

AGENDA
Borough of Elizabeth—Regular Meeting of Council
September 27, 2022. 7:00 PM
Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

President Guffey called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Guffey led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Also Present – Mayor Boucher, Solicitor Gary Matta, Chief William Sombo, and Borough Manager Mr. Craighead

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Solicitor Matta announced the need for a motion to add 2 motions.

Motion was made to Amend the Agenda and add Motions 9 and 10 under New Business.

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

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

Executive Sessions were held on September 21, 2022 and September 27, 2022 to discuss personnel and legal issues.

VISITORS

Borough resident Dawn Demaio spoke on her application to acquire property under the vacant property program. She indicated that she intends to use the property for a garden or for overflow parking on occasion. She understands that council rejected the resolution to proceed under the vacant property program. It is her understanding that council would like to put the property up for sheriff sale and, if they do not do this within the next six months or so, she would like to be reconsidered for the vacant property program. Her long-term intent is to possibly build a garage and not use the property for junk cars. She asked that if the property is put up for Sheriff Sale that she be notified in order to place her bid.

Solicitor Matta informed Ms. Demaio that council has asked him to investigate whether the property meets the zoning requirements for a house to be built on the lot and if so to start the sheriff sale process. He indicated when that process is started the borough manager would let her know that the Sheriff Sale is proceeding.

Borough resident Don Hill would like to know why the barge is still closed and when it will be opened.

Vice-President Rager indicated that the barge is closed because of activities that were occurring were not things we want in our town. The borough is looking at how to resolve it either by opening it to handicapped access or other access. Work down there for 2.8 million dollars to raise the barge and other work is going to be done. Until we find a solution to the problems it will remain closed.

Mr. Hill indicated it has been closed for 3 months and there are a lot of handicapped fishermen that would like access. He asked if signs can be put up for handicapped only.

The mayor asked Chief Sombo if there is a sign and if the police can be called to open it when needed. Chief Sombo indicated there is a sign and they could open it to let handicapped folks access it.

Mr. Rager stated that the current situation if the gate is opened is unsafe. People speed down the ramp and it was not made for the

amount of traffic that uses it. The mayor agreed with the concerns and suggested we work with the handicapped access.

Larry Ross wanted to thank council for approving the Plum Street activities this year. He indicated there were no incidents. He let council know that the events bring a lot of people from different areas to the borough. This encourages patrons to visit all the shops while they are in town.

He then discussed the T-Mobile grant and talked about meetings coming up in the next couple weeks with landscapers. He indicated the space will be used for a green space park. They would assure that clean fill is used and not contaminated. He expects the project to be complete by September of 2023.

Solicitor indicated that whatever plans are going to be used have to be approved by the building inspector.

Mr. Hill voiced dissatisfaction about Plum Street being closed for the whole summer. Mayor Boucher indicated there will be discussions about that for future years.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of August 17, 2022 Workshop and August 23, 2022 Council Meeting.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion to pay the bills as presented.

- Motion – Mrs. Turner
- Second – Mrs. Gephart
- Voice Vote - All in Favor

REPORTS

Mayor

Mayor indicated that filling in the hole and taking down the fence is a good thing.

**Treasurer
None**

**Solicitor
No Public items**

**Building Inspector
None**

Chief of Police

Chief Sombo indicated there are 2 months of reports in the packets. We lost 2 officers to full-time jobs in other capacities Zach Trunzo and Nicole Honick. Since the police force received new radios he would like to see the old radios used by the public works department for increased communication and an extra set of eyes on the streets. Chief indicated that the DA's office is close to the end of their process that would allow us to destroy the records lost in the flood and we would then be able to have the container behind the police station removed.

**Animal Control
None**

Borough Manager

Mr. Craighead reported that average incomes and expenses are close in costs. We should receive around \$90,000 additional taxes from now until the end of the year. Reported on a grant the borough received for \$250,000 for the riverfront walkway. The budget process has begun for 2023. I will be

setting up meetings with the budget committee. The audit for the year 2021 was completed and there were no findings.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Budget & Finance

Committee meetings will occur in October and November.

Public Safety

Discussion was had on the movie shoot that is coming up on the river. Meetings were held to inform the borough of their intentions.

Public Works

Report is in the packet. Discussion of a tree issue on Church Street. The borough will look into solving the issue and probably cut it down.

Parks and Recreation

Ordinance

Personnel

Need for police officers and working on settling our police contract. We are also looking to find part-time clerical work.

Economic Development

None

Planning- Dana indicated she

Old Business

- 1. Motion to accept a credit of \$1,600.00 from Mark Moses Electric on the original invoice of \$8,965.00 for the cement work that does not need to be done for the light pole repair.**

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

New Business

President Guffey asked for a motion to approve Motions 1 through Motions 10 in a single Motion.

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

1. Motion to adopt the Pension Plan MMO. The plan's Actuarial Value of Assets exceeds the Present Value of Benefits. Therefore, no contributions are required to be made for the 2023 Plan Year.
2. Motion to approve a concurring resolution to formally request a grant through the GEDTF Application for \$455,000 for a retaining wall on Maple Avenue and needed street repairs in the borough.
3. Motion to approve the CDBG YR49 – Pre-Application for Street repairs in the requested amount of \$96,125.00. The total cost of the project is \$109,020.00.
4. Motion to approve the purchase of 4 Lapel Microphones for police officers and emergency personnel at a cost of \$103.20 each for a total cost of \$412.80.
5. Motion to pay invoice from Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association in the amount of \$990.00. The invoice is for Mobile annual fingerprint ID device maintenance and secure cellular service for the year 2021.
6. Motion to approve 4 officers as needed to work during the filming of Mayor of Kingstown tentatively scheduled for October 13,14 in the evenings.
7. Motion to approve the EADC special event application for Elizabeth Borough Light-Up Night to be held on November 17, 2022.
8. Motion to accept the letter of resignation of Police Officer Nicole Honick, effective date October 1, 2022.
9. Motion to create a Uniform Construction Code (UCC) Appeal Board and solicit board member applications.

10. Motion to have the solicitor begin the process to Eminent Domain the following properties:

Lot 1132-A-284

Lot 1132-A-328

Lot 1132-A-337

PUBLIC COMMENTS

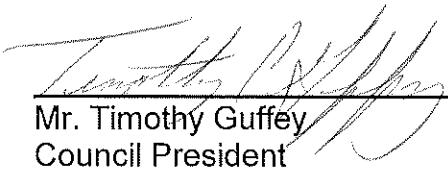
Mayor indicated the borough has come a long way in 5 years and wanted to thank everyone.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

ADJOURNMENT

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

Prepared By:


Mr. Timothy Guffey
Council President


Scott Craighead
Borough Manager