

BOROUGH OF ELIZABETH

MEETING OF COUNCIL

JUNE 1, 2021

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER –President Rager called the April 27, 2021 meeting to order at 7 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- President Rager led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL- Present for the meeting were President Rager, Vice President Miklos, Mrs. Morris, Mr. Guffey. Also present for the meeting were Solicitor Joseph Dalfonso and Secretary Jean Warren. Absent from the meeting were Ms. Smrdel, Ms. Gephart, and Mr. Shaner. Mayor Boucher was present.

VISITORS:

Larry Ross discussed issues he had with the events and medical portion of the COVID waiver form. He was instructed to list Elizabeth VFC, Southeast Regional EMS, and a Memorandum of Understanding with the events listed on the application. Mr. Ross reported that Solicitor Krisha DiMascio has the new certificate of insurance. There was a discussion regarding clearing the streets to set-up for events. Mr. Miklos reported he will bag the meters on Thursday morning so set-up can occur on Wednesday.

Dennis Martinak updated Council on the Strategic Management Plan by reporting that Harry Freucht is working on the police analysis by reviewing crime reports and DCED reporting analysis. He also reported that Rebecca Vargo is working on a 5-year budget compilation, balance sheet, profit & loss analysis, and assessed values. Mr. Martinak reported they are also reviewing the borough studies that have been completed before, namely the early invention program, street study, riverfront study, etc.; and said stakeholders are being interviewed; developable sites are being looked at; and the report is being drafted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A resident addressed Council regarding a recent pit bull attack. The Mayor stated the Borough adopted an ordinance in 1998 to address dangerous dogs and that it will be used in charging the owner of the dogs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to accept the minutes of the March 17, 2021 Workshop; March 23, 2021 Regular Meeting; April 27, 2021 Regular Meeting; May 7, 2021 Special Meeting; and May 19, 2021 Workshop:

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion to pay the bills as presented with Mr. Miklos abstaining from voting on a reimbursement check to himself and Mr. Guffey abstaining from voting on a check to a family member (Guffey Construction):

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

Motion to approve the Martinak invoice and submit to PA DCED:

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

REPORTS

Mayor

The Mayor reported Chief Sombo is interviewing two more applicants for police officer positions.

Treasurer

It was reported that the Borough has been approved to receive a \$68,310 Blight Remediation Grant through the PA Department of Community & Economic Development.

Solicitor

No report.

Building Inspector

No report. President Rager stated he knows he has been busy.

Animal Control

No report.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Budget & Finance

Mrs. Morris reported she will submit the Martinak invoice to PA DCED.

Public Safety

President Rager reported that sonar device training starts tomorrow and named the other Mon Valley communities participating.

Public Works

No report.

Parks & Recreation

Mrs. Morris reported there will be 3 movie nights on Fridays in July and August with free popcorn and drinks. It was agreed that it would be announced, but not posted on the board.

Ordinance

Mr. Miklos reported that Mrs. Smrdel will be returning the items she has at her home.

Personnel

Mr. Guffey reported they are going to start interviewing for the secretary position and Mrs. Warren will be available for training. He also stated Chief Sombo is interviewing for police officers.

Economic Development

Mr. Miklos reported the appraisal needs reviewed.

Planning

Mrs. Morris received the updated sketch of the Moose Lot, which Vice President Miklos had. President Rager stated that only 4 parking spots are being gained due to losing spots due to the ingress/egress. Vice President Miklos reported that he had checked with PennDOT and that no application was filed for funding. Mr. Ross confirmed that there is no funding. VP Miklos stated that the drawing does not have a professional engineering stamp and President Rager stated that one grant needs closed out before receiving another grant. Ms. Morris stated she will submit the updated sketch to Glenn Engineering for comment, and that there is concern with the Market Street entryway. Mr. Ross stated he will look into the status of the PennDOT application. VP Miklos also stated the drawing does not show drainage and President Rager stated the sidewalks need to be in the drawing.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion to rescind the motion of March 23, 2021 entering an agreement with Weeds, Inc.:

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

Motion to rescind the motion of May 7, 2021 offering a conditional offer of employment to Jennifer Buzzotto with the Elizabeth Borough Police Department:

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

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-03 approving participation in Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD):

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

Motion to offer a conditional offer of employment to Daniel Verno as a part-time police officer on the condition of passing a background check:

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

Mayor Boucher swore-in Daniel Verno.

Motion to accept letter of engagement from Turnley for 2020 audit at a cost of \$5,500:

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

Motion to ratify acceptance of proposal from RC Guffey for cement slab and walk replacement at Borough Building for a cost not to exceed \$4,800:

- Motion – Mr. Miklos
- Second – Mrs. Morris
- Roll Call Vote:
 - o Mr. Miklos – Yes
 - o Mrs. Morris – Yes
 - o Mr. Rager – Yes
 - o Mr. Guffy - Abstain

Motion to accept proposal from JK Upholstery to recover seat in the Ford dump truck for a cost not to exceed \$550:

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

Motion to approve scheduling three movie nights to be held in the park and the expenditure of \$300 per movie license:

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

Motion to approve amending the application to add July 22, 2021 as an additional Benson Lincoln night upon the receipt of the COVID-19 release and a certificate of insurance:

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

Motion to approve application from AME Church for use of the park pavilion on May 29, 2021 upon the receipt of the COVID-19 release and a certificate of insurance:

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

Motion to ratify payment of \$150 to PNC bank owed from payoff of police vehicle:

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

Motion to provide a letter of support to SRCOG to support the request to Allegheny County to renew the lease for the regional training center complex in Elizabeth Township:

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

Motion to purchase a money counter for \$149 with 50 sorting bags at \$80.53 with additional bags purchased as needed:

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

Motion to accept the bid of Ehrlich for weed spraying at a cost of \$775:

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

Motin to accept the bid of \$12,000 from Minniefield Demolition for CD 46 safe neighborhood demolition grant based on recommendation of the Engineer:

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

Motion to approve rental of park pavilion on June 12, 2021:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Rager reported the Army Corps of Engineers is redoing Riverfront Park with new roads, new railings, etc. Mr. Miklos stated they are looking at a company to clear the river bank.

Lisa reported Juicy Mango is expecting an equipment delivery and President Rager told her to talk to the Chief.

Chuck Smith inquired about removing the emergency declaration regarding COVID and Mr. Dalfonso recommended leaving the declaration in place until the state removes their emergency declaration.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Miklos again addressed the animal attack and the ordinance the Borough has in place. He stated ordinances are the tools the Borough needs to keep Elizabeth nice.

ADJOURNMENT

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