

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
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BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD JULY 20, 2020
The meeting was held virtually via GoToMeeting due to the COVID 19 Pandemic.

President Wainright called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

ROLL CALL

Upon roll call, the following responded: Mr. Bright, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Love, Mr. O'Donnell, Dr. Petrolla, Ms. Yaney, and Mr. Wainright. Solicitor Tim Barry, Mayor Wilson and Junior Councilperson Benjamin Bermann were also present.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR:

Due to COVID 19 pandemic, the public were asked to submit comments by 4pm July 20 so that they could be read into the record.

Cindy Bahn, 133 Gordon Street:

I am writing to express my support for the retirement residence at Edgewood Towne Center as proposed by a.m. Rodriguez Associates, Inc. This is a respected developer; during my tenure as Borough Manager in West Homestead, they received loans through both the Steel Valley Enterprise Zone Corporation and the TIF/Main Street Committee for projects in the Steel Valley. One of their most prominent is the One Homestead community revitalization project in Homestead. This development incorporated both historic preservation and urban infill to create affordable housing and commercial space along Amity Street, East Ninth and Eighth Avenues.

The proposed retirement residence at Edgewood Towne Center presents a number of benefits and opportunities.

Site Improvements:

- Development of a parcel that has been unimproved for 30 years;
- Aesthetics – landscaped property instead of paved parking lot. Environmental Benefits
- Abatement of the soil, which is likely contaminated, at no cost to the Borough;
- Opportunity to address stormwater issues related to building roof drainage and the massive amounts of asphalt present at Edgewood Towne Center, and as required by the federal Clean Water Act administered by DEP through additional green space;
- Energy-efficient construction, resulting in fewer greenhouse gas emissions;
- Walkable access for residents to a grocery store and restaurants, reducing the number of vehicles traveling to and from the Center thus further reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Social/Emotional/Physical Health Opportunities for Residents:

- Independent living for senior adults, an underserved population in the community, with on-site amenities;
- Improved resident mental and physical health with a fitness room, game room, greenhouse, and outdoor planting beds.
- A social service coordinator on-site.

Financial Benefits:

- Increased property taxes that result from a vacant property being developed.

I am unable to think of any downside to this proposal, especially any that would outweigh the many benefits. I am open to hearing reasons why it may not make sense, but in the absence of those reasons I strongly encourage Edgewood Council to approve this project.

No further comments were offered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M-1 Mr. O'Donnell moved to approve the June 15, 2020 meeting minutes. Second by Mr. Fuller.

Upon roll call vote the following responded yes: Mr. Bright, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Love, Mr. O'Donnell, Dr. Petrolla, Ms. Yaney, and Mr. Wainright. **Motion carried.**

M-2 Mr. O'Donnell moved to approve the July 6, 2020 meeting minutes. Second by Mr. Fuller

Upon roll call vote the following responded yes: Mr. Bright, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Love, Mr. O'Donnell, Dr. Petrolla, Ms. Yaney, and Mr. Wainright. **Motion carried.**

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS

M-3 Mr. O'Donnell I move 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 \$37,612.95 and from the Sewer fund in the amount of \$410.30 for a total of \$38,023.25. Second Dr. Petrolla

DISCUSSION: Mr. O'Donnell stated the expenses were routine except for payments for fire truck outfitting and engineering expenses. There were two invoices for computer network work and new bullet proof vests.

Upon roll call vote the following responded yes: Mr. Bright, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Love, Mr. O'Donnell, Dr. Petrolla Ms. Yaney, and Mr. Wainright. **Motion carried.**

Committee Reports:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT: Mr. O'Donnell had nothing to add to his bill payment report.

POLICE: Mayor Wilson reported that an officer is quarantining for 14 days due to possible Coronavirus exposure and his shifts will need to be covered by other officers. Mr. Zahorchak stated that his exposure was due to a family member testing positive. The borough is following CDC guidelines for quarantining this officer. Mr. Zahorchak also informed council that the borough would be receiving up to \$80,000 in CARES Act funding to cover COVID-related expenses.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Mr. Fuller reported the committee did not meet.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Mr. Bright reported the committee did not meet.

PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Love reported the committee met on June 18 to discuss the Oakview parking lot retaining wall remediation project. The committee recommended approval of the soil nailing option for slope stabilization.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Ms. Yaney reported the committee met with Eddie Lockman about building a gazebo in Memorial Park for his Eagle Scout project. A brief discussion ensued about color options and it was decided that a final color choice would be made when fundraising was close to being complete. Neither council nor the committee wanted to impede the project over a more costly color option.

Dr. Petrolla asked if the committee could discuss a movie night fundraiser at some point.

PERSONNEL: Dr. Petrolla reported the committee did not meet.

PENSION: Mr. Fuller stated the committee did not meet.

AD HOC COMMITTEES-

CONNECT: Mr. Zahorchak reported that CONNECT meetings have focused on financial and social issues faced by communities.

WOODLAND HILLS SD EDUCATION CONSORTIUM: Mr. O'Donnell and Mr. Love have been engaging in ongoing discussions about internet connectivity in the area.

VOILENCE PREVENTION COALITION: Mr. O'Donnell asked if this item could be removed from the agenda as the group hasn't met in some time.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Mr. Barry had nothing to report.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Zahorchak reported on the agenda items including the service agreement for geotechnical engineering work on the Oakview parking lot retaining wall and the Boy Scout's BB Gun demonstration at Koenig Field. Mr. Zahorchak discussed mask wearing and cleaning in the borough building and enhanced vehicle cleaning procedures. Mayor Wilson heard about a possible complaint about the cleanliness of the police department and wondered if it was true. Mr. Zahorchak reviewed his meeting with Officer Fred Livingston and Chief Payne regarding the cleanliness of the station and ongoing cleaning. Lastly, the Civil Service Commission will meet on July 27 to review and renew the police officer eligibility list.

NEW BUSINESS: Ms. Yaney proposed a meeting of the Community Services Committee to discuss a movie night Wednesday July 29 at 5pm. Mr. Zahorchak will arrange a call.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if any recording exists of the June 15th council meeting where Chief Payne addressed council regarding national police issues and if it could be made available to the public? Mr. Zahorchak replied that he is working with our website company to get the file posted.

- M-4** Mr. Fuller moved to permit the use of air powered rifles (BB guns) as part of a safety demonstration conducted by the boy scouts at their open house on Saturday, August 15, 2020 from 1-3 pm. Second Mr. O'Donnell.

DISCUSSION: None.

Upon roll call vote the following responded yes: Mr. Bright, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Love, Mr. O'Donnell, Dr. Petrolla, Ms. Yaney, and Mr. Wainright. **Motion carried.**

- M-5** Mr. Love moved to authorize execution of Garvin, Boward, Beitko Proposal 19092.1 for consulting geotechnical engineering services, sections 1 & 2, related to the Oakview Avenue parking lot retaining wall failure and reconstruction project. Second Mr. Fuller.

DISCUSSION: None.

Upon roll call vote the following responded yes: Mr. Bright, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Love, Mr. O'Donnell, Dr. Petrolla, Ms. Yaney, and Mr. Wainright. **Motion carried.**

- M-6** Ms. Yaney move to authorize Edward Dean Lockman to construct a gazebo in Memorial Park as described in his Eagle Scout Service Project Proposal and to waive any fees associated with obtaining a building permit for the gazebo. Second Dr. Petrolla.

DISCUSSION: None.

Upon roll call vote the following responded yes: Mr. Bright, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Love, Mr. O'Donnell, Dr. Petrolla, Ms. Yaney, and Mr. Wainright. **Motion carried.**

Before adjourning, a lengthy discussion ensued about drafting a response to several calls to defund the police department. A response will be drafted by the public safety committee for all of council's consideration.

- M-7** Mr. Fuller moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Second Ms. Yaney.

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



Rob Zahorchak, Borough Manager