

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD  
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**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD JUNE 20, 2022**

Council President Petrolla called the meeting to order at 7:33pm.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**PLEDGE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Steve Zelenko, 310 Dewey Ave: Mr. Zelenko stated that he had some concern over the construction of a business in Wilkinsburg, IM Critical, that borders his property. He noted that when the properties were built on Dewey Ave, there was a buffer zone that was designated, to separate commercial construction from the residential street. Mr. Zelenko stated that he had concerns about the nature of the business, and possible ways it could negatively impact the residential properties, including building into the buffer zone. He added that he was worried that construction was taking place without notice to affected residents. He spoke with a representative of the company who did not get back to him, so he wanted to speak to our Council to see if he could get more information about the situation.

Solicitor McDermott responded that there are two adjacent parcels, one in Wilkinsburg, and one in Edgewood. Wilkinsburg has provided approval to build on the site. We are in the process of looking further into this matter, following a zoning request for construction of a fence along the perimeter, between the two properties.

Ruth Pickering, 416 Locust St: Ms. Pickering spoke about the message center. She noted concern about parking permits and use of permits by residents with off-street parking options. Ms. Pickering distributed a paper to Council concerning this matter.

Rick Belloli, 1122 Mifflin Ave: Mr. Belloli stated that he had little to add concerning the stormwater issue now, but that he'll be meeting with the Borough Manager and engineer soon, and looks forward to moving towards a resolution.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**M-1** Mr. Love moved to approve the minutes of May 16, 2022 Council Meeting. Second by Ms. Yaney.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

**M-2** Mr. Love moved to approve the minutes of June 6, 2022 Council Meeting. Second by Ms. Yaney.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

### **AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS**

**M-3** 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 \$28,053.55 and from the sewer fund in the amount of \$202,375.21 for a total of \$230,428.76. Second by Ms. Yaney.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Love noted that it was fairly routine, but did include the quarterly donation to the library, payment for a new fence at Koenig Field, and the quarterly service payment to ALCOSAN.

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

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT:** Mr. Love stated that he had nothing to report.

**POLICE:** Chief Payne had nothing to report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND INFRASTRUCTURE:** Ms. Yaney stated that Public Safety and Infrastructure did not meet, but a meeting needed to be scheduled.

Fire Chief Ireland reported that yesterday multiple fire departments responded to a residential structural fire. Churchill's Fire Chief arrived at the scene and reported fire coming from the basement and first floor and confirmed that there was someone in the building. An elderly man was caught inside, unable to escape and was reported to be on the second floor. This was on Father's Day, causing a delay in getting a crew together. Even so, our truck arrived at the scene first, with three responders. After several difficult attempts to enter the building and search for the victim, they reached the second floor. In the process, one of the crew received first degree burns. Chief Ireland commended the crew, including Assistant Chief Ben Reynolds, Captain Steve Haley, and Fire Fighter Clarice Sutton, for their attempts to rescue the victim, and noted that they did the best they could under the conditions.

Chief Ireland noted concern over relying on a small group of mainly out-of-town volunteers to be able to respond quickly to fires in the area. He asked for Council's help with recruitment and retention of volunteers, and staff coverage.

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:** Mr. Zahorchak stated that there was a request from a resident, Ms. LaFace, concerning the replacement of the Laurel Street tot lot for fencing around the space, and discussed ways that her kids could be

involved. They are currently running a lemonade stand to help raise funds for a picnic table. The addition of fence repairs to the project can be further discussed at the next Community Affairs meeting.

**PENSION AND PERSONNEL:** Dr. Blasiolo stated that Pension and Personnel did not meet. The second and third readings of Ordinance 1073 are scheduled on the agenda.

**AD HOC COMMITTEES:** No one had anything to report.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Mr. McDermott reported that all approval matters for the Western Pa School for the Deaf building upgrade and the senior housing project have been executed and recorded, and the school project is currently underway. The property issue near Dewey Ave is in process of being addressed. Things are in place concerning the pension matter. He stated that there was no need for an Executive Session.

**BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:** Mr. Zahorchak reported that the community concert for Make Music Day will be held at the Memorial Park gazebo tomorrow. The road paving bid opening will take place on June 30. If an acceptable bid is received, that will be submitted for approval at the meeting following. The fence has been placed at Koenig Field, with the cost being split with Wilksburg Borough. Quotes have been received for repair of the retaining wall at the Koenig Field tennis courts.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor O'Donnell stated that he spoke with a representative from County Council who is interested in presenting some items to Borough Council concerning current initiatives.

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

**M-4** Dr. Blasiolo read Ordinance 1073 (Second reading, title only). Second by Mr. Love.

**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: None.

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

**M-5** Ms. Yaney read Ordinance 1073 (Final reading, 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.**

**M-6** Dr. Petrolla asked, "shall this ordinance pass?"

DISCUSSION: None.

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

**M-7** It was moved by Ms. Yaney and seconded by Dr. Blasiolo to adjourn at 8:06 pm. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**



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Rob Zahorchak, Borough Manager