

**Minutes of the Finance Council Meeting April 19, 2023**

The Finance Council of the Divine Grace Parish met for a regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at the St. Gregory's School Library. Jamie Shearer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. with an opening prayer.

Those in Attendance: Father James Wehner, Jamie Shearer, Amy Behun, Peter Boyer, Felicia DiNardo, Joe Ennis, Daniel Jenkins, Chelsey Knapton, Licia Lentz, Kate Maseth-Ready, Michael Powell, Frances Tartal, Andrew Welch.

Excused: Frank Lordi

**SUMMARY OF REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS:**

1. The minutes of the March 15, 2023, Finance Council Meeting were read. The minutes were approved by Amy Behun and seconded by Daniel Jenkins.
2. Father Wehner and Jamie Shearer discussed the financial statements. Father also discussed the Parish Appeal. He noted that 5,000 families haven't responded, and that a second letter will be mailed out to them. We are doing a better job of tracking pledges as they come in as well as accounting for them.
3. The results of the Fish Fry were discussed. Father noted that Bishop Zubiks' dispensation of fasting for the St. Patrick's Day holiday may have gotten in the way of our earning more. Chelsey Knapton picked up on an accounting error that had the festival paying expenses attributed to the Fish Fry. That is going to be corrected.
4. We again discussed the need for a Finance Coordinator, especially for budget building and planning. Council is rather on standby as gatekeepers until we get a Coordinator in place to prepare and project budgets that will allow Council to make informed decisions and plan better for future capital expenditures as well as ongoing Parish needs.
5. The Parish Budget is due May 15<sup>th</sup>, and six weeks later, a final draft is due.... after June 28<sup>th</sup> we are "locked in". This ties in with item 4, and the need for a Finance Coordinator.
6. Jamie discussed the plans for the St. Ferdinand's Festival which will be held August 11-13. He also discussed the need for volunteers, and new marketing and fund-raising ideas. Mainly Sponsorship Proposals. He went on to mention the festival still struggles with accounting issues.
7. Father Wehner discussed "Church Alive" reviewing with us the case for support; it was very thorough and informative.
8. Deacon Don Pepe was in attendance. He reviewed staffing, facility needs, improvements. Deacon Don has been heavily involved overseeing HVAC installations, the Paving Projects, and all the other processes that require monitoring. He noted there were three hot water problems in the past two days!
9. Joe Ennis presented a Guideline for those requesting funding approval from the Divine Grace Finance Council. Deacon Don will communicate to the Temporalities Committee.
10. Joe Ennis mentioned the need for Council to begin to recruit volunteers to assist the various committees of the Finance Council.

ANY NOTABLE COMMENTS OR ASSIGNMENTS FOR FOLLOW-UP

There being no further business, Jamie Shearer offered a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

  
Kate Maseth-Ready

Recording Secretary

Approved

  
Jamie Shearer, Chairman

Date 05/17/2023

The next meeting of the Finance Council is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at Vinny's Pizza and Restaurant (620 Beaver Avenue, Ellwood City, PA 16117)