

CITY COUNCIL - ELIZABETH, N. J.

REGULAR MEETING - TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2023

7:30 P. M.

AGENDA

ROLL CALL.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORD. NO. 5871 – An Ordinance granting right of way Encroachment Permit to Murray Paving & Concrete, LLC, d/b/a Murray Contracting, 210 South Newman Street, Hackensack, N.J., for the erection of a temporary sidewalk shed and scaffolding within sidewalk area of the public right of way to the Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy, located at 27 Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza.

ORD. NO. 5872 – An Ordinance to authorize the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Jeffrey Rivas, 232 Atlantic Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORD. NO. 5873 – An Ordinance to amend Chapter 5.70 of the Code of the City of Elizabeth, entitled "Rent Control and Stabilization," specifically to remove the permanent exemption of new construction from the provisions of Chapter 5.70 and to allow certain newly constructed dwellings to be exempt from Section 5.70.060, which limits the regular increases of base rent, in conformity with N.J.S.A. 2 A:42-84.2.

ORD. NO. 5874 – An Ordinance to exceed the State Fiscal Year 2024 Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to establish a CAP Bank pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14.

THE ELIZABETH AVENUE SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$332,457.18.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 29, 2023, from His Honor the Mayor subject to the confirmation of your Honorable Body I am hereby appointing the following attorneys and or the respective firms to serve as Municipal Public Defenders for the Municipal Court during the period covering July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 at a rate of \$500.00 per session and \$500.00 per session for Driving While Intoxicated matters, for a total not to exceed \$175,000.00: Chanima Odoms, Esq., The Law Office of Chanima Odoms, Esq., 16 Bennet Street, Unit 515, Jersey City, NJ; Nidara Y. Rourk, Esq., 210 Dodd Street, East Orange, NJ; Maria M. Dias, Esq., Attorney-at-Law, 1017 Jefferson Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ; Kuhrt, Femia & Kuhrt, LLC, Attorneys-at-Law, 583 Cherry Street, Elizabeth, NJ; Law Offices of Marco Di Stefano, Esq. LLC, Marco Di Stefano, Esq., 2050 Emerson Avenue, Union, NJ; Nidara Y. Rourk, Esq. shall be designated as Chief Municipal Public Defender at the additional compensation of \$5,000.00.

Which was received.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC. (Cont'd)

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 22, 2023, from the Business Administrator request authorization for the proper City officials to apply, accept and sign all appropriate documents for the Union County Open Space, Recreation & Historic Preservation Trust Fund – Kids Recreation Trust Grant; with this anticipated funding, the Department of Recreation will increase opportunities and services at its parks as well as playgrounds for an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 28, 2023, from the Business Administrator request authorization for the proper City officials to renew an agreement with the Assembly of God Portuguese Ministry of Elizabeth, Inc., 1123-1131 Dickinson Street, Elizabeth, for the use of the Church's parking lot by City employees during normal business hours for the period of two years from September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2025 at a nominal fee of \$1.00 per year. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 28, 2023, from the Business Administrator request authorization for the proper City officials to apply, accept and sign all appropriate documents for the Drive Sober Or Get Pulled Over Statewide Labor Day Crackdown Grant; with this anticipated overtime funding to identify, prepare and coordinate comprehensive approaches to yield a reduction in impaired drivers and therefore a decrease in overall illegal activity from August 18, 2023 through September 4, 2023 for an amount not to exceed \$7,000.00. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 28, 2023, from the Business Administrator request authorization for the proper City officials to enter into an agreement to participate in the Camden County Educational Service Commission Cooperative Pricing System, 225 White Horse Avenue, Clementon, NJ to be utilized as the need arises in the future in addition to saving time on preparing specifications, setting up and advertising for bids as the need arises; there is no fee to join. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 28, 2023, from the Business Administrator recommending awarding a contract to Dell, Inc., One Dell Way, RR2 8142, Round Rock, TX for the purchase of Cloud Based Microsoft Office 365 Government E3 GCC Software, Defender O365 P1 GCC, Project Online Professional GCC, Visio Plan 2 GCC Software Subscriptions and Licenses for various offices for the period of September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024 at a cost of \$257,098.60. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 29, 2023, from the Business Administrator request authorization for the proper City officials to renew a policy of insurance with Safety National Casualty Corporation, 1832 Schuetz Road, St. Louis, MO through agent-of-record Sirocco Group to obtain Excess Insurance on Worker's Compensation Coverage and Excess General Liability Insurance for the period of July 1, 2023 through July 1, 2024 at a premium of \$321,751.00. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 29, 2023, from the Business Administrator request authorization for the proper City officials to award a contract to William H. Malone, Jr. Inc., 6 East Sand Dune Lane, Long Beach Township, NJ to provide insurance management consulting services for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 at a flat fee of \$30,000.00. Which was received.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC. (Cont'd)

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 29, 2023, from the Business Administrator recommending awarding a contract to Qual-Lynx, 30 Knightsbridge Road, Piscataway, NJ for the administration of the City's Third-Party Administration of the Workers' Compensation and Auto Liability/Property Program for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$190,000.00 per year.
Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 29, 2023, from the Business Administrator recommending awarding a contract to Dr. Michael R. Zaboski, 240 Williamson Street, Suite 204, Elizabeth, NJ to serve as the Elizabeth Police Department's Physician for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 at a total fee not to exceed \$20,000.00.
Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 29, 2023, from the Business Administrator recommending awarding a contract to BFI, 10 Lanidex Center West, Parsippany, NJ for the purchase of replacement furniture needed for the Recreation Department in the amount of \$31,938.06.
Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 29, 2023, from the Business Administrator request authorization for the proper City officials to execute an Indemnification Agreement with the Elizabeth Board of Education covering the City's utilization of their facilities during the 2023-2024 fiscal year within the limits of Combined Single Limit, Each Occurrence and Aggregate in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 each.
Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 29, 2023, from the Business Administrator recommending awarding a contract to W. W. Grainger, Inc., Grainger Industrial Supply Division, 55 Jackson Drive, Cranford, NJ for the purchase of Industrial Maintenance and Repair, Operation Supplies and Equipment for various departments for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 at a cost not to exceed \$200,000.00.
Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 29, 2023, from the Business Administrator recommending awarding a contract to Exemplis c/o BFI, 6415 Katella Avenue, Suite 200, Cypress, CA for the purchase of office chairs needed for the Recreation Department in the amount of \$3,506.37.
Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 29, 2023, from the Business Administrator recommending awarding a contract to ESI Equipment, Inc., 440 Horsham Road, Suites 4 & 5, Horsham, PA for the purchase of Police and Homeland Security equipment and supplies for the Police and Fire Departments during the period of June 15, 2023 through June 14, 2024 at a cost not to exceed \$150,000.00.
Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 29, 2023, from the Business Administrator recommending awarding a contract to Firefighter One, LLC, 26 Gail Court, Suite 1, Sparta, NJ for the purchase of Protective Firefighter Clothing and Equipment for the period of June 15, 2023 through June 14, 2024 in the amount not to exceed \$150,000.00.
Which was received.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC. (Cont'd)

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 29, 2023, from the Business Administrator request authorization for the proper City officials to participate in a State Contract with Skylands Area Fire Equipment and Training, 23 Hamburg Turnpike, Suite A, Riverdale, NJ for protective Firefighter clothing and equipment during the period of June 15, 2023 through June 14, 2024 at a cost not to exceed \$100,000.00.
Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 29, 2023, from the City Attorney recommending the following attorneys be appointed for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 for representation of the City and City employees in Civil/Criminal Litigation Counsel, Substitute/Conflict Counsel and/or Legal Counsel for Investigation of Complaints where LaCorte, Bundy, Varady & Kinsella, Esq. have conflicts of interest and for any other matter that the City Attorney may assign: Peter H. Spaeth, Esq., Wolfe, Heiles, Spaeth & Lucas, 2517 Highway 35, Building K, Suites 201 & 202, Manasquan, NJ; Edward J. Kologi, Esq., Michael S. Simitz, Esq., Kologi/Simitz, 500 North Wood Avenue, Suite 4B, Linden, NJ; Edwin R. Matthews, Esq., Bourne, Noll & Kenyon, 382 Springfield Avenue, Suite 507, Summit, NJ; Robert F. Renaud, Esq., Renaud Colicchio, LLC, 190 North Avenue East, Cranford, NJ; Kraig M. Dowd, Esq., Weber Dowd Law, LLC, 365 Rifle Camp Road, West Paterson, NJ; Daniel Antonelli, Esq., Antonelli Kantor Rivera, 354 Eisenhower Parkway, Suite 1000, Livingston, NJ; Janyce M. Wilson, Esq, 226 S. Paul Street, Westfield, NJ; Kathryn V. Hatfield, Esq., Hatfield Schwartz Law Group, 240 Cedar Knolls Road, Suite 303, Cedar Knolls, NJ; Camille M. Kenny, J.S.C. (ret.), C K Solutions, 19 Manchester Drive, Westfield, NJ at a cap of \$95,000.00 for each attorney.
Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 29, 2023, from the City Attorney recommending that the law firm of LaCorte, Bundy, Varady & Kinsella be reappointed to provide the same defense of civil litigation in auto and general liability cases, as well as matters included in the City's self-insurance program for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024; costs and expenses are not to exceed \$650,000.00 except as specifically authorized by resolution of City Council.
Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 29, 2023, from the City Attorney recommending that the law firm of LaCorte, Bundy, Varady & Kinsella be reappointed to provide the same defense of Worker's Compensation cases, as well as matters included in the City's self-insurance program for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024; costs and expenses are not to exceed \$150,000.00 except as specifically authorized by resolution of City Council.
Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated July 5, 2023, from the Chief Financial Officer advising in compliance with the SFY 2016 Appropriations Act requires that your Honorable Body approve all payments related to accumulated/uncompensated absence benefits.
Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated July 5, 2023, from the Chief Financial Officer advising that transfers for the 2023 SFY Municipal and Sewer Utility budgets may be necessary.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated July 5, 2023, from the Chief Financial Officer advising that temporary emergency appropriations for the 2024 SFY Municipal and Sewer Utility Budgets may be necessary.
Which was received.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC. (Cont'd)

By the Clerk:

Letter dated July 5, 2023, from the Chief Financial Officer request authorization for the proper City officials to enter a contract for the 2024 SFY with Louis C. Mai, CPA & Associates, 6 Moonshadow Court, Kinnelon, NJ to provide statutory audits of the General Funds, Sewer Utility Funds, Other Funds, the Single Audit and for 5-year comparative statements in an amount of \$266,500.00. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated July 5, 2023, from the Chief Financial Officer request authorization for the proper City officials to enter a contract for the 2024 SFY with NW Financial Group, LLC, 2 Hudson Place, Hoboken, NJ to provide financial advisory services to the City in connection with the City's issuance of municipal and sewer utility debt obligations including bonds and bond anticipation notes and any other financial analysis deemed necessary including the American Rescue Plan for an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated July 5, 2023, from the Chief Financial Officer request authorization for the proper City officials to enter a contract for the 2024 SFY with Echo Valley Advisors, 104 E. Cedar Street, Livingston, NJ to provide financial advisory services to the City in connection with the City's issuance of municipal and sewer utility debt obligations including bonds and bond anticipation notes and any other financial analysis deemed necessary including the American Rescue Plan for an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated July 5, 2023, from the Chief Financial Officer request authorization for the proper City officials to enter a contract for the 2024 SFY with Acacia Financial Group, Inc., 6000 Midlantic Drive, Suite 410 North, Mount Laurel, NJ to provide financial advisory services to the City in connection with the City's issuance of municipal and sewer utility debt obligations including bonds and bond anticipation notes and any other financial analysis deemed necessary including the American Rescue Plan for an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated July 5, 2023, from the Chief Financial Officer request authorization for the proper City officials to enter a contract for the 2024 SFY with Stack, Coolahan & Stack, LLC, 90 Hudson Street, P.O. Box 731, Hoboken, NJ to provide real estate counseling services with a credible opinion of market value for property tax valuation purposes in an amount of \$102,000.00; also for the preparation of appraisal reports and litigation support including testimony and attendance at conferences scheduled by the Court in connection with State Tax Court Appeals for an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 totaling \$127,000.00. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated July 5, 2023, from the Chief Financial Officer request authorization for the proper City officials to enter a contract for the 2024 SFY with Pyramid Real Estate Appraisers, 12 Maple Street, Somerville, NJ for the preparation of appraisal reports and litigation support including testimony and attendance at conferences scheduled by the Court in connection with State Tax Court Appeals in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated July 5, 2023, from the Chief Financial Officer request authorization for the proper City officials to enter a contract for the 2024 SFY with DeCotiis, FitzPatrick, Cole & Gibling, LLP, 61 South Paramus Road, Paramus, NJ to provide bond counsel services to the City in connection with the City's issuance of debt obligations and to provide for the terms and the security of such obligations and to provide for the terms and the security of such obligations in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey for an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00. Which was received.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC. (Cont'd)

By the Clerk:

Letter dated July 5, 2023, from the Chief Financial Officer request authorization for the proper City officials to enter a contract for the 2024 SFY with Blau & Blau, 223 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, NJ to be the primary legal representative of the City in all matters relating to tax appeals including preparation for trials, discovery and motions, and the appearance at trials and other court appearances pertaining to tax appeals at the Union County Tax Board and New Jersey Tax Court and other venues for an amount of \$160,000.00. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 28, 2023, from the Director of Planning and Community Development request that your Honorable Body consider adopting a resolution of local support for Essence Wellness, LLC to apply for a Class 5 Retail Cannabis License with the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission to be located at 608 Elizabeth Avenue. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 26, 2023, from the Director of Public Works request authorization for the proper City officials to apply, accept, sign and or digitally sign all appropriate documents including reimbursement forms for the New Jersey Department of Transportation Local Aid Infrastructure Fund FY 2023; with this funding, the City anticipates implementing the Elizabeth Avenue Streetscape Phase 4 between Broad Street and Catherine Street, comprising 0.28 miles total grant amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.00. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 28, 2023, from the Director of Public Works recommending awarding a contract to Key-Tech, Keegan Technologies and Testing Associates, 210 Maple Avenue, Keyport, NJ to provide material testing and inspection services on a time and material basis for actual time and expenses in connection with construction of the 2023 Road Resurfacing Programs at a cost not to exceed \$45,000.00 plus reimbursables. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 30, 2023, from the Director of Public Works request authorization for the proper City officials to accept and sign an Administrative Consent Order for the Municipal Marina Fuel Dispensing System located at 71 Front Street due to not having a valid air permit and for an underground storage tank system being not compatible with the fuel substances stored. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 28, 2023, from the Director of Public Works recommending awarding a contract to WSP USA Inc., Two Gateway Center, Suite 1000, Newark, NJ to provide professional engineering services for the preparation of the Kapkowski Road Corridor Improvements Project Local Preliminary Engineering in accordance with their revised proposal dated June 28, 2023, at a cost not to exceed \$1,089,970.56 plus reimbursables. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 26, 2023, from Practical Environmental Solutions, LLC, 11-13 Broad Street, Washington, NJ request an Encroachment Permit to perform environmental work consisting of the installation of three (3) monitoring wells within the right-of-way of Jackson Avenue, Mary Street and Catherine Street. Which was received.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC. (Cont'd)

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 22, 2023, from the Police Director request to establish handicapped parking spaces in front of the following premises: 233 Bond Street (personalized); 243 Clark Place (personalized); 615 First Avenue (personalized); 828 Garden Street (personalized); 122 Reid Street (personalized); 122 S. Park Street (personalized); 125 S. Park Street (personalized); 660 S. Park Street; 621 Third Avenue; deletions: 227 South Street Apt 1; 454 Franklin Street; 1028 E. Jersey Street; 554 Jackson Ave Fl 2.

Which was received.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

By the Clerk:

Letter dated June 23, 2023, from the City Treasurer submitted the City Treasurer's Report of Receipts and Disbursements for the month of April 2023 and Statement of Bank Balances and Investments as of April 30, 2023.

Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Minutes: Fair Rental Housing Board meetings held December 21, 2022, January 18, 2023, March 15, 2023, and April 19, 2023.

Which was received.

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

ORD. NO. 5875 – An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 1997 authorizing a Lease Agreement for the rental of the parking lot adjacent to the Church of the Assembly of God Portuguese Ministry of Elizabeth, Inc., located at 1123-1131 Dickinson Street specifically to extend the lease term from September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2025, for the nominal consideration of One Dollar (\$1.00) per year.

ORD. NO. 5876 – An Ordinance granting an Encroachment Permit to Practical Environmental Solutions, LLC, 11-13 Broad Street, Washington, N.J., for the installation of monitoring wells for 501-507 Jackson Avenue wells located in front of 510 Jackson Avenue, 1049-1051 Mary Street, and 495 Catherine Street.

ORD. NO. 5877 – An Ordinance to authorize the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Francisca Santiago, 233 Bond Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORD. NO. 5878 – An Ordinance to authorize the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for John Newenle, 243 Clark Place, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORD. NO. 5879 – An Ordinance to authorize the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Raquel White, 122 Reid Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORD. NO. 5880 – An Ordinance to authorize the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Lilla Veneziano, 621 Third Avenue, Apt 5, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORD. NO. 5881 – An Ordinance to rescind Ordinance No. 5817, adopted on February 28, 2023, which authorized the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Helen DaFonseca Loor, 227 South Street, Apt. 1, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING (cont'd)

ORD. NO. 5882 – An Ordinance to rescind Ordinance No. 5796, adopted on February 14, 2023, which authorized the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Candace McAllister, 454 Franklin Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORD. NO. 5883 – An Ordinance to rescind Ordinance No. 5792, adopted on February 14, 2023, which authorized the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Cecilia Montesdeoca, 1028 East Jersey Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORD. NO. 5884 – An Ordinance to rescind Ordinance No. 5201, adopted on August 27, 2019, which authorized the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Samirah Houston, 554 Jackson Avenue, Fl. 2, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORD. NO. 5885 – An Ordinance to authorize the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Miriam Perez, 615 First Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

PUBLIC HEARING AND FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE FOREGOING ORDINANCES SHALL TAKE PLACE AT THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023 AT 7:30 P.M.

ORDINANCES ON FINAL PASSAGE

ORD. NO. 5871 – An Ordinance granting right of way Encroachment Permit to Murray Paving & Concrete, LLC, d/b/a Murray Contracting, 210 South Newman Street, Hackensack, N.J., for the erection of a temporary sidewalk shed and scaffolding within sidewalk area of the public right of way to the Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy, located at 27 Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza.

ORD. NO. 5872 – An Ordinance to authorize the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Jeffrey Rivas, 232 Atlantic Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORD. NO. 5873 – An Ordinance to amend Chapter 5.70 of the Code of the City of Elizabeth, entitled "Rent Control and Stabilization," specifically to remove the permanent exemption of new construction from the provisions of Chapter 5.70 and to allow certain newly constructed dwellings to be exempt from Section 5.70.060, which limits the regular increases of base rent, in conformity with N.J.S.A. 2 A:42-84.2.

ORD. NO. 5874 – An Ordinance to exceed the State Fiscal Year 2024 Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to establish a CAP Bank pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14.

NEW BUSINESS

Adopt the Elizabeth Avenue Special Improvement District Calendar Year 2024 Budget, in the amount of \$332,457.18.

In compliance with the SFY 2016 Appropriations Act (Best Practices Requirement), City Council is requested to approve all payments related to accumulated/uncompensated absence benefits.

Authorize Temporary Emergency Appropriations for the 2024 Fiscal Year Municipal and Sewer Utility Budgets, in the amount of \$235,158.00.

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Confirm the appointment of the following attorneys and or the respective firms to serve as Municipal Public Defenders for the City of Elizabeth Municipal Court for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$500.00 per session and \$500.00 per session for Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) matters, for a total cost not to exceed \$175,000.00: Chanima Odoms, Esq., The Law Office of Chanima Odoms, Esq., Jersey City, N.J.; Nidara Y. Rourk, Esq., East Orange, N.J.; Maria M. Dias, Esq., Jersey City, N.J.; Nidara Kuhr, Femia & Kuhr, LLC, Attorneys-at-Law, Elizabeth N.J.; Elizabeth, N.J.; Stefano, Esq., LLC, Marco Di Stefano, Esq., Union, N.J.; and Nidara Y. Rourk, Esq. shall be designated as Chief Municipal Public Defender at the additional compensation of Five-Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00).

Authorize the proper City officials to accept and sign all appropriate documents for the “Union County Open Space, Recreation & Historic Preservation Trust Fund – Kids Recreation Trust Grant Program, with this anticipated funding the Department of Recreation will increase opportunities and services at its parks as well as playgrounds, for an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00, matching funds are required for this opportunity.

Authorize the proper City officials to apply, accept and sign all appropriate documents for the State of New Jersey, Division of Highway Traffic Safety - Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Statewide Labor Day Crackdown Grant Program from August 18, 2023 through September 4, 2023, for an amount not to exceed \$7,000.00.

Authorize the proper City Officials to enter into an agreement to participate in the Camden County Educational Services Commission Cooperative Pricing System, 225 White Horse Avenue, Clementon, N.J., to be utilized as the need arises in the future, in addition to saving time spent on preparing specifications, setting up and advertising for bids, there is no fee to join.

Authorize the award of a contract to Dell Inc., One Dell Way, RR2 8142, Round Rock, TX, for the purchase of Cloud Based Microsoft Office 365, Government E3 GCC Software, Defender O365 P1 GCC, Project Online Professional GCC, Visio Plan 2 GCC Software Subscriptions and Licenses for various offices and to execute any necessary documents provided by Dell, Inc., in connection with the contract for the period September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024, at a cost of \$257,098.60.

Authorize the award of a contract to Safety National Casualty Corporation, 1832 Schuetz Road, St Louis, MO, through the agent-of-record, Sirocco Group, for the renewal of a policy for Excess Insurance on Worker's Compensation Coverage & excess General Liability insurance for the period July 1, 2023 to July 1, 2024, at an annual premium of \$321,751.00.

Authorize the award of a contract to William H. Malone, Jr. Inc., 6 East Sand Dune Lane, Long Beach Township, N.J., to provide Insurance Management Consulting Services to the City of Elizabeth for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, for a total cost of \$30,000.00.

Authorize the award of a contract to Qual-Lynx (formerly Scibal Associates, Inc.,) 30 Knightsbridge Road, Piscataway, N.J., to provide the Third-Party Administration of the City of Elizabeth's Workers' Compensation and Auto Liability/Property Program for a period of three (3) years to commence July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026, in the amount of \$190,000.00 per year.

Authorize the award of a contract to Dr. Michael R. Zaboski, 240 Williamson Street, Suite 204, Elizabeth, N.J., to provide professional services of a physician for the Elizabeth Police Department for the period of one (1) year from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, at a total cost not to exceed \$20,000.00.

Authorize the award of a contract to BFI 10 Lanidex Center West, Parsippany, N.J. for the purchase of replacement furniture needed for the Recreation Department, in the amount of \$31,938.06.

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Authorize the proper City officials to execute an Indemnification Agreement with the Elizabeth Board of Education, 500 North Broad Street, Elizabeth, N.J. covering the City's utilization of the Board of Education facilities during the 2023-2024 fiscal year, within the limits of Combined Single Limit, Each Occurrence and Aggregate in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 each.

Authorize the award of a contract to W.W. Grainger, Inc., Grainger Industrial Supply Division, 55 Jackson Drive, Cranford, N.J., for the purchase of Industrial Maintenance and Repair, Operation Supplies and Equipment for various departments for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, at a cost not to exceed \$200,000.00.

Authorize the award of a contract to Exemplis c/o BFI, 6415 Katella Avenue, Suite 200, Cypress, CA, for the purchase of Office Chairs needed for the Recreation Department, in the amount of \$3,506.37.

Authorize the award of a contract to ESI Equipment Inc., 440 Horsham Road, Suites 4 & 5, Horsham, PA, for the purchase of Police and Homeland Security Equipment and Supplies for the Police and Fire Departments for the period June 15, 2023 through June 14, 2024, at a cost not to exceed \$150,000.00.

Authorize the award of a contract to Firefighter One, LLC, 26 Gail Court, Suite 1, Sparta, N.J., for the purchase of Protective Firefighter Clothing and Equipment for the period June 15, 2023 through June 14, 2024, at a cost not to exceed \$150,000.00.

Authorize the award of a contract to Skylands Area Fire Equipment and Training, 23 Hamburg Tpke, Suite A, Riverdale, N.J., for the purchase of Protective Firefighter Clothing and Equipment for the period June 15, 2023 through June 14, 2024, at a cost not to exceed \$100,000.00.

Authorize the award of respective contracts to the following attorneys: Peter H. Spaeth, ESQ., WOLF, HELIES, SPAETH & LUCAS, Manasquan, N.J.; Edward J. Kologi, Esq., Michael S. Simitz, Esqs., KOLOGI/SIMITZ, Linden, NJ; Edwin R. Matthews, Esq., BOURNE, NOLL, & KENYON, Summit, NJ; Robert F. Renaud, Esq., RENAUD COLICCHIO, LLC, Cranford, NJ; Kraig M. Dowd, Esq., WEBER DOWD LAW LLC, West Paterson, NJ; Daniel Antonelli, Esq., ANTONELLI KANTOR RIVERA, Livingston, NJ; Janyce M. Wilson, Esq., Westfield, NJ; Kathryn V. Hatfield, Esq., HATFIELD SCHWARTZ LAW GROUP, Cedar Knolls, NJ; Camille M. Kenny, J.S.C., (ret), C K SOLUTIONS, Westfield, NJ, for representation of the City of Elizabeth in Civil/Criminal Litigation Counsel, Substitute/Conflict Counsel and/or Legal Counsel for Investigations of Complaints in situations where the Law Firm of LaCorte, Bundy, Varady, and Kinsella, 989 Bonnel Court, Union, N.J., has conflicts of interest and for any other matter that the City Attorney may assign for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, all of the foregoing costs and expenses are not to exceed \$95,000.00 for each attorney, except as specifically authorized by resolution of City Council.

Authorize the renewal of a contract with the law firm of LaCorte, Bundy, Varady and Kinsella, 989 Bonnel Court, Union, N.J., to provide the City with legal services in the defense of Civil/Criminal Litigation Counsel, Substitute/Conflict Counsel and/or Legal Counsel for Investigation of Complaints in auto and general liability cases and matters included within the City's self-insurance program for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, all of the foregoing costs and expenses are not to exceed \$650,000.00, except as specifically authorized by resolution of City Council.

Authorize the renewal of a contract with the law firm of LaCorte, Bundy, Varady and Kinsella, 989 Bonnel Court, Union, N.J., to provide the City with legal services in the defense of Worker's Compensation cases and matters included within the City's partial self-insurance program for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, all of the foregoing costs and expenses are not to exceed \$150,000.00, except as specifically authorized by resolution of City Council.

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Authorize the proper City officials to enter into a contract with Louis C. Mai, CPA & Associates, P. O. Box 624, Pompton Plains, N.J., to conduct statutory audits of the City of Elizabeth General Funds, City of Elizabeth Sewer Utility, City of Elizabeth Other Funds and Single Audit of Federal and State Grants for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, at a cost of \$266,500.00.

Authorize the proper City officials to enter into a contract with NW Financial Group, LLC, 2 Hudson Place, Hoboken, N.J., to provide Financial Advisory Services to the City of Elizabeth in connection with the City's issuance of municipal and general sewer debt obligations and any other financial analysis necessary for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00.

Authorize the proper City officials to enter into a contract with Echo Valley Advisors, 104 E. Cedar Street, Livingston, N.J., to provide Financial Advisory Services to the City of Elizabeth in connection with the City's issuance of municipal and general sewer debt obligations and any other financial analysis necessary for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00.

Authorize the proper City officials to enter into a contract with Acacia Financial Group, Inc., 6000 Midlantic Drive, Suite 410 North, Mount Laurel, N.J., to provide Financial Advisory Services to the City of Elizabeth in connection with the City's issuance of debt obligations through the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust and any other related financial analysis deemed necessary for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00.

Authorize the proper City officials to enter into a contract with Stack, Coolahan & Stack, LLC., Real Estate Appraiser and Consultants, 90 Hudson Street, P. O Box 731, Hoboken, N.J., for the retention of an expert real estate appraiser to provide real estate counseling services with a credible opinion of market value for property tax valuation purposes in the amount of \$102,000.00 and for the preparation of appraisal reports and litigation support including testimony and attendance at conferences scheduled by the Courts for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 for an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00, totaling \$127,000.00.

Authorize the proper City officials to enter into a contract with PYRAMID Real Estate Appraisers, 12 Maple Street, Somerville, N.J. for the retention of an expert real estate appraiser to provide real estate counseling services with a credible opinion of market value for property tax valuation purposes for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00

Authorize the proper City officials to enter into a contract with DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick, Cole & Giblin, LLP, 61 South Paramus Road, Paramus, N.J., as Bond Counsel for the City of Elizabeth for the purpose of providing bond counsel services in connection with preparation of ordinances, bond and note sales and related services for a one (1) year period effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00.

Authorize the proper City officials to enter into a contract with Blau & Blau, Attorneys at Law, 223 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, N.J. to serve as the Tax Appeal Attorney to provide the City of Elizabeth with legal services in conjunction with tax appeal cases in the Tax Court and before the Union County Board of Taxation for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, at a cost of \$160,000.00.

Adopt a resolution of local support from Essence Wellness, LLC, in its application to the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission for a Class 5 Retail Cannabis License for a Cannabis Establishment to be located at 608 Elizabeth Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Authorize the proper City Officials to enter into an agreement with Harbor Consultants, Inc., 320 North Avenue East, Cranford, N.J. to serve as City Planner for Planning Services to the Planning and Zoning Boards and the Department of Planning and Community Development for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, at a cost of \$75,000.00.

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Authorize the proper City Officials to apply, accept and sign all appropriate documents including reimbursement forms for the execution of a grant agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation Local Aid Infrastructure Fund (LAIF) FY 2023, with this funding the City anticipates implementing the Elizabeth Avenue Streetscape Phase 4 between Broad Street and Catherine Street, comprising 0.28 miles, total grant amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.00.

Authorize the award of a contract to Key-Tech, Keegan Technologies and Testing Associates, 210 Maple Avenue, Keyport, N.J., to provide the City with material testing and inspection services on a time and material basis for actual time and expenses in connection with construction of the 2023 Road Resurfacing Programs, at a cost not to exceed \$45,000.00 plus reimbursables.

Authorize the proper City Officials to accept and sign the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Administrative Consent Order for the Municipal Marina Fuel Dispensing System located at 71 Front Street, Elizabeth, N.J.

Authorize the award of a contract to WSP USA, Inc., Two Gateway Center, Suite 1000, Newark, N.J., to provide professional engineering services for the preparation of the Kapkowski Road Corridor Improvements Project Local Preliminary Engineering, in accordance with their revised proposal dated June 28, 2023, at a cost not to exceed \$1,089,970.56 plus reimbursables.

Rescind resolution adopted March 13, 2018, which established a handicapped parking space in front of the premises located at 122 Reid Street. (now personalized)

Rescind resolution adopted December 27, 2005, which established a handicapped parking space in front of the premises located at 621 Third Avenue, Apt 5. (now personalized)

Rescind resolution adopted February 28, 2023, which established a handicapped parking space in front of the premises located at 615 First Avenue. (now personalized)

Pay Utility Bills

COMMENDATIONS:

Joseph "Joe" Sheridan

)Retirement, President of Wakefern Food Corp.

James Johnson

Ms. Monica Tanner

)National Night Out

Firefighter Jason Manes

) Recipients

Firefighter Warren White III

) August 1, 2023

Deputy Police Chief Abner Rodriguez

MEMORIALS:

Ruben Diaz

Shirley Ann Dozier

Alba Mazza Nazianzeno

Mary E. Belmont

Anna Paternostro

ADJOURNMENT