

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
INDEX TO THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF MAY 2, 2022**

MOTION SUBJECT	MOTION	PAGE
Authorize Payment of Bills	M-1	4
Adjourn	M-2	5

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD MAY 2, 2022

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

ROLL CALL

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

PLEDGE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Daniel Kochupura introduced himself as the new Junior Councilperson. Mr. Kochupura stated that he is a Junior at Winchester Thurston High School. He will be sworn in for the term of one year at the next meeting.

Mr. Sherman arrived at the meeting at 7:32 pm.

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

Rick Belloli, 1122 Mifflin Ave: Mr. Belloli stated that he did not have any substantial updates at this time regarding the stormwater issue under his property, but he is planning to meet with Borough Manager Zahorchak in June.

Martha Rhial;166 Race St: Ms. Rhial noted that she has provided public comment in the past. She stated that there was a drive-by shooting that occurred on Race Street in late Fall, between two vehicles that came off the Parkway. She noted that police arrived quickly and there were no injuries, however she had not heard anything further in terms of arrests or charges and would like an update. Additionally, she stated that there were two traffic related incidents on her street, including a traffic sign and fire hydrant that were hit, and an incident where the stone wall on her property was hit. She stated noted that she would like to hear more about a traffic study and added that she would like to see something done to protect properties on that street. Ms. Rhial further inquired about the planned installation of a Verizon 5G pole on the street, adding that she had heard from Senator Costa that the project was on hold. Mayor O'Donnell replied that he has plans to discuss several matters with Senator Costa, including the installation of the pole.

Beth Battaline, 150 Washington St: Ms. Battaline stated that she would like to have more explicit communication regarding updates on matters being addressed by Council, including timelines. She noted that she is specifically interested in hearing more about planned updates and maintenance at Koenig Field. Mayor O'Donnell replied that we are currently trying to obtain a grant in order to make upgrades at the field.

COMMITTEE ACTION

None.

BUSINESS MEETING

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT Mr. Zahorchak state that Chief Ireland was not in attendance, and there was nothing to report.

WATER AUTHORITY REPORT Mr. Fuller reported that the Water Company met. Liberoni was selected as the contractor for paving work. Job openings are available at the Water Authority for summer employees. Mr. Fuller noted that this would be a good opportunity for college students. There is some conflict within the project on Ardmore Blvd, concerning some lines that need to be moved and capped. The Water Authority had a bond issued last year that extends past the life of the authority. The authority has not yet voted to be extended to the timeframe of the bond. Mr. Zahorchak inquired about the lead line replacement. Mr. Fuller responded that some lines are being replaced now, but he does not have a complete list of work.

RECREATION REPORT Mr. Zahorchak reported that Basketball has wrapped up for the season. We had 117 participants in our youth league. The School District has waived the janitorial fees for the use of their space. T-ball and Softball registration are open now, until May 15. The season will start in June. We are still accepting coaches and other volunteers for that.

The plant sale pick-up is happening on May 14 at Koenig Field, starting at 9am. We are planning for a pop-up vendor market to happen with that, which is weather dependent. The plant sale pick up will still occur rain or shine, and will happen out of the fieldhouse, in case of inclement weather. We are planning for our summer movies in the park, and details will be coming soon on that.

PLANNING COMMISSION Mr. Zahorchak reported that the Planning Commission is scheduled to meet on May 19. There is a site development plan to review for upgrades at the School for the Deaf. That will be presented to Council for final review.

COG REPORT Mr. O'Donnell stated that he attended the COG meeting on April 28. He noted that there is an Act 51 demolition grant. That is something we may want to be aware of if we have structures in the borough that would be eligible for demolition in the next few years. COG police trainings are coming up May 9th and 10th, with advanced trainings on the 16th and 17th. A study is taking place to learn about racial bias in policing, in an attempt to fix that. The names of departments being studied is not disclosed. He noted that approximately \$30 million in funding is planning to be brought into the area for various items.

Chief Payne stated that he had nothing to report at this time.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT Mr. McDermott stated that a brief executive session would be needed following the regular meeting to discuss some legal matters.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Zahorchak reported that the Civil Service Commission will meet Thursday to certify the promotional exam list for the position of Sargent. Officer Fred Livingston passed the exam and will be eligible for promotion. There will be a motion at the next meeting to confirm his new title. Public Safety will meet on May 11. Mr. Zahorchak noted that there are many items to discuss, including traffic safety. Community Service reviewed recommendations for the Laurel Street tot lot replacement. The 2022 road paving program list has been sent to the engineer. The water company will be replacing a water on Race St, and doing a possible lead line replacement on

Gordon St. We will plan our paving projects accordingly, around these items. The resurfacing of the Koenig Field tennis courts will be included as part of the paving program. We will be requesting quotes for reconstruction of the surrounding fence and retaining wall.

The sewer project is about half-way done, including replacement of flush tanks on Hutchinson. Other sections of pipes are being lined in areas around the borough. Work is paused on some of the project following complaints of fumes in the area of Greendale Ave. It was discovered that there was an issue with vents. Once necessary repairs are made, that part of the project can be completed. The next phase of the sewer project is to do exploratory work around Nine Mile Run. Camera work has been completed, but not yet fully reviewed, for the sewer structures near Koenig Field. So far there was one discovery of a manhole that has to be replaced and raised to grade. Mr. Zahorchak will report back once additional information is available.

Line painting is being planned, to be done this summer. Most of this will take place on S. Braddock Ave, and will be coordinated with the Borough of Swissvale. Mr. Zahorchak stated that we are currently hiring summer help for DPW. He noted that this is a good opportunity for college students.

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS

M-1 Mr. Love 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 \$13,710.75. Second by Mr. Sherman.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Love noted that it was a fairly standard bill run, with some larger items for tree removal and legal council.

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

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Sherman stated that he received a resident email raising concern over a recent police-related incident. This is in reference to a march that occurred in Wilksburg in April, following the tasing death of Jim Rogers. The march was broken up by Wilksburg police, and Edgewood police were there as well. According to the resident, the justification that was given to break up the march was the proximity of a nearby construction zone. In a Pittsburgh City Paper article written about the incident, there is mention of the break-up of the march, where the march is deemed unlawful by police, and it specifically mentioned the use of an Edgewood Police cruiser to assist in arrests. Mr. Sherman stated that he hoped there could be some discussion on the matter and inquired about the normal process of our involvement with incidents that occur in other boroughs/neighborhoods.

Chief Payne responded that in Allegheny County with 129 municipalities, there are many separate police departments, and throughout the day each department may have about 2 officers on staff per shift. He noted that there were 2-3 on staff at Wilksburg on the day of the incident mentioned. There was an assembly that started in the City of Pittsburgh, that crossed into Wilksburg, and our officers were called in to assist. We are part of a mutual aid system with other departments, which is crucial to provide sufficient coverage when more involved issues arise. There were some protestors who became confrontational in this incident, who were arrested. Police transported one protestor using a

Wilkinsburg car, and one using an Edgewood car. He noted that there was no physical engagement between officers and members of the assembly. Discussion ensued over the spread of coverage of emergency services in the area.

Mr. Sherman inquired about what policy is in place in case our force is assisting another force and observes misconduct in the other force. Chief Payne replied that an outside agency would be brought in to investigate (normally County Police). Mr. Sherman inquired if there was any investigation around this particular incident. Chief Payne replied that he was not aware of any.

Mr. Zahorchak inquired if any action should be taken towards extending the life of the Water Authority. Solicitor McDermott replied that current lifetime would be a factor, but, pending further discussion with knowledgeable parties, we could make a movement at a future meeting to extend the life of the authority.

M-2 It was moved by Ms. Yaney and seconded by Dr. Epitropoulos to adjourn at 8:10 pm.
The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**



Rob Zahorchak, Borough Manager