

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
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BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD APRIL 4, 2022

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

ROLL CALL

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

PLEDGE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Rick Belloli, 1122 Mifflin Ave: Mr. Belloli stated that, regarding the stormwater issue under his property, he has additional concerns currently with a potential increase in rain during the Spring season. He said that he would like clarity on a timeline to resolve the issue.

Carol Ide, 515 Greendale Ave: Ms. Ide inquired if there was any update on the grant for sewer work of the overflow at Koenig Field. Council responded that we do not currently have a timeline, but the deadline for the grant which was submitted was two weeks ago. They did note that snaking (televising) of the sewer system would be happening soon, as one step in the process.

Evan Burbridge, 123 W. Hutchinson: Mr. Burbridge provided an update on the Shade Tree Committee. He stated that they just elected a new member to the committee. They are still looking for additional members. They have planted three street trees so far this year, and would like to do more. They will be looking for additional areas where trees may be able to be planted, as a way to replace overall tree cover for trees that are being cut down in the borough. He noted that many of the trees being removed are on private property, which limits options for placing new trees. The committee also helps maintain the space around Memorial Park, and wishes to add more native plants to the landscape of the neighborhood.

Mayor O'Donnell inquired as to who would be the best person to contact if someone were interested in being involved in the committee. Mr. Burbridge responded that they could contact him. Ms. Yaney asked about the possibility of adding labels for native plants. Mr. Burbridge replied that they could do that, but there are other issues to address first. Discussion ensued over tree planting and other planting related matters.

Ms. Patel arrived at the meeting at 7:42 pm.

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS

M-1 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 \$123,693.28. Second by Mr. Sherman.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Love noted that there was a large payment to the library, and there were a number of online bills that came through from February and March.

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 ACTION

None.

BUSINESS MEETING

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT Mr. Ireland reported that there were 155 calls so far this year. The maintenance cost of the rescue truck is increasing; approximately \$2-3,000 has been spent on it in the past two months. He is in discussion with one of the vendors concerning the increase.

Mr. Ireland stated that he had a request for Council. With the construction taking place in Ardmore Blvd in Forest Hills, call responding has become more complicated, with a potential for longer wait times for ambulance back up to arrive. He noted that there were two recent calls for anaphylactic shock recently, and that our own responders are not able to be equipped at all times with Epi-pens in order to best handle such situations. The Epi-pens expire, and the current budget is not sufficient to keep them stocked at all times. Mr. Ireland requested that Epi-pens be procured so our crew is able to handle potential situations before an ambulance arrives. He has special concern now as warmer weather arrives, with team sports happening and an increase of kids at Koenig Field. Council inquired as to an estimate of funding needed to cover this. Mr. Ireland responded that it would be approximately \$1,000. Council replied that they would be able to help the VFD procure the Epi-pens needed.

Police Chief Payne provided a brief update. He stated that the promotional process is moving forward for the candidate who passed the exam. He stated that the radio system currently in place is aging. They are getting eight free radios for the Police and Fire Departments, but they have twelve portables that will need to be upgraded, in order to work with a digital system. Chief Payne and Chief Ireland discussed funding, including a county grant and using some funds already set aside, and either a contract option, or possible leasing plan. Upgrading these radios would allow the Police and Fire systems to communicate with one another, which is not able to happen now. Some other local departments are already upgrading systems. The body cams should be back soon.

WATER AUTHORITY REPORT Mr. Fuller reported that the lead line replacement work is moving forward, with two companies performing the work, Jetjack and M. O'Herron. They need pipes, but they have been able to start work. Per the EPA, by 2024/25 water companies will have to report what is in their systems. Lines would have to be identified, and with restoration following digging, it would cost about \$418,000 based on recent quotes. The water company is currently going through a reorganization. Finally, a Right to Know request was submitted for all customer addresses, including all residents in our Borough. The request was denied.

RECREATION REPORT Ms. Ault reported that Basketball has wrapped up for this year. This was our first season since the pandemic started, and kids were very happy to be back on the court. Registration for Tball and Softball opens on April 15 and goes until May 15. Games and practices take place at Koenig Field starting in June. Volunteers are still needed to help coach Tball.

Our Easter Egg Hunt is planned for Saturday at 1pm. The weather however is not looking promising, and the event may have to be moved to our rain date of Sunday. If that happens, it will be communicated through all applicable channels.

PLANNING COMMISSION Ms. Ault stated that there was nothing to report.

COG REPORT Mr. O'Donnell stated that he was not able to attend the last COG meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for April 28. They are working on Zoning Enforcement and planning a Chief of Police meeting.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT Mr. McDermott stated that on behalf of the Planning Commission, the approval was given for the project at the Towne Center, and that there should be an upcoming approval for work at the School for the Deaf.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT: Ms. Ault stated that Mr. Zahorchak was still on paternity leave, and there was nothing else to report.

NEW BUSINESS: Ms. Yaney stated that the library has provided a report of their quarterly financial breakdown. This was distributed to Council to review, and if anyone would like to see anything added to the report, that could be requested. It was noted that this is the first time we have receiving this report.

M-2 It was moved by Mr. Sherman and seconded by Ms. Yaney to adjourn at 7:58 pm.
The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**



Rob Zahorchak, Borough Manager