

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD  
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**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD JUNE 6, 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, Ms. Patel, Mr. Sherman, Ms. Yaney, and Dr. Petrolla. Also present were Mayor O'Donnell, Junior Councilperson Kochupura, Borough Manager Zahorchak, Police Chief Payne, Fire Chief Ireland, and Mike DeLorenzo filling in for Solicitor McDermott. Mr. Love joined remotely via teleconference but did not vote on any matters.

**PLEDGE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Ryan O'Donnell administered the following oath:

**OATH OF OFFICE**

I, Fred Livingston, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and that I will discharge the duties of Sergeant for the Borough of Edgewood with fidelity.

**ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR:** None.

Chris Brown from the DRAW Collective presented the proposed site plan improvements for the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf.

**AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS**

**M-1** 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 \$44,086.86 and from the Sewer Fund in the amount of 11,800.13 for a total of \$55,886.99. Second by Mr. Sherman.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

- M-2** Dr. Blasiolo moved to approve, with Conditions, the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf Revised Land Development Plan 2022, subject to and contingent upon the Conditions set forth in the accompanying decision document. Second by Mr. Sherman.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

- M-3** Ms. Yaney moved to hire Marcus Alston as a part time police officer conditioned upon a successful physical, psychological and background examination at an hourly rate of \$20.17 as defined in the collective bargaining agreement. Second by Dr. Blasiolo.

DISCUSSION: Chief Payne noted that during the interview process, the interviewers were very impressed with the responses of both candidates being put forth for hire.

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

- M-4** Ms. Patel moved to hire Tyler Swatchick as a part time police officer conditioned upon a successful physical, psychological and background examination at an hourly rate of \$20.17 as defined in the collective bargaining agreement. Second by Dr. Epitropoulos.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

- M-5** Dr. Blasiolo moved to award the Race Street and Pennwood Avenue traffic signal upgrade project contract to Traffic Control and Engineering in the amount of \$296,105.50 as recommended by the borough's consulting engineer, Trans Associates, in their letter dated June 1, 2022. Second by Ms. Yaney.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Zahorchak stated that this project is part of a grant received by the Borough from PennDOT in 2018. The borough has a 20% match responsibility plus any cost overrun on the project. Bids were about 14 % higher than anticipated when the engineer's cost estimates were prepared in 2018. The project was delayed due to COVID and now supply chain shortages are driving price increases. However, the project will likely be constructed over 2022 and 2023 which will allow us to spread the price increase over multiple years. The borough is still replacing a nearly \$300,000 traffic signal for less than \$70,000. Discussion ensued concerning details of the work to be done.

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

- M-6** Ms. Patel read Ordinance 1073 (title only). Second by Dr. Blasiolo.

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD  
COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
ORDINANCE 1073**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD, AMENDING THE BOROUGH'S  
POLICE PENSION PLAN ORDINANCE, ARTICLE VIII, TO ESTABLISH UPDATED  
RULES AND PROCEDURES PROVIDING FOR AN OPTIONAL EARLY RETIREMENT  
BENEFIT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACT 600.**

DISCUSSION: Mr. Zahorchak noted that a contract was adopted in 2019 with the police union that allowed for early retirement, so long as it is in accordance with current law. However, an ordinance had not been passed to officially recognize that policy.

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

**M-7** Mr. Sherman moved to authorize the borough manager to advertise ordinance 1073. Second by Dr. Blasiolo.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

**M-8** Ms. Yaney read Resolution 2022-18. Second by Dr. Blasiolo.

**RESOLUTION 2022-18**

**PennDOT Summer Maintenance Agreement**

BE IT RESOLVED, by authority of the Borough Council of the Borough of Edgewood, Allegheny County, and it is hereby resolved by authority of the same, that the Borough Manager of said municipality be authorized and directed to sign the Comprehensive Maintenance Agreement on its behalf.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

**VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT** Fire Chief Ireland reported that the rescue truck will soon be ready for use. On July 9, the VFD is holding a pasta dinner to raise funds for Officer Wyke and his family, whose home was damaged in a fire. This will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Edgewood. A blood drive will be held with Swissvale Borough on August 14.

**WATER AUTHORITY REPORT** Mr. Fuller reported that the Water Authority met and took action to suspend the formal bidding requirements in order to procure both water pipe and chemicals. Pipe and chemical suppliers are only honoring prices for 2-3 days and the authority needs several weeks to formally bid these purchases. Supply chain shortages are hampering vehicle purchases and other raw materials.

**RECREATION REPORT** Mr. Zahorchak reported that T-ball and Softball start this week. T-ball continues to grow, with 30 kids signed up this year. We have a mix of returning parent volunteers, and some new volunteers to coaching. Coach Kip will be leading a group of about 15 kids in Softball. Sign-ups will open in July and run through mid-August for our Fall Soccer league. The registration link will be available at that time on our website and Facebook page.

Julie Straub is returning to lead adult yoga in Koenig Field. The fieldhouse will be used in case of inclement weather. Participants may sign up for the whole course or drop in for individual classes. The pre-registration form is available on our website and Facebook page.

Our plant sale and market pop-up event went well, and though we had some threats of rain, it turned out to be a beautiful day. We received positive feedback from attendees and vendors and hope to continue this spring event.

Our movie season is starting a little later in the summer, with our first feature, The Little Mermaid, playing on Friday, July 29. We hope this change makes it easier to start the movie at a more reasonable time for families. On June 21, we are celebrating Make Music Day. A variety of performers will be featured at Memorial Park, from noon-1pm. If you, or someone you know is interested in performing, please email [office@edgewoodboro.com](mailto:office@edgewoodboro.com).

For Community Day, we have the Allegheny County Showmobile stage arranged and are working on lining up music, food, vendors and activities for the day.

**PLANNING COMMISSION** Mr. Zahorchak reported that the Planning Commission met to review the application from the School for the Deaf for land development. They will be taking a break during the summer and will meet again in the fall.

**COG REPORT** Mr. O'Donnell stated that Council of Government did not meet.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT** Mr. DeLorenzo apologized for Mr. McDermott's absence. He stated that besides the items that were already discussed, he had no additional updates.

**BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:** Mr. Zahorchak reported that the Laurel St Playground equipment was ordered. Families near Laurel St are participating in fundraising with a lemonade stand over the summer in order to add a picnic table to the space. He stated that he spoke with an engineer regarding speeding on Race St and Greendale Ave. Suggestions were made including improvements to signage, such as larger signs, more stops signs, and posting a

one-way sign. They also discussed tabulating the traffic incidents occurring on the street. Mr. Zahorchak distributed updated drawings of work to be done on Edgewood Ave at Gordon St and Elm St to make improvements to bus stops. He noted that the design phase is nearly done and discussed some of the changes that will be made.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Dr. Epitropoulos noted that the new technology to join the meeting remotely worked well.

**M-9** It was moved by Ms. Yaney and seconded by Mr. Sherman to adjourn at 8:18 pm.  
The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**



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Rob Zahorchak, Borough Manager