

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
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BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD OCTOBER 18, 2021

President Wainright called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

ROLL CALL

Upon roll call the following responded: Mr. Fuller, Mrs. Gleba, Mr. Love, Mr. O'Donnell, Mr. Wainright, and Ms. Yaney. Also present were Solicitor Tom McDermott, Borough Manager Rob Zahorchak and Police Chief Robert Payne. Mayor Wilson and Dr. Petrolla were absent.

PLEDGE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Ruth Pickering, 416 Locust St: Ms. Pickering stated that there is a sign at the end of Maple Ave that was designated for an event that had already occurred, and asked if signs could be checked. Ms. Pickering stated that she had a further concern about communication. She noted that she specifically had concerns over advertising for a free flu shot clinic that is sometimes held at the Volunteer Fire Department garage.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M-1 Mr. O'Donnell moved to approve the September 20, 2021 meeting minutes. Second by Mr. Fuller.

DISCUSSION: None

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

M-2 Mr. O'Donnell moved to approve the October 4, 2021 meeting minutes. Second by Mr. Love.

DISCUSSION: None

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

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS

M-3 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 \$53,640.45 and from the sewer fund in the amount of \$18,303.13 for a total of \$71,943.58. Second by Mrs. Gleba.

DISCUSSION: Mr. O'Donnell stated that it was mostly routine payments, including \$17,000 to our engineering firm from the sewer fund.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT: Mr. O'Donnell stated that besides the bill role, there was nothing to report.

POLICE: Mr. Wilson was not present. Chief Payne reported that he met with the Civil Service Commission. He noted that Police Sergeant Kaskie will be retiring at the end of 2021. That means that there will be an opening for a full-time officer to be filled as of the first of the year. In addition, that leaves a supervisory role that needs to be filled. Mr. Payne stated that he requested Civil Service test information through the COG. The results of that provided three candidates who qualified. Completed applications will need to be submitted, then an oral examination board can be established to determine eligibility of the candidates. The list of eligible candidates can then be presented to Council for approval, and the chosen candidate would be able to fill in the role of full-time officer.

Chief Payne stated that a new supervisor also needs to be selected. He noted that it would be very difficult to operate with only one Sergeant and would like to move forward on having a supervisory test be given.

Chief Payne reported that he spoke with the Civil Service Commission regarding the percentage requirements on the police qualification exam. He noted that we are competing with over 100 other police agencies for candidates. The national standard to pass the written test is seventy percent. The standard set by the Borough of Edgewood is seventy-five percent. He requested to the Civil Service Commission that we adjust our standard to be in line with the national standard, and asked Council to approve of that change.

Mr. Zahorchak noted that concerning budgetary items, that each vehicle from the police fleet is replaced about every five years. He discussed how the current situation with supply shortages has recently impacted our ability to receive our latest vehicle in a timely manner, and wishes to be proactive with the likelihood that the shortages will continue. Mr. Zahorchak stated that, barring any objections from Council, he and Chief Payne would like to start the process of getting a new car in place now, just in case it would be needed. A budget would already be set aside for a new vehicle in 2022. This would help to ensure that the police force has a full line of newer vehicles, ready for use at all times.

Mr. Fuller noted that our last Dodge Charger would be the next vehicle to replace. He commented on the problems that we have had with that model of vehicle. Mrs. Gleba asked as to what model of car we are using to replace them. Mr. Zahorchak replied that they are Ford Explorers. Solicitor McDermott asked for clarification as to whether the process was exploratory only, or if a motion for approval would need to be made. Mr. Zahorchak responded that it is just exploratory, as we are not committed to the purchase of a vehicle at this point. No objections were made by Council.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Mr. Fuller stated that Public Safety met. The items already covered by Chief Payne were discussed at the meeting. The subject of speeding on Race St was also discussed. Based on data gathered by the speed capture sign placed on Race St, the 85th percentile of vehicles moving through that corridor did not exceed 10mph over the posted speed limit. According to current guidelines for the method of speed enforcement used, there is technically not a speeding problem on Race St. The conclusion was that, besides using radar, there is not a way to further enforce speeding on the street.

Mr. Fuller stated that Public Safety agreed with Chief Payne's recommendation to lower the accepted test score from 75% to 70% for police candidates. Mrs. Gleba inquired about the current police applicant status, such as whether there is a large pool, or if applicants are limited. Chief Payne replied that it is currently very difficult to get interested

candidates, and there is competition with other municipalities. He went on to discuss the process of the test, and what is included, noting that it is a long and difficult process.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Mrs. Gleba stated that there was nothing to report.

Mr. Zahorchak noted that he received notice concerning the development project at the Edgewood Towne Center for the A.M. Rodriguez project that PA Housing Finance Authority did approve their application for funding and the project will be moving forward.

PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Love stated that Public Works did not meet.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Ms. Yaney stated that Community Service did not meet.

PERSONNEL: Dr. Petrolla was absent. Mr. Fuller reported that Personnel did not meet, however an executive session may be needed following the regular meeting related to personnel issues, and that no action would be taken.

PENSION: Mr. Fuller stated that Pension did not meet.

CONNECT: Mr. Zahorchak stated that there was nothing to report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Mr. McDermott reported that an executive session would take place regarding some personnel issues and potential legal matters. No action would follow that.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Zahorchak reported that the paving program is set to start next week, and that he will be meeting with the project manager for that. They were able to swap Gordon St for Hawthorn St, as it no longer works to pave Gordon St this year. We were awarded a Community Development Grant to include ADA ramps. Those will be added to the intersection at Walnut and E Swissvale, the Edgewood Primary School, and two on Hawthorn and Maple. He noted that the grant does not fully fund the project, but the ramps that were planned for Gordon St should make up the difference. That will be confirmed with the project manager.

Leaf collection begins October 25. The machine has had a full over-hall, and is running well. The replacement of the leaf machine should not be needed in the budget for 2022. The A.M. Rodriguez project for affordable senior housing is being funded by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Authority. Once all paperwork is submitted, then meetings can be set for the Planning Commission to review. Mr. Zahorchak noted that at the Towne Center, there are two remaining parcels, one behind Get Go, and the other behind that (across from the old Kmart/Scene 75). Local developer A.M. Rodriguez acquired that parcel (D3) to build an approximately 70 unit, three-story affordable senior housing facility. It will be built using environmentally sustainable methods. Construction is tentatively set to start in the middle of 2022. Mrs. Gleba inquired as whether we have an analysis of the ground under the existing parking lot. Mr. Zahorchak was not aware of anything concerning.

NEW BUSINESS: Ms. Yaney noted that residents were requesting the speed capture sign remain on Race St. She inquired about options for Race St, including keeping the sign there, as well as narrowing the intersection across from Koenig Field. Chief Payne responded that we could move it to another part of Race St and see if the results are different, but there is not a lot of space there to cover. Discussion ensued over the difficulty of using a speed capture

sign as a long-term solution for Race St, as well as the need for the sign to be used in other parts of the neighborhood, and the general problems of speeding in the borough. Chief Payne discussed some tactics being used now to enforce speed limits, as well as challenges that are faced, specifically on Race St.

Mr. Wainright noted that the Annual Budget Meeting needed to be scheduled. He proposed Saturday, November 13 as a possible option. Mr. Zahorchak noted, and Mr. McDermott confirmed, that in order to add a new motion to schedule the meeting, a motion must be made first to add an item to the agenda.

M-4 Mr. Fuller moved to add an item to the agenda to set a meeting date.
Second by Ms. Yaney.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-5 Mr. O'Donnell moved to set the date for the Budget Meeting of 2021 for Saturday, November 13, from 8am-12pm. Second by Mrs. Gleba.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

COMMITTEE ACTION

M-6 Mr. Fuller read Resolution 2021-14 Phase 2 ACO Signatories. Second by Mr. Love.

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD RESOLUTION 2021-14 PHASE 2 ACO SIGNATORIES

John Wainright, Council President, and Rob Zahorchak, Borough Manager, the undersigned and authorized representatives of Edgewood Borough hereby certify that a meeting held on the 18th day of October, 2021, after due notice, at which a quorum was present, Edgewood Borough adopted the following resolution:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE AND IT HEREBY IS RESOLVED, AS FOLLOWS:

Edgewood Borough are hereby authorized to execute the signing of the Consent Order and Agreement from the Allegheny County Health Department and to forward the signed Consent Order and Agreement to the Allegheny County Health Department in a timely manner.

ADOPTED this 18th day of October 2021.

Second by Mr. Love.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Zahorchak noted that a presentation was given by Jason Stanton to discuss what is included in the Consent Order. The consent order lays out requirements for the next nine years for included municipalities to maintain their sewer systems, including controlling overflow and making improvements. Passing the Resolution would authorize the named parties to sign the agreement on behalf of the borough.

The agreement must be executed by October 31. Solicitor McDermott added that both he and the civil engineer recommend approving the resolution.

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

Mr. Wainright inquired if there were any updates to the ongoing sewer overflow issue by Koenig Field. Mr. Zahorchak responded that bids for the 2022 Operations and Maintenance Program would be opening November 10 to determine the cost of the project. The project includes televising an inspection of our overflow structure, which is attached to Wilkinsburg's manhole. That should help to identify defects with the overflow structure, that we would need to act on. If any defects of structures not owned by the Borough of Edgewood are found, that information would be passed along accordingly. If favorable bids are received for the project, then a motion can be presented to Council by the end of the year or early next year. A request has been submitted to Wilkinsburg Borough concerning signage and fencing for the affected area.

Natasha Vandiver of the Edgewood Foundation noted that they have selected the date of December 11 for Light Up Edgewood. This was originally being planned for December 4, but they decided to change it due to an overlap with the holiday concert scheduled by the Edgewood Symphony Orchestra. They are planning for a walking tour that covers Maple Ave, plus Hawthorn, Locust, and Beech Streets. She noted that the Foundation is working with Borough Manager Zahorchak and Chief Payne to close off portions of those streets. There will also be local artist vendor market as part of the event. They are working on possibly having live music and/or carriage rides. The tour will start with the lighting of the tree at Memorial Park. She added that in addition to Light Up Night, they are working on their next Progressive Dinner.

M-7 Mr. Fuller motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Second by Mr. O'Donnell. The Aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**

Council entered into executive session following the meeting, with no action to be taken.



Rob Zahorchak, Borough Manager