

BOROUGH OF ELIZABETH

MEETING OF COUNCIL

JULY 27, 2021

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

President Rager called the July 27, 2021 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. Guffey, Mr. Miklos, and Mrs. Morris

Also Present – Mayor Boucher, Solicitor DiMascio, Chief Sombo, and Secretary Jean Warren

Absent – Ms. Gephart and Mr. Shaner

VISITORS

Sharon Neeson of 304 8th Street addressed Council regarding dead pine trees going through power lines across the street from her property. The Mayor & Mr. Miklos stated they would take a look. Mrs. DiMascio checked property assessment records and stated the trees are on property owned by Venetia and they will need to be cited.

Larry Ross, EADC, reported that he met with Allegheny County regarding the grant paperwork and things are moving forward. Mr. Miklos asked when it will be finished, and Mr. Ross stated he hoped by the end of summer as he needs to provide additional documents. Mrs. DiMascio informed Mr. Ross that the engineer plan is needed to get the review process started. Mr. Ross also stated the payroll reports are the responsibility of Minniefield.

Dennis Martinak updated Council on the Strategic Management Plan. He reported that Rebecca Vargo sent a letter requesting documents and meetings and that Harry Freucht's part is moving along. He stated he still needs to do a few sit-down interviews.

A resident, Judy, addressed Council regarding the dogs that had attacked and killed another dog. She stated the owner of the dogs let them defecate in her yard. Chief Sombo stated the owner is being cited daily and the citations were mailed to the tenant and property owner. Mrs. DiMascio stated that the Allegheny County Health Department would not assist regarding the condition of their yard because it is currently not high on their priority list; and she also told the resident that she should attend the hearing. Chief Sombo again stated the Borough is doing everything the law allows. Judy was advised to keep calling the police every time it happens, and Mrs. DiMascio directed her to also put "No Trespassing" and "No Dogs" signs in her yard. The Chief stated the dog's owners can then be cited for trespassing.

COMMENTS ON AGENDA

None

FILL COUNCIL VACANCY

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-04 providing for the appointment of Karen Turner, a registered elector of the Borough of Elizabeth to fill the vacancy of Jocelyn Smrdel in accordance with the provisions of section 45901 of the Borough Code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to accept the minutes of the June 29, 2021 Council Meeting and July 21, 2021 Workshop Meeting:

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion to pay the bills as presented:

- Motion – Mr. Guffey
- Second – Mrs. Morris
- Roll Call Vote:
 - o Mr. Rager – Yes
 - o Mr. Miklos – Yes - Abstain from voting on checks #10172 & #10188
 - o Mr. Guffey – Yes
 - o Mrs. Morris - Yes

REPORTS

Mayor

Mayor Boucher reported he is working with someone to get the roses back in shape; reminded everyone that Riverfest is this weekend; and that the solicitors for the Corps of Engineers are working on real estate, fishing, etc. at the waterfront.

Treasurer

No report.

Solicitor

Mrs. DiMascio reported there was an executive session. She also reported that she attended the Corps of Engineers meeting and met with Dennis Martinak.

Building Inspector

No report.

Animal Control

Mrs. Warren read the report submitted by the animal control officer.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Budget & Finance

Mrs. Morris reported there are motions to open two new bank accounts and that the 2020 audit is in process.

Public Safety

Chief Sombo reported that Riverfest is this weekend and requested the additional coverage motions be approved to make sure it is safe. He also stated there will be a zero-tolerance policy and set-up will be Thursday night.

Mr. Rager stated the fire department was lucky regarding the recent electrical fire as Duquesne Light was able to respond timely.

Chief Sombo stated there are 11 open Quality-of-Life cases and that there will be two appeal hearings on August 24, 2021 with Mrs. DiMascio as the hearing officer.

Mr. Guffey asked if the owner of the property with the sink hole in the sidewalk on 3rd Avenue has been cited. Chief Sombo stated the owner is deceased and the Mayor stated that is the only name on the deed. Mrs. DiMascio stated she will check the name and that the Borough cannot trespass to make the repairs.

Public Works

Mr. Miklos reported he is looking at prices on a new dump truck to be included in the 2022 budget and that he is having the Engineer check the 3rd Avenue ramp that goes from Market to McKeesport Road and try to find out who's ramp it is. There was a discussion on whether it was included in the liquid fuel calculation. Mr. Miklos reported there will be six bags of mulch purchased for around trees and they cannot sweep 2nd Avenue because meters are not bagged. He also requested that a motion be added to approve \$600 expenditure for water testing. It was also reported by Mr. Miklos that he is submitted a right-to-know request to EADC for grant paperwork. He also reported he is working on meter collection and that he needed a key to the basement to start organizing it and the Chief stated he will give him his key.

Parks & Recreation

Mrs. Morris reported the movie night on July 23 went great and that Spies in Disguise will be on August 6; and thanked everyone for their help.

Ordinance

No report.

Personnel

Mr. Guffey reported they are scheduling interviews for the Borough Secretary position.

Economic Development

No report.

Planning

No report.

Jason from the fire department inquired about the variance application for the parking lot. Mrs. DiMascio determined they can move forward with the plan as they are just adding lines and charging for parking; and that the approval will be the Borough's Planning Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to authorize opening of a Fire Escrow Account at PNC Bank with the same signers as the other accounts:

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

Motion to authorize opening of an American Rescue Plan Account at PNC Bank with the same signers as the other accounts:

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

Motion to purchase street name signs for a cost not to exceed \$8,000 from Liquid Fuel funds:

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

Motion to approve the Special Event Application submitted by the Elizabeth VFC to close certain streets and sidewalks during Bike Nights:

- Motion – Mrs. Morris
- Second – Mr. Miklos

- Voice Vote:
 - o Mr. Rager – Abstain
 - o Mr. Miklos – Yes
 - o Mrs. Morris – Yes
 - o Mrs. Turner - Yes
 - o Mr. Guffey – Yes

Motion to approve the Special Event Application submitted by the Elizabeth VFC for Riverfest:

- Motion – Mr. Guffey
- Second – Mrs. Morris
- Voice Vote:
 - o Mr. Rager – Abstain
 - o Mr. Miklos – Yes
 - o Mrs. Morris – Yes
 - o Mr. Guffey – Yes
 - o Mrs. Turner - Yes

Motion to appoint Cynthia Morris to replace Jocelyn Smrdel on the Quality-of-Life Appeals Board:

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

Motion to approve the expenditure of \$600 for water testing samples at Waterworks:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Miklos thanked Jason for fixing the bump outs and thanked the street department for working in the heat and doing a good job.

Chief Sombo stated the dedication by the Boy Scouts of the monuments in front of the Borough Building on July 18 was very nice.

Mrs. Morris reported the new parking spaces in front of the Borough Building feel close to drive through.

ADJOURNMENT

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