

**BOROUGH OF ELIZABETH**

**MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**MARCH 22, 2022**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Guffey led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

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

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

Absent – Mrs. Gephart and Mrs. Turner

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Executive sessions were held on March 16, 2022 and March 22, 2022 to discuss personnel and litigation issues.

**VISITORS**

The owners and a potential buyer of 5-7 Maple Avenue requested time to transfer the property and have repairs made to make the property habitable. Mrs. DiMascio stated the deadline to appeal was missed and the Borough will lose the demolition funds if any agreement is not followed. The interested buyer, Blaine Carothers, requested one year to fix-up the property. Mr. Guffey recommended giving him a stay of 90-days and Mr. Carothers stated that there will be visible improvements in that timeframe. The owner stated that all taxes are paid. Mrs. DiMascio stated they need to wrap-up the sale and sign an agreement and Mr. Guffey stated he would much rather see the property stay on the tax roll.

**AMEND AGENDA**

Motion to amend the agenda to include motions 9 and 10 under New Business:

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

**COMMENTS ON AGENDA**

None

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to accept the minutes of the February 16, 2022 Workshop Meeting and February 22, 2022 Council Meeting:

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

## **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Motion to pay the bills as presented with Mr. Buchina abstaining from all payroll payments:

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

## **REPORTS**

### Mayor

The Mayor stated it was good to be back.

### Treasurer

No report.

### Solicitor

Mrs. DiMascio reported her items were covered in Executive Session.

### Building Inspector

No report.

### Chief of Police

No report, but the calls for last month are forthcoming.

### Animal Control

Sam Vargo's report showed no calls in February.

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

### Budget & Finance

Mr. Rager reported that Keystone Municipal Collections will be initiated sheriff sales on tax delinquent properties.

### Public Safety

Mr. Rager reminded residents to watch for kids when driving with the weather getting nicer.

## Public Works

Mr. Rager reported he talked to the Engineer regarding using American Rescue Plan funds for drainage issues by Duke Park and Birch Alley. He also reported that acceptance of the lowest bid for Tanner and 4<sup>th</sup> street reconstruction is on the agenda. It was also reported that he met with the street department regarding beautification projects at the borough building, Lion's Park, entries, and Duke Park.

## Parks & Recreation

No report.

## Ordinance

No report.

## Personnel

Mr. Guffey reported they are interviewing an applicant for part-time officer.

## Economic Development

There was an update on the Moose lot and that EADC had requested drawings completed by Glenn Engineering and Mrs. DiMascio stated that Glenn Engineering might need to sign-off on providing the drawings.

## Planning

Mrs. Cress stated she is working with Mrs. Turner on some grants to pursue through PA DCED.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Motion to ratify the vote of Council to approve Resolution 2022-02 to submit an application to the Commonwealth Finance Authority for \$227,700 Maple Avenue reconstruction project:

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

Motion to ratify the vote of Council to release check #10582 to C. Harper for \$1,696.97 for work on the 2016 Ford Explorer:

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Motion to approve invoice 200405 from Martinak Planning & Consulting for \$4,980.14 as the Borough's share of the STMP report:

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

Motion to approve invoice 200406 from Martinak Planning & Consulting for \$14,625.17 for submission to PA DCED for payment:

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

Motion to approve Special Event Application for Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony submitted by VFW Post 7632 and American Legion Post 553 with COVID release and fully executed application submitted with a certificate of insurance:

- No motion
- Mrs. DiMascio stated the Borough will host the event with the assistance of the VFW and American Legion.

Motion to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Teamsters Local Union No. 205 for changes to the collective bargaining agreement regarding overtime grievances and pay rate for a full-time officer:

- No motion
- Mrs. DiMascio stated it would be discussed with the Chief.

Motion to authorize the Secretary to advertise an ordinance creating the position of Borough Manager:

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

Motion to purchase a movie screen for a cost not to exceed \$500:

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

Motion to accept the lowest responsible bid for the Tanner and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue road reconstruction project:

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

Motion to accept the lowest responsible bid for the Phase 6 Riverfront project:

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

Motion to postpone the demolition of 5-7 Maple Avenue upon execution of an agreement by the seller, buyer, and Borough of Elizabeth requiring the buyer to show significant progress towards obtaining an occupancy permit within 90 days:

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

Motion to hire Zackery Trunzo as a part-time police officer upon approval of the personnel committee:

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. DeChicchis, Historic Elizabeth, provided an update on work and plans at St. Michael's stating Senator Brewster awarded them a \$40,000 grant in 2021 and a \$75,000 grant in 2022 with work expected to start April 7. Mrs. DiMascio asked the intent of the building when finished. Mr. DeChicchis stated that in the short-term he wants to make the building functional to use as a warming station for kids waiting for the bus and to be able to provide internet for the kids. His long-term goals are a museum and providing continuing education on the history of the area and raising the level of literacy.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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