

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD  
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**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD MARCH 1, 2021**

**This meeting was held virtually using GoToMeeting.**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Upon roll call, the following responded: Mr. Fuller, Mr. Love, Mr. O'Donnell, Ms. Yaney, and Mr. Wainright. Mayor Jack Wilson, Manager Rob Zahorchak, and Solicitor Tim Barry were also present. Councilperson Bright, Councilperson Petrolla, and Jr Councilperson Berman were absent.

**ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Ms. Yaney inquired about receiving an article for print from the Shade Tree Committee. Mr. Wainright noted that there is a dead tree at the end of Gordon street that needs to be replaced. Mr. Zahorchak stated that the tree in question can be addressed when Nine Mile Run completes their spring planting.

Steve Halle of the EVFD reported that there were 44 calls in February. Included in that were several structure fires, which were weather related. None of those fires were in Edgewood/Swissvale but were assists in other areas. Mr. Halle noted that there was one weekend in which there were significant accidents on the Parkway. Specifically, there were two multi-car pile ups, including some vehicles that were on fire. Many of the EMS members of the department have received their Covid 19 vaccine. The rest of the department is currently waiting to receive their vaccines. Otherwise, the Fire Department is running well, with no issues.

**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 \$41,569.58 and from the sewer fund in the amount of \$2,115.50, for a total of \$43,685.08. Second by Mr. Wainright.

DISCUSSION: Mr. O'Donnell noted that included in that total was a \$10,000 donation to C.C. Mellor Library (which is now open to the public). A total of \$6,877.47 was paid towards loans for emergency vehicles. One unexpected payment was made, in the amount of approximately \$5,400, towards the upgraded HVAC system for council chambers. This covered half of the total owed for that upgrade.

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

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

**M-2** Mr. Love moved move to accept Officer Ben Stone's resignation letter from the Edgewood Borough Police Department dated February 25, 2021.

Second by Mr. Fuller.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Wainright inquired if the officer was employed in a part-time status. Mr. Zahorchak confirmed that he was and noted that he found other employment.

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

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

**VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT** The Volunteer Fire Department report was provided under Items from the Floor.

**WATER AUTHORITY REPORT** Mr. Fuller reported that the Water Authority met. They are removing the moratorium on shut offs on March 31. They will be offering extended payment plans for customers still experiencing difficulty paying their bill. The Water Authority is currently owed approximately 1 million in back payments. The back payment amounts owed by customers range from \$50 to \$1,000. Mr. Fuller noted that those owing larger amounts generally had a history of non-payment prior to the Covid 19 pandemic.

The Water Authority is filing suit against Monroeville. Monroeville passed a stormwater assessment fee. The authority believed properties in Monroeville were exempt, however Monroeville claims they are not. A new pump is being placed on Nadine Road. The new pump will be bullet proof.

Ms. Yaney inquired whether the end of the shut-off moratorium means that shut offs will start April 1, or if customers will be notified then. Mr. Fuller stated that letters will be sent starting April 1 to notify customers of payments owed and offer the new payment plan. Mr. Fuller noted that previously, to enter the payment plan, customers had to pay 50% of the bill up front, and the rest in a month. The new plan allows customers to extend payments over a longer, specified length of time, based on the amount owed. Water will not be shut off if payments are being made. The authority did look into the option of offering an assistance plan, similar to LIHEAP. However, entering into this arrangement proved too cost prohibitive.

**RECREATION REPORT** Mr. Zahorchak reported the borough will be offering a summer t-ball and softball season. He noted that we were able to safely run a modified season last summer. Mr. Zahorchak feels that with the current knowledge around Covid 19, as well as the experience of our coaches who continued coaching last year, that we can have a fairly normal season. We will still keep necessary safety measures in place, such as distancing, etc.

Mr. Zahorchak reminded council of the modified Easter Egg Hunt, scheduled for Saturday, March 27, with a rain date of Sunday, March 28. We are still looking for volunteers to help distribute eggs around the field, for anyone able to help. The event starts at 1pm.

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

**COG REPORT** Mr. Zahorchak reported that at the most recent meeting there was a presentation provided by a representative of Allegheny County Economic Development concerning the lead abatement requirements for demolition of abandoned structures. A sample must be taken from the site, and if lead paint is found, a mitigation effort must be made to remove it. Sites should be tested prior to demolition so that lead may be removed properly with the structure. This does make the process of demolition more expensive, however limited needs based funding is available from the county.

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

**BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:** Mr. Zahorchak reported that in the next few weeks he, along with members of Public Works and our engineer, will review the condition of borough roads and compile a list of repairs, and then commence on a bid in the month of April. It appears that most streets have held up well over the winter, however there will be some repairs that need to be made, especially on brick streets, which tend to degrade more than asphalt.

Starting Tuesday, our concrete subcontractor will begin the final concrete work on the ramp and sidewalk in front of the Train Station. Once that is finished, the final stage of installation of the new traffic light can be completed. The borough was recently contacted by a representative from Tri-Star motors, where we purchased our newest police car. They notified us that the car was received at the dealership and has been sent to an outfitter. The car should be ready by April, and we soon we can advertise for sale a second car from the fleet.

Mr. Zahorchak happily announced the first emptying of the glass dumpster. He noted that is was very full with glass items, collected starting in January, and very little contamination (non-glass items). He expects it may fill more quickly now that people are aware of it, possibly needing to empty it 9 or 10 more times for the year. There will be better signage added soon, and two of the four paper dumpsters have been removed to open up space in the parking lot. Abitibi is able to empty these dumpsters fairly quickly, in addition, residents have the option of curbside collection for paper recyclables. Overall, Mr. Zahorchak feels that the glass recycling collection dumpster is a success thus far.

Mr. Fuller inquired whether there has been any interest in the police car and fire truck that have been advertised for sale. Mr. Zahorchak stated that there have been views of these vehicles, but not bids have been made. The auction of the fire engine and police car are set to expire on the morning of March 15. Mr. Zahorchak believes that most interest and activity happens towards the end of an auction, so it may be early to tell anything. If any of the equipment that is up for sale gets an acceptable bid, there should be motions for sale of those items at the next council meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mr. O'Donnell noted that available in the meeting packets there is a copy of an updated ordinance for the decriminalization of possession of small amounts of marijuana in Edgewood. This update follows a consultation with General Government. They have decided to provide borough council two weeks to review the updated ordinance and provide their input, so that a public discussion to request more drafts is not necessary. Then at the next council meeting, one member of the General Government Committee can advance a motion for the first reading of the ordinance. If anyone from council does have any input to provide into the ordinance, they may do so within that time.

- M-3** It was moved by Mr. Fuller and seconded by Ms. Yaney to adjourn at 7:57 pm.  
The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**



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Rob Zahorchak, Borough Manager