

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD  
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**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD JANUARY 3, 2022**

Mayor O'Donnell called the reorganizational meeting of the Borough of Edgewood to order at 7:30 pm in the Municipal Building.

**ROLL CALL**

Upon roll call, the following responded: Dr. Blasiolo, Dr. Epitropoulos, Mr. Love, Ms. Patel, Dr. Petrolla, Mr. Sherman, and Ms. Yaney.

Mayor O'Donnell, Borough Manager Zahorchak, and Solicitor Joe Perotti substituted for Tom McDermott.

**PLEDGE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Manager Zahorchak collected Certificates of Election from the newly elected officials and Judge Kim Hoots swore in the newly elected officials.

Tax Collector:

**OATH OF OFFICE**

I, George Fuller, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and that I will discharge the duties of my elected office for the Borough of Edgewood with fidelity.

Council:

**OATH OF OFFICE**

I, Moshe Sherman, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and that I will discharge the duties of my elected office for the Borough of Edgewood with fidelity.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

I, Brian Blasiolo, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and that I will discharge the duties of my elected office for the Borough of Edgewood with fidelity.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

I, Bhavini Patel, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and that I will discharge the duties of my elected office for the Borough of Edgewood with fidelity.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

I, Justin Petrolla, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and that I will discharge the duties of my elected office for the Borough of Edgewood with fidelity.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

I, Mike Epitropoulos, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and that I will discharge the duties of my elected office for the Borough of Edgewood with fidelity.

### **ELECTION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS**

Mayor O'Donnell asked for nominations for Council President.

- M-1** Dr. Epitropoulos nominated Dr. Petrolla for Council President.  
Ms. Yaney nominated Ben Love for Council President.

There being no further nominations, Mayor O'Donnell closed nominations for Council President.

Upon roll call vote the following responded yes to elect **Dr. Petrolla**: Dr. Blasiolo, Dr. Epitropoulos, Ms. Patel, and Dr. Petrolla. The following responded no: Mr. Love, Mr. Sherman, and Ms. Yaney.

Upon roll call vote the following responded yes to elect **Mr. Love**: Mr. Love, Mr. Sherman, and Ms. Yaney. The following responded no: Dr. Blasiolo, Dr. Epitropoulos, Ms. Patel, and Dr. Petrolla. **Motion to elect Dr. Petrolla carried.**

Mayor O'Donnell asked for nominations for Council Vice President.

- M-2** Dr. Petrolla nominated **Mr. Love** for Council Vice President.

There being no further nominations, Mayor O'Donnell closed nominations for Council Vice President.

The aye vote on the motion was unanimous 7-0. **Motion carried.**

Mayor O'Donnell asked for nominations for President Pro Tem.

- M-3** Mr. Love nominated **Ms. Yaney** for President Pro Tem.  
Dr. Petrolla nominated **Dr. Epitropoulos** for President Pro Tem.

There being no further nominations, Mayor O'Donnell closed nominations for President Pro Tem.

Upon roll call vote the following responded yes to elect **Ms. Yaney**: Dr. Blasiolo Mr. Love, Mr. Sherman, and Ms. Yaney. The following responded no: Dr. Epitropoulos, Ms. Patel, and Dr. Petrolla.

Upon roll call vote the following responded yes to elect **Dr. Epitropoulos**: Ms. Patel, and Dr. Petrolla. The following responded no: Dr. Blasiolo, Dr. Epitropoulos, Mr. Love, Mr. Sherman, and Ms. Yaney. **Motion to elect Ms. Yaney carried.**

Mayor O'Donnell then turned the gavel over to President Petrolla.

### **ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR**

Dr. Petrolla asked if there were any items from the floor.

The following public comments were received.

Martha Rial, 166 Race St: Ms. Rial congratulated the new mayor and council members. She stated that she did not wish to have a Verizon 5G pole placed at the property at the corner of Race and Vine. She expressed concern over the safety of motorists and pedestrians, and the potential for accidents at that intersection. Ms. Rial added that the pole itself could inhibit the aesthetic value of the space. She stated that the company claimed there was not a better location for the pole, based on proximity to trees on the street, but noted that she did not believe that to be the case, as there were other poles located near trees. Ms. Rial thanked council for listening and stated that she believes the

borough is responsible for working with property owners and that Verizon has a responsibility to not ruin personal property. She hopes that the borough will work with Verizon to find another location for the pole.

Rick Belloli, 1122 Mifflin Ave: Mr. Belloli offered his congratulations to the new council members and thanked everyone for their service. Mr. Belloli stated that there is a municipal storm sewer located 6 inches below his basement floor. He stated that there were several spots where water gets in. He has made the borough aware of the issue and done some foundation work in the meantime. Mr. Belloli stated that he has been working with the Borough Manager and the borough engineer towards a solution. He went on to discuss the storm sewer system within the borough, including the sewer lines that flow to his property. At this time a solution has not yet been reached, but he noted that there was a recent meeting where options were discussed, and another meeting was scheduled. He added that it will likely take some time to fix the issue, but with new council members in place, he wished to make them aware of the situation.

David Rodes, 160 Washington St: Mr. Rodes stated that he had some concern over the 5G pole being placed on Race St. He noted that he would like to know more about the placement. Mr. Zahorchak replied that when the location was proposed by Verizon that some residents asked Verizon and the borough to explore other options. Other locations were proposed, and the borough offered space at Koenig Field. He noted that the company is required to consider alternatives when the property owner will be negatively impacted. Verizon determined that proposed locations that were considered, including those at Koenig Field, were determined to be unsuitable. Mr. Rodes asked what level of authority the borough has over that decision. Mr. Zahorchak replied that the borough is obliged to issue an electrical permit and zoning permit to place the pole. Besides that, state and federal law preclude action from the borough as it is considered a public right of way. Mr. Perotti added that there were legislative changes that were made in fall of 2021 which did take care of some issues for residents but that companies like Verizon are not compelled to come to municipalities for zoning. Discussion ensued about companies' use of right of way and placement of equipment on private property. Mr. Rodes inquired when the pole is schedule to be installed. Mr. Zahorchak responded that he was not given an exact timeline for the construction, but that it would be soon.

Patrick McArdle, 221 Vine St: Mr. McArdle welcomed the new council members. He stated that he went before council about three years prior to present a petition signed by some neighbors to request traffic bollards be placed on vine street in place of a guide rail. He said that nothing has been done at this point and feels that the current arrangement is an eyesore and affects property values. He added that he believed the cost to make the change was \$2,000. He added that there is another issue along Hutchinson and Pennwood where broken pieces of the railway have been left sitting. He would like to see action taken to improve these spots.

**M-4** Ms. Patel read Resolution 2022-01. Second by Dr. Epitropoulos.

**RESOLUTION 2022-01**

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Borough of Edgewood recognizes the importance of maintaining a productive, experienced and professional management staff; and

**WHEREAS ROB ZAHORCHAK** has satisfactorily served in the position of Borough Manager/Secretary;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that **ROB ZAHORCHAK** be reappointed to the position of Borough Manager/Secretary for fiscal year 2022 at a salary of \$84,260.

**ADOPTED THIS THE** 3rd day of January 2022, by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

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

**M-5** Dr. Blasiolo read Resolution 2022-02. Second by Ms. Yaney.

**RESOLUTION 2022-02**

**WHEREAS** the Borough of Edgewood recognizes the importance of managing and maintaining a professional and well-trained Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, Robert C. Payne has exhibited both the knowledge and ability to serve in the capacity of Chief of Police with integrity and excellence;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that **ROBERT C. PAYNE** be reappointed as Chief of Police for the Borough of Edgewood for fiscal year 2022 at a salary of \$100,686.

**ADOPTED THIS THE** 3rd day of January 2022, by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

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

**M-6** Mr. Sherman read Resolution 2022-03. Second by Mr. Love.

**RESOLUTION 2022-03**

**WHEREAS** the Borough of Edgewood has the need for professional financial and accounting staff; and  
**WHEREAS** this position is integral to the overall professional management and administration of the Borough;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that **JANET GERBER** be reappointed to the position of Finance Administrator/Treasurer for fiscal year 2022 at a salary of \$56,901.

**ADOPTED THIS THE** 3rd day of January 2022, by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

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

**M-7** Dr. Epitropoulos read Resolution 2022-04. Second by Ms. Yaney.

**RESOLUTION 2022-04**

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Borough of Edgewood recognizes the importance of retaining legal counsel on behalf of the Borough; and

**WHEREAS THOMAS P. MCDERMOTT, ESQUIRE** has exhibited the knowledge, ability and dedication to the Borough in his service as Borough Solicitor;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that **THOMAS P. MCDERMOTT, ESQUIRE** be reappointed as Borough Solicitor. The 2022 retainer shall be at a rate of \$800 per month. All work performed by the Solicitor outside the parameters of regular Borough business will be paid at a rate of \$175 per hour.

**ADOPTED THIS THE** 3rd day of January 2022, by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

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

**M-8** Ms. Yaney read Resolution 2022-05. Second by Dr. Epitropoulos.

**RESOLUTION 2022-05**

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Borough of Edgewood recognizes the importance of maintaining professional and licensed code enforcement consultants; and

**WHEREAS BUILDING INSPECTION UNDERWRITERS, INC.** has exhibited both the knowledge and ability to provide Building Inspection and Code Enforcement services for the Borough of Edgewood;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that **BUILDING INSPECTION UNDERWRITERS, INC.** be responsible for Building Inspection and Code Enforcement.

**ADOPTED THIS THE** 3rd day of January 2022, by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

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

**M-9** Mr. Love read Resolution 2022-06. Second by Ms. Yaney.

**RESOLUTION 2022-06**

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Borough of Edgewood recognizes the importance of retaining an engineering firm on behalf of the Borough; and

**WHEREAS LENNON, SMITH, SOULERET ENGINEERING, INC.** has exhibited both the knowledge and ability to serve in the capacity of Borough Engineer;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that **LENNON, SMITH, SOULERET, INC.** be reappointed to the position of Borough Engineer.

**ADOPTED THIS THE** 3rd day of January 2022, by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

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

**M-10** Ms. Patel read Resolution 2022-07. Second by Mr. Love.

**RESOLUTION 2022-07**

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Borough of Edgewood recognizes the importance of retaining a bank depository on behalf of the Borough;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that **PNC BANK** be appointed as Borough Depositories for a one-year term effective immediately.

**ADOPTED THIS THE** 3rd day of January 2022, by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

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

**M-11** Dr. Blasiolo read Resolution 2022-08. Second by Ms. Yaney.

**RESOLUTION 2022-08**

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Borough of Edgewood recognizes the importance of fiscal transparency and accounting accuracy;

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Borough of Edgewood desires the borough to undergo an annual internal audit.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Borough of Edgewood hereby appoints **MAHER DUESSEL** as the borough's auditing firm until the next reorganization meeting of the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

**ADOPTED THIS THE** 3rd day of January 2022, by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

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

**M-12** Mr. Sherman read Resolution 2022-09. Second by Dr. Epitropoulos.

**RESOLUTION 2022-09**

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Borough of Edgewood recognizes the importance of transparency in local government;

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Borough of Edgewood desires to advertise all meetings, contracts, bids and other announcements,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Borough of Edgewood hereby designates the **PITTSBURGH POST GAZETTE** as its official newspaper of general circulation.

**ADOPTED THIS THE** 3rd day of January 2022, by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

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

**M-13** Dr. Epitropoulos read Resolution 2022-10. Second by Mr. Sherman.

**RESOLUTION 2022-10**

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Borough of Edgewood recognizes the importance of maintaining a productive and effective governing body; and

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Borough of Edgewood recognizes the importance and need to fill Council vacancies promptly; and

**WHEREAS** Article IX, Section 901 of the Borough Code provides for a Vacancy Board; and

**WHEREAS** the Vacancy Board shall consist of Borough Council exclusive of the Mayor, and one registered elector of the Borough, who shall serve as Chairman of the Vacancy Board;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Borough of Edgewood hereby appoints **JENNIFER GLEBA** to the Vacancy Board for a term which expires December 31, 2022.

**ADOPTED THIS THE** 3rd day of January 2022, by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

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

**M-14** Ms. Yaney read Resolution 2022-11. Second by Mr. Love.

**RESOLUTION 2022-11**

**WHEREAS** the Borough of Edgewood recognizes the importance of aesthetics and maintaining the character of the Borough; and

**WHEREAS** the Borough of Edgewood has an active and involved Planning Commission; and

**WHEREAS AUDREY WALDOCK** has exhibited the desire, knowledge and ability to contribute positively to the Planning Commission

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Edgewood Borough Council appoints **AUDREY WALDOCK** to the Edgewood Borough Planning Commission to a term which will expire December 31, 2025.

**ADOPTED THIS THE** 3rd day of January 2022, by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

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

**M-15** Mr. Love read Resolution 2022-12. Second by Ms. Yaney.

**RESOLUTION 2022-12**

**WHEREAS** the Borough of Edgewood recognizes the importance of aesthetics and maintaining the character of the Borough; and

**WHEREAS** the Borough of Edgewood has an active and involved Planning Commission; and

**WHEREAS GREGG MICHAELS** has exhibited the desire, knowledge and ability to contribute positively to the Planning Commission

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Edgewood Borough Council appoints **GREGG MICHAELS** to the Edgewood Borough Planning Commission to a term which will expire December 31, 2025.

**ADOPTED THIS THE** 3rd day of January 2022, by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

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

**M-16** Ms. Patel read Resolution 2022-13. Second by Mr. Sherman.

**RESOLUTION 2022-13**

**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 STEPHEN ZELENKO** 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 **STEPHEN ZELENKO** to the Zoning Hearing Board to a term which will expire December 31, 2024 **ADOPTED THIS THE** 3rd day of January 2022, by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

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



**M-17** Dr. Blasiolo read Resolution 2022-14. Second by Ms. Yaney.

**RESOLUTION 2022-14**

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Borough of Edgewood recognizes the need to maintain a Zoning Officer to administer its zoning ordinance, and

**WHEREAS DAVID NAYLOR** has exhibited both the knowledge and ability to provide zoning enforcement and administration for the Borough of Edgewood;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that **DAVID NAYLOR** be appointed Zoning Officer for the Borough of Edgewood until the next reorganization meeting of the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

**ADOPTED THIS THE** 3rd day of January 2022, by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

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

President Petrolla stated that committees would be organized at a later date.

Jim Ireland of the Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department introduced himself to council. He stated that he has served with the VFD for nine years. He has worked with Chief Amos for the past 6 years and has filled in during Mr. Amos's absence. Mr. Ireland gave an update on the department including finding officer candidates, and heavy recruiting for searching for more volunteers. Mr. Ireland invited the council to visit the department or stop in during a training. He discussed some of the accomplishments and statistics of the department from the past year.

Police Chief Robert Payne provided an update of the department. He stated that it is running well, in spite of having three officers that are injured, some with surgeries scheduled. A full time officer was just hired, with prior experience with the City of Pittsburgh Police Department. Chief Payne noted that much of the force is aging, and it's good to have a younger full time officer. He invited Council to visit the department.

**AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS**

**M-18** Mr. Love 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 \$245,865.69. Second Ms. Yaney.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Zahorchak noted that there was a bill payment of \$220,000 from 2021, to close out the year.

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

Dr. Petrolla stated that the next Council Meeting will be Tuesday, January 18 (delayed due to the holiday).

**M-19** It was moved by Mr. Sherman and seconded by Dr. Epitropoulos to adjourn at 8:27 pm.

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



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Rob Zahorchak, Borough Manager