

ORGANIZATION MEETING

PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL

(OFFICIAL)

ELIZABETH, N.J.

Tuesday  
January 3, 2012  
12:00 noon

The organization meeting of the City Council for the Year 2012 was held this afternoon in the City Council Chambers, City Hall.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor J. Christian Bollwage; City Attorney William R. Holzapfel, Esq.; Union County Assemblywoman Annette Quijano; Union County Freeholder Daniel Sullivan; Union County Freeholder Angel Estrada, Kean University President Dawood Farahi; Retail Skill Center Joe Oliver, and Rev. Joseph Adair, Pastor, Second Macedonia Baptist Church

City Clerk, Yolanda M. Roberts, called the meeting to order and announced notice of this Organization Meeting was mailed or delivered to the Star Ledger, Homes News Tribune, and Cablevision of Elizabeth, and posted and filed in the City Clerk's Office in compliance with the terms of the Open Public Meetings Law, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, on December 28, 2010.

Reverend Joseph Adair, Pastor, Second Macedonia Baptist Church, Elizabeth, delivered the opening prayer.

City Clerk, Yolanda M. Roberts, led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

The City Clerk called the roll and the following members of City Council answered to their names:

PRESENT: Council Members-at-Large: Patricia Perkins-Auguste ; Frank J. Cuesta; Edward Jackus  
Council Members: Manny Grova, Jr., 1st Ward; Nelson Gonzalez, 2nd Ward; Joseph Keenan, 3rd Ward; Carlos Cedeno, 4th Ward; William Gallman, Jr., 5th Ward; Frank O. Mazza, 6th Ward - 9

ABSENT:

The City Clerk announced that the first order of business would be the election of a Temporary President of City Council and then called for nominations.

Councilman Cuesta nominated Councilman Grova, which was seconded by Councilman Keenan.

There being no further nominations, Councilman Keenan moved that nominations be closed.

The City Clerk cast the necessary ballot and then declared Councilman Grova, elected unanimously, as Temporary President.

Temporary President Grova thanked his colleagues for this honor that they bestowed upon him. He recognized Assemblywoman Annette Quijano, Union County Freeholders Daniel Sullivan and Angel Estrada, Dawood Farahi, President, Kean University, and Joe Oliver, Retail Skills Center

Temporary President Grova announced that the next order of business would be the election of a President of the City Council for the Year 2012, and called for nominations.

Councilman Cuesta nominated Councilman Gonzalez, which was seconded by Councilwoman Perkins-Auguste.

There being no further nominations, Councilwoman Perkins-Auguste moved that nominations be closed.

Whereupon Temporary President Grova cast the necessary ballot and then declared Councilman Gonzalez, elected unanimously, as President of the City Council for the Year 2012.

Councilman Gonzalez then assumed the Chair as President.

Council President Gonzalez thanked his colleagues and Councilman Keenan for his service. He continued that he is honored to serve as the 2012 Council President and thanked Council for their vote of confidence and assured his colleagues that he will give more than 100%.

Council President Gonzalez stated further he promises to work diligently with residents and businesses who show how resilient this City can be. Council President Gonzalez gave thanks to City employees, uniformed and non-uniformed and recognizes the efforts of the Administration. He continued that this Administration has been able to maintain a high credit rating and did not have to lay off any personnel during these stressed economic times..

Council President Gonzalez announced that the next order of business would be the election of a President Pro Tem of the City Council for the Year 2012 and called for nominations.

Councilman Cuesta nominated Councilman Gallman, which was seconded by Councilman Keenan.

There being no further nominations, Councilman President Gonzalez moved that nominations be closed.

Council President Gonzalez cast the necessary ballot and then declared Councilman Gallman, elected unanimously, as President pro tem of the City Council for the Year 2012.

Council President Gonzalez then appointed Councilman Cuesta as Floor Leader of the City Council for the Year 2012.

Council President Gonzalez appointed Councilman Keenan to deliver the prayer and lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

By the Clerk:

January 3, 2012  
Honorable City Council  
City of Elizabeth  
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201  
Ladies & Gentlemen:

Please be advised that I am making the following re-appointments and appointments to the Board of the Trustees of the Free Public Library:

Please be advised that I am re-appointing Ms. Idella LaPierre, 70 Westfield Avenue, Apt. 615, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07208 to serve as a Trustee of the Free Public Library for a five year term.

I am promoting Ms. Leticia R. Salerno, 732 Van Buren Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201 to serve out the unexpired term of Ms. Shirley Kety (12/31/15) who has recently resigned.

I am appointing Ms. Pearl Serratelli, 857 Livingston Road, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07208 to serve as a Trustee of the Free Public Library to fill the unexpired term (December 31, 2015) of Ms. Annie Colina who has recently resigned.

I am appointing Mr. Eloy J. Delgado, 9-E Mravlag Manor, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07202 to serve as a Trustee of the Free Public Library (Alternate Member) replacing Ms. Leticia Salerno who was recently promoted to fill the unexpired term of Ms. Shirley Kety.

Sincerely,

J. Christian Boilwage, Mayor  
Which was received.

By the Clerk:

January 3, 2012  
Honorable Members of City Council  
City of Elizabeth  
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201  
Ladies & Gentlemen:

I herewith appoint Ms. Norma Marcela Nunez, 668 North Broad Street, Apt. A17, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07208 to serve as a Member of the Planning Board (Alternate #2) to fill the unexpired term of Commissioner Carina Baiana (December 31, 2012).

Sincerely,

J. Christian Boilwage, Mayor  
Which was received.

By the Clerk:  
January 3, 2012  
Honorable Members of City Council  
City of Elizabeth  
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201  
Ladies & Gentlemen:

I herewith re-appoint Commissioner Maria Z. Carvalho, 6 Palisade Road, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07208 to serve as a (Class II) Member of the Planning Board for a one year term.

Sincerely,  
J. Christian Bollwage, Mayor  
Which was received.

By the Clerk:  
January 3, 2012  
Honorable Members of City Council  
City of Elizabeth  
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201  
Ladies & Gentlemen:

Subject to the confirmation of your Honorable Body, I herewith make the following re-appointments to the Board of Adjustment:  
I herewith re-appoint Commissioner Elizabeth Cano, 210 Stiles Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07208 to serve as a Member of the Board of Adjustment (Alternate No. 3) for a term of two years.

I herewith re-appoint Commissioner Orlando P. Galvez, 421 New York Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07202 to serve as a Member of the Board of Adjustment (Alternate No. 4) for a term of two years.

Sincerely,  
J. Christian Bollwage, Mayor  
Which was received.

By the Clerk:  
January 3, 2012  
Honorable Members of City Council  
City of Elizabeth  
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201  
Ladies & Gentlemen:

Subject to the confirmation of your Honorable Body, I herewith appoint Councilman William Gallman, Jr., 620 Court Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201 to serve as a Class III Member of the Planning Board for a one year term.

Sincerely,  
J. Christian Bollwage, Mayor  
Which was received.

NEW BUSINESS

BY CITY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE:

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Elizabeth does hereby advise and consent to the re-appointment of Ms. Elizabeth Cano, 210 Stiles Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey, 07208 to serve as a Member of the Board of Adjustment (Alternate No. 3) for a two year term, pursuant to the Code of the City of Elizabeth.

Which was adopted by the following vote:

AFFIRMATIVE: Perkins-Auguste, Cuesta, Jackus, Grova, Keenan, Cedeno, Gallman, Mazza, and President Gonzalez, - 9

NEGATIVE: None

BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE:

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Elizabeth does hereby advise and consent to the appointment of Mr. Orlando P. Galvez, 421 New York Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey, 07202 as a Member of the Board of Adjustment (Alternate No. 4) for a two year term, pursuant to the Code of the City of Elizabeth.

Which was adopted by the following vote:

AFFIRMATIVE: Perkins-Auguste, Cuesta, Jackus, Grova, Keenan, Cedeno, Gallman, Mazza, and President Gonzalez - 9

NEGATIVE: None

6

BY CITY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE:

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Elizabeth does hereby advise and consent to the appointment of Councilman William Gallman, 620 Court Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201 as a Class III Member of the Planning Board for a one year term pursuant to the Code of the City of Elizabeth.

Which was adopted by the following vote:

AFFIRMATIVE: Perkins-Auguste, Cuesta, Jackus,  
Grova, Keenan, Cedeno, Gallman, Mazza,  
and President Gonzalez - 9

NEGATIVE: None

Council President Gonzalez then presented His Honor the Mayor and announced that the Mayor will administer the Oath of Office to confirmed and direct appointments.

Council President Gonzalez announced that the Mayor will deliver his Annual Message.

7

Reverend Clergy, members of the City Council, elected officials, friends, family and citizens;

Our City - a place of:

- Diversity
- Opportunity
- And above all else - promise

Throughout our rich history, Elizabeth has:

- Invented
- Manufactured
- Fueled
- Supplied
- Protected
- Transported

We continue to lead the way with:

- Innovation
  - Determination
  - Technology
  - Green Building
  - Inspired Initiatives
  - Operational Efficiency
- Receiving an A1 rating and stable financial outlook from Moody's

- While we cut taxes
- And increase services

While other large cities struggled and downsized their forces - we did not layoff a single public safety worker.

- We have retained our police and firefighters
- And remain committed to new hires this year

Today our:

- Unique Blend of Culture
- Ability to Remain Competitive
- Sound Investments
- And Resolve - Ensure Elizabeth's future is bright

The health and well-being of our residents should not be compromised due to financial hardships. Our City understands these struggles and has provided:

- 800 flu shots
- 1800 dental exams
- And nearly 700 immunizations

Safeguarding the health of our young people today and giving them the protection to grow even stronger tomorrow.

Care alone is not enough, residents must be able to access services within their neighborhoods. In coordination with the Elizabeth Development Company and the Neighborhood Health Center, the new Elizabethport Presbyterian Center provides:

- Childcare.
- Medical and Dental Offices
- And A Media Center on site

2011 also brought the opening of the highly anticipated Trinitas CORE building. With funding from EDC, this \$5.3 million dollar Center of Regional Education combines:

- Professional training with impressive, state-of-the-art services
- Space for education and community events
- Facilities for paramedic and EMT training

And continuing to support Our City, Trinitas provides quality health care through innovative services:

- Performing the state's first robot-assisted bariatric surgery
- Offering Accu-Boost, a non-invasive form of breast cancer treatment
- And preserving brain function following cardiac arrest with "Code Frosty"

Further expanding knowledge and creating opportunities, our Office on Aging provides assistance to our residents. Educational and resource programs:

- Like a new Creole course and computer sessions
- Theater Group
- Line dancing and Salsa classes
- Mental health, blood pressure & Diabetes check-ups
- And two new senior buses

These impressive accomplishments will only get better this year with:

- Introduction of the Senior Connection - increasing communication, interaction and services
- Improved outreach and application support for prescription, health, rebate programs

Building future leaders through service, our Office of Youth continues to advocate:

- The pursuit of excellence
- Achievement through assistance
- And having a positive impact throughout the community

Partnering with organizations that implement vital services and contribute to our region, the Office of Youth continues to:

- Make significant strides through exciting collaborations
- Encourage personal and professional development

9

As well as establish productive relationships throughout Our City

- Teen mentorship and leadership program with the YMCA
- MetLife financial literacy forum
- The Institute for Music - Dance and Performance workshops
- Internship opportunities and interaction with Kean University's Center for Leadership

From free SAT Classes to instilling the value of educational basics through the Citywide Spelling Bee, the Office of Youth is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of young people and preparing them for tomorrow. Our City understands the impact that our young people's choices and actions have - on all Our Future.

We will assign resources to create a:

- Comprehensive
- Anti-bullying
- And gang prevention program

Because that is what our Building Future Leaders Program does.

Preventative techniques, communication, constructive alternatives promote more confident and independent leaders for Our Future.

Making a difference is the YouthBuild program, administered through Brand New Day. In September, I joined 31 graduates as they embrace the future and continue to rebuild their lives. Sixty new students recently entered the program - taking the first steps on their exciting journey.

Providing an effective support mechanism for the achievement of our young people is paramount to succeeding in any environment.

There is so much we can do for our youth in our after school and summer programs:

- But when sessions end and school is over
- We must ensure that our residents
- Have access to affordable and safe places to call home

The Emma Street development is combining housing opportunities with Green elements for low to moderate income individuals:

- 14 residential rental units
- Creating new construction jobs for Our residents

Partners include:

- Elizabeth Home Improvement Program (EHIP)
- County of Union
- Magyar Bank
- And funding through President Obama's Stimulus Program

Moving forward with our successful Go Green initiatives, Our City made history when we opened the first - LEED Gold Certified Senior Affordable Housing complex.

10

With thirty-one Energy-Star rated units, the E'Port Commons Senior Development is thriving. In addition to incorporating solar panels on the roof - the City and Housing Authority identified the potential for a successful, mixed-use opportunity in Elizabeth's oldest neighborhood.

Across Our City, Green Energy has been infused within local businesses, municipal buildings and even within our newest parking garage located within the heart of Midtown.

This development created 1500 new parking spaces and is the first garage in New Jersey to provide re-charging facilities.

We continue to lay the foundation for a Greener Generation with Solar panels,

That are harnessing:

- Natural energy
- Reducing our carbon footprint
- Saving our community money

In places like:

- ABG Accessories
- Jersey Gardens
- Atalanta Corporation
- Midtown Parking Garage
- And at Atlantic Central Logistics, where 4000 solar panels were completed and 35 green jobs were created within Our City.

Each neighborhood is unique and all deserve recreational outlets:

- Five day camps
- Eighteen playgrounds
- Dance, flower arranging, arts & crafts
- Annual Easter Egg Hunts
- Boxing at Erxleben, swimming and 7 spray fountains throughout Our City

And this past summer, the largest municipal spray park in Union County opened at the Mickey Walker Center, featuring:

- Slides
- And colorful, stationary units

This newest addition to Our City, provides a safe environment for children to play.

Young people deserve the best indoor and outdoor recreation to:

- Hone skills
- Remain competitive within their sports
- And maintain healthy lifestyles

That is why:

- Construction was started on the new synthetic turf fields at the Waterfront
- A new gym floor was placed within the Erxleben Center

The best, is yet to come:

- A new Skate Park
- A refurbished O'Brien field with new synthetic turf
- Along with plans to acquire the Bayway Polish Home and create a new athletic field

And all of this, Ladies and Gentlemen, is being accomplished while cutting taxes in your next bill.

Working together, we continue to provide our residents with the resources they need and opportunities they deserve.

I believe in Our City and the hard working people of Our community:

- For without them
- We could not have come so far
- Or be ready to embrace Our exciting Future

Across our state, throughout our nation, individuals have lost their jobs and continue to endure month after month on unemployment - searching - waiting for a chance.

Our unemployment rate is among the lowest of New Jersey's largest cities and we are looking to reduce that even more.

Within the coming months, a new initiative will be implemented that will place the employment of our residents first and put Our City back to work.

With a new program, Elizabeth**HIRE**S, WE are Helping to Invest in Residents through Employment and Support.

Elizabeth residents will be hired for a designated period and assigned to perform public works jobs:

- Beautifying Our City
- Increasing skills through on-the-job training
- And assisting families with needed income for the future

Enhancing the abilities of our residents makes them more marketable and successful. Located within Jersey Gardens and managed by Union County College, the Retail Skills Center continues to provide Our City with valuable instruction and job placement assistance— All at no cost to participants.

In 2011 the Center:

- Placed 425 individuals in jobs with more than 100 different companies
- Trained 220 residents in Customer Service and Sales
- And Managed 14 job fairs
- Let's take a look at one of those Success Stories

We believe in the promise of our residents, the strength of our communities. These programs help make Our City exceptional and Our Future even better.

Improving lives and the physical landscape of our neighborhoods remains the commitment of our Public Works Department.

From Elmora to Elizabethport, more than thirty streets have been paved through our aggressive road resurfacing program.

In our efforts to transform Morris Avenue, a Revitalization Plan is under review.

It includes:

- The widening of sidewalks - Creating a pedestrian-friendly shopping experience
- Kean University banners to adorn the streets - Creating a collegiate connection throughout the district

Through funding awarded by the New Jersey Department of Transportation, traffic signals were placed on West Jersey Street across from Union County College.

The Verona/Gebhardt Project and Summer Street Improvements were completed:

- Significantly reducing flooding during major rain events
- And enabling easier travel in all weather

Fifty percent of the costs will be reimbursed through President Obama's Stimulus Program.

Providing residents and visitors with:

- Alternate forms of transportation
- Recreational components
- And the ability to achieve healthy living - is essential to the growth of an urban center

These factors, combined with the natural resource of the Elizabeth River, have created a unique project that is set to reap numerous benefits for Our City. We broke ground on Phase I of the Elizabeth River Trail, which is being constructed along the Elizabeth River between South Broad and Bridge Streets.

This initiative has been a partnership between:

- Our City and County
- State and Federal Agencies
- And Groundwork Elizabeth

Phase II, which will take place from Bridge Street to South Street, has also received funding through the Union County Kids Recreation Trust Grant and will be undergoing design within the next couple of months.

Our Future depends on:

- Our ability to maintain our infrastructure today
- To ensure that it will be effective tomorrow

Through the Midtown Infrastructure Improvement project, sewer systems will be reconstructed.

Streets that will receive improvements include:

- West Grand and West Jersey

- Union and Murray
- And Westfield Avenue

And when Hurricane Irene hit New Jersey in August, it brought:

- Heavy rain
- High winds
- And major flooding to Our City

Our Public Works, Police and Fire Departments worked through the night and non-stop into the following days assisting residents:

- Blocking off streets
- Removing downed trees
- Ensuring safe travel
- And pumping out over 500 basements

We were there to provide the services our neighbors needed and deserve.

When our state was declared eligible for FEMA assistance, we notified residents and directed them on how to apply:

- Informative Letters
- Reverse 911 calls
- Nixle Messages
- Along with updates on Facebook and Twitter

Staying alert and connected throughout Our City enabled:

- Resources to be allocated quickly
- And vital communication to be maintained

Throughout New Jersey, many large municipalities had to lay off police officers and firefighters due to their inability to contain costs.

Despite Trenton:

- Reducing state aid
- Eliminating the Urban Enterprise Zone program
- Implementing the 2% Cap

In Elizabeth there was not a single public safety worker laid off.

And in 2011 the City of Elizabeth hired four police officers and later this month we will add 18 more. We are doing all of this while cutting your taxes.

Additional law enforcement means increased services and patrols throughout our communities - its what our residents expect from government and its what Elizabeth is delivering. State-of-the-art advancements provide our police with the resources they require to stay ahead and be prepared on assignment.

- Surveillance cameras
- Data Terminals, Facial Recognition Software
- And 15 Mobile and Fixed License Plate Readers

14

This technology allows:

- Officers to obtain instant information that may be relevant to ongoing investigations
- Enabling prompt, informed response for our emergency personnel

We have renovated Elizabeth Police Headquarters, creating a more efficient and secured work environment:

- Completion of the merged dispatch system
- Allowing Police, Fire and EMS to increase operability

And later this month, every household will receive a new Community Safety Booklet:

- Programs to safeguard homes and businesses
- How and where to participate in our 16 Block Watch meetings
- As well as guidelines to help our youth stay safe and avoid gang involvement

The most effective vehicles and equipment must be available to assist residents during emergencies.

In 2011 the Elizabeth Fire Department:

- Received a new heavy rescue and maritime unit
- Upgraded extrication equipment

All of these items were funded through President Obama's Stimulus Program - At no cost to Our City's taxpayers.

Our firefighters need quality protective equipment they can rely on.

Through a Port Security Grant, the Elizabeth Fire Department was able to:

- Upgrade all its turn-out gear
- Providing essential defense from extreme heat

When buildings and houses are engulfed by flames, firefighters must be able to quickly get to safety. Rescue systems save lives and were provided to all members of the Department through this funding.

Each firefighter:

- Received training
- And carries the equipment on each call
- To be available when its needed

From an unusual earthquake to a damaging hurricane, our First Responders were there to provide assistance and ensure the stability of our community.

And just days ago, these men and women were there for Our City again when a dangerous fire engulfed a 650,000 square foot landmark in North End.

Reaching eight alarm intensity, the smoke at the former Burry Biscuits warehouse could be seen for miles and the heat increased to unparalleled levels.

- Along with the EFD, more than 250 firefighters from 36 companies in our area responded
- Took 6 days to get under control
- Our police and fire departments remain on the scene
- Securing the area

15  
It is this level of dedication and commitment that exemplifies the best of Our City's civil servants.

The roles of the Fire Department continue to expand as do the needs of Our City. In the coming months we will:

- Hire an additional 15 firefighters
- Providing even more protection for our residents
- We are increasing services and cutting your taxes

As the fastest growing municipality among the largest cities, keeping abreast of news and updates is important - And will be even easier.

Within the coming weeks, we will unveil a new City website:

- Increasing accessibility to municipal information
- Providing more opportunities to interact with City officials
- And showcasing our exceptional programs and diversity

More than a decade ago, a garbage dump was transformed into a successful shopping destination.

Jersey Gardens continues to welcome individuals from:

- Throughout our region
- Across our nation
- And visitors from 158 countries

New stores:

- Aerie and Andrew Marc
- Jewelers On Fifth
- Newly expanded Forever 21
- And this year - Jersey Gardens will welcome a Disney Store and an Applebees

With more than 200 shops and restaurants, it continues to exceed expectations and bring 15 million people to Our City.

Utilizing this momentum, Jersey Gardens will embark on a \$30 million dollar renovation project, which includes both internal and external enhancements:

- Revitalized entries to encourage easier access
- Re-surfaced floors
- Re-finished restrooms
- Recessed lighting
- A new sculpture garden
- And signage to clearly navigate the State's largest outlet mall

16

In 2011, I joined more than twenty new businesses as they opened their doors and became part of Elizabeth's community:

- Revolution Foods
- Big Lots
- RSC Equipment
- Delicious Desserts
- And Investors Bank

Last year, I talked about the Wakefern Food Corporation and their plans to expand their facilities in Elizabeth.

As this project moved forward, I worked closely with the Presidents of Elberon Development Company and Wakefern. This March, we will break ground on the new 524,000 square foot facility - creating hundreds of new jobs for Our City.

From:

- Quality restaurants, expansions and exciting new stores
- To brand-name hotels and local attractions

The City of Elizabeth has just what residents, vacationers and the traveling public- want and need.

In coordination with the Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce and EDC, new restaurant and visitor guides highlight:

- Great Places to Dine
- Stay
- And Visit

Community input, feedback and interaction are imperative to addressing concerns and improving the quality of life. During the summer, we re-activated our Constituent Services Taskforce, who went door to door:

- Recording answers
- Relaying information
- And providing a direct link to City government

It was an invaluable resource:

- To exchange ideas
- Focus upon areas that needed improvement
- Connecting residents with services.

2011 was a difficult year for many large cities:

- Unscrupulous investors and greedy developers
- Manipulation by Wall Street Corporations
- Consequences from the failure and costly bail out of banks
- Along with periods of high unemployment

All contributed to an ongoing recession that left countless wondering: What about us?

Too many, including Trenton:

- Tried to lay blame on the middle class
- Attacking a lifetime worth of work
- And a future's worth of savings

This is not Our City and this will not be Our Future

President Abraham Lincoln once said, "The legitimate object of government is to do for a community of people, what(ever) they need to have done..."

Since the beginning, we have:

- Served our seniors
- Protected our children.
- And invested in our future

From maintaining the affordability of living to increasing opportunities and critical services:

- We will continue to fight for Our Residents
- Because we are here to serve

And when our fellow citizens struggled with the loss of their jobs and searched for opportunities, we did not sit idly by  
- We took action:

- Creating an employment program
- Increasing skills
- On-the-job training
- And cutting your taxes

Providing the assistance Our City needs - when it needs it, is what Elizabeth does:

- Hiring more police officers
- Hiring more firefighters
- Expanding Community Programs
- All while cutting your taxes

Look around - We are co-workers, friends - above all neighbors.

- We are not bystanders looking in
- We do not sit back and watch to see what happens next
- We stand up - for what we believe in and what Our City deserves
- We cut your taxes and increase your services

We have developed:

- A strength in our community
- And an unstoppable energy
- Fueled by an undeniable commitment
- To Our City and Our Future

We will accept nothing less than the best - as we continue to put Elizabeth residents first.

- This is our commitment to Our City and our promise to Our Future
- Because Elizabeth is not just a place on a map
- It is Our Home -- and Together we will create an even better tomorrow.

Thank you and May God Continue to Bless the City of Elizabeth.

Council President Gonzalez ordered that the Mayor's message be received and spread in full upon the minutes of the City Council.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING**

There being no one present who desired to be heard, Council President Keenan declared the public speaking portion of the meeting closed.

Reverend Joseph Adair delivered the benediction.

Councilman Cuesta moved that City Council do now adjourn,

Which was carried unanimously.

Whereupon Council President Gonzalez declared City Council adjourned at  
p.m.

APPROVED

NELSON GONZALEZ  
President of City Council

YOLANDA M. ROBERTS  
Deputy City Clerk