

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
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BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD JUNE 7, 2021

Council Vice President Wainright called the meeting of the Borough of Edgewood to order at 7:30 pm.

ROLL CALL

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

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR: Mr. Wainright asked if there were any items from the floor. The following public comment was made by Beth Battaline, 15 Washington St:

Ms. Battaline discussed the condition of the tennis courts at Koenig Field, and her wish to see the addition of a Bocce court to the field space. She noted that a citizens group started to form during the Pandemic, discussing related matters. She stated that the matter of the tennis courts had come up a number of years ago, and she hopes that the issue of repairs can be acted on now. Mr. O'Donnell inquired whether the citizens group had looked into the cost of repairs. Ms. Battaline stated that range they had found from their research was \$75,000-\$150,000. She stated that the condition of recreation spaces in other neighborhoods, of presumably lower economic standing were in better condition our own. She suggested the use of grant funding in order to pay for the updates. Mr. Wainright inquired whether the citizens group had looked into grants. Ms. Battaline stated that they had not. Ms. Battaline further noted that although we have good recreational options for kids, she wishes that there were for adults, and added that specifically seniors get overlooked. She added that they could also reach out to the Edgewood Foundation to look into options for improvements.

Allan Willinger, 115 Lacrosse St, noted his presence at the meeting.

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS

M-1 Mr. O'Donnell moved to authorize the payment of bills, for goods and services received by the Borough, having been reviewed and approved by the General Government Committee, from the General Fund in the amount of \$144,168.41 and from the Sewer Fund in the amount of \$14.60 for a total of \$144,183.01.
Second by Mr. Fuller.

DISCUSSION: Mr. O'Donnell stated that the one major item was \$112,000 to Vendor ID 3199 for the Oakview Ave retaining wall. Mayor Wilson asked if the project is complete. Mr. Zahorchak responded that the wall itself is finished ahead of schedule, and equipment for that has been removed. However, there is still paving work to be completed. He noted that the project does need to be completed by the end of June.

Upon roll call vote the following responded yes: Mr. Fuller, Mrs. Gleba, Mr. Love, Mr. O'Donnell, Dr. Petrolla, and Mr. Wainright. **Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE ACTION

- M-2** Dr. Petrolla moved to hire Nathaniel Hess as a summer help laborer at a rate of \$11.00 per hour effective immediately. Second by Mr. O'Donnell.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Zahorchak noted that the candidate is eager to work. He is 16, and will be responsible for tasks such as cutting grass. Due to his age he will not be responsible for driving the truck. Mr. Zahorchak did note that a second worker may be hired as well.

Upon roll call vote the following responded yes: Mr. Fuller, Mrs. Gleba, Mr. Love, Mr. O'Donnell, Dr. Petrolla, and Mr. Wainright. **Motion carried.**

- M-3** Mr. Love moved to hire Aaron Thoma as an Emergency Services Worker at a rate of \$11.00 per hour effective immediately. Second by Mr. O'Donnell.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Zahorchak noted that Mr. Thoma worked for the borough in the past and that he is an EMT. He will be available to pick up some daylight, as well as some evening shifts at the desk, and will not require very much training. He noted that the timing is good, as Fire Chief Amos will be out of office for paternity time soon, so Mr. Thoma can fill in some of the gap.

Upon roll call vote the following responded yes: Mr. Fuller, Mrs. Gleba, Mr. Love, Mr. O'Donnell, Dr. Petrolla, and Mr. Wainright. **Motion carried.**

- M-4** Mr. Love moved to award the 2021 road paving contract Base Bid and Add Alternates No. 1 – 4 in the amount of \$375,406.89 to A. Liberoni, Inc. as recommended by the borough engineer in his June 3, 2021 letter. Second by Mrs. Gleba.

DISCUSSION: Mayor Wilson noted that they A. Liberoni has been the bid winner for three years in a row. Mr. Zahorchak stated that the one thing that is not included in the bid is the paving of Elmer Street, which is brick, as the cost could be variable for that. A stand alone bid could be done for just that project. Otherwise, all projects can be completed, including alternates for under \$400,000. Mr. Zahorchak noted that there may even be enough left to complete a joint project with Swissvale Borough to repaint lines on S Braddock Ave. Mr. Wainright inquired whether the paving project includes the alley behind Regent Square. Mr. Zahorchak confirmed that it does.

Upon roll call vote the following responded yes: Mr. Fuller, Mrs. Gleba, Mr. Love, Mr. O'Donnell, Dr. Petrolla, and Mr. Wainright. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Wilson inquired whether we would sell the bricks removed during the paving project. Mr. Zahorchak replied that one load would be sold, and the size of the load is to be determined. He noted that he could negotiate with Liberoni, as there is value to the bricks. Some will be retained by the borough for repairs. Mr. Zahorchak stated that Council can determine if they wish to sell the bricks, as they did with cobblestone, but noted that it does take a lot of storage space to do so.

- M-5** Mr. O'Donnell moved, pursuant to Section 626 of the federal Cable Act, to schedule a public hearing on July 6, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose reviewing the past performance of the cable operator, Comcast, and to identify the future cable-related community needs of the Borough.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Zahorchak stated that we have franchise agreements with Comcast and Verizon. That provides revenue to the borough for the right of way to install their equipment in order to distribute their

services to residents. Council previously motioned to utilize the Cohen Law group to bargain on our behalf of the borough, along with neighboring communities that are also due for renewal. Use of a common law group saves on legal fees. The public hearing is being held because negotiations are set to start mid-summer, and by law, a public hearing is required to be held. This is an opportunity for Comcast to report on operations and allow residents to submit comments. Any comments that are collected go to Cohen Law Group. They will reach out to residents, and use information provided to negotiate with Comcast. Mr. Zahorchak stated that the hearing could be completed at the beginning of the first July meeting, and that will be advertised accordingly. Mayor Wilson inquired about how much revenue is received through the franchise agreement. Mr. Zahorchak replied that it is approximately \$70,000-\$80,000. He added that it is capped by the FCC at a percentage amount.

Upon roll call vote the following responded yes: Mr. Fuller, Mrs. Gleba, Mr. Love, Mr. O'Donnell, Dr. Petrolla, and Mr. Wainright. **Motion carried.**

M-6 Mr. Fuller read Resolution 2021-12. Second by Mr. O'Donnell.

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
RESOLUTION 2021-12**

WHEREAS, Edgewood Borough owns and operates multiple traffic signals which safely control and direct motorists and pedestrians throughout the borough, and;

WHEREAS, Edgewood Borough annually allocates funds to maintain and repair its traffic signals in accordance with PennDOT Publication 191.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Edgewood borough hereby commits to maintaining all traffic signals owned by the borough in perpetuity.

ADOPTED this the 7th day of June, 2021 by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Zahorchak stated that, as part of the agreement for reimbursement of the Maple Ave Traffic project, PennDOT requested that we have a commitment in writing to maintain our traffic signals. Once we have that, we can proceed with the process of reimbursement.

Mr. Love inquired why cyclists were not included in the Resolution. Mr. Zahorchak stated that the motion would have to be rewritten to change the terminology, and the process would be delayed.

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

BUSINESS MEETING

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT Mr. Zahorchak stated that the Fire Department had nothing to report.

WATER AUTHORITY REPORT Mr. Fuller reported that the Water Authority was granted \$9.3 million by PennVest to replace about 1000 service lines. He noted that the rule is, if a line is replaced in copper, they will replace it as well. Mr. Fuller stated that the water line portion of the Kenmawr Bridge project would be completed ahead of schedule. He was uncertain if the rest of the project would be as well. First quarter revenue for the Authority was up, and expenses were down, which is good. He noted that the Pandemic cost is about \$1 million in penalties. Mr. Fuller stated that a company that supplies chlorine declared Force Majeure, meaning they do not have to honor the contract price. Solicitor Barry added that Force Majeure is when prices can change due to circumstances beyond control. Mr. Fuller noted that there should not be a problem with providing chlorine for water.

RECREATION REPORT Mr. Zahorchak reported that tball and softball leagues numbers are good this year, especially compared to last year. There are 19 kids registered for tball, and 15 for softball. Tball started last week, with the first practice meeting in the VFD garage due to rain. Softball starts tonight. Registration for fall soccer was announced in the latest newsletter and starts July 15. The first movie night will take place, weather permitting, on Friday, June 25, featuring Moana. Plans for Community Day are taking shape, and a community yard sale is being planned for the earlier part of the day. Anyone interested in participating in that can email office@edgewoodboro.com to be added. Mayor Wilson inquired whether tball or softball were taking place Friday night. Mr. Zahorchak stated that the schedule is designed for the activities/events to work around each other and will not overlap.

PLANNING COMMISSION Mr. Zahorchak stated that the Planning Commission did not meet but will be meeting shortly for the comprehensive plan and updates.

COG REPORT Mr. Wilson stated that there was nothing to report and they will be meeting in a couple of weeks.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT Mr. Barry reported that he attended the conference call for the consent order. He noted that he has not yet received a notated or plain copy of the consent order. He stated that the meeting was very informative. He reported that each municipality will have a consent order agreement that includes an 'Exhibit B,' which states the sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) that are problematic in the borough. Also, there is a Gold Standard, which each borough is either above or below. For a borough that is deficient in one of the two areas, projects will need to be completed and a proposal will need to be presented to eliminate ten percent of the issue. Mr. Barry noted that regulators would like to have the document passed in June. He expressed concern for the fact that the document has not yet been received to review and would like for Council to have adequate time to review prior to passing it, due to the potential economic commitment that is involved. He is hopeful that regulators will extend the timeframe to July. Mr. Barry stated that he suggested to Borough Manager Zahorchak to ask Jason Stanton to weigh in on what the document means, and what the obligations are related to it. Discussion ensued around the state of SSOs in Edgewood, and the potential impact of the consent order, considering we generally stay above the Gold Standard with maintaining lines and have few outstanding sewer related issues. Mr. Wilson inquired how the SSOs are submitted. Mr. Zahorchak stated that we as a borough would have to submit them and are already required to submit a form to the health department. Mr. Zahorchak noted that the agreement continues what we have been doing for the past few years with ensuring issues are dealt with and noted that there has been a reduction in problematic areas being left. Mr. Barry noted that the idea with the consent order is to encourage regionalization, as sewer lines may overlap with multiple neighborhoods. This encourages them to work together to resolve issues, and that counts towards the ten percent problem elimination.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Zahorchak reported that he participated in a municipal meeting where he discussed our participation in a regionalization plan for sewer projects. He stated that we could explore an MOU, an agreement where we cost share on projects, in order for ALCOSAN to look favorably with funding, and for municipalities to participate. He noted that large number of the adjacent sewer areas are owned by Edgewood anyway. At this point, ALCOSAN has not responded negatively. However, Mr. Zahorchak noted that discussion towards regionalization may take some time yet.

Edgewood has been awarded approximately a \$30,000 CDBG award grant to install ADA ramps, specifically for the area near the School for the Deaf. The grant is not yet finalized, and construction would not take place until 2022. The gazebo at Memorial Park is essentially completed. Mr. Zahorchak would like to have a dedication ceremony of the gazebo on Friday, July 9. He would also like to declare an Eddie Lockman day in the near future, in recognition for spearheading the project. There are some minor items, such as adding a plaque for the project to be finalized, and before Eddie receives his Eagle Scout badge, but these things should be done before the dedication. Mr. Zahorchak stated his thanks to Eddie, his mother, all the volunteers involved, and to Public Works for all of the work they put in.

Mr. Wainright noted the condition of a storm drain on Railroad Ave that continues to be damaged. Mr. Zahorchak responded that he believes it is being caused by the garbage truck driving over it. He noted that he spoke with Police Chief Payne about positioning an officer in that location to monitor it and determine the cause of the damage. If the reason of destruction is due to the garbage truck taking too tight of a turn, then the solution would be to eliminate the box drain, install a curb and move the basin to the street.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business was reported. Mr. Wainright also thanked Eddie Lockman for his work on the Memorial Park gazebo.

M-7 It was moved by Mr. Fuller and seconded by Dr. Petrolla to adjourn at 8:10 pm.
The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**



Rob Zahorchak, Borough Manager