

Minutes
Borough of Elizabeth - Regular Meeting of Council
December 26, 2023. 7:00 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Litigation & Personnel Issues 6:30

President Guffey called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Mr. Buchina, Mrs. Cress, Mr. Rager, Mr. Smith, Mr. Guffey
Others Present: Solicitor Matta, Mr. Craighead
Absent: Mrs. Gephart, Mrs. Turner, Mayor Boucher

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This meeting is being recorded for transcription of the minutes only.

VISITORS

Mary Pust – Expressed her wishes to keep the police force. Her concern was that even though it is a savings now she is concerned about the cost in the future. She asked about other departments keeping their police forces. Mr. Guffey informed her that the contract is for \$225,000 for 2024 and there is an increase of 5% over the next 4 years which would be a considerable savings over the next 4 years. The new contract guarantees coverage for the borough for dedicated shifts for the first 2 shifts of the day and shared shifts with Blaine Hill and Oak Hill on the midnight shift. The savings and the guaranteed coverage are the reasons why council feels it is the best move for the Borough. Mrs. Pust replied OK that explains it.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2023 Workshop Meeting, the November 15, 2023 Special Meeting and the November 28, 2023 Council Meeting.

Motion - Mr. Smith
2nd Mr. Buchina
All in favor – Motion passed

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion to pay the bills as presented.

Motion – Mr. Buchina
2nd Mr. Smith
All in favor – Motion passed

REPORTS

Mayor –

Treasurer – Report is in the packet.

Solicitor – Nothing for the public session

Building Inspector - Nothing

Chief of Police –

Animal Control –

Borough Manager – Tonight we will pass a budget that is 0 Mil increase. The report is in the packet.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Budget & Finance – As the manager reported we are asking for approval tonight for a 2024 budget with zero (0) mil tax increase.

Public Safety –

Public Works – Report is in the packet.

Parks and Recreation – Pursuing grant for Duke Park with new fencing, courts, pavilion, handicapped accessible sidewalks and lighting.

Ordinance –

Personnel –

Economic Development –

Planning –

Old Business -

New Business

Motion to approve Item 1
Motion – Mr. Smith
Second – Mr. Buchina
Role Call

All in favor 5-0
Motion passes

Motion to approve Item 2
Motion – Mr. Smith
Second - Mr. Rager

Role Call

All in favor 5- 0
Motion passes

Motion to pass items 3 through 20

Motion – Mr. Smith
Second – Mr. Rager

Item 9 – 4 Yes and 1 Abstain by Cole Buchina
All other items 5-0 approval
Motions passed

1. Motion to adopt the 2024 budget with 0 tax millage increase
2. Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-15 setting the 2024 millage rate at 9.5.
3. Motion to allow the Borough Manager to advertise an Ordinance for disbanding the Elizabeth Borough Police Department upon Solicitor review.
4. Motion to approve the Agreement with Local Union 205 regarding disbandment of the police department.
5. Motion to approve the end of employment agreement with Chief William Sombo.
6. Motion to approve the sale of two (2) police vehicles to Elizabeth Township for \$14,999.00 for the 2020 police vehicle and \$1.00 for the 2016 police vehicle.
7. Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-16 appointing Mark Turnley, CPA to audit the 2023 finances.
8. Motion to increase the wages of Dwayne Lewis to \$21.39 per hour effective January 1, 2024.
9. Motion to increase the wages of Cole Buchina to \$19.39 per hour effective January 1, 2024.
10. Motion to extend the contract for Scott Craighead as the Borough Manager through December 31, 2025.
11. Motion to approve the Insurance Policy for the period of 1/15/2024-1/15/2025 at approximately \$28,803.00 with Glatfelter Public Entities.
12. Motion to renew the Workers Comp Policy with Amtrust.
13. Motion to approve planning commission recommendation to approve revising the dividing line between Lot 1132-E-025

and Lot 1132-E-03 Property Owner: Estate of Roderick K. McNeil & Martha K. McNeil.

14. Motion to approve the planning commission recommendation to combine Lot 1132-J-370 and Lot 1132-J-373 Property Owner: Andrew Miklos
15. Motion to accept Creative Enterprise as the low bidder for the Maple Avenue LSA Grant Project, and reward the contract in the amount of \$94,840.00
16. Motion to accept El Grande as the low Bid for the CD48 Street Reconstruction project, and reward the contract in the amount of \$44,835.00 to pave 4th Avenue.
17. Motion to approve the Volunteer Firemen Tax Credit Application form.
18. Motion to Transfer \$75,000 from ARPA to the General fund to reimburse eligible expenses from 2023.
19. Motion to Approve the Borough Manager to apply for the TAN loan with First Commonwealth Bank for \$100,000 at 5.80%.
20. Motion to authorize the Borough Manager to advertise 2024 meetings.

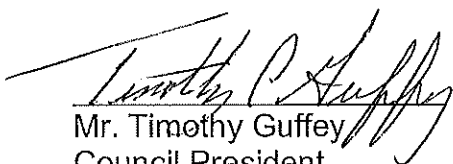
PUBLIC COMMENTS

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Motion to Adjourn – Mr. Smith
Second – Mr. Buchina
All in Favor

ADJOURNMENT – 7:16 PM

Prepared by:


Mr. Timothy Guffey
Council President


Scott Craighead
Borough Manager