

**BOROUGH OF ELIZABETH  
MEETING OF COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021  
MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Rager led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Present – Mr. Rager, Mr. Guffey, Mr. Miklos, Mrs. Morris, and Mrs. Turner

Also Present – Mayor Boucher, Solicitor Joseph Dalfonso, Chief Sombo, and Secretary Jean Warren

Absent – Mr. Shaner and Mrs. Gephart

**VISITORS**

Dennis Martinak presented an update on the STMP report by reporting that the financial section includes 15 pages of recommendations on personnel along with funding recommendations. He also reported that Step III, an Emergency Plan, is not needed as the Borough is not distressed. Mr. Martinak stated the police section needs completed by reviewing personnel files. Council was informed that the recommendations include codification of ordinances, an IT upgrade, digitizing records, and upgrades to gateway/facades. He stated there will be a review and comment period.

Judy Jenkins addressed Council regarding the dog attack in her neighborhood and stated she waited four months to attend a hearing, and nothing happened. The Chief stated the dog owner is cited everyday and they can only enforce the law and work within the court system. He also stated that the dog owner has the right to appeal. Chief Sombo provided to Ms. Jenkins the next steps and informed her of the new ordinance on the agenda to be advertised with expected adoption in October.

Larry Ross, EADC, thanked the Borough for supporting the Plum Street events over the summer and announced that there will be sip 'n shop in October and a holiday shop in November. He also presented new U.S. flags to the Borough.

A resident, Sharon Niesan, addressed Council regarding the pine trees near her home. Mr. Miklos reported that he has tried to contact West Penn Power, but has not received a response. There was a discussion regarding the paper street and Mr. Dalfonso reported that if it was not opened for public use, it would revert back to the adjacent property owners. It was recommended to send a letter to West Penn Power regarding the trees near 311 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

Joe DeChicchis, Historic Elizabeth, introduced himself as the new owner of St. Michael School which he bought for debt and owes a lot on. He stated they are working on cleaning it up and are applying for a T-Mobile Home Township Grant which is due tomorrow and requested a letter of recommendation from the Mayor. The grant is for less than \$25,000 and they are hoping to use it for a wi-fi hot spot and ADA compliant restrooms. Mrs. Morris asked what the plans are for the building, and he responded incubator and start-up space.

A resident, Carl, asked about road conditions and Mr. Rager stated that 8<sup>th</sup> Street went out to bid. Mr. Guffey stated the Borough is going to replace all street signs in the Borough and that sometimes you wait months or years for grant money. Mr. Rager reported that the Borough is planning on budgeting for beautification in the 2022 budget.

A resident asked about a tree that needs cut on a paper street and was informed by Mr. Miklos that it is on the agenda.

## **COMMENTS ON AGENDA**

None

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to accept the minutes of the August 24, 2021 Council Meeting and September 15, 2021 Workshop Meeting:

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

## **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Motion to pay the bills as presented:

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

## **REPORTS**

### Mayor

Mayor Boucher reported that an applicant for police officer was interviewed.

Chief Sombo reported that another applicant picked up an application and that they might be losing two officers.

Treasurer

No report.

Solicitor

No report.

Building Inspector

No report.

Animal Control

Mrs. Warren stated the report from the animal control officer is in the packet.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

Budget & Finance

Mrs. Morris reported the audit will definitely be ready for the October meeting and that the Finance Committee may meet in October. She also reported that the Fire Escrow and American Rescue Plan funds are still in the General Fund.

Public Safety

Mr. Rager reported that overnight a car crashed into a telephone poll and the road was closed from 4 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Chief Sombo provided an update on the Quality-of-Life program and reported there are nine shifts open in October. Mr. Rager stated the need to look into hiring a full-time officer. Mrs. Morris asked the timeline for new hires and the Chief responded three weeks to a month and that a special meeting may be needed for new applicants. Mr. Guffey stated the Borough should wait for STMP recommendations regarding hiring.

Public Works

Mr. Miklos provided an update on the new public works truck search, grants, waiting for Allegheny County to release contract for Tanner & 4<sup>th</sup>; and waiting for Birch Street water problem recommendations.

Parks & Recreation

No report.

Ordinance

No report.

Personnel

No report.

## Economic Development

Mr. Rager provided an update on a recent meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding Riverfront Park. He stated that with Lock 3 being removed the river will rise two to three feet, and that the Corps will raise the park. The Mayor stated this will be a big change for Elizabeth. Mr. Rager stated a GEDTF application is going to be submitted from the Borough and that the fire department is also applying to repave the parking lots and new lighting under the Borough's name and Mr. Dalfonso stated it would be as a sponsor.

Mr. Miklos reported the SRCOG president was in town to assist with trying to get things cleaned up and areas to be developed. He is going to ask her to attend a workshop meeting to discuss the land bank concept and involve the EADC.

## Planning

Mr. Ross stated he did not have an update on the Moose Lot, just more misinformation from Allegheny County.

## OLD BUSINESS

Motion to ratify the motion to authorize the President of Council to sign a Release of Property Damage Claims and accept the payment of \$5,545.38 from The General Insurance for repair of a lamp post on S. Second Avenue:

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

Motion to ratify the motion to accept Estimate #2989 from Mark Moses Electrical Services, Inc. of \$7,790 to repair a damaged lamp post on S. Second Avenue:

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

## NEW BUSINESS

Motion to rescind the motion of July 27, 2021 authorizing the opening of Fire Escrow and American Rescue Plan accounts at PNC Bank with the same signers as the other accounts:

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

Motion to authorize opening of a Fire Escrow Account at PNC Bank with Chad Rager, Andrew Miklos, and Cynthia Morris as the signers:

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

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Motion to authorize opening of an American Rescue Plan Account at PNC Bank with Chad Rager, Andrew Miklos, and Cynthia Morris as the signers:

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

Motion to accept the quote of \$730 from Unique Services & Applications for replacement of the veteran’s flagpole truck:

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

Motion to adopt the Pension Plan MMO of \$9,322 for 2022 Municipal Budget:

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

Motion to authorize the Secretary to advertise a records management ordinance:

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

Motion to authorize the Secretary to advertise a dog ordinance:

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

Motion to ratify the motion to authorize title searches for the following properties to be demolished:

- 164 Center Avenue, L&B 1133-R-278
  - 5 Maple Avenue, L&B 1133-H-050
  - 124 Clay Avenue, L&B 1132-E-042
- Motion – Mr. Miklos
  - Second – Mr. Guffey
  - Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

Motion to adopt a new Police Policies and Procedures Manual:

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

Motion to hire Jody Sutton as a part-time police officer pending receipt of MOPEC paperwork:

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

Motion to accept the resignation of Toni Cregan as Borough Secretary:

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

Motion to accept the bid from John D. Caruso of \$26,916 for Eighth Avenue Reconstruction with \$20,000 being paid with CD 47 funds, as recommended by the Engineer:

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

Motion to accept the bid from John D. Caruso of \$11,950 to repair the 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue turn around to 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, as recommended by the Engineer:

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

Motion to accept the quote of \$1,400 from Barkbusters for the partial removal of a tree on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue behind 604 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue:

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

Potential motion to hire a Borough Secretary was TABLED.

Potential motion to accept a quote for the purchase and installation of cameras in Duke Park was TABLED. Mayor Boucher asked if we could do ourselves and Chief Sombo said we cannot because there is no internet service there.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jason, a resident, thanked Council for voting to repair the turn around and thanked the police department for their response to the Duke Park incident.

#### GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Rager announced that the Halloween Parade will be October 25 with a rain date of October 28 at 7 p.m. with lineup at 6:30 p.m. and that Trick-or-Treat will be October 31 from 6-8 p.m.

Mr. Miklos stated poll workers are needed for election day and Mrs. Turner stated she had looked into working the polls. There was some confusion as to whether she could work because she is on council or because she may be a candidate.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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