

AGENDA
Borough of Elizabeth—Regular Meeting of Council
July 25, 2023 7:00 PM
Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Guffey led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present – President Guffey, Mr. Buchina, Mr. Smith, Mr. Rager, Ms. Cress, Ms. Turner,
Mayor Boucher

Others present – Borough Manager Mr. Craighead, Solicitor Matta

Absent - Mrs. Gephart

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

VISITORS

Kathlyn Strangis – resident at 204 Center Ave. and is concerned about the many trees that are falling down from the hillside behind her property. Since 2017 she has had 3 insurance claims costing her over 1500 in deductibles from trees falling on her roof and back porch which also raised her overall insurance premium. She states that she has had a lot of other close calls and is coming to the conclusion that the longer she stays there with nothing being done that it's becoming more of a hazard and is scared for her safety. She wants to know whose responsibility is it to cut those old trees down? Solicitor Matta responded that he will look into it and see who actually owns that property and will get back with her as soon as possible.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2023 Workshop Meeting and the June 27, 2023 Council Meeting.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion to pay the bills as presented.

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

REPORTS

Mayor – He is continuing to get many compliments about the borough. There was a Yoga class held outside along the river front which was a success and participants were very impressed with the upgrades.

Treasurer – Report is in the packets

Solicitor – Nothing for the public session

Building Inspector - None

Chief of Police – Report is in the packets.

Animal Control – None

Borough Manager – We are expecting the final approval from the Army Corp. of Engineers to be arriving within the next couple of days.

Steele River COGS received 1 quote for The Riverwalk project so we are doing our research on that engineering firm to make sure that is a reputable company. We will then decide whether to accept that bid or put it back out to bid. Once that process is completed, we should have major construction work beginning this summer. We did get approval for the 2 grants totaling \$701,250 to use for constructing a park on the former Moose Property as well as new sidewalks, street lights, cameras and building façade improvements which is on a 50% match from the property owners. I would like to give credit to our council for being very patient while waiting for the past 2 years in order for me to work with the county on getting this money back with the help from Larry Ross and EADC's cooperation to get that money released back to the community. There is a motion on tonight's agenda to hire 1 part-time police officer. We are working with our engineering firm to get the LSA grant work on Maple Ave. started as soon as possible.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Budget & Finance – The treasurer report is in the packet. President Guffey commented on how quick the end of summer is approaching so we need to begin preparations for the new year's budget which will be voted on during the December council meeting.

Public Safety – We have a busy weekend coming up. Riverfest will begin on Friday June 28, 2023 and the weather is looking good so hopefully we will have a big crowd. Chief said there will be added officers on hand from the county and state to help if needed. Big thanks go out to our businesses who without their donations we would not be able to hold a function like this for our community.

Public Works – The report is in the packets. President Guffey commented on how nice the town is looking and thanked the public works for their hard work.

Parks and Recreation- None / Mr. Craighead commented on the purchase of a \$500 camera system to be installed at Duke Park for security reasons. Hopefully this will help with any issues that we are having up there before making any major investment.

Ordinance – No Report

Personnel – There is a motion to hire a Part-Time Officer after we finish doing the background checks then it gets approved by the personnel committee.

Economic Development – No Report

Planning – No Report

Old Business None

New Business None

President Guffey asked for a motion to approve items 1 through 12

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

1. Motion to accept the quote from Tennis Roofing for \$1495.00 and approve payment for work performed for emergency repair to the borough building roof.
2. Motion to approve purchasing additional employee theft insurance coverage at the cost of \$720 annually. This coverage is required to receive the GEDF and GEDTF grants from the county
3. Motion to appoint Scott Craighead as an eligible signer for the Borough PNC Debit Card.
4. Motion to approve the installment payment to KS State Bank in the amount of \$9561.11 for the 2020 Ford Interceptor police car.
5. Motion to approve the Special Event Application for a Sundae Social at Plum Street for August 6, 2023 held by the Bethesda United Presbyterian Church.
6. Motion to approve the Special Event Application for Burger Cookoff at Duke Park on August 26, 2023 held by the Greater Elizabeth Church Association.

7. Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-04 to be included in the Community Development Block Grant Program beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2027.
8. Motion to adopt Concurring Resolution 2023-05 to meet the requirements for the Moving Elizabeth Forward Update Program Grant in the amount of \$376,250.00
9. Motion to adopt Concurring Resolution 2023-06 to meet the requirements for the Elizabeth Borough Central Business District Streetscape Improvement Initiative Grant in the amount of \$325,000.00
10. Motion to approve the hiring of part-time police officer Joseph Pocsatko pending complete background investigation and personnel committee approval.
11. Motion to approve the Elizabeth Borough Police Department "Media Protection Policy"
12. Motion to approve the Elizabeth Borough Police Department "Disposal of Media Policy and Procedures.

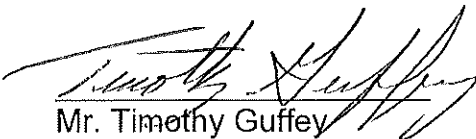
PUBLIC COMMENTS None

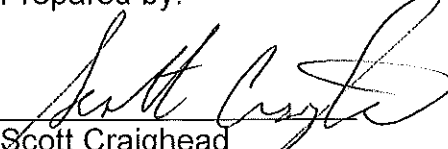
GOOD OF THE ORDER

President Guffy announced that there will be a Work Session on Aug. 16, 2023 to have a ½ hour public discussion on concerns dealing with the decision of either eliminating the police department and contracting it out to another nearby department or hiring of full-time officers to update the department.

ADJOURNMENT

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


Mr. Timothy Guffy
Council President

Prepared by:

Scott Craighead
Borough Manager

