

Regular Meeting Minutes for the Borough of Elizabeth Council May 28, 2024

Call to order May 28, 2024 at 7pm - by Tim Guffey

Pledge of Allegiance

In Attendance

Mr. Jason Berman
Mr. Cole Buchina
Mr. Chuck Smith
Mr. Tim Guffey
Mayor Boucher
Solicitor Matta
Chief Ken Honick
Borough Manager Scott Craighead

Absent

Mrs. Dana Cress
Mrs. Desiree Gephart
Mr. Chad Rager

Announcements:

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

Visitors:

Joe DeChicchis

Public Comments on Agenda Items:

None

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2024 Council Meeting.

Motion: Chuck Smith

2nd: Cole Buchina

All in favor --- Approved.

Approval for Payment of the Bills:

Motion to pay the bills as presented.

Motion: Chuck Smith

2nd: Cole Buchina

All in favor --- Approved

Reports:

Mayor:

Treasurer: Reports are in the packet for review

Solicitor: Nothing for the public session

Building Inspector: Summary of where we are over the past few months with some of our rental properties.

- Typically, 10 -15 open building permits; up to 20 occupancy open at one time.

- Coordinate inspections for the Bayard Street properties due to new ownership.

- 5th Ave property – violation letters have been submitted and nothing has been escalated at this point. The Attorney General and Health Department have been involved and the Health Department has noted issues that need to be addressed. Violations that are being noted: structural damage, sidewalks, fire extinguishers, etc.

- The quality-of-life enforcement process is being worked on with Scott and Chief Honick as there needs to be more time over the next few months to solidify the best options and process moving forward. With the turnover of the police, those have been on hold. However, Chief Honick and his police force have been informing occupants of outdated vehicle registrations, etc.
- Door hangers with ordinance information have been used in other municipalities. These door hangers can be used before violation letters are issued and this could gain a 50% response. Our quality-of-life door hangers were being used which notified occupants to address the indicated issues before receiving any fines.
- Some areas for quality-of-life are being addressed already and improvements are being made.

Chief of Police: Report is in the packet.

- Loss of Eli has been a huge loss for the community
- The police force is excited about the community events coming up over the summer. Those officers who have already participated in events here in town have enjoyed the interactions with the business owners and community members.
- Plum Street concerts and activities – question asked by Mr. Buchina -- Are we using the speed bumps purchased through the EADC during events on Plum Street? Per Chief Honick – I am sure the solicitor would agree that as long as these fixtures are not permanent, and we are not altering the roadway, we have the right to control pedestrian and vehicle safety. The speed bumps should be placed with signage at the beginning of each event and then removed at the end of each event.

Animal Control: No report to be given

Borough Manager:

- LSA Maple Ave – Reconstruction of top portion of Maple Ave is complete.
- GEDTF – Reconstruction of lower portion of Maple Avenue has been approved for \$411,500.00 and VFD parking lot has been approved for \$175,625.00.
- Construction will start for 19-GEDF-147 – Moving Elizabeth Forward – Market Street Improvements, and 2020-GEDTF-25 – Green Space in June. The project cost came in at \$694,777.79
- We will need to discuss soon what we would like the lighted arch to say (ex: Welcome to Elizabeth Borough, Historic Elizabeth Boro, etc.)
- Three abandoned houses were demolished using grant money.

Tim Guffey:

- Over the past years many issues were being overlooked and not being completed. It has been refreshing to see projects being completed, grants being pursued, work within the town being done.

Reports of Committees:

Budget & Finance: Reports are in the packet review. Budget analysis sheets for January through April are included in your packets

Public Safety & Public Works: Reports are in the packet for review.

Ordinance: Nothing to report

Personnel: Nothing to report

Economic Development: Nothing to report

Planning: Nothing to report

Old Business:

New Business: A motion to approve the following 8 motions as one full motion:

1. Motion to pay invoice in the amount of \$94,840.00 to Creative Enterprises for Maple Avenue Retaining Wall funded by LSA Grant.

2. Motion to pay invoice to Glenn Engineering Services in the amount of \$9484.00 for Maple Avenue Retaining Wall.
3. Motion to award the low bidder for 19-GEDF-025 and 2020-GEDTF-147 to Pugliano Construction Co., Inc. for the amount of \$694,777.79.
4. Motion to approve El Grande to pave Bendel Way for \$6,000.00
5. Motion to approve the event application from the Greater Elizabeth Church Association for a Burger Cookoff to be held at Duke Park on June 1, 2024.
6. Motion to approve the event application from Wild Ivy Cottage for a Watermelon Crawl to be held on Plum Street on June 29, 2024.
7. Motion to accept the GEDTF grant for the Elizabeth Borough Fire Department in the amount of \$175,625. The funds will be used for VFD parking lot reconstruction.
8. Motion to accept the GEDTF grant for Elizabeth Borough in the amount of 411,500 for improvement to Maple Avenue Phase 4.

Motion: Chuck Smith
2nd: Cole Buchina
All in favor --- Approved

Public Comments:

Joe DeChicchis – (Filling in for Larry Ross) Thursday 30th Plum Street stage is being built, June 2nd cleaning of Plum, June 6th will be the 1st concert and June 8th Saturday Market

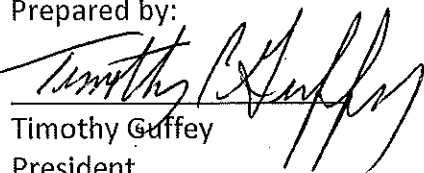
Meeting with Elizabeth Borough Municipal Authority in June to move forward with selling the sewage plant.

Good of the Order: No comments

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn council meeting at 7:39pm

Motion: Jason Berman
2nd: Chuck Smith
All in favor --- Approved

Prepared by:


Timothy Guffey
President
Elizabeth Borough Council


Scott Craighead
Borough Manager