

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
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BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD JULY 19, 2021

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

ROLL CALL

Upon roll call, the following responded: Mr. Fuller, Mrs. Gleba, Mr. Love, Mr. O'Donnell, Ms. Yaney, and Mr. Wainright. Also present were Solicitor Tim Barry and Borough Manager Rob Zahorchak. Mayor Wilson, Dr. Petrolla and Junior Councilperson Ben Bermann were absent.

PLEDGE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Beth Battaline, 15 Washington St: Ms. Battaline first thanked Mr. Zahorchak for his response to her letter, and for clarification on how the community group could work together with Council. She noted that she is still perusing the letter and noted that she has some questions. Ms. Battaline stated that she checked the Borough webpage to see the Recreation page and noted that there is not a name listed there. Mr. Zahorchak replied that the Borough has a part-time Recreation and Community Outreach Coordinator, but as the person employed in that position has changed over the years, the name has not been listed. Ms. Battaline continued by noting that she was searching for a form to hold a booth at Community Day. Mr. Zahorchak stated that the recruiting of tables is working differently this year. In the past, the tables were run by community groups that would send a spokesperson to advertise their organization. This year we are using that space as an artist market.

Ms. Battaline stated that she had reviewed the budgets that were posted on the webpage and noted that there was a recreation portion listed in 2018, '19, and '20. She asked what happens with that balance. Mr. Zahorchak responded that the balance goes back to the general fund. Mr. Wainright interjected to note that the public comments time is not intended to be used as a question and answer session, but is intended to make a statement to Council, lasting no more than five minutes. He added that residents are able to email Council any time with questions. Ms. Battaline responded that she had no more questions at this time, and that she hopes the community groups' issues with Koenig Field can be addressed soon.

Carole Ide – 515 Greendale Ave: Ms. Ide stated that she is concerned about the sewage overflow issue at Koenig Field. She understands that the issue has come up over the years, and the fact that there has been disagreement with Wilksburg over how to handle it. She noted that it is a serious issue though, as it flows over into residents' yards. Raw sewage is in the overflow, which stinks and makes a mess of the field and nearby properties. She noted that even after years of requests, there has been no resolution to this issue. She inquired if there is at least some temporary solution to mitigate the issue until it can be fixed permanently. She noted that it would be beneficial to the community group that is trying to make improvements to Koenig Field, as well as the residents living near it.

Mr. Wainright asked Borough Manager Zahorchak if there is any update to the issue since the last time it was brought up. Mr. Zahorchak responded that there has not been any change since that time. The overflow does belong to Wilksburg. Discussions are still open for multi-municipal sewer work, amongst Edgewood, Swissvale,

Wilksburg, Braddock Hills, and the City of Pittsburgh. Discussion ensued concerning ownership of the overflow, and possible solutions. Mr. Wainright stated that as citizens, something that can be done is to contact ALCOSAN to try to move the issue forward. As to the consent order which was discussed previously, Mr. Zahorchak noted that it was supposed to be available either now, or in the near future. This is a five-year document that is an agreement between the municipalities and the DEP (Department of Environmental Protections). By the end of that time, there are certain items that must be met as a reduction of overflow, which would be enforced by the health department.

Jess Sullivan – 511 Greendale: Ms. Sullivan stated that she is also concerned about the sewage overflow at Koenig Field. She moved to the borough in 2019 and noted her frustration in dealing with that in this timeframe. She further noted the unsanitary conditions it creates, with bacteria, and is upset at the lack of notice provided by the borough. She asked what the borough can do to minimize this issue. Mr. O'Donnell responded that in terms of a long term solution, to fix it properly is beyond the budget of an individual community. So the solution would be to hand over the infrastructure to an entity that does have the means to complete a project of this scope, in this case, ALCOSAN. That is the goal being worked towards through the consent order. In the short term, and on a local level, Mr. O'Donnell noted that we could provide more communication to residents concerning the issue and is happy to hear resident suggestions on better ways to do that.

Mr. Wainright assigned Mr. Love and the Public Works committee to look into possible short term solutions to the overflow issue that would be satisfactory to the community and within the borough's budget, until a long term solution is able to be enacted. Mr. O'Donnell noted that the issue was being discussed previously, when he started on Council, around 2016 or 2017, and believed there was a conversation around possible short term solutions. He asked if other Council members may remember what was discussed then. Mr. Fuller responded that the discussion at that time is what led to moving the playground. Previously there was a basketball court on the side of the main field area. That was removed, and a new playground was built in its place. The old playground was removed from the area where the overflow is. He noted that unfortunately there really isn't much else that can be done to remedy the situation, other than avoiding the area in times of heavy rains until a proper fix can be put in place. Mr. Fuller continued to explain that part of the reason for the extent of the problem now is due to a previous consent order where Wilksburg closed off some of their overflows. That caused the Koenig Field overflow to spill over at a greater rate. We as a borough can't force Wilksburg to fix the issue.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M-1 Mr. O'Donnell moved to approve the June 21, 2021 regular meeting minutes. Second by Mr. Fuller.

The Aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**

M-2 Mr. O'Donnell moved to approve the July 6, 2021 Comcast Franchise Agreement public hearing minutes as amended. Second Ms. Yaney.

The Aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**

M-3 Mr. O'Donnell moved to approve the July 6, 2021 regular meeting minutes. Second Mrs. Gleba.

The Aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS

M-4 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 71,342.19 and from the sewer fund in the amount of \$587.25 for a total of \$71,929.44. Second by Mr. Fuller.

DISCUSSION: Mr. O'Donnell stated that there were online bill payments in the amount of \$37,511.24 that were not shown in the initial agenda. Otherwise, the only item of note was a payment to the engineer.

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

Mr. Wainright noted that concerning the overflow issue at Koenig Field, one option is to write a formal letter to the DEP. Discussion ensued over the impacts of writing such a letter, and options around that. It was decided to enter into executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss further.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

POLICE: Mr. Zahorchak reported that the 2021 Explorer has been received and is waiting to be outfitted prior to use. He added that on the agenda is the sale of an older police vehicle. The body cameras are also active now and working well.

Mr. Zahorchak commended our first responders for their work during the recent storms. Officer Susalla, the Emergency Response Coordinator did an excellent job in his duties, and Mr. Zahorchak noted that he personally thanks him for his service. Mr. Fuller added that he is very thankful to the Police, Fire Department and Public Works for their efforts in managing the situation. He noted that there were no major problems resulting from the storms, and that it could have been very different without the quick response and efficiency of those groups. The rest of Council was in agreement with those statements.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Mr. Fuller stated that besides the commendation for our first responders, there was nothing to report.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Gleba stated that there was nothing to report from Community Development.

PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Love reported that Public Works did not meet.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Ms. Yaney reported that Community Service did not meet. She noted that they have been discussing the project at Koenig Field, and did have a walk through of the space with an engineer to get an idea of pricing for fixes related to that.

PERSONNEL: Mr. Zahorchak reported that Personnel has been tasked with the responsibility of searching for a replacement for Solicitor Barry. They have developed a short list of potential candidates and are moving forward with developing interview questions and scheduling interviews.

PENSION: Mr. Fuller reported that Pension did not meet. He noted that markets have generally been up, and pensions should be in good shape.

CONNECT: Mr. Zahorchak reported that there is a strategic plan meeting scheduled for Thursday.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Mr. Barry stated that he had nothing to report.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Zahorchak stated that he spoke with Jr. Councilman Ben Bermann. He stated that due to Mr. Bermann's internship/job schedule, he is no longer able to attend council meetings. Once Mr. Bermann formally submits his resignation, there will be an opening for a Jr. Councilperson.

Mr. Zahorchak reported that he did a walkthrough of Koenig Field with a representative from Lennon-Smith, our engineer to take formal inventory of the space, specifically the retaining wall by the fieldhouse, tennis courts, and sidewalks. They will develop a probable cost estimate for repairs/reconstruction. That should be available in a month. He noted that they also began the walk through of the 2021 paving program and had nothing more to report on that at this time.

Mr. Zahorchak stated that the storms of July 7 did cause moderate damage to some areas of the borough. Specifically, three of the borough's street trees were affected; two on E. End Ave, and one on W. Hutchinson St. Davey's Tree Removal started removing the damaged trees quickly. Sidewalk will need to be replaced in the area of the upended tree on W. Hutchinson. Residents will repair the sidewalk on E. End Ave. Davey's Tree will be assessing the status of other aging borough trees, specifically on E. End, to determine if there are others that need to be removed soon. Otherwise, Public Works has been performing cleanup around the borough, including removing limbs from Koenig Field. He noted that one wall of the dog park at Dickson Park was destroyed by a tree. It was too wet to review the extent of the damage. Once it dries out, they will look at that further. There were some catch basins that were blown out and need to be repaired.

Mr. Zahorchak noted that on the agenda, there is a list of items for sale. This follows a cleanout of old equipment, that he wishes to advertise for sale.

Mr. Fuller inquired if anything was known of the Commercial Street Bridge project. Ms. Yaney noted that there was a meeting scheduled about it for Tuesday. Discussion ensued concerning the project, and the added challenge of construction given its location over the Nine Mile Run watershed.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business was reported.

COMMITTEE ACTION

M-5 Mr. Love moved to authorize the Borough Manager to establish an account with the Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT) to hold funds received by the borough from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Funds in this account shall be spent only in accordance with guidance from the United States Treasury Department. Second by Mr. O'Donnell.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Gleba inquired as to the amount that is being received. Mr. Zahorchak responded that it is \$157,000 this time, and another \$157,000 is expected at this time next year. He noted that the advice has been to put that money into a separate account, until the Treasury Department provides more advice on how it may used. Otherwise, there may be at the risk of having to pay it back.

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

M-6 Mr. Fuller moved to advertise for sale the following items as is:
2013 Dodge Charger Police Car
1997 Ford Bucket Truck
2008 Ford F350 Pickup Truck
Twelve (12) pedestrian signals
Six (6) traffic signals

Second by Ms. Yaney.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

Council was in executive session from 8:06 – 8:27 p.m. No action was taken.

M-7 Mr. Fuller motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. Second by Mr. O'Donnell. The Aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**



Rob Zahorchak, Borough Manager