

▪ **Motion to terminate employment of Probationary Part Time Police Officer George Schmetzer effective immediately:**

- Motion – Ms. Guffey
- Second – Mr. Miklos
- Voice Vote – All in Favor

It should be noted for the record Ms. Gephart returned to the conference call.

- **Motion to hire Daniel J. Patrick for a Part Time Police Officer position, effective immediately, background check completed and approved:**
 - Motion – Mr. Guffey
 - Second – Mrs. Morris
 - Voice Vote – All in Favor

- **Motion to hire Ashley Redshaw for a Part Time Police Officer position, pending passing the background check:**
 - Motion – Mr. Guffey
 - Second – Mrs. Morris
 - Voice Vote – All in Favor

- **Motion to hire James Santucci for a Part Time Police Officer position, pending the background check:**
 - Motion – Mr. Guffey
 - Second – Mrs. Morris
 - Voice Vote – All in Favor

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mayor Boucher stated this is one of the best Council's he has worked with.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m.:

- Motion – Mr. Miklos
- Second – Mrs. Morris
- Voice Vote – All in Favor