

BOROUGH OF ELIZABETH

MEETING OF COUNCIL

JANUARY 25, 2022

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Guffey led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present – Mr. Guffey, Mr. Rager, Mrs. Gephart, Mrs. Turner, Mr. Smith, Mr. Buchina and Mrs. Cress.

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

Absent – None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Executive sessions were held on January 19, 2022 and January 25, 2022 to discuss personnel and litigation issues.

VISITORS

Larry Ross, EADC, reported that the EADC agreed to sign over a grant for security cameras, streetscape, and other items to SRCOG. Mrs. DiMascio stated that Allegheny County said the grant cannot be transferred. Mr. Rager asked for an update on the Moose lot. Mr. Ross stated they are going to make it a greenspace and are applying for private funding. Mrs. DiMascio told Mr. Ross to talk to PA DCED before moving forward with changing the scope of the project. Mr. Ross stated he would and then asked about a bill from Elizabeth Borough Municipal Authority for water usage at the Moose property. Mrs. DiMascio asked if they have a tap and stated if so, it cannot not be waived by the Borough. Mr. Ross then addressed replacing Andrew Miklos as the Borough representative at EADC's meetings which are the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Mrs. DiMascio stated it's something the Borough should consider.

COMMENTS ON AGENDA

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to accept the minutes of the December 28, 2021 Council Meeting and January 3, 2022 Reorganization Meeting:

- Motion – Mr. Smith
- Second – Mr. Buchina
- Voice Vote - All in Favor

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion to pay the bills as presented:

- Motion – Mr. Buchina
- Second – Mrs. Gephart
- Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

REPORTS

Mayor

No report.

Treasurer

No report.

Solicitor

Mrs. DiMascio reported she prepared a credit card policy and is working on a street opening ordinance amendment that she will get to Jean to advertise. She also reported that all of her other items were covered in Executive Session.

Building Inspector

No report.

Chief of Police

Chief Sombo reported that the window on one of the police vehicles is cracked and that the Borough has a \$1,000 deductible. He was told to obtain a quote. Chief Sombo also reported he is waiting on MPOETC information for the new hire. Mrs. Warren stated that Ford Office Technology will be at the February workshop to present a proposal for IT services. Mr. Guffey asked what is at 201 McKeesport Road due to a high number of false alarms and Chief Sombo stated it is DaVita Dialysis and he has addressed the issue with them. The Chief informed Council that he will email the posted schedule.

Animal Control

Chief Sombo reported there were no calls in December.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Budget & Finance

No report.

Public Safety

Mr. Rager reported that the Elizabeth and West Elizabeth volunteer fire companies have officially merged. He also reported that the VFC has ordered a new fire rescue boat with a thermal camera that will be docked at the riverfront.

Public Works

Mr. Rager reported the crew has been out working and doing a good job; and that they are still waiting on the new dump truck.

Parks & Recreation

No report.

Ordinance

No report.

Personnel

Mr. Guffey reported the Borough is not quite there yet with filling the Borough Secretary position and that there may be a special meeting or February appointment.

Economic Development

No report.

Planning

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to appoint PNC bank as the official bank:

- Motion – Mr. Buchina
- Second – Mr. Smith
- Voice Vote – All in Favor

Motion to appoint Dodaro Matta & Cambest as solicitor:

- Motion – Mr. Smith
- Second – Mr. Buchina
- Voice Vote – All in Favor

Motion to appoint Glenn Engineer as engineer:

- Motion – Mrs. Turner
- Second – Mr. Smith
- Voice Vote – All in Favor

Motion to appoint Sam Vargo as animal control officer:

- Motion – Mr. Buchina
- Second – Mr. Rager
- Voice Vote – All in Favor

Motion to appoint *The Mon Valley Independent* as official newspaper:

- Motion – Mrs. Turner
- Second – Mr. Rager
- Voice Vote – All in Favor

Motion to transfer \$500 from the General Fund to the Fire Escrow Fund to maintain a balance:

- Motion – Mr. Buchina
- Second – Mr. Smith
- Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

Motion to transfer \$77,245.88 from the General Fund to the American Rescue Plan Fund:

- Motion – Mr. Smith
- Second – Mr. Buchina
- Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

Motion to approve an offer of employment to the position of Borough Secretary:

- MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF FIRST & SECOND

Motion to close the PNC Debit Card account:

- Motion – Mr. Smith
- Second – Mrs. Turner
- Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

Motion to adopt a policy and open a PNC Credit Card account with a credit limit of \$1,000:

- Motion – Mr. Rager
- Second – Mr. Buchina
- Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

Motion to authorize the Secretary to obtain a quote for cyber insurance:

- Motion – Mrs. Gephart
- Second – Mr. Buchina
- Voice Vote – All in Favor

Motion to accept the quote from Ford Business Technology for copiers in the police department and secretary's office:

- Motion – Mr. Rager
- Second – Mrs. Turner
- Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

Motion to appoint Chad Rager as delegate and Timothy Guffey as alternate delegate to the Allegheny County Boroughs Association:

- Motion – Mr. Smith
- Second – Mr. Rager
- Voice Vote – All in Favor

Motion to adopt Resolution 1 of 2022 authorizing the issuance of a TAN for \$100,000 with First Commonwealth Bank:

- Motion – Mr. Rager
- Second – Mr. Smith
- Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

Motion to authorize the Secretary to advertise an ordinance amending the street opening ordinance:

- Motion – Mr. Smith
- Second – Mr. Rager
- Voice Vote – All in Favor

Motion to ratify payment of \$1,300 to Justin J. Talbert for computer work to be paid from the American Rescue Plan Fund:

- Motion – Mr. Buchina
- Second – Mr. Rager
- Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

Motion to increase the wages of Dwayne Lewis from \$17.00 to \$17.50 per hour effective January 1, 2022:

- Motion – Mr. Smith
- Second – Mrs. Turner
- Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

Motion to increase the wages of Cole Buchina from \$15.00 to \$15.50 per hour effective January 1, 2022:

- Motion – Mr. Smith
- Second – Mr. Rager
- Roll Call Vote:
 - o Mrs. Turner – Yes
 - o Mrs. Gephart – Yes
 - o Mr. Smith – Yes
 - o Mr. Rager – Yes
 - o Mr. Guffey – Yes
 - o Mr. Buchina – Abstain
 - o Mrs. Cress – Yes

Motion carried 6 in favor and 1 abstaining.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

GOOD OF THE ORDER

None

ADJOURNMENT

- Motion – Mr. Smith
- Second – Mr. Rager
- Voice Vote – All in Favor