

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
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BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD MARCH 21, 2022

Council President Petrolla called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

ROLL CALL

Upon roll call the following responded: Upon roll call, the following responded: Dr. Blasiolo, Dr. Epitropoulos, Mr. Love, Ms. Patel, Mr. Sherman, Ms. Yaney, and Dr. Petrolla. Also present were Solicitor Tom McDermott, Community Outreach Coordinator Abigail Ault (for Borough Manager Zahorchak), Police Chief Robert Payne, and Mayor Ryan O'Donnell.

PLEDGE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

An audit review presentation for 2021 was provided by Maher-Duessell.

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

Rick Belloli, 1122 Mifflin Ave: Mr. Belloli gave an update about the storm water management issue under his property, with concern that there could still be damage without water leaking into the basement. He distributed a letter to Council from a structural engineer, concerning the issue.

Jacob Poole, 560 Allenby Ave: Mr. Poole spoke regarding personal issues and interactions within the neighborhood. He provided a note to Council with his concerns.

Stephanie Ulmer, 427 Elmer St: Ms. Ulmer thanked the Borough for requesting resident input regarding the possible replacement of brick with asphalt on Elmer St. She listed some advantages of maintaining a brick street and hopes that will be considered.

Meghan Jones, 124 Maple Ave: Ms. Jones stated that she had some updates to provide on behalf of the Edgewood Foundation. The newcomer's reception is being planned for May, pending the receipt of the property transfer report. Details are forthcoming, once that is received. Wine and Chocolate will be held on November 19 at the Edgewood Club, and the Progressive dinner is taking place on May 21. If anyone has any questions, they are welcome to email the board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M-1 Mr. Love moved to approve the minutes of February 22, 2022 Council Meeting. Second by Ms. Yaney.

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-2 Mr. Love moved to approve the minutes of March 11, 2022 Special Council Meeting. 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.**

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS

M-3 Mr. Love 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 \$32,657.00 and from the sewer fund in the amount of \$200,476.31 for a total of \$233,133.31. Second by Ms. Yaney.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Love stated that items of significance included \$9,000 for trees and \$6,000 for tax refunds on reassessments.

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.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT: Mr. Love stated that besides information on bills, there was nothing to report.

POLICE: Chief Payne reported that there was an armed robbery at the Edgewood Avenue Express. The perpetrator shot Manny, the owner/manager. The bullet grazed him and lodged into his clothing. The person shot again, ran out of the store and took off in a car. He was later arrested with assistance from the county and was identified and charged. This person was responsible for several robberies over the past few weeks.

On Saturday there was a non-fatal stabbing incident at the GetGo at the Towne Center, followed by a scare-shooting. County Police were brought in to investigate. Chief Payne stated that he has some concern about GetGo staying open 24 hours. Most other stores close over-night. He noted that being open during overnight hours can create susceptibility to crime. He added that since they have been operating 24 hours, there have been 41 incidents that took place after 10pm, with 12 arrests. Furthermore, GetGo has inadequate security to handle these issues. He has spoken with the mayor about ways to bring up the issue with GetGo. He also noted that Getgo in Wilkinsburg was dealing with a similar situation, and they decided to adjust their hours as a result.

There was a promotional exam (Civil Service Exam) given and one candidate passed, Officer Livingston. He will go before an oral board, then complete a written portion, a physical fitness test, and then will be able to get promoted.

Dr. Blasiolo inquired as to what the current policing arrangement is with Giant Eagle. Chief Payne responded that we used to provide police detail there. They were pulled during the pandemic in order to reduce exposure to our officers. Giant Eagle now uses a Deputy Sherriff to provide security in the building.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Ms. Yaney stated that Public Safety and Infrastructure did not meet, but a meeting should be scheduled when Mr. Zahorchak returns.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS: Dr. Blasiolo stated that Community Affairs met to discuss the Laurel Street Tot Lot. When Mr. Zahorchak returns, a more formal report can be given.

PENSION AND PERSONNEL: Ms. Patel stated that Pension and Personnel did not meet.

AD HOC COMMITTEES: Ms. Yaney stated that the new Solar Co-op is online now where people can sign up. Duquesne Light provided a presentation at a recent CONNECT meeting. It is now possible to report street light outages on the Duquesne Light website.

Mayor O'Donnell stated that he attended the COG dinner where Senator Costa spoke about funding.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Mr. McDermott noted that on the agenda is a presentation about the multi-family age-restricted housing unit to be built at the Towne Center. Besides that, there are some zoning applications for a proposed coffee shop conversion of the former autobody shop on Edgewood Ave, work on the School for the Deaf, and the Port Authority may wish to add easements for temporary bus stops. There is interest in moving forward with a comprehensive plan on agenda items. An executive session would not be required this evening.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT: Ms. Ault reported that Mr. Zahorchak is working on getting a Public Safety and Infrastructure meeting scheduled upon his return from paternity leave to discuss several issues. He is in the process of getting quotes for work on the tennis courts and the Laurel Street playground rehabilitation. Finally, the borough's Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 9 at 1pm. Volunteers would be greatly appreciated to help spread several thousand eggs around the field.

COMMITTEE ACTION

M-4 Mr. Sherman moved to approve, with conditions, the A.M. Rodriguez Associates, Inc. Land Development Plan for the redevelopment of the Lot D-3 of GetGo #3747 Plan, subject to and contingent upon the conditions set forth in the accompanying decision document. Second by Dr. Epitropoulos.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Love asked if it had been recommended by Planning Commission. Solicitor McDermott confirmed that that had given their approval. He noted that there was a revision made, and representatives from A.M. Rodriguez were available if Council wished to receive a summary of the plan. Mr. Love inquired if this was the final step in moving forward with the development plan. Mr. McDermott stated that it is the conditional final approval and is the last step for Council in approving the plan.

A presentation was provided by A.M. Rodriguez, including specs and details of the building and visuals of the layout and the planned exterior. They noted that one issue to still be resolved is a walkable connection to the rest of the Towne Center. They will have sidewalks around the building and will have a painted crosswalk for the time-being.

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 Dr. Epitropoulos moved to accept the low bid submitted by Swede Construction Corporation for Community Development Block Grant Year 47 ADA curb ramp & sidewalk improvement contract in the amount of \$32,600 and to authorize the Turtle Creek Valley COG to execute all contract documents on behalf of the borough to begin construction. Second by Mr. Love.

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. Love moved to approve the purchase of a 2022 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor from Jim Shorkey Auto Group at the COSTAR's price of \$46,292 including upfitting. This is an increase of \$144 from the 2022 budgeted amount. Second by Dr. Blasiolo.

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 moved to advertise a 2015 Dodge Charger police car for sale as is to the highest bidder via public auction. 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-8 Ms. Patel moved to exonerate Tax Collector Maureen Smith and her deputy, Jordan Tax Service, for 2021 collections and turn over the uncollected face balance of \$25,515.42 to the borough's delinquent tax collector PA Municipal Services for collection. Second by Ms. Yaney.

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.**

NEW BUSINESS: None.

- M-9 Dr. Blasiolo motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Second by Ms. Yaney. The Aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**



Rob Zahorchak, Borough Manager