

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
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BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD JANUARY 2, 2024

Manager Zahorchak collected Certificates of Election and Residency from the newly elected officials and Mayor O'Donnell swore in the newly elected officials.

OATH OF OFFICE

I, Ben Love, 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, Tara Yaney, 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, 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.

Mayor O'Donnell called the reorganizational meeting of the Borough of Edgewood to order at 7:33 pm.

ROLL CALL

Upon roll call the following responded: Dr. Blasiolo, Dr. Epitropoulos, Mr. Love, Ms. Patel, Mr. Sherman, and Ms. Yaney. Also present were Mayor O'Donnell, Police Chief Payne, and Borough Manager Zahorchak. Charlee Rosini was in attendance for Solicitor McDermott. Dr. Petrolla was absent.

PLEDGE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS

Dr. Petrolla joined telephonically at 7:36pm.

Mayor O'Donnell asked for nominations for Council President.

M-1 Mr. Sherman nominated Dr. Petrolla for Council President.

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

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

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

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

M-3 Mr. Love nominated Ms. Yaney 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: Dr. Blasiolo, Dr. Epitropoulos, Mr. Love, Ms. Patel, Mr. Sherman, and Dr. Petrolla. Ms. Yaney abstained. **Motion carried.**

Mayor O'Donnell then turned the gavel temporarily over to Vice President Love, due to Dr. Petrolla's physical absence.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR: No public comment was received.

M-4 Dr. Blasiolo read Resolution 2024-01: Appointing Borough Manager/Secretary. Second by Ms. Yaney.

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
RESOLUTION 2024-01**

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 2024 at a salary of \$94,675.

ADOPTED THIS THE 2nd day of January 2024 by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-5 Ms. Patel read Resolution 2024-02: Appointing Police Chief. Second by Dr. Epitropoulos.

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
RESOLUTION 2024-02**

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

WHEREA, 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 2024 at a salary of \$114,208.

ADOPTED THIS THE 2nd day of January 2024 by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-6 Mr. Sherman read Resolution 2024-03: Appointing Finance Administrator. Second by Dr. Blasiolo.

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
RESOLUTION 2024-03**

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 2024 at a salary of \$66,140.

ADOPTED THIS THE 2nd day of January 2024 by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-7 Dr. Epitropoulos read Resolution 2024-04: Appointing Borough Solicitor. Second by Dr. Blasiolo.

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
RESOLUTION 2024-04**

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 2024 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 2nd day of January 2024 by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-8 Ms. Yaney read Resolution 2024-05: Appointing Building Inspection and Code Enforcement. Second by Dr. Epitropoulos.

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
RESOLUTION 2024-05**

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 2nd day of January 2024 by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-9 Dr. Blasiolo read Resolution 2024-06: Appointing Borough Engineer. Second by Ms. Yaney.

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
RESOLUTION 2024-06**

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 2nd day of January 2024 by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-10 Ms. Patel read Resolution 2024-07: Appointing Bank Depository. Second by Dr. Blasiolo.

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
RESOLUTION 2024-07**

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 2nd day of January 2024 by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-11 Mr. Sherman read Resolution 2024-08: Appointing Auditing Firm. Second by Dr. Blasiolo.

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
RESOLUTION 2024-08**

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 2nd day of January 2024 by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-12 Dr. Epitropoulos read Resolution 2024-09: Appointing Newspaper of General Circulation. Second by Ms. Yaney.

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
RESOLUTION 2024-09**

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 **NEW PITTSBURGH COURIER** as its official newspaper of general circulation. In situations where time is of the essence, the Pittsburgh Post Gazette may be utilized when publication deadlines interfere with holding a public meeting in a timely manner.

ADOPTED THIS THE 2nd day of January 2024 by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

Dr. Petrolla arrived at 8:55pm.

M-13 Ms. Yaney read Resolution 2024-10: Appointing Vacancy Board. Second by Dr. Epitropoulos.

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
RESOLUTION 2024-10**

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, 2024.

ADOPTED THIS THE 2nd day of January 2024 by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-14 Mr. Love read Resolution 2024-11: Appointing Zoning Officer. Second by Dr. Blasiolo.

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
RESOLUTION 2024-11**

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 2nd day of January 2024 by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-15 Dr. Blasiolo read Resolution 2024-12: Appointing Deputy Zoning Officer. Second by Ms. Yaney.

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
RESOLUTION 2024-12**

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

WHEREAS ROB ZAHORCHAK has exhibited both the knowledge and ability to provide zoning enforcement and administration for the Borough of Edgewood;

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

ADOPTED THIS THE 2nd day of January 2024 by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood

DISCUSSION: None.

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

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS

M-16 Dr. Epitropoulos 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 \$112,796.41 and from the sewer fund in the amount of \$3,100 for a total of \$115,896.41. Second by Mr. Sherman.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Zahorchak noted that there was a revised agenda with an updated bill payment amount, to add the liability insurance premium. Other notable payments included brick and concrete street reconstruction and tree trimming.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Zahorchak stated that one of the fire trucks is not working as it should, notably the engine is not powering correctly. A diagnostic was run, which indicated several problems. Fire Chief Reynolds noted that it has been overheating, leaking oil, and not reaching speed reasonably. Discussion ensued over this matter including options to resolve the issue. Mr. Reynolds noted that this vehicle carries rescue equipment.

Police Chief Payne addressed Council concerning a shooting incident at GetGo, that involved a bystander. Chief Payne noted that other GetGo locations in the area close earlier than ours. Discussion ensued over this matter including preventative measures to avoid future issues, specifically if any zoning or other ordinances may apply.

Mr. Zahorchak noted that there will be vacancies for the Zoning Hearing Board, Planning Commission, and the Civil Service Committee. He requested about 3-5 recommendations of qualified residents interested in serving.

Dr. Epitropoulos inquired about approval for repair of the fire rescue vehicle. Mr. Zahorchak replied that he would review options for repair and notify Council. Solicitor Rosini noted that an item could be added to the agenda, as an emergency amendment to be able to authorize payment for needed repairs quickly.

COMMITTEE ACTION

M-17 Ms. Yaney moved to amend the agenda to add a motion to fund the fire truck repair. Second by Dr. Epitropoulos.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-18 Dr. Epitropoulos moved to approve a payment \$25,532.09 from General Fund for the repair of the rescue truck of the Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department. Second by Mr. Sherman

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-19 It was moved by Mr. Sherman and seconded by Dr. Blasiolo to adjourn at 8:30pm. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**



Rob Zahorchak, Borough Manager