

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
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BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD JANUARY 4, 2021

This meeting was held virtually using GoToMeeting.

Council President Wainright called the meeting of the Borough of Edgewood to order at 7:30 pm.

ROLL CALL

Upon roll call, the following responded: Mr. Bright, Mr. Fuller, Mr. O'Donnell, Ms. Yaney, Mr. Wainright. Manager Rob Zahorchak, Solicitor Tim Barry, Mayor Jack Wilson, and Junior Councilperson Ben Bermann were also present. Mr. Love joined at 7:35 pm.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR:

Mr. Zahorchak stated that no public comments were received.

Council entered an executive session from 7:40-8:05 pm. Mr. Barry noted that the reason for the Executive Session was to provide his legal opinion on a taxation matter.

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS

M-1 Mr. O'Donnell 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 \$237,220.11 and from the sewer fund in the amount of \$547.50, for a total of \$237,767.61. Second by Mr. Fuller.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Wainright called to question the increase in payments. Mr. O'Donnell listed several large line items on the bill list, for items such as tree removal, paving, a payment to Eastern Area Pre-Hospital Services, and vehicle payments. Mr. Zahorchak confirmed the payment list and added that most payments were made to finalize 2020 year end purchases, with the exception of a check to HDH Group for 2021 liability insurance. Mr. Fuller noted that there was also a large payment made for police body cameras.

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

COMMITTEE ACTION

M-2 Mr. Fuller read Resolution 2021-01: re-appoint Michael Anderson to Civil Service Committee.

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
RESOLUTION 2021-01

WHEREAS, the Borough of Edgewood has a Civil Service Commission and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Borough Council to maintain a degree of continuity and experience on the Civil Service Commission and

WHEREAS, MICHAEL ANDERSON demonstrates the knowledge and ability to make positive contributions to the Civil Service Commission.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Edgewood Borough Council hereby appoints MICHAEL ANDERSON to the Civil Service Commission to a term which will expire December 31, 2026.

ADOPTED this the 4th day of January, 2021 by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

Second by Mr. O'Donnell.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-3 Mr. O'Donnell read Resolution 2021-02: re-appoint Greg Evashavik to Zoning Hearing Board.

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
RESOLUTION 2021-02**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Edgewood recognizes the importance having a well-established Zoning Hearing Board; and

WHEREAS, the Borough understands the complex zoning issues a community can face; and

WHEREAS, GREG EVASHAVIK has exhibited the dedication, knowledge and ability to contribute positively to the Zoning Hearing Board.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Edgewood Borough Council hereby appoints GREG EVASHAVIK to the Zoning Hearing Board to a term which will expire December 31, 2023.

ADOPTED this the 4th day of January, 2021 by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

Second by Mr. Fuller.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-4 Mr. Love read Resolution 2021-03: re-appoint Merrill Merkovsky to Shade Tree Committee.

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
RESOLUTION 2021-03**

WHEREAS; through Ordinance 1060, the Borough of Edgewood created a Shade Tree Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS; under the terms of the Ordinance, Council shall appoint up to five residents of the Borough to serve on the committee; and

WHEREAS; the Shade Tree Advisory Committee will work to improve the environmental health of the Borough, and shall work to preserve and expand the Borough's trees by advising Council on tree care and maintenance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MERRILL MERCOVSKY be appointed to the Edgewood Borough Shade Tree Advisory Committee to a term expiring December 31, 2023.

ADOPTED this the 4th day of January, 2021 by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

Second by Ms. Yaney.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-5 Mr. Fuller read the Motion to Hire Darnell Cole part time police officer at an hourly rate of \$19.58 as defined in the collective bargaining agreement effective immediately. Second by Ms. Yaney.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Wainright inquired if Mr. Cole had been interviewed by members of council. Mr. Love and Mr. O'Donnell confirmed that they had done so.

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

BUSINESS MEETING

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT Mr. Halle of the Edgewood VFD informed council that there have been no problems with vehicles this year. He noted that there were 536 emergency calls in 2020, which was down significantly from 2019. The reason for the decrease was due to decreased responses to calls based due to COVID-19, for reasons of health and safety of the responders. The holiday luminary sale sold out, with increased revenue of about \$300.

Santa's "visit" went over well, and positive feedback was received from residents. The election of officers for 2021 took place, with the only notable change being that Ben Reynolds stepped down and was replaced by Miraj Desai.

WATER AUTHORITY REPORT Mr. Fuller reported that the water company did not meet in December. There will be a rate increase in 2021 of 5% from the water company, and 7% from ALCOSAN, in addition to the increase from the borough.

RECREATION REPORT Mr. Zahorchak reported that there is not much new for recreation. At home classes, offered by local instructors, are currently being promoted.

PLANNING COMMISSION Mr. Zahorchak stated that the Planning Commission did not meet in December.

COG REPORT Mayor Wilson stated that they did not meet in December.

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

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Zahorchak stated that the borough's annual internal audit will be commencing soon. The 2021 budget was adopted, which includes funding for the reconstruction of a retaining wall on the Oakview avenue borough parking lot. After a proposal is accepted, construction should begin in March. The police body cameras were paid for in 2020, and have been ordered. They should be available in May, which is later than expected due to COVID-19 related delays in supplies. In the meantime, the department can prepare for arrival their and deployment to the police force and learn from Swissvale's experience with them.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Fuller commended the Borough Manager and staff for managing spending and ending the year with a surplus.

M-6 It was moved by Mr. Fuller and seconded by Mr. O'Donnell to adjourn at 8:18 pm.
The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**



Rob Zahorchak, Borough Manager