

CITY COUNCIL - ELIZABETH, N. J.

REGULAR MEETING - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 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. 5903 – A Capital Improvement Fund Ordinance of the City of Elizabeth, in the County of Union, New Jersey, appropriating \$400,000.00 for the acquisition of an ambulance.

ORD. NO. 5907 – An Ordinance to authorize the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Leon McNair, 14 North Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORD. NO. 5908 – An Ordinance to authorize the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Jacquelyn Morris, 143 Smith Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORD. NO. 5909 – An Ordinance to rescind Ordinance No. 5669, adopted on June 14, 2022, which authorized the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Olga Carbonero, 954 Lafayette Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORD. NO. 5910 – An Ordinance to rescind Ordinance No. 5758, adopted on December 13, 2022, which authorized the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Franklin Souffrant, 210 Clark Place, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORD. NO. 5911 – An Ordinance to rescind Ordinance No. 5204, adopted on August 27, 2019, which authorized the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Shirley Dozier, 132 First Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORD. NO. 5912 – An Ordinance to rescind Ordinance No. 5780, adopted on January 10, 2023, which authorized the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Virginia Garcia, 141 Washington Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORD. NO. 5913 – An Ordinance to rescind Ordinance No. 5524, adopted on September 14, 2021, which authorized the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Francisco Taveras, 526 Fulton Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated October 5, 2023, from the Business Administrator recommending awarding a contract to National Highway Products, Inc., 301 Riverside Drive, Millville, NJ for the purchase of traffic control signs, support hardware and safety devices for the period of September 27, 2023 through September 26, 2024 not to exceed \$100,000.00. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated October 11, 2023, from the Business Administrator recommending awarding a contract to Ricoh USA, Inc., Gatehall Drive, Parsippany, NJ for new or replacement leases for various departments for the period of January 11, 2023 through July 31, 2024 in the total amount not to exceed \$100,000.00. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated October 12, 2023, from the Business Administrator request that your Honorable Body authorize a contract with Cliffside Body, 130 Broad Avenue, Fairview, NJ for the purchase of two (2) new truck bodies and two (2) lighting packages for the Police Department at the total cost of \$117,567.00. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated October 13, 2023, from the Business Administrator recommending awarding a contract to Axon Enterprise, Inc., 17800 North 85th Street, Scottsdale, Arizona for the purchase of law enforcement firearms equipment and supplies for the Police Department for the period October 2, 2023 through May 13, 2024 at a cost not to exceed \$125,000.00. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated October 13, 2023, from the Business Administrator request authorization for the proper City officials to issue a Fidelity Officials Bond covering Paul Lesniak, City Treasurer/Tax Collector with the Hartford Insurance Company, Hartford CT through agent-of-record Hughes Plumer Associates, 20 West End Avenue Somerville, NJ for the period of December 1, 2023 to December 1, 2024 at an annual premium of \$1,750.00. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated October 13, 2023, from the Business Administrator request authorization for the proper City officials to purchase flood insurance from Selective Insurance Company, 40 Wantage Avenue, Branchville, NJ through agent-of-record Otterstedt Insurance Agency, Inc., 540 Sylvan Avenue, Englewood Cliffs, NJ for the period of November 3, 2023 to November 3, 2024 at an annual premium of \$11,821.00. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated October 13, 2023, from the Business Administrator request authorization to participate in the Passaic County Cooperative Pricing System, 495 River Street, 2nd Floor, Paterson, NJ 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 as well as authorize the proper City officials to sign the Cooperative Pricing System Agreement at no cost to the City. Which was received.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC. (Cont'd)

By the Clerk:

Letter dated October 6, 2023, from the Chief Financial Officer request authorization for the Tax Collector to cancel/credit/ refund an overbilling of taxes for the 2022/2023 Tax Year resulting from a \$5,000 added assessment placed on the property located at 1008 Boudinot Place in the amount of \$2,972.94; an overbilling of taxes for the 2022 Tax Year resulting from the County of Union being exempt from paying property taxes on the property located at 921-923 Elizabeth Avenue in the amount of \$78,575.00; an overbilling of taxes for the 2022/2023 Tax Years resulting from the City of Elizabeth being exempt from paying property taxes on the property located at 51-55 Jefferson Avenue in the amount of \$36,794.83; an overbilling of taxes for the 2023 Tax Year resulting from the property located at 144-146 Palisade Road having a 100% Disabled Veteran Exemption in the amount of \$9,469.30; an overbilling of taxes for the 2023 Tax Year resulting from the property located at 590 Summer Street having a 100% Disabled Veteran Exemption in the amount of \$6,053.42; an overbilling of taxes for the 2022/2023 Tax Years resulting from the property located at 142 Ripley Place having a 33.33% Disabled Veteran Exemption in the amount of \$5,580.81; an overbilling of taxes for the 2022/2023 Tax Years resulting from the property located at 947 Anna Street having a 50% Disabled Veteran Exemption in the amount of \$5,289.69; an overbilling of taxes for the 2023 Tax Year resulting from the property located at 740-742 Seaport Drive having a 50% Disabled Veteran Exemption in the amount of \$7,483.17; and an overbilling of taxes for the 2023 Tax Year resulting from the property located at 400-416 Trumbull Street removing the cellular antenna and equipment in the amount of \$14,246.90. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated October 17, 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 October 17, 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.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated October 17, 2023, from the Chief Financial Officer request a Fiscal Year 2024 Dedication by Rider to the municipal budget for donations-acceptance of bequests and gifts from the Midtown Development Projects for affordable housing donations and the Midtown Development Projects for open space recreation donations. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated October 17, 2023, from the Chief Financial Officer request that your Honorable Body consider approving a bond ordinance that authorizes the purchase and installation of Security Cameras at various locations in the amount of \$2,000,000.00 with a down payment of \$100,000.00. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated October 13, 2023, from the Director of Health and Human Services request to amend the resolution adopted on January 24, 2023 for the Elizabeth Municipal Alliance Program Youth Leadership Alliance Funding in the amount of \$3,403.00, specifically for an additional \$243.00 thereby raising the amount of the grant to \$3,646.00. Which was received.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC. (Cont'd)

By the Clerk:

Letter dated October 5, 2023, from the Director of Planning and Community Development request authorization for the City of Elizabeth to become a Revolution NJ Community commemorating 250 Years of the Founding of the United States; during the next couple of months, committees and sub committees will be formed to organize events leading up to 2026 for the 250th birthday of the United States. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated October 10, 2023, from the Director of Planning and Community Development request authorization His Honor the Mayor to execute the Certificate of Completion for 30-34 Bank Street and 731-735 New Point Road; all work has been substantially completed. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated October 16, 2023, from the Director of Planning and Community Development request extending the Cannabis Moratorium for all Cannabis Retail Licenses until April 1, 2024. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated October 11, 2023, from the Director of Public Works request permission to have liens placed against properties listed on Schedule A attached hereto for the removal and disposal of debris from said properties in the amount of \$4,422.70. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated October 4, 2023, from the Office on Aging request permission for a vanity sign to be installed at the corner of Anna Street and Jefferson Avenue in memory of Edward Fletcher (June 6, 1951 – January 13, 2021); unveiling to be held on Saturday, January 13, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. Which was received.

By the Clerk:

Letter dated October 10, 2023, from Samuel Arcure, 207 Shelley Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ request to renew his appointment as Constable for a three (3) year term. Which was received.

NONE.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

ORD. NO. 5914 – An Ordinance to authorize the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Juanita Beeks, 65 South Second Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORD. NO. 5915 – An Ordinance to authorize the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Ruth Pozo, 219 Franklin Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORD. NO. 5916 – An Ordinance to authorize the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Luis Ramirez, 455 Franklin Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORD. NO. 5917 – An Ordinance to authorize the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Leo Carazas, 241 Marshall Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING (cont'd)

ORD. NO. 5918 – An Ordinance to authorize the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Eugenia Delgado, 248 Pine Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORD. NO. 5919 – A Bond Ordinance of the City of Elizabeth, in the County of Union, New Jersey, providing for the acquisition and installation of Security Cameras and appropriating \$2,000,000.00 therefor and providing for the issuance of \$1,900,000.00 in Bond or Notes of the City to finance the same.

ORD. NO. 5920 – An Ordinance to authorize the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Ana Medina, 122 S. Park Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

PUBLIC HEARING AND FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE FOREGOING ORDINANCES SHALL TAKE PLACE AT THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023 AT 7:30 P.M.

ORDINANCES ON FINAL PASSAGE

ORD. NO. 5903 – A Capital Improvement Fund Ordinance of the City of Elizabeth, in the County of Union, New Jersey, appropriating \$400,000.00 for the acquisition of an ambulance.

ORD. NO. 5907 – An Ordinance to authorize the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Leon McNair, 14 North Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORD. NO. 5908 – An Ordinance to authorize the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Jacquelyn Morris, 143 Smith Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORD. NO. 5909 – An Ordinance to rescind Ordinance No. 5669, adopted on June 14, 2022, which authorized the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Olga Carbonero, 954 Lafayette Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORD. NO. 5910 – An Ordinance to rescind Ordinance No. 5758, adopted on December 13, 2022, which authorized the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Franklin Souffrant, 210 Clark Place, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORD. NO. 5911 – An Ordinance to rescind Ordinance No. 5204, adopted on August 27, 2019, which authorized the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Shirley Dozier, 132 First Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORD. NO. 5912 – An Ordinance to rescind Ordinance No. 5780, adopted on January 10, 2023, which authorized the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Virginia Garcia, 141 Washington Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

ORD. NO. 5913 – An Ordinance to rescind Ordinance No. 5524, adopted on September 14, 2021, which authorized the establishment of a personalized handicapped parking space for Francisco Taveras, 526 Fulton Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

NEW BUSINESS

Authorize Temporary Emergency Appropriations for the 2024 Fiscal Year Municipal and Sewer Utility Budgets, in the amount of \$5,493,912.90.

Request permission from the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for a Dedication by Rider SFY 2024 for donations/acceptance of bequests and gifts from the Midtown Development Projects for Open Space Recreation Trust Fund, as required by NJSA 40A:5-29.

Request permission from the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for a Dedication by Rider SFY 2024 for donations/acceptance of bequests and gifts from the Midtown Development Projects for Affordable Housing-Affordable Housing Trust Fund, as required by NJSA 40A:5-29.

Authorize an amendment to the 2024 Fiscal Year Capital Budget in the amount of \$2,000,000.00.

Authorize the award of a contract to National Highway Products, Inc., 301 Riverside Drive, Millville, N.J., for the purchase of Traffic Control Signs, Support Hardware and Safety Devices through the Somerset County Co-Op for the period September 27, 2023 through September 26, 2024, at a cost not to exceed \$100,000.00.

Authorize the award of a contract to Ricoh USA, Inc., 2 Gatehall Drive, Parsippany, N.J., for New or Replacement Photo Copier Leases for various departments for the period January 11, 2023 through July 31, 2024, for a total amount not to exceed \$100,000.00.

Authorize the award of a contract to Cliffside Body, 130 Broad Avenue, Fairview, N.J., for the purchase of two (2) New Trucks Bodies and two (2) Lighting Packages for the Police Department through the Educational Services Commission of NJ Co-Op, at a total cost of \$117,567.00.

Authorize the award of a contract to Axon Enterprise, Inc., 17800 North 85th Street, Scottsdale, AZ, for the purchase of Law Enforcement Firearms Equipment and Supplies for the Police Department, for the period October 2, 2023 through May 13, 2024, at a cost not to exceed \$125,000.00.

Authorize the proper City Officials to renew the policy of insurance with Hartford Insurance Company, Hartford, Connecticut, through agent-of-record, Hughes Plumer Associates, for a Fidelity Public Officials Bond for Paul Lesniak, Treasurer/Tax Collector, for the period December 1, 2023 through December 1, 2024, at a cost of \$1,750.00.

Authorize the award of a contract with Selective Insurance Company, 40 Wantage, Avenue, Branchville, N.J, through agent-of-record Otterstedt Insurance Agency, Inc., to obtain a Flood Insurance Policy for at risk properties located at 426 South Street, and 518 Trenton Avenue, Elizabeth, N.J. for the period November 3, 2023 through November 3, 2024, at a premium of \$11,821.00.

Authorize the proper City Officials to execute an agreement and any other documents to join the Passaic County Cooperative Pricing System, 495 River Street, 2nd Floor, Paterson, 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 Tax Collector to cancel/refund/credit an overbilling of taxes on the property located at 921-923 Elizabeth Avenue for the Tax Year 2022, in the total amount of \$78,575.00.

Authorize the Tax Collector to cancel/refund/credit an overbilling of taxes on the property located at 400-416 Trumbull Street for the Tax Year 2023, in the total amount of \$14,246.90.

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Authorize the Tax Collector to cancel/refund/credit an overbilling of taxes on the property located at 700-742 Seaport Drive for the Tax Year 2023, in the total amount of \$7,483.17.

Authorize the Tax Collector to cancel/refund/credit an overbilling of taxes on the property located at 590 Summer Street for the Tax Year 2023, in the total amount of \$6,053.42.

Authorize the Tax Collector to cancel/refund/credit an overbilling of taxes on the property located at 144-146 Palisade Road for the Tax Year 2023, in the total amount of \$9,469.30.

Authorize the Tax Collector to cancel/refund/credit an overbilling of taxes on the property located at 947 Anna Street for the Tax Years 2022 and 2023, in the total amount of \$5,289.69.

Authorize the Tax Collector to cancel/refund/credit an overbilling of taxes on the property located at 142 Ripley Place for the Tax Years 2022 and 2023, in the total amount of \$5,580.81.

Authorize the Tax Collector to cancel/refund/credit an overbilling of taxes on the property located at 51-55 Jefferson Avenue for the Tax Years 2022 and 2023, in the total amount of \$36,794.83.

Authorize the Tax Collector to cancel/refund/credit an overbilling of taxes on the property located at 1008 Boudinot Place for the Tax Years 2022 and 2023, in the total amount of \$2,972.94.

Amend resolution adopted January 24, 2023, for the Elizabeth Municipal Alliance Program from the Local Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, and the Union County Board of Commissioners for Grant Term Two, Alliance Funding/Youth Leadership Grant, specifically for the acceptance of additional funds in the amount of \$243.00, for a total amount of \$3,646.00.

A resolution of the City of Elizabeth, Union County, New Jersey supporting RevolutionNJ and endorsing the RevolutionNJ and its mission to advance the role that history plays in public discourse, community engagement, education, tourism, and scholarship in New Jersey.

Authorize the Mayor to execute the Certificate of Completion for the parcels located 30-34 Bank Street and 731-735 New Point Road.

Adopt a resolution to extend the Cannabis Moratorium for all Cannabis Licenses until April 1, 2024.

Establish liens for the removal and disposal of debris from the properties listed on Schedule A on file in the City Clerk's Office, in the total amount of \$2,679.19.

Establish liens for the removal and disposal of debris from the properties listed on Schedule A on file in the City Clerk's Office, in the total amount \$4,422.70.

Grant permission to place a Vanity Street Sign, "Ed Fletcher Place" in memory of Edward Fletcher to be placed on the corner of Anna Street and Jefferson Avenue and a Street Dedication Ceremony to be held on Saturday, January 13, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

Establish a handicapped parking space in front of the premises located at 619 First Avenue, Elizabeth, N.J.

Rescind resolution adopted March 26, 2019, which established a handicapped parking space in front of the premises located at 65 South Second Street. (now personalized)

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Re-appoint Samuel Arcure, 207 Shelly Avenue, Elizabeth, N.J. to serve as a Constable for a term of three (3) years effective from the date of appointment.

Declare Solidarity with Israel, condemning the heinous terrorist attack by Hamas, stand in support of Israel, express our deepest sorrow for all innocent civilians, and pray for the safe release of all the hostages taken into Gaza.

Pay Utility Bills.

COMMENDATIONS:

1972 Jewish Educational Centers Basketball Team)50TH Year Anniversary

Cordell “Rap” Reinhardt)84th Birthday

Dr. Kamran Tasharofi, MD.

MEMORIALS:

ADJOURNMENT