

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD**  
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**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD DECEMBER 15, 2025**

Council President Petrola called the meeting to order at 7:40pm.

**ROLL CALL**

Upon roll call, the following responded: Dr. Blasiole, Dr. Epitropoulos, Mr. Love, Mr. Sherman, Ms. Yaney, and Dr. Petrola. Also present were Mayor O'Donnell, Police Chief Payne, and Solicitor McDermott. Borough Manager Zahorchak attended virtually. Ms. Patel was absent.

**PLEDGE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**PROCLAMATION**

Mayor O'Donnell read the Proclamation 2025-03.

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD**

**PROCLAMATION 2025-03**

**WHEREAS**, Edgewood Borough Council wishes to recognize and honor Edgewood Borough Police Chief Robert C. Payne for his seventeen years of service to the borough and its residents, and;

**WHEREAS**, Chief Payne intends to retire at the end of 2025 after devoting nearly two decades to Edgewood and an entire lifetime to law enforcement in a variety of capacities, and;

**WHEREAS**, as a high school graduate, Robert Payne enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1966 and served as a Military Police Officer with the 438<sup>th</sup> Air Police Squadron and was later assigned to the Third Military Police Battalion during his thirteen-month deployment to Vietnam from 1967 -1968 which included the Tet Offensive, and;

**WHEREAS**, after his discharge in 1970, he was hired by the Allegheny County Police Department where he spent several years in the uniform and motorcycle divisions eventually becoming a homicide detective in 1976. During his two decades in homicide he pursued and arrested many notorious criminals including two serial killers, Edward Surratt and Richard Henkel, and;

**WHEREAS**, Bob retired from the county in 1997 and spent several years overseeing the detective squad at Carnegie Mellon University before being hired in 2003 as the first police chief at Carlow College where he created a police department from scratch. From there, he was appointed Chief of Police by the Borough of Pitcairn and then spent several years as chief in Plum Borough before entering the corporate world as a regional security manager for Coca Cola overseeing 17 facilities across the eastern coast, and;

**WHEREAS**, in the spring of 2008, Bob was appointed Chief of Police of the Edgewood Borough Police Department where he spent the next 17 years applying a lifetime of law enforcement experience to running a CALEA-

accredited police department. Chief Payne's decades of experience in criminology and network of fellow police professionals made him an invaluable member of the law enforcement community. It's nearly impossible to find a western Pennsylvania police officer working today who hasn't been taught by or worked with Chief Payne.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, on this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 2025, Edgewood Borough Council and the Mayor wish to congratulate Chief Robert Payne on his retirement and thank him for his unmatched dedication to the community, its residents, and fellow officers during his storied career. Furthermore, Borough Council and the Mayor wish to honor Chief Payne's leadership by proclaiming Friday, December 19, 2025 "Chief Robert C. Payne Day" in Edgewood Borough and wish him nothing but the very best in his well-deserved retirement.

**PROCLAIMED** at the meeting of the Council of the Borough of Edgewood on the 15th day of December, 2025.

Chief Payne addressed the audience in response to the proclamation.

**ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR:**

The following public comment was received.

Al Caruso, Edgewood Foundation: Mr. Caruso provided an update from the Edgewood Foundation. Light Up Edgewood just happened and went well. Toy donations were received with that. Mr. Caruso thanked all those who helped and participated. The annual appeal went out last week. The annual retreat will take place on January 18. Please let the Foundation know if you have any ideas to provide. The Progressive Dinners is happening on February 28 and the Senior Brunch is being planned for May 3.

Oussama El-Rawas and Amanda El-Rawas, 185 Lloyd Ave: Mr. and Mrs. El-Rawas addressed Council concerning a trash collection bill.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**M-1** Mr. Love moved to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2025 Council Meeting. Second by Ms. Yaney.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

**M-2** Mr. Love moved to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2025 Council Meeting. Second by Dr. Epitropoulos.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

**M-3** Mr. Love moved to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2025 Public Hearing. Second by Ms. Yaney.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

### **AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS**

**M-4** Mr. Love moved to authorize the payment of bills for goods and services received by the borough from the General Fund in the amount of \$ \$198,135.24 and from the Sewer Fund in the amount of \$ \$247,948.27 for a total of \$446,083.51. Second by Dr. Epitropoulos.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Love noted that the sewer fund amount was high. There was a large payment to the library from the general fund.

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

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT:** Mr. Love stated that they met and paid bills.

**POLICE:** Nothing was reported.

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND INFRASTRUCTURE:** Ms. Yaney stated that Public Safety and Infrastructure did not meet, but that documents concerning the police chief transition have been discussed and are being worked on.

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:** Nothing was reported.

**PENSION AND PERSONNEL:** Dr. Blasiole stated that there was no meeting but they year end report came and in the market has been good.

**AD HOC COMMITTEES:** Nothing was reported.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Mr. McDermott noted that documents are being finalized for the police transition.

**BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:** Mr. Zahorchak reported that year end expenses are being closed out. We may be able to pave the parking lot this week or next week. Public Works put in 13 hours of snow removal. Mr. Zahorchak noted that there is a revised meeting date schedule. An adjustment was made to the first meeting due to a conflict the first Monday.

### **NEW BUSINESS –**

None.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

**M-5** Dr. Blasiole moved to adopt the 2026 general fund, sewer fund, and highway fund budgets. Second by Mr. Love.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

**M-6** Mr. Love did the second and final reading of Ordinance 1089. Second by Ms. Yaney.

### BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

#### ORDINANCE NO. 1089

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD, ESTABLISHING, LEVYING, AND ASSESSING THE REAL ESTATE TAX MILLAGE RATE FOR GENERAL AND SPECIFIC PURPOSES, AND MAILING/DUE DATES, FOR TAX YEAR 2026.

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED and ENACTED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Edgewood, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, as follows:

ARTICLE I: Edgewood Borough hereby establishes. Levies, and assess the Borough Real Estate Tax Rate (millage) for 2026, at 8.185 [0.008185] mills (i.e. 8.185 mills = \$8.185 for each \$1,000 of assessed value).

ARTICLE II: For the tax year 2026, and for each succeeding year, the following tax bill mailing date and tax due dates (at discount, at face, and at penalty) shall apply:

- A. the Tax Collector of the Borough of Edgewood is directed to mail the Borough real estate tax bills not later than: APRIL 1 ;
- B. the Borough real estate taxes shall be due at a discount of two percent (2%) if payment is received not later than: MAY 31st ;
- C. the Borough real estate taxes shall be due at face amount if payment is received not later than: JULY 31st ;
- D. If Borough real estate taxes remain unpaid after JULY 31st, a penalty of ten percent (10%) of the unpaid taxes owed shall be added. This penalty is in addition to any other penalties, fees or interest which may be due and owing the Borough because of failure to timely pay in accordance with the foregoing.

ARTICLE III: All other ordinances are hereby repealed to the extent that they conflict with the provisions of this ordinance.

ARTICLE IV: In the event that any part of this ordinance is found invalid by any Court of competent jurisdiction, it is the intention of Council that the remaining provisions remain in effect as if set forth separately.

ORDAINED AND ENACTED into law this 15th day of December, 2025.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

**M-7** Council President Petrolla asked, "Shall this Ordinance pass?"

DISCUSSION: None.

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

**M-8** Mr. Sherman moved to adopt Resolution 2025-10: 2026 Wages hereby establishing the wages and salaries for all borough employees not covered by a bargaining agreement. Second by Dr. Epitropoulos.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

**M-9** Mr. Sherman moved to adopt Resolution 2025-11: 2026 Sewage Rates hereby fixing the 2026 sewage rate and surcharge amount. The 2026 surcharge amount remains unchanged at \$5.70 per 1,000 gallons of water used and the ALCOSAN sewage treatment and disposal rate shall be \$19.48/1,000 gal. for ALCOSAN Sewage Treatment/Services, plus a quarterly ALCOSAN Sewage Service Charge of \$26.79/quarter. Second by Dr. Epitropoulos.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

**M-10** Ms. Yaney moved to adopt Resolution 2025-12: 2026 Meeting Dates hereby establishing the meeting dates for all borough council, committee and commission meetings for the year 2026. Second by Dr. Epitropoulos.

DISCUSSION: The update to meeting dates was noted.

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

**M-11** Dr. Epitropoulos moved to accept the 2025 SHACOG Fall Commodities bid prices for the following items:

1. Bagged Ice and Snow Melt – E.H. Griffith, 2250 Palmer Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15218
- a. \$9.70 per 50 lb. bag
2. Penn State blend grass seed– E.H. Griffith, 2250 Palmer Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15218
- a. \$60.75 per 25 lb. bag

3. Infield Conditioner – Advanced Turf Solutions, 600 Seco Rd, Monroeville, PA 15146
  - a. \$16 per 50 lb. bag (20-39 bags)
  - b. \$14 per 50 lb. bag (40-79 bags)
  - c. \$13.75 per 50 lb. bag (80 + bags)Second by Dr. Blasiole.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Zahorchak noted that this is a new process for purchasing to get a reduced bulk rate.

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

Dr. Petrola thanked the governing body for their service over the year.

**M-12** It was moved by Dr. Blasiole and seconded by Ms. Yaney to adjourn the meeting at 8:27pm. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**



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Rob Zahorchak, Borough Manager