



City of Elkins

Finance Committee Meeting

August 12, 2024
1:00 PM
401 Davis Avenue
Council Chamber, 2nd Floor

Charter Authority of the Finance Committee: Recommend an annual budget to Council. Supervise budget management and make reports to Council. Review and propose to Council municipal debt instruments and grants. Make fiscal forecasts and report same to Council.

AGENDA

1. **Call to order and roll call**
2. **Public comment**
3. **Minutes**
 - a. Proposed minutes for the meeting of June 24, 2024
4. **New business**
 - a. Budget revisions
 - b. Requested support for NEA grant application with Old Brick Playhouse and the Augusta Heritage Center
 - c. Funding for electrical project at fire station
5. **Announcements**
6. **Adjournment**



CITY OF ELKINS AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Meeting Date:	August 12, 2024
Section:	Minutes
Category:	Action Item
Agenda Item Name:	Proposed minutes for the meeting of June 24, 2024
Recommended By:	City Clerk
Summary:	Proposed minutes for the committee's June 24 meeting
Fiscal Impact:	n/a
Recommendation:	Consider for approval
Attachments:	1. Finance Committee - 2024_06_24 - minutes_proposed

FINANCE COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

***401 Davis Avenue
City Hall, Council Chambers
June 24, 2024
5 p.m.***

Present were members M. Hinchman (Chair), R. Chenoweth, and C. Lowther.

Also present were: Mike Kesecker (operations manager), Gerry Roberts (city attorney), Tracy Judy (treasurer), Steve Himes (fire chief), Travis Bennett (police chief), Melissa Washington (human resources), J. Deighan (communications), and Sutton Stokes (city clerk).

PUBLIC COMMENT

MINUTES

Lowther **MOVED APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 3, 2024 MEETING.** The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Chenoweth **MOVED RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF A FINANCING PACKAGE (BOND ISSUE) PROPOSAL FOR THE CITY HALL HVAC PROJECT FROM MOUNTAIN VALLEY BANK ON TERMS OF 25 YEARS, 5.28 PERCENT INTEREST RATE, AND MONTHLY PAYMENT OF \$6,011.** The motion carried.

Little League presented the only bid received for a paving project at the field in Riverbend Park in the amount of \$61,067.40.

Lowther **MOVED RECOMMENDING COUNCIL APPROVAL OF FUNDING THE LITTLE LEAGUE MID-YEAR FUNDING REQUEST FROM THE FINANCIAL STABILIZATION ACCOUNT.** The motion carried.

Chenoweth **MOVED RECOMMENDING COUNCIL APPROVAL OF A \$2,500 CONTRIBUTION IN RESPONSE TO A MID-YEAR FUNDING REQUEST FROM ALLEGHENY HIGHLAND TRAILS FOR GRANT MATCH ASSISTANCE.** The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Name & Title

Signature



CITY OF ELKINS AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Meeting Date:	August 12, 2024
Section:	New business
Category:	Action Item
Agenda Item Name:	Requested support for NEA grant application with Old Brick Playhouse and the Augusta Heritage Center
Recommended By:	City Clerk
Summary:	Augusta and the Old Brick Playhouse are applying to National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for a grant to fund the attached project. The city is being asked to commit to: • Provide workforce or hire a contractor to install poles and hang the lights (including securing permission from building owners) • Arrange for power connection and pay electric bill for lights in perpetuity The submission deadline is Thursday, August 15.
Fiscal Impact:	TBD
Recommendation:	Consider for recommendation to council
Attachments:	1. Elkinspire Project Description

Elkinspire

Project Description:

The Augusta Heritage Center and The Old Brick Playhouse will begin Elkinspire by developing a cultural plan for downtown Elkins, WV, which will establish infrastructure for a busker's festival while enriching community connections through shared cultural experiences. The first step will be to construct a busker's trail through Elkins by crafting public art installations and pocket performance stages in the downtown area. In addition to the path of live performances and immersive visual arts experiences, Elkinspire will shape a system by which buskers are vetted and selected to deliver quality performances in the new outdoor pocket venues. Art reflects society, therefore Elkinspire artists and content will be intentionally diverse in order to mirror the complexity and richness of the community while making the experience authentic and inclusive. In the past, there has been concern that downtown Elkins is disconnected from the train depot and railyard, making it challenging for visitors to find their way to local restaurants, performances, shops, and bars. This disconnect negatively affects downtown businesses which would benefit from tourism income. As a result, Elkinspire will illuminate the busker's path with Italian street lights along downtown sidewalks making a literal and representative connection between the train station and the rest of downtown. These lights will enhance all downtown public spaces by creating a cohesive and aesthetically appealing environment which encourages outdoor and evening social interactions while serving as a symbol of revitalization.

Following the construction and installation of tiny venues and sidewalk lighting, Elkinspire will be launched publicly with a busker's festival bringing together residents and visitors to celebrate the city's heritage. This theatre, music, and art festival will premiere the city-wide immersive art project, showcasing local artists and sharing transformed public spaces to promote a vibrant and dynamic atmosphere that symbolizes a shared identity and pride in place. This project will further connect local stakeholders unifying their efforts to create an unique and welcoming atmosphere. Elkinspire will serve as impetus for the City of Elkins, local business owners, the Durbin Greenbrier Valley Railroad, The Tygart Hotel, and The Holiday Inn Express to unilaterally illustrate local assets, strengthen community bonds, foster inclusivity, and promote a greater culture understanding. The busker's festival will also serve as an educational platform raising awareness about cultural issues, social justice, and historical narratives. Elkinspire will also promote empathy and a greater understanding of differences within the community. Once the Busker's Festival is underway, the template for replicating the trail will be available to various community groups who historically host events in Elkins. This model will introduce a novel methodology for highlighting area artists while bolstering events that already extant. When other organizations and or events adopt Elkinspire, they will ensure the project's sustainability as a long-term resource.

'The Light Guy' illuminating Baltimore City neighborhoods, instilling pride

Mindy Basara

Reporter



BALTIMORE —

"The Light Guy" is responsible for the gleaming strings of lights brightening up many Baltimore neighborhoods.

What started as a safety initiative has become so much more to residents living under those lights.

Chris Broughton is doing more than just changing light bulbs. He's maintaining a bright idea to improve safety in his Canton neighborhood by stringing lights from house to house along the block.

"I'm on the safety committee for the Canton Community Association. I offered for my block to be the guinea pig, so I did my block starting in October of 2019, and then it just kind of snowballed from there and became my full-time job when I never intended it to," Broughton said.

Broughton operates Brawler LLC and is commonly known as "The Light Guy." His work now shines in neighborhoods throughout the city.

"My last count in Canton was 52 blocks, and I probably have close to 200 blocks between all the neighborhoods and districts I've installed in," Broughton said.

It's not as expensive as one might think. For example, a block of 24 homes ends up costing about \$85 per house, and some areas qualify for grants. The highly efficient bulbs are plastic LED lights. So, the added cost to an electric bill is less than 2 cents a night for a house's share, Broughton said.

Residents told 11 News it's well worthwhile

"It's really improved the security in the neighborhoods and brightens the place up. Yeah, it's a positive," said Dan O'Leary, a Canton resident.

"It's really beautiful, it brings people together. You've got stoop nights and things like that. It's easier for people to come out and hang out," said Michael Hall, a Canton resident.

Although the initial focus was safety, the feeling of community the lights have created is an unintended bonus. Broughton said he feels good that he's doing his part, one rung and one bulb at a time.

"I'm happy to help my city, my neighborhood and my district. I get a sense of pride out of that, making the city more attractive and appealing," Broughton said.

(Source: <https://www.wbaltv.com/article/the-light-guy-chris-broughton-baltimore-canton/40168199>)

ELKINSPIRE



H1' X W3'

JACOB CURRENCE





CITY OF ELKINS AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Meeting Date:	August 12, 2024
Section:	New business
Category:	Action Item
Agenda Item Name:	Funding for electrical project at fire station
Recommended By:	Fire Chief
Summary:	Chief Himes will present information about the electrical project. Because the Fire & Rescue Service Fee is dedicated to direct expenses for service provision, the request is to find funding for this project elsewhere.
Fiscal Impact:	TBD
Recommendation:	Review presented information and make recommendations as necessary
Attachments:	None