

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
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BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD JANUARY 17, 2023

Council President Petrolla called the meeting to order at 7:36pm.

ROLL CALL

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

PLEDGE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Rick Belloli, 1122 Mifflin Ave: Mr. Belloli stated that work is scheduled tomorrow for work on the storm line issue under his property. He noted that parking will be affected by that.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M-1 Mr. Love moved to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2022 Council Meeting. Second by Ms. Yaney.

DISCUSSION: None.

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.**

M-2 Mr. Love moved to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2023 Council Meeting. Second by Ms. Yaney.

DISCUSSION: None.

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.**

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS

M-3 Mr. Love moved to authorize the payment of bills for goods and services received by the borough from the General Fund in the amount of \$51,757.36 and from the Sewer Fund in the amount of \$5,924.11 for a total of \$57,681.47. Second by Ms. Yaney.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Love noted that larger items included a tax refund, and some equipment maintenance. Mr. Zahorchak noted that there were some items added late to the bill list, due to the holiday.

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.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT: Mr. Love reported that the Climate Action Plan was discussed at the latest meeting. Specific details on the next steps are still in discussion.

POLICE: Chief Payne reported on the current shortage in the department. He stated that they have been down by three full-time officers over the past year. One officer left and recently returned, but two are still out on injury leave, with no certainty of return. He noted that they have been trying to fill in the gap with part time policing, which has not been successful due to quick turnover. Chief Payne requested consideration for hiring a full-time officer. He discussed a potential candidate list and noted that the hiring process takes approximately six months. The issue of aging of the department was also discussed, which may create problems longer term if not addressed soon. A brief update was provided on the injured officers.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Ms. Yaney stated that a meeting needs to be scheduled for Public Safety and Infrastructure.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS: Mr. Sherman stated that Community Affairs did not meet.

PENSION AND PERSONNEL: Dr. Blasiolo stated that Pension and Personnel did not meet.

AD HOC COMMITTEES: Ms. Patel stated that she has not attended any recent meetings for CONNECT. Mr. Zahorchak noted that a meeting should be happening soon.

Mayor O'Donnell requested the anti-violence coalition (Greater Valley Coalition Against Violence) be added to the list of ad hoc committees. This group was organized following the Antwon Rose incident and has recently reconvened. He noted that they plan to meet monthly, and he will be attending, along with Councilperson Patel and Chief Payne.

Ms. Patel stated that she attended an event put on by Cease Fire PA, with representatives from the local church and other organizations. Also in attendance were acting Fire Chief Reynolds and his wife, who works in trauma and has contact with people impacted by gun violence, along with Sgt. Livingston.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Mr. McDermott stated there was nothing to report, and no need for an Executive Session.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Zahorchak reported that our consulting engineer, Trans Associates is finalizing plans for submission to PennDOT for Brinton Road/Maple Ave intersection redesign. They need to discuss placement of a utility pole. Drawings will go to PennDOT soon for review. He stated that we are working on replacement lights in the pedestrian tunnel. The contractor is starting to work on the heating system for the front office. There is a small communication problem with the speed sign, which has been sent out for repair. We are working with the school district concerning access issues to the primary school gym, which is used for our basketball program. They are requiring that the door be manned by parent volunteers, or we will be charged a large fee for a security guard.

NEW BUSINESS None.

COMMITTEE ACTION

- M-4** Dr. Epitropoulos read Ordinance 1080 Emergency Services Cost Recovery (title only). Second by Mr. Sherman.

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
ORDINANCE NO. 1080**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOROUGH'S CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 17 BY ADDING EMERGENCY SERVICES COST RECOVERY, TO AUTHORIZE AND ESTABLISH RULES AND FEES ASSOCIATED WITH RECOVERY OF EMERGENCY SERVICES COSTS INCURRED BY EMERGENCY SERVICE PROVIDERS.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Sherman requested clarification on how charges would be handled for emergency services with the concern over residents being charged. Solicitor McDermott stated that the Ordinance addresses insurance reimbursement claims and protects residents from being billed directly. There are clauses that allow the Borough, under certain circumstances such as recklessness or gross negligence, to request compensation for damages. We do not charge for services rendered in emergency situations.

DISCUSSION: None.

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.**

- M-5** Ms. Patel moved to authorize the borough manager to advertise Ordinance 1080. Second by Dr. Epitropoulos.

DISCUSSION: None.

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.**

- M-6** Ms. Yaney read Ordinance 1081 False Emergency Alarms. Second by Dr. Epitropoulos.

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
ORDINANCE NO. 1081**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD REPEALING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 75, ALARM SYSTEMS, ARTICLE I, AUTHORIZING REIMBURSEMENT FOR CERTAIN COSTS AND ESTABLISHING PROTOCOLS FOR ADDRESSING FALSE EMERGENCY ALARMS.

DISCUSSION: None.

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.**

M-7 Mr. Sherman moved to authorize the borough manager to advertise Ordinance 1081. Second by Ms. Yaney.

DISCUSSION: None.

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.**

M-8 It was moved by Dr. Epitropoulos and seconded by Dr. Blasiolo to adjourn at 8:11pm.
The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**



Rob Zahorchak, Borough Manager