

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

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

ROLL CALL

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

PLEDGE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR: The following public comments were received.

Martha Rial, 166 Race St: Ms. Rial, who noted that she has been a resident for nine years, stated that she wished to provide a reminder for a request that she had made at a meeting in May concerning traffic on Race Street. She added that she observed continued speeding on the street over the summer and would like this issue to be addressed. The first proposal that she made was for a flashing speed sign to be placed on the street regularly. Ms. Rial noted that she recalled an estimated cost of \$5,000 for that. The second item she requested was for a traffic calming study to be completed, at an estimated cost of \$10,000. She stated that when she presented these ideas in May, that it was recommended to present them closer to budget season, which is why she is returning now.

A presentation was provided by Cliff Ike of Trans Associates regarding the intersection Swissvale and Race St, following a state funded traffic safety study. It was determined by Council to table the seeking of quotes on the work until their concerns can be addressed by the engineer.

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 \$45,715.45 and from the Sewer Fund in the amount of \$2,388.55 for a total of \$48,104.00. Second by Mr. Fuller.

DISCUSSION: Mr. O'Donnell noted that a \$10,000 check was paid to the CC Mellor Library, and a payment of approximately \$61,000 was made for maintenance and repairs to a fire rescue truck. Ms. Yaney inquired whether we paid the Edgewood Symphony Orchestra, even though the full ensemble did not play at Community Day. Mr. Zahorchak noted that we normally pay them at the end of the year. Mr. O'Donnell confirmed that it was not included in this bill list, but they would receive payment.

Mr. Zahorchak noted that there was a discrepancy in the August 16 bill payments. The general fund amount should have been \$41,995.56 and not \$47,995.56 (*forty-one, not forty-seven). The final approved amount of \$57,474.72 was correct.

M-2 Mr. Zahorchak requested approval by motion to amend the August 16 bill payments as follows:

Online:	\$10,078.26
General Fund check:	\$31,917.30
Sewer Fund check:	\$15,479.16
Total:	\$57,474.72

So moved by Mr. O'Donnell. Second by Mr. Fuller.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

Upon roll call vote for **M-1, Authorization to Pay Bills**, the following responded yes: Mr. Fuller, Mrs. Gleba, Mr. Love, Mr. O'Donnell, Mr. Wainright, and Ms. Yaney. **Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE ACTION

M-3 Mr. Fuller moved to accept Ben Bermann's letter of resignation as a junior councilperson dated August 18, 2021. Second by Mrs. Gleba.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

BUSINESS MEETING

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT Mr. Zahorchak reported that the Fire Department were very pleased with their time at Community Day. He noted that per Steve Halle, they had raised approximately \$3,000 from their food and drink sales. Mr. Zahorchak noted that they were relieved that they opted not to do their usual chicken and rib sales, due to the rain that occurred in the afternoon, as that would have extinguished the cooking fire necessary to make the dinners. The firetruck that was stuck in the middle of the field, as a result of the rain, was removed without any damage. The field has since been repaired.

WATER AUTHORITY REPORT Mr. Fuller reported that the Water Authority met. The main topic of conversation was around the replacement of lead lines, as part of a \$9 million grant. Communities will have lines replaced according to areas where customers have already replaced the lines on their side. Whole sections of streets will be done when there are multiple customers who've replaced their side, rather than opening the street multiple times. The water company was behind in the replacement by about 6,000 lines. Mr. Fuller added that the water company revenue is still down, however expenses are down even more.

Ms. Yaney inquired whether in situations where a road had been repaired, if there was a period of time where street openings would be avoided, as is the case with the City of Pittsburgh. Mr. Zahorchak responded that Edgewood does not have a moratorium, however, we do have an extensive ordinance on street openings. It includes restrictions on number of openings in a calendar year, and requirements on repairs.

RECREATION REPORT Mr. Zahorchak reported that soccer starts this week, with thanks to all of the parents and community volunteers who have signed up to help this year. We have about 110 kids who are very excited to be playing. After a rainy start, we still had a decent turn out for Community Day. Based on comments we received through the day, everyone who came had a great time, up to the awesome fireworks display at the end. Thank you to everyone who helped make it possible, as well as all of those who stuck it out in spite of the rain to join us. Fallfest is scheduled for Saturday, October 2, which will be combined with the Foundation's Oktoberfest. A meeting is scheduled with the Foundation this week to finalize details about that collaboration. The glassblower will be returning this year, to do demos throughout the event, plus market vendors. We are also working with the Fire Department for the return of our firetruck hayrides around the neighborhood. The difference this year is that rides will be timed, and attendees can sign up in advance. More info will be posted soon on our webpage and Facebook page.

PLANNING COMMISSION Mr. Zahorchak stated that Planning Commission did not meet. Very few applicants have been received for the opening on the commission. He noted that he will be attempting to expand the search for more interested candidates.

COG REPORT Mr. Zahorchak reported the date for the joint police test through the COG is scheduled for September 14. Edgewood will be participating in that.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT Mr. Barry had nothing to report and noted that there was no need for an executive session.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Zahorchak reported that he will be meeting with Wilkinsburg Borough, along with respective engineers, to discuss the Koenig SSO, and will share results accordingly. Mr. Zahorchak stated that the OPC for Koenig Field improvements is complete and will be shared soon. He noted that the estimate came to \$244,000 and includes court reconstruction, fencing, drainage, retaining walls, staircase replacement along Greendale, and site restoration.

Civil Service will be meeting September 8 to reorganize and approve COG testing for establishing an eligibility list. He noted that Chief Payne will recommend adjusting the score for promotion eligibility from 75 to 70 percent, which is in line with other departments in the state. If this change is agreed, it would then have to be approved by Council. Mr. Zahorchak noted that there have been issues with the Maple Ave traffic signal, specifically with the pedestrian walk button function. This is a result of the storms in early July, but was discovered later, when something else was being reviewed. It is yet to be determined who is responsible for payment of the repair. The last payment has not yet been sent to the contractor, due to a part that was not yet completed. However, we are past 30 since overall completion.

Mr. Zahorchak noted that the Personnel Committee met to interview four candidates for Solicitor.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Fuller reiterated that there were four candidates interviewed by the Personnel Committee for the open position of Borough Solicitor. He noted that all of them were very good candidates that were equally matched

and that it was very difficult to decide. The committee chose Thomas McDermott as their favorite candidate. Council ultimately decides on whom to hire, which would likely occur at the next meeting. Mr. Fuller noted that there was paperwork that could be shared to describe the qualifications of the candidates. Ms. Yaney inquired as to how many solicitorships is reasonable for a solicitor to maintain. Mr. Barry responded that the attorney's commitment is more important than the number of solicitorships. He did note that it is fair to consider any conflicts, and how that would be handled. Mr. Zahorchak noted that he could be reached by email if Council had questions. Discussion ensued over the quality of candidates and the process of selection.

M-4 It was moved by Mr. Fuller to adjourn at 8:36 pm. Second by Mr. O'Donnell.
The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**



Rob Zahorchak, Borough Manager