

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
INDEX TO THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 22, 2021**

MOTION SUBJECT	MOTION	PAGE
Accept nominations for vacant council position	M-1	3
Close nominations for vacant council position	M-2	3
Resolution 2021-08 Vacancy Appointment	M-3	4
Adjourn	M-4	5

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD MARCH 22, 2021

This meeting was held virtually using GoToMeeting.

Council President Wainright called the special meeting of the Borough of Edgewood to order at 7:32 pm.

ROLL CALL

Upon roll call, the following responded: Mr. Fuller, Mr. Love, Mr. O'Donnell, Dr. Petrolla, Ms. Yaney, and Mr. Wainright. Mayor Jack Wilson, Manager Rob Zahorchak, and Solicitor Tim Barry were also present. Jr Councilperson Berman was absent.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR: Mr. Wainright opened items from the floor and noted that resident Krystina Thomas wished to make a statement. Ms. Thomas stated that she wishes to declare interest in the open council position. She has been a resident for about three and a half years. She is an educator at the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children. She has a degree in Urban Studies, with a focus on community organization, and a minor in Studio Art from the University of Pittsburgh. She feels that she can use her background as an educator and artist in her focus towards community outreach efforts, and that these interwoven networks can help to sustain neighborhoods such as ours. She hopes that her voice can be a part of the discussion within the community and with surrounding communities.

Mr. Wainright inquired whether there was anyone else present wishing to speak. Mr. Zahorchak noted that resident Lois Mufuka Martin wished to express interest in the open council position. Ms. Martin stated that she has been a resident since 2008. Her husband is a native "Pittsburgher," and though they lived in North and South Carolina for a number of years, they came back to this area. After renting and then owning on several streets in the neighborhood, they settled on Lloyd. Ms. Martin has her bachelors degree in History and masters in Counseling. She has spent most of her life in non-profit work, including executive leadership. She was CEO of Bethlehem Haven, a shelter and organization for the benefit of homeless women. She served for United Way, and she currently runs a small consulting company, with employees located across the nation and internationally. She has two grown children and is raising a foster child now. She feels this is a wonderful neighborhood for her family. She is originally an immigrant of Zimbabwe, and still carries her copy of the Constitution from her citizenship class, and she feels that serving on council would be a good chance to take her level of service to the next step.

There were no additional comments.

Mr. Wainright noted that there are two ways to move forward with the nomination process and opened the floor to Solicitor Barry to explain each process. Mr. Barry stated that there is nothing in the Borough code or rules of procedure that govern this process specifically. The code only states that we must fill the vacancy within thirty days. Mr. Barry then referred to Robert's Rules of Order, which were officially adopted by Borough Council. According to Robert's Rules of Order, there are two ways to accept voice votes.

- 1) Nominate candidates from the floor, no second being needed. Then vote on candidates individually until a candidate receives four votes.

Mr. Barry noted that this option could be seen as unfair, as it leaves open the possibility that a candidate nominated early in the voting process may receive the necessary number of votes before other candidates are even able to be considered.

- 2) Nominate all interested candidates. Then each member of council votes for their choice of candidate.

Mr. Barry noted that this option leaves open the possibility that a single candidate may not obtain the four votes needed, in which case the process would have to be repeated until a candidate is selected.

Mr. Barry explained that in the circumstance that a three-three tie is reached, the Mayor then has the deciding vote. That would not happen until it is confirmed that there is a deadlock. If council chooses option one, where candidates are voted on individually, Mr. Barry suggested that council not vote on anyone who is not their first choice candidate, as that person may get elected. If council wishes to avoid that situation, then the second voting option could be used.

Mr. Wainright stated that Mr. Barry's information was clear. He noted that he preferred the second voting option. He requested that council members vote only for their first preference candidate in order to avoid a difficult scenario with tie breaking or repeating the process. Mr. Wainright asked if anyone had a strong preference to go with voting option one. Hearing no remarks from council, he stated that voting option two would be employed.

COMMITTEE ACTION

M-1 Mr. O'Donnell moved to open nominations for the vacant council seat.

Second by Mr. Love.

DISCUSSION: None.

The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Wainright stated that nominations would be accepted for the open council position. He noted that he would track the nominations of candidates to be voted on.

Mr. Fuller nominated Jennifer Gleba.

Mr. O'Donnell nominated Bhavini Patel.

Mr. Wainright asked if there were any further nominations. No one responded with nominations.

M-2 Mr. Fuller moved to close nominations for the vacant council position.

Second by Ms. Yaney.

DISCUSSION: None.

The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Wainright stated that nominations were closed, and the following candidates would now be voted on:

Jennifer Gleba

Bhavini Patel

Upon roll call the following votes were received:

Mr. Fuller – Ms. Gleba

Mr. Love – Ms. Patel

Mr. O'Donnell – Ms. Patel

Dr. Petrolla – Ms. Gleba

Ms. Yaney – Ms. Patel

Mr. Wainright – Ms. Gleba

Mr. Wainright noted that as the voting was left with a three-three tie, that the Mayor would cast the deciding vote.

Mayor Wilson – Ms. Gleba

Mr. Wilson noted that with Ms. Gleba's prior experience on council, she would be able to take on the responsibilities of the role very quickly.

M-3 Mr. Love read Resolution 2021-08. Second by Mr. Fuller.

RESOLUTION 2021-08

WHEREAS; A vacancy on borough council has been created as a result of the untimely passing of John F. (Jack) Bright, and

WHEREAS; the Pennsylvania Borough Code states that borough council must fill the vacancy within thirty days, and

WHEREAS; Edgewood Borough Council solicited applications from residents of the borough and interviewed those qualified candidates.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that **Jennifer Gleba** be appointed to Edgewood Borough Council to fill the remainder of the vacant term.

ADOPTED THIS THE 22ND day of March, 2021 by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

DISCUSSION: None.

The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Wainright inquired whether Ms. Gleba would be able to take the oath right away, in the virtual format. Mr. Barry stated that yes, she could take the oath in this format.

Mayor Wilson swore in the newly appointed official.

OATH OF OFFICE

I, **Jennifer Gleba**, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and that I will discharge the duties of my appointed office for the Borough of Edgewood with fidelity.

Ms. Martin inquired about the process for nomination. She stated that she was under the impression that, based on what she read in the resolution, there would be an interview process for the candidates. Mr. Wainright stated that each candidate was provided with five minutes to state their interest, and the reasons they felt they would be a good candidate. Mr. Barry reiterated that there were five candidates interviewed at the previous meeting, which was the process indicated on the resolution. Council decided not to nominate a candidate at that meeting but decided to wait a week to make the appointment. They also allowed additional candidates to present themselves to be considered for nomination, with the same opportunity as the previously presented candidates, with the difference being that there was a week between.

M-4 It was moved by Mr. Fuller and seconded by Ms. Yaney to adjourn at 8:00 pm.
The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**



Rob Zahorchak, Borough Manager