

# **Borough of Elizabeth - Regular Meeting of Council – October 22, 2024 7:00 PM**

Call to order October 22, 2024 at 7:00pm - by Chad Rager

Pledge of Allegiance

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr. Jason Berman  
Mr. Cole Buchina  
Mr. Chad Rager  
Mr. Chuck Smith  
Mr. Tim Guffey  
Solicitor Rosso  
Solicitor Matta  
Chief Ken Honick  
Borough Manager Scott Craighead

## **ABSENT**

Mrs. Dana Cress  
Mrs. Desiree Gephart  
Mayor Boucher

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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

## **VISITORS:**

Joe DeChicchis: The new greenspace, sidewalks, and town look very good. He is making a plea that the sign that is being placed in the greenspace says Elizabeth 1787—do not say Boro because Boro was established in the 1830s.

Colonial Williamsburg has agreed to pay to reenact Lafayette in Elizabeth on Friday, May 30, 2025, for the bicentennial. Joe is hoping that an event will be coordinated with this reenactment.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2024 Council Meeting.

Motion: Chuck Smith

2<sup>nd</sup>: Jason Berman

All in favor --- Approved

## **PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

Motion to pay the bills as presented.

Motion: Cole Buchina

2<sup>nd</sup>: Chuck Smith

All in favor --- Approved

## **REPORTS**

**Mayor** – Nothing to report. It has been a good/quiet summer.

**Treasurer** – Report is in the packet for review.

- Jason Berman asked where we are on the taxes. Scott is providing a list to Keystone of delinquent properties that will have to have a lien put on them.

**Solicitor** – Nothing for public session

**Building Inspector** – The new building inspector, Mason Wilkerson, will start on November 1, 2025. Scott has met with Mason to do some preliminary inspections. He feels Mason will be a good fit has a good personality and very professional in how he conducts his inspections.

**Animal Control** – Nothing to report

**Chief of Police** – Report is in the packet

- Continued efforts being made with PennDot for signage to reroute traffic
- The police force is pleased with the interactions with the community and being involved in the events in the town.
- The Halloween Parade and Light-Up-Night are the two events in the town that we will need to continue to have assistance with.

**Borough Manager** –

- We received the bids for the VFD parking lot. They are within the price range of the grant money. The engineer and manager will be reviewing the bids and awarding them to the lowest responsible bidder.
- We have a proposed budget to advertise for the 2025 year. The initial proposal shows a 1.5 mill increase. We will continue to look at the budget over the next couple months to see if further reductions are possible.
- You will see on the agenda tonight a couple of contributions that we are asking for approval for in order for the borough to help support the organizations that hold the events. They struggle to do fundraising for borough events throughout the year.
- The personnel committee met with the candidates for the building inspector and code enforcement agreement with Elizabeth Township. The approval was given for the agreement to start on November 1, 2024.

**Public Works** – Report is in the packet

- Will start this week and next week to put up decorations for Light-Up Night.

**Budget & Finance** –

- A proposed budget for 2025 is in the packet, and there will be continued discussions to work on the best budget so that everything can still operate without a large impact on taxpayers.

**Parks & Recreation** – Nothing to report

**Ordinance** – Nothing to report

**Personnel** –

- Building Inspector

**Economic Development** –

- CDBG 51 grant application for sidewalks
- Representative Kuzma is working to get other funding for paving the portion of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave that the Boro owns.
- Will receive funding from US Steel for the updates to Duke Park

**Planning** – Nothing to report

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Nothing to report

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Motion to approve Halloween Parade application Monday, October 28, 2024.
2. Motion to approve Light-Up Night Elizabeth Boro's application for Sunday, November 10, 2024.
3. Motion to authorize the manager to advertise the 2025 proposed budget for 30 days for adoption at the regularly scheduled Council Meeting on December 18, 2024.
4. Motion to advertise an ordinance increasing the Borough of Elizabeth Real Estate Taxes by 1.5 mills effective January 1, 2025.
5. Motion to accept the quote from JD Landscaping and Grass Cutting for \$3,500 to remove additional trees at the end of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
6. Motion to make a contribution to EADC for Light Up Elizabeth Boro night in the amount of \$3,000.00.
7. Motion to make a contribution to Elizabeth Volunteer Fire Company for the Halloween Parade in the amount of \$1,000.00.

8. Motion to purchase sod for the Market Street project at an approximate cost of \$1,800.00.
9. Motion to accept the lowest responsible bidder for the 2023 GEDTF-184 (EB VFD Parking Lot) upon Solicitor review and approval.

Motion to approve all 9 motions as one motion –

Motion: Chuck Smith

2<sup>nd</sup>: Cole Buchina

All in favor --- Approved

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Jason Berman would like a deeper discussion on the budget regarding the MIL for taxpayers. President Guffey stated that a preliminary budget is in place for November, so there is plenty of time to discuss and work toward the finalized budget for the December meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

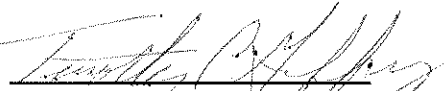
Motion to adjourn council meeting at 7:36pm

Motion: Jason Berman

2<sup>nd</sup>: Cole Buchina

All in favor --- Approved

Prepared by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Timothy Guffey  
Council President

  
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Scott Craighead  
Borough Secretary