

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD  
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**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 6, 2023**

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

**ROLL CALL**

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

**PLEDGE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR:** The following public comment was received.

Ruth Pickering, 416 Locust St: Ms. Pickering inquired about leaf collection. She spoke with concern about several items, including street conditions, speeding, and the newsletter.

Erin Pierce, CC Mellor Memorial Library: Ms. Pierce spoke concerning library funding. She noted that she had sent a copy of financial information and stated that she would be happy to answer any questions regarding the library budget and upcoming projects.

PA State Representative Abigail Salisbury addressed Council to provide them with a state grant book. She noted that she had been providing grant information directly to municipalities. She spoke about a recent non-profit symposium and added that her office can be reached for assistance in requesting a letter of support when applying for grants. She noted that it is her goal to pull more funding to the region. She discussed a situation with a parking lot that is owned by multiple municipalities. Brief discussion occurred concerning a letter of support for a grant application.

**AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS**

**M-1** Ms. Yaney moved to authorize the payment of bills for goods and services received by the borough from the General Fund in the amount of \$22,315.11 and from the Sewer Fund \$32.56 for a total of \$22,347.67. Second by Dr. Epitropoulos.

DISCUSSION: Brief discussion occurred over petty cash reimbursements.

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

Dr. Petrolla joined the meeting at 7:51pm.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

**M-2** Ms. Yaney did the second reading of ORDINANCE 1082: AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE USE AND DISTRIBUTION OF SINGLE USE PLASTIC BAGS BY COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS. (title only) Second by Dr. Epitropoulos.

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD  
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
ORDINANCE NO. 1082

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD ESTABLISHING CHAPTER 154 OF THE BOROUGH CODE OF ORDINANCES PROHIBITING THE USE AND DISTRIBUTION OF SINGLE USE PLASTIC CARRY OUT BAGS BY COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

- M-3** Ms. Yaney did the final reading of ORDINANCE 1082: AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE USE AND DISTRIBUTION OF SINGLE USE PLASTIC BAGS BY COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS. Second by Dr. Epitropoulos.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

- M-4** Dr. Petrolla asked, "shall this ordinance pass?"

DISCUSSION: None.

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

- M-5** Mr. Love did the second reading of ORDINANCE 1083: AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THE COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT TAXES AND LIENS. (title only) Second by Ms. Yaney.

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
ORDINANCE NO. 1083

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD, COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING A SCHEDULE OF ATTORNEY FEES IN CONNECTION WITH THE COLLECTION OF TAXES, TAX CLAIMS, TAX LIENS, MUNICIPAL CLAIMS, AND MUNICIPAL LIENS PURSUANT TO ACT 1 OF 1996 AND ACT 20 OF 2003 AND ADOPTING A SCHEDULE OF CHARGES, EXPENSES AND FEES PURSUANT TO THE ACT OF MAY 16, 1923, AS AMENDED, 53 P.S. §7101, §7103, AND §7106, WHICH ORDINANCE REPEALS ANY OTHER ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT HERewith RELATING TO A SCHEDULE OF ATTORNEY FEES PURSUANT TO ACT 1 OF 1996.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

- M-6** Mr. Love did the final reading of ORDINANCE 1083: AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THE COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT TAXES AND LIENS. Second by Ms. Yaney.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

- M-7** Dr. Petrolla asked, "shall this ordinance pass?"

DISCUSSION: None.

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

- M-8** Mr. Sherman moved to authorize the borough manager to execute a modified Power Purchase Agreement with Direct Energy with a revised duration of 97 months from the origination date of June 1, 2021 providing a 45% wind energy blend. Second by Ms. Yaney.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Zahorchak stated that our conventional energy contract and the wind energy contract do not match. This will allow the renewal period to meet up, with a fixed rate and consistent amount of renewable energy consumption. Discussion ensued about how the program works and how we obtained this option.

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

- M-9** Ms. Patel moved to adopt Resolution 2023-08 Statewide Local Share Account Grant Application, requesting \$425,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for Municipal Complex Improvements. Second by Mr. Sherman.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

- M-10** Dr. Epitropoulos moved to hire Matthew Odenthal as a public works laborer at a rate of \$20/hr effective October 30, 2023. Second by Ms. Yaney.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Zahorchak noted that Mr. Odenthal has a significant amount of experience in related industries, including prior Public Works experience.

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

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

**VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Acting Chief Reynolds stated that there were 81 calls in October, which is a record number for one month, breaking the previous record of 77. There have been 578 calls for the year so far and he noted that he expects to break 600 by the end of the year. There was a meeting in Penn Hills with the PA Fire Commissioner Tom Cook. There is a plan to reform the relief association and the way relief funds can be used by departments. He requested to meet with Mayor O'Donnell and Mr. Love following the regular meeting to speak about some additional opportunities. Mr. Reynolds stated that he'll be sharing the year-end report in December. Dr. Epitropoulos inquired about a call that was mis-coded. He replied that there was a mistake on the part of the call-taker, which led to a delay in response. He noted that the individual was new to the job and brought up the opportunity for a larger discussion to improve the call process.

**WATER AUTHORITY REPORT:** Mr. Zahorchak reported that the authority met on October 24. The budget process is underway and there has been discussion about rates increasing due to an increasing cost in chemicals, employee benefits, and ALCOSAN rates. During public comment there was concern about high sewer charges. There has been further discussion about a citizens advisory committee which will consist of 10 members, including three from the authority, a representative from the office of Representative Salisbury, and the office of Senator Costa, Pittsburgh United, Upstream PGH, Clean Water Action and community members. They will not have any decision-making authority.

Customer assistance for bill payments is being considered, but only applies to the water portion. A moratorium on shut offs was discussed, but that would leave outstanding sewage fees. The office will be closed December 1 and 4 for training on new software. December is the target for bills to be sent in envelopes.

Mr. Love inquired of Representative Salisbury if she was at the meeting. Ms. Salisbury spoke concerning water authority billing issues, and developments in process to remedy problems.

**RECREATION REPORT:** Mr. Zahorchak reported that Fall Youth Soccer just wrapped up another successful season and expressed thanks to the dedicated coaches who volunteered their time.

Basketball registration is open now through December 1 for both our Youth and Men's leagues. Registration is on Teamsnap, and the links are available on our website and Facebook page. Due to growing interest for our Youth league, the registration form is set to hold once it reaches either 80 participants per Division or 200 max overall. This is so we can assess the list and determine how many more we can reasonably accommodate based on coach and gym availability. At this point, we have 125 kids signed up (total last year was 203). Any additional interested participants will be placed on a wait-list.

We plan to purchase two new drop-down hoop attachments, which are necessary for younger players. Our existing equipment is starting to pose safety concerns due to its age. The plan is to purchase one this calendar year and one in the next calendar year.

The tennis and pickleball courts are now closed for the season. No further reservations are being accepted at this time and communications have been sent. They will be used by the Scouts for the tree sale starting at the end of the month. The courts will reopen to the public in the spring normally around the time of the Easter Egg Hunt.

**PLANNING COMMISSION:** Mr. Zahorchak stated that the Planning Commission did not meet.

**COG REPORT:** Mr. Love stated that they met but did not reach quorum. Some grants were discussed and an email was sent for the annual banquet.

Chief Payne addressed Council. He discussed Halloween, where they were able to distribute candy with a donation from Giant Eagle. On November 18, with help from County and State Police we will be doing 'Shop with a Cop.' Kids from local elementary schools, including the School for the Deaf have been selected to receive seasonal items. This is made possible from donations were provided by Senator Costa's office, Giant Eagle, Target, and the Edgewood Club.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Mr. McDermott had nothing to report, but an Executive Session was needed following the meeting for a personnel matter related to Public Works.

**BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:** Mr. Zahorchak reported that Liberoni is about halfway through with the repaving program. Brick and concrete spot repair, which is primarily taking place on East End Ave, should be started in the next few weeks will only take a few days to complete. A bargaining session will be held with public works on Wednesday. General Government has the first cut of the 2024 budget. On Saturday, there will be a Veterans Day gathering at Memorial Park to recognize a memorial being placed by the veteran's group. Leaf collection is going well so far and should be completed by early December as usual. Mr. Love inquired about wall repair on Pennwood Ave. Mr. Zahorchak replied that it will take some time before the work affects Edgewood but traffic control will be in place.

**NEW BUSINESS** Ms. Yaney inquired about no-parking signs in front of the Edgewood Club. Chief Payne that he has been in discussion with them to ensure reasonable restrictions on the street.

**M-11** It was moved by Ms. Yaney and seconded by Mr. Sherman to adjourn at 8:23pm.  
The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**

An Executive Session was held at 8:23pm.



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Rob Zahorchak, Borough Manager