

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD  
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**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 20, 2021**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Upon roll call the following responded: Mr. Fuller, Mrs. Gleba, Mr. Love, Mr. O'Donnell, Mr. Wainright, and Ms. Yaney. Also present were Solicitor Tim Barry and Borough Manager Rob Zahorchak. Mayor Wilson and Dr. Petrolla were absent.

**PLEDGE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR:** The following public comments were made.

Carol Ide, 515 Greendale Ave: Ms. Ide inquired as to whether there were any updates concerning the sewer issue by Koenig Field. Mr. Zahorchak responded that there would be an update included in the Manager's Report.

Martha Rial, 166 Race St: Ms. Rial stated that there was another accident recently on Race and Vine. She noted that no one was hurt, but one car was totaled. She added that the officer believed it was due to inhibited lines of site. Ms. Rial stated that she believed speed was also a factor, and added that she would like to have a flashing speed sign permanently added to Race street, in addition to a traffic calming study.

Tod Potts, 150 Race St: Mr. Potts noted that he has lived with his family on Race St for 7 years. He stated that since 2016 he and other residents have made complaints and statements about the traffic on Race St, and would like to see action taken on the issue. Mr. Potts added that there are solutions that he believed to be affordable, and implored Council to take move towards a solution. He stated that he believed there are three main problems. The first is speed, which he feels could be resolved with a flashing speed sign. The second issue is the lack of people stopping at the intersection of Greendale and Race. Mr. Potts proposed possibly putting in a barrier or a flashing light. The last issue is volume. Mr. Potts noted that he did not see a way to reduce volume, and believes that most of the traffic is not local and many people utilize that street to cut across to other areas. He added that based on the level of volume though, it would be possible to request a traffic study by PennDOT.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

M-1 Mr. O'Donnell moved to approve the August 16, 2021 meeting minutes. Second by Mr. Fuller.

DISCUSSION: None

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

**AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS**

M-2 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 \$91,849.13 and from the sewer fund in the amount of \$185,715.66 for a total of \$277,564.79. Second by Mr. Fuller.

DISCUSSION: Mr. O'Donnell stated that there was a large payment to ALCOSAN of \$180,634.16, and a payment to NEIT of \$22,472.42 for medical insurance. He noted that these are standard payments, and that there was nothing else of note.

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT:** Mr. O'Donnell reported that three applications were received for the openings on the Planning Commission. There are two openings available. They would like to offer the spots to Gregg Michaels and Evan Burbridge. The applications can be reviewed by Council, for voting to take place at the next meeting.

**POLICE:** Mr. Wilson was not present. Mr. Zahorchak reported that Car #6 is nearly repaired. There was a meeting with the Police Department to discuss facilities improvements for next year.

Ms. Yaney inquired why the borough is still over budget for part-time officer wages. Mr. Zahorchak responded that it was due to a combination of issues, such as a large number of shifts to cover. He noted that some of the overage will be reimbursed, for situations where a part time officer was covering for a full time officer who was doing DUI control or aggressive driving enforcement. In cases where an officer was out due to illness or injury, a part time officer would fill in, and that could contribute to the overage. He added that he could confirm those hours with Chief Payne. He also noted that at this time, many officers will be using up accrued vacation time. It is still more cost effective to cover for that, than to pay a full time officer to work overtime. Solicitor Barry reiterated that point.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Mr. Fuller stated that Public Safety did not meet.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** Mrs. Gleba stated that Community Development did not meet.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Mr. Love stated that Public Works did not meet.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE:** Ms. Yaney stated that Community Service did not meet.

**PERSONNEL:** Dr. Petrolla was absent. Mr. Fuller reported that they have reviewed the applications for Solicitor and they have a recommendation for a candidate. There will be a motion to make appoint the new solicitor later in the meeting.

**PENSION:** Mr. Fuller stated that Pension did not meet. He noted that they did receive the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter earnings from Oakmont Capital and noted that the pension funds are doing well.

**CONNECT:** Mr. Zahorchak reported that CONNECT met Thursday, however he was not able to attend. Ms. Yaney stated that she also was not able to attend that meeting, however, she attended a presentation on progress on LEAD. She noted that the information that was presented had not changed from last year.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Mr. Barry stated that the Consent Order was received by Borough Manager Zahorchak from the Allegheny County Health Department. Mr. Barry recommended to Council to have an engineer available to review it and understand what needs to be completed. He noted that the agreement has already been decided in terms of what needs to be done with it. Projects were negotiated to improve the sewer system. However, it means that there will be a financial obligation by the borough to work on these projects, along with other municipalities.

**BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:** Mr. Zahorchak reported that plans for Fallfest/Oktobfest are being finalized with the Edgewood Foundation, scheduled for Saturday, October 2, starting at 1pm. The Foundation will be roasting a pig, available by purchase of a food/drink ticket, and there are activities planned for the families.

Mr. Zahorchak stated that the Consent Order was received and will be further reviewed by engineer Jason Stanton or a colleague, to present the terms of the order to Council. The regulators are requesting to have the order returned by Sunday, October 31, leaving two meetings to receive a presentation and review the order, and to pass a resolution on it. Mr. Zahorchak noted that it is important for everyone to understand what is involved in the order. He added that he will confirm the presentation once it is scheduled.

Solicitor Barry noted that we should ask Jason Stanton if he agrees with the assessment of where we are in terms of the standard set forth by ACHD. He added that he believes that the borough has done well at staying ahead of the regulators' requirements. The only issue may be with lines that are shared with other boroughs. He stated that the only reason not to sign the consent order would be if our engineers disagreed with what is stated in the order in terms of the condition of our lines.

Mr. Zahorchak noted that there is a provision in the Order where the borough can contest certain flow monitoring data that was gathered by ALCOSAN if the engineer believes it is inaccurate and needs to be modified. Mr. Zahorchak stated that he believed it was a six-month window to do that. He added that Mr. Stanton wished to present information on that to Council because the data is from 2008 and several projects have been completed since the flow monitoring data was collected.

Mr. Zahorchak stated that he will be attending the Hospitalization and Insurance renewal meeting. The rates for 2022 will be presented at this meeting, which is important in terms of collective bargaining and our budget decisions. Within the police contract is a clause whereby we can explore other carriers if there is a rate increase year to year that is greater than 8%. He noted a small challenge within the paving program. The water company wishes to do extensive work on Gordon Street so there is no point resurfacing that street if the water company will be digging it up within a few months. Mr. Zahorchak noted that he is working with our engineer to find another street of equal or lesser value that could be paved instead. He plans to report on that at the next meeting.

DPW will be installing new 'no soliciting' signs at points of entry into the borough. He noted that unpermitted solicitation has increased in recent months and would like to remind those wishing to solicit that they do need to

obtain a permit. Mr. Zahorchak requested that Halloween Trick or Treat take place on Sunday, October 31, if there are no objections from Council. He noted that Swissvale will be doing theirs the same night, and we will be able to have a full emergency service force out patrolling.

He reported that he had a good meeting with Wilkesburg Borough, including respective engineers, at Koenig Field to discuss the SSO. They agreed that they needed to televise their line, and that there were some issues that were discovered that warranted investigation. They will take the lead on that as it is their pipe. Mr. Zahorchak added that he is waiting to hear back on findings and actions planned and noted that the dialogue has been productive. He believes that they are better understanding the issue on the line and are taking ownership of assessing the problems and working towards a solution. They also discussed clean up of the site, fencing and signage.

Mr. Zahorchak noted that on the agenda there is a motion to accept Solicitor Barry's letter for notice of retirement, and to move forward on appointing a replacement. He requested, that if Council is amenable to the proposed candidate, Thomas McDermott, that he would be allowed to "shadow" Mr. Barry, in order to be brought up to speed with ongoing matters that the borough is working on, and effectively take over those matters that will be continuing past Mr. Barry's date of retirement.

**NEW BUSINESS:** No new business was presented.

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

**M-3** Mr. Fuller moved to accept Solicitor Tim Barry's Notice of Retirement effective September 30, 2021. Second by Ms. Yaney.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

Mr. Wainright thanked Mr. Barry for his years of service to the borough.

**M-4** Mr. Love moved to appoint Thomas McDermott borough solicitor at an hourly rate of \$175 and a monthly retainer of \$800 effective October 1, 2021. Second by Mr. Fuller.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

**M-5** Mrs. Gleba moved to award traffic signal design services for the Race Street and Pennwood Avenue traffic signal replacement to Trans Associates in accordance with their July 29, 2021 proposal for a sum not to exceed \$24,850. Second by Ms. Yaney.

DISCUSSION: None.

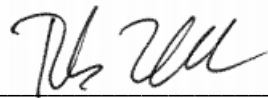
Upon roll call vote the following responded yes: Mr. Fuller, Mrs. Gleba, Mr. Love, Mr. O'Donnell, Mr. Wainright, and Ms. Yaney. **Motion carried.**

- M-6** Ms. Yaney moved to lift the ban on consumption and possession of alcoholic beverages by legal-aged adults at Koenig Field during Oktoberfest on Saturday October 2, 2021. Second by Mrs. Gleba.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

- M-7** Mr. Fuller motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. Second by Mr. O'Donnell. The Aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**



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Rob Zahorchak, Borough Manager