

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD  
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**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD MAY 18, 2020**

**This meeting was held virtually using GoToMeeting.**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Upon roll call, the following responded: Mr. Bright, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Love, Mr. O'Donnell, Ms. Yaney, and Mr. Wainright. Councilmember Petrolla arrived at 7:40 pm. Solicitor Tim Barry and Mayor Wilson and Junior Councilperson Benjamin Bermann were also present.

**ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Gwen DiPietro, 430 Locust- I am writing about the proposal before you to build a Passive building on the parking lot of Edgewood Towne Center. I believe this proposal warrants serious consideration.

First, the borough should be excited that someone is willing to undertake any needed remediation! That site was long an industrial site, and some level of remediation will likely be needed if it's ever to be back into productive use. Right now, it's just a parking lot and scrub brush, earning minimal if any taxes.

Second, I believe the term "passive" design refers in this case to highly energy efficient design and operation. This also is a selling point for the borough, to be the host for cutting edge construction. Also this technology and design construct will lower costs for HVAC for the residents, and lower our area's carbon footprint and climate impact.

Third, I'm glad to see we are thinking about a version of elder care. For many decades, the big buildings on Edgewood Avenue in Wilksburg (down the block from the borough building) were "rest homes" for the elderly, I think run by the Presbyterian Church. This was a priority for the area for many years, and as the population ages, isn't this nice to continue this early mission, to provide safe, comfortable housing for the community elders?

Fourth, if you as the Borough Council were willing to change the zoning to squeeze Square Cafe and take all of that heat, I believe you would find changing the zoning for this project to be much less controversial. That's your job, to update old rules and zoning to reflect current and future needs.

I think this is an exciting project.

Sincerely,

Gwen DiPietro, PhD

430 Locust St

**M-1** Mr. O'Donnell moved to approve the meeting minutes May 4, 2020. Second by Ms. Yaney.

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

Dr. Petrolla joined the meeting at 7:40 pm.

**AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS**

**M-2** Mr. O'Donnell I move 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 \$18,625.58 and from the Sewer fund in the amount of \$2,445.20 for a total of \$21,070.78. Second Mr. Fuller.

DISCUSSION: Mr. O'Donnell noted a very routine bill payment primarily to Duquesne Light and workers compensation insurance.

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

**Committee Reports:**

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT:** Mr. O'Donnell stated his review of the bill payment list would stand as his report.

**POLICE:** Mayor Wilson reported that all of the vehicles are running well and that all shifts are covered for June.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Mr. Fuller said the committee did not meet.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** Mr. Bright said the committee did not meet.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Mr. Love said the committee did not meet.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE:** Ms. Yaney said the committee did not meet.

**PERSONNEL:** Dr. Petrolla said the committee did not meet

**PENSION:** Mr. Fuller stated the committee did not meet.

**AD HOC COMMITTEES-**

**CONNECT:** Mr. Zahorchak stated he attended several webinars hosted by CONNECT, most recently one with representatives from DCED and Allegheny County Economic Development focused on municipal revenue streams post COVID-19. A modelling tool is being developed to project revenue shortfalls both near and long term.

**WOODLAND HILLS SD EDUCATION CONSORTIUM:** Mr. O'Donnell reported on a recent email from WHSD Board Member Jamie Glasser outlining construction at Dixon School and a probable tax increase for FY2020-2021.

**VOILENCE PREVENTION COALITION:** Did not meet.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Mr. Barry addressed council on his recent review of the Families First Act and can answer any questions council may have regarding this legislation.

Mr. O'Donnell called out himself for forgetting to discuss the results of the 2019 internal borough audit. He stated that there were no findings or disagreements with management and that overall the audit was successful. Mr. Barry stated that council should make a motion to accept the audit as presented. A discussion on the motion ensued.

**BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:** Mr. Zahorchak thanked borough finance director Janet Gerber for her work on the audit. It is because of her that the borough has not had any findings in a long time.

In discussion with the Mayor and Chief of Police, parking enforcement and ticketing would resume June 3, 2020 barring any objection. None was heard.

Mr. Zahorchak recommended decreasing the amount budgeted for road paving in 2020 in anticipation of a revenue shortfall due to COVID-19. The bid can be structured to give us some flexibility on award if pricing is favorable. A final program will be provided to the public works committee for review.

Mr. Zahorchak reported that he is starting to revise the garbage contract bid document since the current contract with Republic Services expires at years end.

Lastly, Mr. Zahorchak recommended cancelling Community Day due to COVID 19 based on the recommendations of the solicitor and chief of police. State guidelines for large gatherings make it nearly impossible to host a conventional community day. Mr. Wainright and Dr. Petrolla agreed with this recommendation and advised monitoring public health advisories to see if modified events can occur. A discussion ensued about having fireworks or not at a later time. Zambelli gives the option to cancel without penalty or postpone to a later date. The solicitor advised cancelling and rebooking at a later date if possible and the manager said that Zambelli could accommodate that.

The solicitor also stated there is legislation being drafted to expand the use of tax anticipation notes.

Mr. Bright inquired why there might be a budget shortfall and the manager explained that some of our funding streams, including RAD, earned income tax, and real estate transfer tax may be negatively impacted by the impact of COVID-19 on the economy. Mr. Wainright asked if there was a need to explore a tax anticipation note at this time. Mr. Zahorchak replied that there is enough room in the budget with some adjustments to remain in good financial condition.

Ms. Yaney reported on her recent visit to a Passive House. This is the type of construction technique being proposed by AM Rodriguez for the Parcel D-3 development. She explained the metrics which define a Passive House and how it is constructed. Ms. Yaney stated that an owner of one of these homes located in Squirrel Hill invited all of council to tour her home when it was safe to do so.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

M-3

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD**

**RESOLUTION 2020-21**

**WHEREAS;** the citizens of the Borough of Edgewood rely on local government to experience a high quality of life in our community; and

**WHEREAS;** local governments work 24 hours a day, seven days a week to deliver municipal services such as fire, police and emergency medical services to create safe communities; and

**WHEREAS;** the methods of funding these vital municipal services are not always clearly understood by citizens; and

**WHEREAS;** it is one of the responsibilities of municipal officials to ensure that legislators, media and citizens understand their local government through open and frequent communication using various avenues and means; and

**WHEREAS;** through education and awareness, citizens, community leaders and municipal staff can work together to ensure that services provided by The Borough of Edgewood can remain exceptional elements of the quality of life of our community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that The Borough of Edgewood joins with the Allegheny League of Municipalities in declaring the third week of May (May 19-22) as Local Government week.

**ADOPTED THIS THE 18<sup>th</sup>** day of May, 2020 by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

Second Mr. O'Donnell.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-4 Mr. Fuller moved to accept the 2019 borough audit as prepared by Maher Duessel. Second Mr. Fuller.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-5 Mr. Fuller moved to place the 2019 borough audit on display for public inspection. Second Mr. Bright

DISCUSSION: None.

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

- M-6** Mr. Fuller moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Second by Dr. Petrolla. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**



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Rob Zahorchak, Borough Manager