

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD  
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**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 22, 2022**

Vice President Love called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

**ROLL CALL**

Upon roll call the following responded: Upon roll call, the following responded: Dr. Blasiolo, Mr. Love, Ms. Patel, Mr. Sherman, and Ms. Yaney. Also present were Solicitor Tom McDermott, Borough Manager Rob Zahorchak, and Mayor O'Donnell. Dr. Epitropoulos and Dr. Petrolla were absent.

**PLEDGE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor O'Donnell read the following proclamation:

**PROCLAMATION 2022-01**

**WHEREAS**, the Edgewood Borough Council has a commitment to provide and to promote good governance to the residents of the Borough, and

**WHEREAS**, the Edgewood Borough Council recognizes that dedicated and professional employees are a vital part of good governance, and

**WHEREAS**, the employees of the Edgewood Borough Public Works Department work hard every day performing the countless tasks that go into maintaining a safe, clean, and attractive community, and

**WHEREAS**, the employees of the Public Works Department are always on call and sacrifice nights, weekends, and holidays to respond to severe weather events and other hazards impacting the borough, and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Works Department is charged with keeping the streets clear of snow and ice for the Borough of Edgewood, and

**WHEREAS**, Allegheny County has experienced extremely low temperatures for the winter season, leading to serious problems with ice and snow accumulation, and

**WHEREAS**, Public Works employees have repeatedly been called in to work evenings and weekends to salt and remove snow from the road to protect public safety, and

**WHEREAS**, they have performed their jobs with dedication and commitment in the face of long hours and unrelenting weather conditions.

**NOW, THEREFORE** on this the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2022, the Office of the Mayor of the Borough of Edgewood, in partnership with Borough Council, recognizes the excellence of the work performed by the Public Works Department through this period of extreme weather and proclaims Friday February 25, 2022 as "Public Works Day" in their honor.

**PROCLAIMED** at the meeting of the Council of the Borough of Edgewood the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2022.

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

Jim Ireland, Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department Chief: Mr. Ireland stated that he has already responded to 50 % of its total 2021 call volume. There are two new volunteers, one of whom is an Edgewood resident, giving the department four total volunteers who are residents of the borough. There have been four fires this year. He noted that a blood drive is being planned for the spring.

Rick Belloli, 1122 Mifflin Ave: Mr. Belloli stated that there were some questions raised at the last council meeting he attended regarding the sewer issue under his property. The first was to address the option of using the dip in Horace way to divert water. Mr. Belloli stated that since the meeting the residents who would be affected by that option were contacted and are supportive of that plan. He noted that they did have some questions on the timeline for work to be done. Mr. Belloli stated that the other question is the extent of the sewer work that needs to be completed, which will be a dominant factor in the timeline. Mr. Belloli asked if there was an idea on when the process would start on the borough's side. Mr. Zahorchak replied that a meeting is scheduled for next week, and a more accurate idea of timing can be determined after that. Mr. Belloli said that another question that came up was whether there had been water in his basement recently. He noted that per discussions with engineers, that damage can happen underground even without visible signs, so water in the basement is not the best indicator of a problem. Discussion ensued about potential for damage under the topsoil level.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**M-1** Ms. Yaney moved to approve the minutes of January 18, 2022 Council Meeting. Second by Mr. Sherman.  
DISCUSSION: None

Upon roll call vote the following responded yes: Dr. Blasiolo, Mr. Love, Ms. Patel, Mr. Sherman, and Ms. Yaney. **Motion carried.**

**M-2** Ms. Yaney moved to approve the minutes of February 7, 2022 Council Meeting. Second by Mr. Sherman.

DISCUSSION: None

Upon roll call vote the following responded yes: Dr. Blasiolo, Mr. Love, Ms. Patel, Mr. Sherman, and Ms. Yaney. **Motion carried.**

### **AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS**

**M-3** Ms. Yaney 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 \$61,198.27 and from the sewer fund in the amount of \$5,402.64 for a total of \$66,600.91. Second by Mr. Sherman.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Yaney noted that it was a standard bill list.

Upon roll call vote the following responded yes: Dr. Blasiolo, Mr. Love, Ms. Patel, Mr. Sherman, and Ms. Yaney. **Motion carried.**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT:** Ms. Yaney stated that besides the bill list, there were no new updates. Mayor O'Donnell inquires as to why there were two payments for plow repair. Mr. Zahorchak responded that one charge was for the part, and the other was for the labor. Discussion ensued concerning the part that was repaired.

Mr. Love inquired about replacing the boiler. Mr. Zahorchak responded that the building had an old steam boiler installed in the 80's, that was turned off last year. It was inefficient, and not worth the cost to replace it. Supplemental heat sources were placed around the building; however the main office was not receiving sufficient heat. There is about \$50,000 in the 2022 budget to install a furnace, or reasonable heat source. Mr. Zahorchak went on to discuss possible heat source options and noted that he is still receiving quotes for these options. He added that he should have more information available soon, to determine the best course of action.

**POLICE:** Mayor O'Donnell stated that he attended an 'all hands' meeting. He noted that it was a productive meeting and stated that there were a few items of note. The officers are not currently wearing body cameras. A component of the server that runs the camera system was damaged and had to be turned in for repair. Mr. O'Donnell noted that, it may be worth considering adding an extra layer of accountability by adding dash cams to next year's budget. Mr. O'Donnell stated that they talked about training new officers and noted that much of force is aging. The tactics that are being taught in training to deescalate situations are very hands-on, requiring a certain amount of physical capability. He noted some of the officer injuries that have occurred in recent years. Besides that, he noted that other items discussed included recruitment, building duties, and an upcoming officer test.

Ms. Yaney asked about storage on body cams, and whether all recording went directly to the server. Mr. Zahorchak replied that the cameras have roughly twelve hours of storage. Dr. Blasiolo asked if dash cams would include audio. Mr. Zahorchak replied that there is an option for that. He noted that the level of features available for systems varies widely. Mayor O'Donnell noted that only five dash cams would be needed. Mr. Zahorchak noted that another item that could be brought up is to add a plate to the body camera apparatus for cold weather use. Mr. Sherman asked if there was any data lost when the server broke. Mr. Zahorchak replied that the drives are still in-tact, it's the ethernet port that was damaged.

Mr. Sherman inquired about the process for reviewing camera footage. Mr. Zahorchak replied that our policy mirrors that of Allegheny County. That policy governs how footage is reviewed and saved. He noted that most municipalities follow the same protocol for consistency, as the footage would go to the same District Attorney when used as evidence. Discussion ensued about review protocol.

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND INFRASTRUCTURE:** Ms. Yaney stated that Public Safety and Infrastructure did not meet, but a meeting should be scheduled soon. Mr. Zahorchak noted that there will be some items for Council's review concerning Public Safety and Infrastructure. A document was distributed with some of the matters of interest. Mr. Zahorchak noted that chairs would be assigned for each committee.

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:** Dr. Blasiolo stated that Community Affairs did not meet.

**PENSION AND PERSONNEL:** Ms. Patel stated that Pension and Personnel did not meet.

**AD HOC COMMITTEES:** Ms. Yaney stated that she attended a recent meeting for CONNECT. There is a program being established for a solar co-op in Allegheny County, administered by the non-profit organization, Solar United Neighbors. The co-op includes both organizations and home-owners interested in utilizing solar energy, and they negotiate better pricing for members. They asked if Edgewood Borough would like to form an alliance with them, where we would provide advertising, such as emails, and a newsletter ad, and in return they would consider us partners in the co-op. Through that, we could provide the option of solar energy to businesses in the neighborhood. Mr. Zahorchak noted that some municipalities are already participating. Discussion ensued over how the connection would work.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Mr. McDermott noted that an executive session would be required following the meeting to review a personnel matter, with no action to be taken.

**BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:** Mr. Zahorchak reported that the bulk of the audit is complete, and he expects that to be finished towards the end of March. The report will be reviewed with the General Government committee. Mr. Zahorchak noted that he does not expect there to be any issues. A presentation of the audit will be given to Council at the end of March or the beginning of April. There are several items on the agenda for the sale of items that were available for auction. He noted that everything except one snow plow received an acceptable bid. A meeting is set with our engineers to review the final design of the traffic signal for Race St and Pennwood Ave. The design will then be sent to PennDOT for approval. This project is part of the Greenlight Go grant.

Mr. Zahorchak noted there were a few items of note regarding recreation. He met with the playground designer and engineer to review options for the Laurel St tot lot. The Community Affairs committee will then have the opportunity to sign off on the design. After replacement of the tot lot, any additional funds left can go towards repair of the Koenig Field tennis courts. At the next meeting there will be resolutions for two grant applications. These are to go towards reconstruction of Elmer St, including resolving stormwater issues. The cost without a grant would use up the bulk of the yearly paving program. A resident survey has been sent to get input on the work to be done.

In regards to Public Safety, Mr. Zahorchak stated he was approached by the Port Authority to do some pedestrian improvements along Edgewood Ave, for their bus stops. They would like to add space for riders to stand while waiting for the bus. He noted that in addition, we could paint the crosswalks to increase safety in these spaces. Our new police car should arrive by the end of March, and the old car can then be advertised for sale. The Sergeant's promotional exam has been moved from March 8 to March 17.

Mr. Zahorchak stated that he and Solicitor McDermott has a call with Verizon regarding the proposed 5G pole on Race St. We asked if they could review alternate locations for the pole, specifically around the fieldhouse. Verizon responded that from the results of their review, they determined that they were still not able to get adequate signal in an alternative location. Also, the power lines would be in the way of possible sites for the pole. Verizon has said they will attempt to camouflage the pole into the setting. It was noted that we have exhausted all options available to us by law at this point, including an attempt to obtain help from our state senator. Discussion ensued about the attempts

we've made to compel Verizon to choose another location, as well as discussion of the proposed location, and the challenges of other sites.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mr. Love stated that a resident approached him about having a busway stop added to make bus ridership easier for residents affected by limited transportation options due to the bridge collapse. Mr. Zahorchak noted that if that option were possible, it would be a long process for it to happen.

### COMMITTEE ACTION

**M-4** Ms. Yaney moved to approve the sale of a 2013 Dodge Charger to Patrick Samodio for \$6,300. Second by Mr. Sherman.

DISCUSSION: None.

Upon roll call vote the following responded yes: Dr. Blasiolo, Mr. Love, Ms. Patel, Mr. Sherman, and Ms. Yaney. **Motion carried.**

**M-5** Mr. Sherman moved to approve the sale of a 2008 ford F350 pickup truck to Nicholas Pantelis for \$7,100. Second by Dr. Blasiolo.

DISCUSSION: None.

Upon roll call vote the following responded yes: Dr. Blasiolo, Mr. Love, Ms. Patel, Mr. Sherman, and Ms. Yaney. **Motion carried.**

**M-6** Dr. Blasiolo moved to approve the sale of a 1997 Ford bucket truck for \$4,225 and a 2021 Ford tailgate for \$160 to Daniel Socola. Second by Mr. Sherman.

DISCUSSION: None.

Upon roll call vote the following responded yes: Dr. Blasiolo, Mr. Love, Ms. Patel, Mr. Sherman, and Ms. Yaney.. **Motion carried.**

**M-7** Ms. Patel moved to approve the sale of 12 pedestrian signals to Terry Lewis for \$1,487. Second by Mr. Sherman.

DISCUSSION: None.

Upon roll call vote the following responded yes: Dr. Blasiolo, Mr. Love, Ms. Patel, Mr. Sherman, and Ms. Yaney. **Motion carried.**

**M-8** Mr. Sherman moved to appoint Dr. John Kokales to the Shade Tree Committee to fill the remainder of a term which expires December 31, 2022. Second by Ms. Yaney.

DISCUSSION: None.

Upon roll call vote the following responded yes: Dr. Blasiolo, Mr. Love, Ms. Patel, Mr. Sherman, and Ms. Yaney. **Motion carried.**

**M-9** Ms. Yaney motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. Second by Dr. Blasiolo. The Aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**



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Rob Zahorchak, Borough Manager