

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD  
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**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD February 1, 2021**

This meeting was held virtually using GoToMeeting.

Council 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, Dr. Petrolla, Ms. Yaney, and Mr. Wainright. Mayor Jack Wilson, Manager Rob Zahorchak, Chief Bob Payne, Solicitor Tim Barry, and Junior Councilperson Ben Bermann were also present.

Mayor Wilson read the following proclamation:

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD**  
**PROCLAMATION 2021-01**

**WHEREAS**, Richard Hastings Keller was born on May 29, 1949 and died December 18, 2020 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Keller graduated from the Carnegie Mellon University School of Architecture specializing in public housing and apartment and condo design, and;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Keller ran a successful architecture practice in Edgewood Borough for over 30 years, and;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Keller served for many years as a member of the Edgewood Borough Planning Commission and Recreation Department, and;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Keller was instrumental in the construction of the Edgewood Borough marquis located at the entrance of the borough building, and;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Keller devoted many hours volunteering with and coaching Edgewood youth basketball at the Edgewood High School.

**NOW, THEREFORE** on this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2021, the Office of the Mayor of the Borough of Edgewood, in partnership with Borough Council, honors the life and service of Richard H. Keller and his numerous personal and professional accomplishments as an Edgewood resident and proclaims Friday, February 5, 2021 as "**RICHARD KELLER DAY.**"

**PROCLAIMED** at the meeting of the Council of the Borough of Edgewood the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2021 by the Mayor of the Borough of Edgewood.

**ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Mr. Zahorchak stated that no public comments were received.

**AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS**

**M-1** Mr. O'Donnell 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 \$71,812.89 and from the sewer fund in the amount of \$30.00, for a total of \$71,842.89. Second by Mr. Fuller.

DISCUSSION: Mr. O'Donnell stated that the largest expense was in the amount of \$33,245.00 for a partial payment towards the traffic light on Maple. Also paid was \$11,100 towards the audit which has begun, approximately \$12,000 towards road salting expenses, and a bill of \$5,500 to a plumber for repairs in the Fire Department garage.

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 ACTION**

**M-2** Mr. Love moved to enter into an intergovernmental cooperation agreement with the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments to participate in the TCVCOG Uniform Construction Code Appeals Board.

Second by Mr. O'Donnell.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Zahorchak stated that there is necessity for an appeal process, but not on a regular enough basis to maintain a borough appeals board. Utilizing the Turtle Creek COG satisfies that requirement, with an entity already equipped to handle appeals, and the added benefit of avoiding any potential dissention between neighbors in the process.

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-3** Mr. Love moved to re-advertise for sale a 2000 Pierce Dash Fire Rescue Engine with a minimum reserve of \$20,000. Second by Dr. Petrolla.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Zahorchak stated that the original reserve price of \$30,000 was not receiving interest, and wishes to re-list the engine with a lower reserve of \$20,000, in an effort to sell the vehicle.

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.**

## BUSINESS MEETING

**VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT** Mr. Zahorchak stated that there is nothing to report.

**WATER AUTHORITY REPORT** Mr. Fuller reported that the Water Authority met for their re-organization meeting. The same officers were reappointed. There were two speakers present. One was a local service group calling for an extension of the moratorium on shut-offs. The other speaker was a local landlord asking to terminate the moratorium. The landlord has payments owed by tenants in the amount of \$16,000, and continuing the moratorium could bankrupt him. Adding to that challenge is \$1.2 million in delinquent water/sewer payments, and the responsibility of sewer bills falls back to the communities.

A pump is being replaced at Nadine's for capacity being too high, after they lost a bulk water bid to Monroeville/Plum. The plan is to replace the pump with a variable drive, however that comes at a high cost.

**RECREATION REPORT** Mr. Zahorchak reported that registration for Virtual Karate is currently open. Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will return this year. Now that more is known about COVID, we are more prepared to plan around it. Safety measures will be in place, such as having multiple hunts, divided around the field, and allowing time between each hunt to minimize crowds. The event will take place at 1pm on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, with a rain date of Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is available to help scatter eggs around the field, that would be greatly appreciated!

**PLANNING COMMISSION** Mr. Zahorchak stated that the Planning Commission did not meet.

**COG REPORT** Mayor Wilson stated that there is nothing to report.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT** Mr. Barry had nothing to report.

**BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:** Mr. Zahorchak reported that the audit is in process and there is nothing to report so far. Mr. Zahorchak attended the ALCOSAN regionalization process meeting. The meeting was made up of presentations to explain what the regionalization of sewer systems is, and what it means to local communities. A webinar of this meeting will be made available soon that council can view.

Solicitor Barry raised some concerns regarding entering into an agreement with ALCOSAN, specifically about Edgewood's responsibility in the form of liability and indemnification, and the length of time we could be bound into such agreement. He discussed how Edgewood has been dutiful in its compliance with consent orders and maintaining our sewer system to date. If we transfer control to ALCOSAN we could be bound by an agreement to pay for costly repairs, with special concern for spots along Frick Park. This could be a potential issue if ALCOSAN forces its own contracted work, and then bills Edgewood, as opposed to the borough being for bidding on its own contracts. Mr. Barry has requested further discussion with ALCOSAN regarding specifics of how the agreement would work, in order to avoid potentially unforeseen expense liability in the future. Discussion then ensued concerning our history of working collectively in the past and ALCOSAN's goals for working jointly going forward. More meetings with ALCOSAN are upcoming, and the process to discuss an agreement could take several months.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mr. O'Donnell reported that he recently approached colleagues of the General Government Committee to discuss the possibility of changing the prosecution status of the possession of small amounts of marijuana to just a fine, and to decriminalize it at the municipal level. It is Mr. O'Donnell's belief that this would help to address the unfairness towards those who are unable to obtain a medical marijuana card, and feels this is in line with action being taken in other municipalities in the state. Chief Payne gave his full support of this action. He stated that he has personally seen the disparities in enforcement over situations of possession. He also believes decriminalization of is in line with a likely legalization of marijuana possession in the future. Furthermore, he believes it would allow for better guidance for officers handling cases of possession and provide more standardization in policy.

Mr. Wainright asked Solicitor Barry for his input, specifically on whether as a municipality we have the authority to decriminalize possession as compared to state laws. Mr. Barry stated that he has done some research on the topic, and that in PA possession of marijuana is considered a misdemeanor, even in small amounts. All example Pennsylvania ordinances recognize that so long as marijuana is listed as a controlled substance, it shall be illegal to possess. These ordinances grade the penalty for possession as a non-traffic summary offense as opposed to a misdemeanor. However, none of the ordinances usurp state law and it would be within the discretion of police officers to charge according to state law. It does make a statement though about the inconsistencies with charging someone who can't afford to obtain a medical marijuana card versus those who can. With no strong feelings opposed to the matter, council as a whole was open to further discussion on the topic. Mr. Wainright instructed General Government to research the topic further and enlighten council with their findings before deciding whether or not to move forward with enacting any change to procedure, in the form of a borough ordinance.

**M-6** It was moved by Mr. Fuller and seconded by Mr. O'Donnell to adjourn at 8:17 pm.  
The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**



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Rob Zahorchak, Borough Manager