

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

Council President Petrolla called the meeting to order at 7:31pm.

ROLL CALL

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

PLEDGE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Meghan Jones, Edgewood Foundation: Ms. Jones stated that the Senior Brunch is happening on May 7 at 11am at the Edgewood Club for all high school seniors in the neighborhood. Additional events will continue to be advertised in the borough newsletter, so please check there for updates.

DeWitt Walton, Allegheny County Council: Mr. Walton stated that County Council recently passed independent police review board legislation. This has an opt-in provision, so they can't mandate communities to adopt the legislation. Mr. Walton hopes to have a discussion with borough leadership to encourage consideration of opting into this initiative. The goal of the legislation is to increase accountability and transparency with law enforcement across the county.

Acting Fire Chief Ben Reynolds addressed council concerning the train derailment at East Palestine, and the emergency response plan for Edgewood. Discussion ensued concerning this matter. Police Chief Payne noted that Officer Susalla is our emergency management coordinator, with a strong background in emergency response. He spoke briefly about our emergency guidelines. County Council Representative Walton spoke about the County response to emergency situations.

Kelly Fraasch, 225 E Swissvale Ave: Ms. Fraasch spoke about her desire to add a pollinator garden to the borough to honor her late daughter Daisy. Daisy was studying environmental science until her sudden passing. Ms. Fraasch talked about Daisy's respect and appreciation for nature, especially bees and other pollinators and their impact on our ecosystem. A pollinator garden would be a fitting tribute to her life passion. Ms. Fraasch is working with Humane Action Pittsburgh to coordinate this effort and requested the support of the borough to help make this happen.

Shannon Dickerson, Humane Action Pittsburgh: Ms. Dickerson spoke about the prospect of adding a pollinator garden to Edgewood to honor Daisy. An effort is already underway to create a pollinator garden in Swissvale, and she noted that with some additional funding that was received, there are plants available that could be used in Edgewood. Discussion ensued about potential locations for the garden. Council inquired about educational signage, as well as a sign or plaque to honor Daisy. The funding is not available for Humane Action to add signage, but there may be grants to apply for to make that happen.

- M-1** It was moved by Dr. Epitropoulos and seconded by Dr. Blasiolo to approve the addition of a pollinator garden at Memorial Park in honor of Ms. Frausch's daughter Daisy.

The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**

Sara Raszewski, Edgewood PTA: Ms. Raszewski stated that there is a candidate forum for the Woodland Hills School Board being held tomorrow from 6-8pm at the CONNECT Center in East Pittsburgh. Questions are being accepted for the candidates. She noted that there are three seats open that represent Edgewood. Two of the seats are for 4-year terms, and there are six candidates running for those spots. One seat is a 2-year term, which is a write-in spot.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- M-2** Mr. Love moved to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2023. Second by Ms. Yaney.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

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

DISCUSSION: None.

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

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS

- M-4** 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 \$69,650.90 and from the Sewer Fund in the amount of \$7,272.81 for a total of \$76,923.71. Second by Mr. Sherman.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT: Mr. Love reported that General Government met. The discussion on a potential plastic bag ban is ongoing. There is an effort to check the neighborhood for items that may be in need of repair, such as railing by the borough building, etc.

POLICE: Chief Payne stated that there was a recent shoot-out that occurred at the Towne Center. This incident was turned over to County Police. He spoke about camera system monitoring at the Towne Center. He believes there are

currently not enough cameras and will be speaking with a representative of the monitoring company to enhance the system. He noted that they were able to obtain some doorbell footage.

The police test took place recently for potential candidates. There were initially seven candidates. Of those, two dropped out and five took the test. Two of the potential candidates are already paid police officers, one at Cresson Township, and one is a retired State Trooper. A candidate list will be created and they will be introduced to the Public Safety Committee for review.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Ms. Yaney stated that Public Safety and Infrastructure did not meet.

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: Mayor O'Donnell did not have anything to report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Mr. McDermott stated that there was nothing to report.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Zahorchak reported that the 2022 paving program should wrap up this week. Items to be completed are the reprofiling of Horace Way and the paving of the tennis courts. Once the courts are paved, there is still a 60-day waiting period for the epoxy. Bids are open for the 2023 paving program. He noted some variability in costs. The old Laurel St playground has been removed with the replacement to be installed over the next week or two. A picnic table will be added after that. Regulation size soccer goals will be delivered to the field on Wednesday. A draft should be completed shortly for a plastic bag ban ordinance. A quote has been received for line painting around the borough; some of the painting will be in conjunction with Swissvale Borough.

There was a recent engineers sewer meeting. He noted that this meeting was very productive and covered a large number of topics. Collaboration with Wilkesburg Borough is going well and they are installing a plumb monitor at Koenig Field. A preliminary mapping of the sewer structure at the park has been made. There is a possible bend in the line towards the hillside, then towards Greendale Ave. That will be explored further. Wilkesburg is also committing to explore and possibly reinstate upstream overflows. He noted that funding through the County Executive and Three Rivers Wet Weather has helped to make this work possible.

NEW BUSINESS None.

COMMITTEE ACTION

M-5 Ms. Yaney moved to exercise the first option year of the Cargill Rock Salt Contract commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024. Second by Dr. Eptropulos

DISCUSSION: Mr. Zahorchak discussed variability in rock salt pricing, and how this motion allows the option to purchase through Cargill. He noted that we currently have a good supply of salt on hand, after using very little this past winter.

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

- M-6** Mr. Sherman moved to accept and duly enter into a contract with Zambelli Fireworks, Inc providing a fireworks display at Edgewood Community Day for years 2023 through 2025. Second by Dr. Blasiolo

DISCUSSION: Mr. Sherman noted that Community Affairs discussed the topic via email, comparing the increasing cost of fireworks to the positive impact that this has on the morale of the community.

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

- M-7** It was moved by Dr. Blasiolo and seconded by Ms. Yaney to adjourn at 8:37pm.
The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**



Rob Zahorchak, Borough Manager