

PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL

(OFFICIAL)

ELIZABETH, N. J.

Tuesday Evening
July 25, 2023
7:30 p.m.

A regular meeting of the City Council was held this evening in the City Council Chamber, City Hall.

President Frank Mazza announced that this regular meeting is listed in the "annual notice" as defined by Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, and that copies of the "annual notice" have been mailed or delivered to the Star Ledger, and Home News Tribune and posted and filed in the City Clerk's Office in compliance with the terms of the Open Public Meetings Law, Chap. 231, P.L. 1975 on December 22, 2021.

PRESENT: Council members at Large Frank Cuesta, Manny Grova, Jr., Patricia Perkins-Auguste. Council Members: Carlos Torres, 1st Ward; Nelson Gonzalez, 2nd Ward; Carlos Cedeno, 4th Ward, William Gallman, Jr., 5th Ward, And Council President Frank Mazza, 6th Ward – 8.

ABSENT: Council member Kevin Kiniery – 1.

ALSO PRESENT: Samantha Castrelos, Special Counsel.

Robert Varady, Esq.

NOTE: Councilman Torres arrived at the meeting at 7:35 p.m.; Councilwoman Perkins-Auguste and Councilman Grova arrived at the meeting at 7:40 p.m. and assumed their seats.

EXCUSED: Councilman Torres was EXCUSED from the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Councilman Gallman delivered the opening prayer and led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Mr. Ashbell Soto, 668 Elizabeth Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ spoke regarding Essence Wellness stating that he chose the City of Elizabeth as a way to give back to the City. He has been in communication with the Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce, Groundwork, Police and Fire Departments and gathered signatures of support from the community.

Mr. Darwin Roman, Latin Chamber of Commerce stated that the mission of the Chamber is to advocate for businesses and tonight he is here in support of Essence.

Ms. Marieanneze Steiniger, 214 Edgar Place, Elizabeth, NJ made a request for more trash receptacles to be placed in her area.

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

NEW BUSINESS

BY CITY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE:

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Planning and Community Development has advised that the City of Elizabeth has received a written request from **Essence Wellness, LLC**, ("Applicant"), for a resolution of local support for their 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, NJ**; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant's request is made in conjunction with its application for a cannabis business license from the City pursuant to Chapter 5.26 of the Code of the City of Elizabeth, entitled "Cannabis Establishments"; and

WHEREAS, the acting Chief License Inspector has advised that the Applicant has met all requirements set forth in Section 5.26.110 of the Code of the City of Elizabeth, including providing all required information, paying all licensing fees, and receiving recommendations for licensure from the Chief of Police, Director of the Department of Planning and Community Development, Health Official, and Fire Official; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Elizabeth hereby supports **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, NJ**.

Council President Mazza stated that he supports this request and urged support from his colleagues.

Which was adopted by the following vote:

AFFIRMATIVE: Cuesta, Perkins-Auguste, Gallman,
Mazza And President Gonzalez –5.

NEGATIVE: Grova – 1.

EXCUSED: Cedeno – 1.

BY CITY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE:

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Elizabeth has learned of the recent passing of **Anna Paternostro**, 90; and

WHEREAS, Anna was born in Vallata, Italy on July 26, 1932. Her life was filled with love, warmth, and dedication to her family; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, Anna bravely embarked on a journey to America in pursuit of a better life for her beloved family. She faced the challenges of a new country with courage and determination. Anna's spirit was unwavering, and she found work at Manheim clothing factory, where she served as a skilled seamstress for 14 years; and

WHEREAS, Anna's family held a special place in her heart, and she never hesitated to put their needs before her own; and

WHEREAS, Anna is survived by her devoted husband, Gerardo; son Anthony; daughter Marina, and son-in-law Albertino; daughter-in-law Carmel; grandchildren, Anthony, his wife Rachel, Gerardo, his wife Daniela, Alexia, Salvatore, AnnaMaria, Anna, Giuseppe, and Carmine Jon, as well as her great-grandchildren Giuseppe, Amalia, Luca, and Massimo. Her love and wisdom have left a lasting impression on each of their lives; and

WHEREAS, Anna was predeceased by her son Giuseppe; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Elizabeth hereby expresses its condolences at the passing of **Anna Paternostro** to her family and friends; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this expression of our sympathy be recorded in full upon the minutes of City Council and a certified copy be sent to her family.

Which was adopted unanimously by a standing vote and minute
of silent prayer.

Council President Mazza moved that City Council do now adjourn.

Which was carried unanimously.

Whereupon Council President Mazza declared City Council adjourned at

9:01 P.M.

APPROVED

FRANK MAZZA
President of City Council

YOLANDA M. ROBERTS
Municipal Clerk

PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL

(OFFICIAL)

ELIZABETH, N. J.

Tuesday Evening
August 22, 2023
7:30 p.m.

A regular meeting of the City Council was held this evening in the City Council Chamber, City Hall.

President Frank Mazza announced that this regular meeting is listed in the "annual notice" as defined by Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, and that copies of the "annual notice" have been mailed or delivered to the Star Ledger, and Home News Tribune and posted and filed in the City Clerk's Office in compliance with the terms of the Open Public Meetings Law, Chap. 231, P.L. 1975 on December 22, 2021.

PRESENT: Council members at Large Frank Cuesta, Patricia Perkins-Auguste.

Council Members: Nelson Gonzalez, 2nd Ward; Carlos Cedenno, 4th Ward, William Gallman, Jr., 5th Ward, And Council President pro tem Carlos Torres, 1st Ward – 6.

ABSENT: Council member at Large Manny Grova, Jr. Council members Kevin Kiniery, Frank Mazza– 3.

ALSO PRESENT: Samantha Castrelos, Special Counsel.

Councilwoman Perkins-Auguste delivered the opening prayer and led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Mr. Jordy Hernandez, 123 Elm Street, Elizabeth, NJ spoke regarding the cancellation of the Coach USA, One Bus commuter bus service in October 2023. He continued that service for bus routes 24, 31, and 44 in Elizabeth, Newark, and Orange will end on October 8, 2023 due to the routes no longer financially viable to run according to Coach USA. He stated further that this is of great concern for the individuals who commute in Elizabeth.

Mr. Hernandez stated that just two (2) days ago there was a protest to close the ICE Detention Center here in Elizabeth. He stated further that there are only a few days left before the Court makes its decision. He suggested to City Council to consider closing this center.

Council President pro tem Torres stated that this Body stands with our Senator and Congressman in closing the detention center.

Ms. Christine (Tina) Smith, 70 Westfield Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ stated that there are businesses playing loud music at 3:00 a.m. The music is too loud. She queried why these businesses need music that loud. She stated further that people have to go to work.

Council President pro tem Torres stated that he will contact the Police Chief.

Councilman Cedeno stated that this past week he asked the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission (ABC) to send letters to all businesses with an ABC license.

Ms. Monique Brown, Trinitas Regional Medical Center stated that she is the Community Engagement Coordinator for the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program that will work in partnership with the Elizabeth Police Department. She continued that this is a pilot program that allows police to cooperate to “ensure that individuals who commit repeated low-level offenses motivated by substance abuse, mental health, and/or poverty get help with addressing their problems.”

Councilman Gonzalez asked is this a 24/7 program.

Ms. Brown responded no.

Ms. Kayla Perce, 1040 Harding Road, Elizabeth, NJ stated that she was glad to hear that City Council stands against the ICE Detention Center.

PUBLIC SPEAKING (Cont'd)

Mr. Darwin Roman, 118 Berwyn Street, Roselle Park, NJ spoke in support of Zoe Exotics Cannabis Club.

Ms. Kenyetta Jones, 121 W 96th Street, New York, NY stated that she is the vice President of Zoe Exotics and Co. and is seeking approval of her request for support. She stated further that she has been in retail for twenty (20) years and knows how to sell items. She plans on getting employee benefits and becoming an asset to the City.

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

NEW BUSINESS

BY CITY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE:

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Planning and Community Development has advised that the City of Elizabeth has received a written request from **Zoe Exotics Cannabis Club, LLC**, ("Applicant"), for a resolution of local support for their application to the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission for a Class 5 retail cannabis license for a Cannabis Establishment to be located at **128 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ**; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant's request is made in conjunction with its application for a cannabis business license from the City pursuant to Chapter 5.26 of the Code of the City of Elizabeth, entitled "Cannabis Establishments"; and

WHEREAS, the acting Chief License Inspector has advised that the Applicant has met all requirements set forth in Section 5.26.110 of the Code of the City of Elizabeth, including providing all required information, paying all licensing fees, and receiving recommendations for licensure from the Chief of Police, Director of the Department of Planning and Community Development, Health Official, and Fire Official; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Elizabeth hereby supports **Zoe Exotics Cannabis Club, 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 **128 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ**.

Which was adopted by the following vote:

AFFIRMATIVE: Cuesta, Perkins-Auguste, Gonzalez, Gallman,
And President pro tem Torres –5.

NEGATIVE: None.

EXCUSED: Cedeno – 1.

BY CITY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE:

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Elizabeth has learned of the death of
Lionel Thompson; and

WHEREAS, Lionel leaves a host of loving relatives and friends to cherish his memories;
now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Elizabeth hereby expresses its
condolences at the passing of **Lionel Thompson**; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this expression of our sympathy be recorded in full upon
the minutes of City Council and a certified copy be sent to his family.

Which was adopted unanimously by a standing vote and minute
of silent prayer.

Council President pro tem Torres moved that City Council do now adjourn.
Which was carried unanimously.

Whereupon Council President pro tem Torres declared City Council
adjourned at 8:36 P.M.

APPROVED

CARLOS TORRES
President pro tem of City Council

YOLANDA M. ROBERTS
Municipal Clerk
