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BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD OCTOBER 6, 2025

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

ROLL CALL

Upon roll call the following responded: Dr. Blasiole, Dr. Epitropoulos, Mr. Love, Ms. Patel, Mr. Sherman, Ms. Yaney, and Dr. Petrolla. Also present were Police Chief Payne, Borough Manager Zahorchak and Patrick Gannon for Solicitor McDermott.

PLEDGE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR:

The following individuals requested council consider the borough's policy regarding police cooperation with immigration enforcement.

Jen Klara; 156 Rockwell Lane, Lindsay Angelo; 164 Race St., Marta Pelusi; 219 Race St., Cynthia Savit; 426 Elmer St; Allan Willinger; 119 Lacrosse St. Other unidentified individuals also spoke about immigration enforcement policy.

Christine Furman, 1201 Savannah Ave: Ms. Furman addressed Council with an offer to provide additional information to Council if they would request it regarding immigration enforcement. Ms. Furman noted that there is a 'Meet the Candidates' forum at the library on Thursday at 6pm for the Edgewood municipal candidate race.

Council thanked residents for coming to the meeting and speaking. Council member Patel made a statement to everyone and noted her deep trust for the Edgewood Police Department and discussed the importance of this matter to her personally. Discussion continued on this topic.

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS

M-1 Mr. Love moved to authorize the payment of bills for goods and services received by the borough from the General Fund in the amount of \$263,354.00. Second by Dr. Blasiole.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Love noted a large payment to satisfy our pension obligation.

Upon roll call vote the following responded yes: Dr. Blasiole, Dr. Epitropoulos, Mr. Love, Ms. Patel, Mr. Sherman, Ms. Yaney, and Dr. Petrolla **Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE ACTION None.

BUSINESS MEETING

<u>VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:</u> Fire Chief Reynolds provided the following report. There were 74 calls in September, with an average response time of 2 min 42 sec, and 4 individuals per call. There have been 626 calls to date, and he expects to reach approximately 836 by end of year. The department is replacing their washer/dryer with a stackable unit to maximize space. They have successfully closed out their EMS grant. They were hoping to have heard about a FEMA grant for radio replacement but that has been held up due to the government shut down. Senator Costa was able to procure money for them through the county instead so they can replace their aging radios. Two Junior Firefighters were promoted to full active Firefighters. The vacant spots will be filled and one additional spot will open up, bringing the total number of juniors to eight. There is a waitlist of 5 interested applicants. Chief Reynolds discussed the placement of equipment during the parking lot reconstruction. Ms. Patel noted that she recently attended a "firefighter for a day" training and expressed her appreciation for the work that they do. Chief Reynolds noted that a rope course training is happening this month.

<u>WATER AUTHORITY REPORT:</u> Mr. Fuller reported that the authority board and pension committee met. The pensions are funded over 100% now, but they still expect a recession into next year. Lead Line Replacement is ongoing. In Phase II they were able to replace more lines than expected and still have funding remaining. That may allow them to add more line replacements. In Edgewood, 35 of 78 replacements are due for completion. It is lagging a bit due to having a crew on replacement and another on restoration. They are trying to get a \$3 million grant from Army Corp of Engineers to help with installation of hypochlorite generation at the filler plant. This is to address safety concerns for the 7-8 mile radius evacuation area if there were a chlorine leak.

RECREATION REPORT: Mr. Zahorchak provided the following report. Fallfest/Oktoberfest happened this past weekend. The weather was great and the event went well. Thanks to the Fire Department for providing hayrides. The Foundation sold 76 tickets for Oktoberfest. Trick or Treat takes place in the neighborhood on Halloween from 6-8pm, and our first responders will be staffed accordingly. That is on a Friday this year.

Soccer is about halfway through their season and that is going well. We are planning our youth basketball season, with registration opening October 27. Our volunteer coordinator will be helping again this year, possibly with some additional assistance. We are in the process of confirming locations for practices/games. We're considering shortening the total season time by 1-2 weeks. It's normally a ten-week regular season with an additional play-off week. Our other leagues run about 6-8 weeks.

PLANNING COMMISSION: There may be a meeting in November for a subdivision.

COG REPORT: A meeting took place, but our representatives were not in attendance.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Mr. Gannon had nothing to report.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Zahorchak reported that work on the municipal complex has started and is moving along. Work is expected to last five to six weeks. Chief background investigations are taking place, with a meeting upcoming to discuss that. A Zoning Hearing Board will be taking place soon to appoint a solicitor and hear two applications for variances. Mr. Zahorchak discussed some upcoming grants, including one for the library. We met about a potential ADA grant to fix bathrooms on the first floor in the fieldhouse.

NEW BUSINESS -

Mr. Sherman inquired about polling locations for the November election and whether the school would be an available location again. Mr. Zahorchak replied that it would not. There will be one polling location, likely at the church. Safety concerns of that location were discussed.

Mr. Sherman poised a question about passing a motion to adopt a policy regarding the borough's cooperations with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The soloicitor advised that it's a violation of the Sunshine Law to make a motion not previously advertised on the agenda but that council could lawfully express its intention to have the solivitor and manager begin researching similar policies and present those to council at a later meeting. Mr. Sherman agreed with that approach as did the rest of council.

Mr. Love requested that a date be determined for the annual budget meeting. Brief discussion ensued and council set the 2026 budget meeting for Saturday November 15 at 8am.

M-2 It was moved by Mr. Sherman and seconded by Ms. Yaney to adjourn at 8:38pm. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Zahorchak, Borough Manager

Wo Well