

BOROUGH OF ELIZABETH

MEETING OF COUNCIL

DECEMBER 28, 2021

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

President Rager called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Rager led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present – Mr. Rager, Mr. Miklos, Mrs. Morris, and Mr. Guffey

Also Present –Solicitor Krisha DiMascio, Chief Sombo, and Secretary Jean Warren via phone

Absent – Mr. Shaner, Mrs. Gephart and Mrs. Turner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Executive sessions were held on December 15, 2021 and December 28, 2021 to discuss personnel issues.

VISITORS

Cole Buchina – no comments.

COMMENTS ON AGENDA

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to accept the minutes of the November 17, 2021 Workshop Meeting, November 23, 2021 Council Meeting, and December 15, 2021 Workshop Meeting:

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion to pay the bills as presented:

- Motion – Mr. Guffey
- Second – Mrs. Morris
- Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

REPORTS

Mayor

None

Treasurer

No report.

Chief of Police

Chief Sombo provided an update on vehicle maintenance and open shifts.

Solicitor

Mrs. DiMascio reported that West Elizabeth approved the 2022 agreement at their meeting; and that EADC cannot move forward with transferring properties to the Borough.

Building Inspector

Mr. Rager reported that Mr. Reis attended the demolition hearings held earlier in the evening.

Animal Control

Chief Sombo reported there were no calls in November.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Budget & Finance

Mrs. Morris reported PNC still has not opened the Fire Escrow and American Rescue Plan accounts. She will contact them again and stated signers will need changed. Mr. Miklos asked what happens between December 31 and January 3 when the new Council is seated. Mrs. DiMascio stated those days are a holiday, Saturday and Sunday. It was agreed that Mr. Guffey, Mr. Rager, and Mrs. Gephart be the new signers for all bank accounts.

Public Safety

Mr. Rager reported there was a structure fire at the old school and there were issues trying to get the trucks in. He stated that luckily the resident was home and called when he heard crackling. He stated Mr. Lewis provided some ideas for making it safer for trucks by controlling parking.

Public Works

Mr. Miklos reported he emailed the public works report to Council, turned in his keys, and will turn over his file with ideas.

Parks & Recreation

No report.

Ordinance

No report.

Personnel

Mr. Guffey reported that applications were received for the secretary position and that the Borough will advertise for a full-time officer. He stated that hopefully the Borough can move on with an acceptable candidate for secretary.

Economic Development

No report.

Planning

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion to ratify the email vote to authorize the Secretary to advertise 2022 meetings.

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

Motion to ratify the email vote to authorize payment of \$2,143.27 to First Commonwealth Bank to payoff 2021 TAN interest:

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

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to adopt the 2022 budget:

- Motion – Mr. Guffey
- Second – Mrs. Morris
- Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-08 setting the 2022 millage:

- Motion – Mr. Guffey
- Second – Mr. Miklos
- Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-09 appointing Mark Turnley, CPA, to audit the 2021 finances:

- Motion – Mrs. Morris
- Second – Mr. Guffey
- Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

Motion to accept the resignation of Jody Sutton as a part-time police officer:

- Motion – Mr. Guffey
- Second – Mr. Miklos

- Voice Vote – All in Favor

Motion to approve the insurance policy for the period 1/15/22-1/15/23 at a cost of \$29,371:

- Motion – Mr. Guffey
- Second – Mrs. Morris
- Roll Call vote – All in Favor

Motion to approve the West Elizabeth agreement for 2022 to provide police services with a \$1,000 per year increase:

- Motion – Mrs. Morris
- Second – Mr. Guffey
- Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

Motion to approve the chief of police contract with William Sombo:

- Motion – Mr. Guffey
- Second – Mr. Miklos
- Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

Motion to transfer the sales agreement for the Moose property to the Borough from Elizabeth Area Development Corporation:

- MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF FIRST & SECOND

Motion to request the grants for the Moose property be transferred to the Borough with Steel Rivers COG acting as the administrator of the funds:

- MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF FIRST & SECOND

Motion to approve a bonus of \$1,060.80 to Dwayne Lewis of the public works department:

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

Motion to approve a bonus of \$748.80 to Cole Buchina of the public works department:

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

Motion to pay the IRS \$5,986.19 for 3rd quarter 2020 taxes as Borough was not eligible for COVID-19 employer credits:

- Motion – Mrs. Morris
- Second – Mr. Guffey
- Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

Motion to demolish property located at 227 Water Street, Lot & Block 1133-H-366, with Commonwealth Finance Authority funds. Mrs. DiMascio stated this property was an emergency demolition and not part of the demolition hearing held earlier:

- Motion – Mr. Guffey
- Second – Mrs. Morris
- Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

Motion to demolish property located at 164 Center Avenue, Lot & Block 1133-R-278, with Commonwealth Financing Authority funds:

- Motion – Mr. Guffey
- Second – Mrs. Morris
- Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

Motion to demolish property located at 124 Clay Street, Lot & Block 1132-E-042, with Commonwealth Financing Authority funds:

- Motion – Mr. Guffey
- Second – Mrs. Morris
- Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

Motion to demolish property located at 5 Maple Avenue, Lot & Block 1133-H-050, with Commonwealth Financing Authority funds. Mrs. DiMascio stated it is 5-7 Maple Avenue, a duplex:

- Motion – Mrs. Morris
- Second – Mr. Guffey
- Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

Motion to advertise to hire a full-time police officer:

- Motion – Mrs. Morris
- Second – Mr. Guffey
- Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

Motion to move Cole Buchina to full-time as a public works laborer effective January 1, 2022, with employee benefits and a pay rate of \$15 per hour:

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

Motion to approve payments #2 and #3 (final) totaling \$18,154.20 to A. Folino Construction, Inc. from Liquid Fuels funds for 2020 street paving project, as recommended by Senate Engineering:

- Motion – Mrs. Morris
- Second – Mr. Guffey
- Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

Motion to make a conditional offer of employment as a part-time police officer to Matthew Brand, dependent upon outcome of background check.

- Motion to TABLE as has not gone through personnel committee – Mr. Guffey
- Second – Mr. Miklos
- Voice Vote – All in Favor

Motion to amend motion to read: Motion to make a conditional officer of employment as a part-time police officer to Matthew Brand, dependent upon outcome of background check and approval of personnel committee:

- Motion – Mr. Guffey
- Second – Mr. Miklos
- Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

GOOD OF THE ORDER

The reorganization meeting is January 3, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Rager thanked Mr. Miklos and Mrs. Morris for their hard work during their time on Council. He also thanked the police and public works departments for their hard work in keeping the community safe and looking good.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Session was held prior to the meeting and announced.

ADJOURNMENT

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