

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD  
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**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD JANUARY 18, 2022**

Vice President Love called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

**ROLL CALL**

Upon roll call the following responded: Upon roll call, the following responded: Dr. Epitropoulos, Mr. Love, Ms. Patel, Dr. Petrolla, Mr. Sherman, and Ms. Yaney. Also present were Solicitor Tom McDermott, Borough Manager Rob Zahorchak. Mayor O'Donnell. Dr. Blasiole and Dr. Petrolla were absent.

**PLEDGE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Rick Belloli, 1122 Mifflin Ave: Mr. Belloli stated that he wanted to provide an update regarding the sewer issue at his property. Another meeting is planned with the borough to work towards a strategy to fix the issue, and he is hopeful that a solution will be found.

Carol Ide, 515 Greendale Ave: Ms. Ide inquired whether the new Council members have been brought up to speed concerning the sewage overflow issue on Greendale Ave. Mr. Zahorchak confirmed that the new members will be fully briefed on the matter.

**OFFICER OATH**

Mayor O'Donnell swore in full time Police Officer Eric Williams:

Oath of Office

I, Eric Williams, 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 Police Officer for the Borough of Edgewood with fidelity.

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS 18th DAY OF JANUARY, 2022.

Mayor Ryan O'Donnell

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**M-1** Ms. Yaney moved to approve the minutes of December 20, 2021 Conditional Use Hearing. Second by Dr. Epitropoulos.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

**M-2** Ms. Yaney moved to approve the minutes of December 20, 2021 Regular Meeting. Second by Dr. Epitropoulos.

DISCUSSION: None

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

**M-3** Ms. Yaney moved to approve the minutes of January 3, 2022 Regular Meeting. Second by Dr. Epitropoulos.

DISCUSSION: None

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

#### **AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS**

**M-4** Ms. Yaney 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 \$77,499.45 and from the sewer fund in the amount of \$9,830.28 for a total of \$87,329.73. Second by Mr. Sherman.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Love noted that there some payments to engineers, otherwise it was a standard bill list.

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

Council Vice President Love stated that committees were formed to include the new council members. He noted that it was decided to reduce the number of committees to four, including: General Government; Pension and Personnel; Public Safety and Infrastructure; and Community Affairs. Council representation for each committee is as follows:

General Government: Mr. Love, Ms. Yaney, Dr. Petrolla

Pension and Personnel: Ms. Patel, Dr. Blasiolo, Mr. Sherman

Public Safety and Infrastructure: Dr. Petrolla, Ms. Yaney, Dr. Epitropoulos, Mr. O'Donnell

Community Affairs: Dr. Blasiolo, Ms. Patel, Mr. Sherman

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT:** Ms. Yaney stated that General Government has not meet. A meeting will be held soon.

**POLICE:** Police Chief Payne reported that the force is still short by two officers who are out for injuries. He noted that one of the officers had surgery on a shoulder, which could take 6 months to heal. He stated that the new full time officer and help from the part time officers, will provide adequate coverage. He stated that there are some equipment items to bring up, including a new car coming in, to replace a current one. There was a plan to replace the radio system, when the department learning that the county received a grant to be spread across multiple departments. That will allow us to replace eight car radios.

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND INFRASTRUCTURE:** Ms. Yaney stated that Public Safety and Infrastructure has not met.

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:** Ms. Patel stated that Community Affairs has not met.

**PENSION AND PERSONNEL:** Ms. Patel stated that Pension and Personnel has not met.

**AD HOC COMMITTEES:** Mr. Zahorchak stated that he sat in on an energy subcommittee. They met to discuss a climate action plan for municipalities in 2022. There was legislation passed in the state senate, and is moving to the house, that may force local governments to limit options for new energy sources. For example, a home-owner can decide if they want to install a gas stove or electric. With the legislation in place, those options may be more limited, although it would apply to new construction only. More details should be available next month.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Mr. McDermott noted that an executive session would be required following the regular meeting to discuss personnel and potential legal matters.

Mayor O'Donnell noted that the WHSD Education Consortium has reconvened and will be meeting tomorrow. He stated that he would be in attendance.

Ms. Yaney inquired if Water Authority reports will still be provided. Mr. Zahorchak replied that updates will be provided by Mr. Fuller at the first meeting of each month. Discussion ensued about committee structure and function, and council meeting structure. Mr. Zahorchak added that the current structure allows items to be voted on as needed, where most municipal councils have one agenda setting meeting, and one voting meeting. Solicitor McDermott noted that it is possible to vote at agenda meeting for matters that are too urgent to wait.

**BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:** Mr. Zahorchak stated that there was discussion concerning the proposed 5G pole for the intersection of Race and Vine. He noted that Mayor O'Donnell met recently with Senator Costa and had a productive conversation. There is a meeting scheduled on Thursday to include elected representatives, Verizon representatives and our other solicitor, who is versed in matters concerning 5G, in order to find an acceptable solution for the location of the pole. Mr. Zahorchak noted that due to weather, garbage collection is being delayed by one day this week, from Thursday to Friday, and has been communicated to residents through social media, a phone message, and on the marquis.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mr. Love stated that a committee of the whole meeting was scheduled for next week on Monday January 24 at 7:30pm.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

- M-5** Ms. Yaney moved to approve the deputization agreement between Tax Collector George Fuller and Jordan Tax Services. Second by Dr. Epitropoulos.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Zahorchak noted that a similar agreement was in place with our former tax collector with Jordan Tax Services, whereby the tax collector uses an agent to collect taxes their behalf. As an independent elected official, they can make their own selection. Mr. Fuller decided to use the same agency as before. This arrangement allows collections to happen in a timely manner, and, as Mr. Fuller is not collecting a stipend in his role, will allow cost savings to the borough.

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

Vice President Love stated that council would enter into executive session following the regular meeting, with no action to be taken.

- M-7** Ms. Yaney motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Second by Dr. Epitropoulos. The Aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**



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Rob Zahorchak, Borough Manager