

EDGEWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
December 17, 2024

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MEETING was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with Council President Joseph T. Hoepp presiding and the following members of Council and officials of the Borough present: Mr. Joseph T. Hoepp, Mr. Ivan T. Hofmann, Mr. Gregory J. Marlovits, Mr. Daniel S. Wilson, Mrs. Elizabeth H. Genter, Rev. Rebecca M. Cartus, Mayor Gary L. Smith, Borough Manager Ellen E. Politi, and Mr. Brendan Lucas representing the Borough Solicitor.

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting held on November 19, 2024 were presented to Council. After discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Genter with a second by Mr. Hofmann to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from November 19, 2024. All present voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Hoepp stated that there would be a change to the order of the agenda and Council would hear the presentation from Current Hydro, found on the Agenda under Other Business.

OTHER BUSINESS:

PRESENTATION FROM CURRENT HYDRO REGARDING DASHIELDS DAM: Mr. Matthew Dunlap from Current Hydro presented the company's plans to develop hydroelectric projects along the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers. Current Hydro currently holds a preliminary permit for the right to investigate Dashields Dam as a potential location from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Mr. Dunlap presented plans to place a hydroelectric plant with eight low-profile machines next to the abutment of the dam and the Borough's land, with a substation located on Borough property. Mr. Hoepp asked how the plant would be built, and Mr. Dunlap stated that some materials would be brought in by barge and others would be brought in through Borough property. Mr. Hofmann asked several questions relating to the overall design of the proposed substation. Mr. Dunlap stated that no poles would be higher than existing poles already in place, and there are several ways to run the electricity from the hydroelectric plant to the substation and into existing power lines. He also stated that the substation would be no more than 20 feet in height, and that Current Hydro is willing to work with the Borough to appropriately camouflage the substation so that it will not be visible to residents. Mrs. Genter asked how long construction was anticipated to take. Mr. Dunlap stated their anticipated construction time is two years. Mrs. Genter also questioned the potential revenue for the Borough. Mr. Dunlap stated the Borough could collect tax revenue from the hydroelectric plant and that Current Hydro's anticipated revenue from the project is currently confidential. Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Dunlap to detail other projects Current Hydro is working on. Mr. Dunlap stated that all projects are in the preliminary planning stage. Mr. Marlovits asked if there would be a guarantee from Duquesne Light to purchase the power generated at the proposed plant. Mr. Dunlap stated that they would have the proper power purchase agreements in place for a 10-12 year investment. Mayor Smith noted that the Borough does not discourage residents from using the proposed land to walk their dogs, fish, bird watch, etc, and proper security measures would need to be in place to prevent potential injury. Rev. Cartus asked what would become of the plant if Current Hydro ever abandoned the project or location. Mr. Dunlap stated that the plant would be sold to a different company. Rev. Cartus asked what would become of the infrastructure if Current Hydro is not able to sell the operation to another company. Mr. Dunlap stated that operations would cease and the infrastructure would remain in place. Mr. Lucas mentioned that Current Hydro would need to obtain all of the proper licensing, including but not limited to, an easement agreement, a lease agreement, and zoning approval. After further discussion, Council thanked Mr. Dunlap for the presentation.

Mr. Hoepf questioned how realistic the proposed project is since Current Hydro has not actually completed one. Mr. Hofmann stressed the importance of obtaining a bond if the project moves forward. Mrs. Politi stated that there are many variances, special exceptions, building plans, and other items that would need approved before work could begin. Mr. Marlovits noted the importance of shielding the substation from view of residents. Mr. Wilson and Mayor Smith noted that proper leasing and business arrangements would need to be negotiated. After further discussion, Mr. Hoepf directed the matter to the Property Committee for review.

TREASURER'S REPORT for the month of November 2024 was presented to Council. Mrs. Genter requested that future Treasurer's Reports include year-to-date numbers. After discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

FINANCIAL REPORT for the month of November 2024 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

BILLS PAYABLE for the month of November 2024 were presented to Council as follows: General Expenditures, in the amount of \$191,258.17 and Scheduled Expenditures, in the amount of \$429,383.40 were presented to Council as per the following list.

<u>Scheduled Expenditures Account</u>			
229	Cronin Enterprises	Beaver Road Sidewalk	\$403,245.00
230	Garvin Boward Beitko	Engineering Fees	\$17,251.10
231	Home Depot	Walker Park Bridge	\$2,610.97
232	Lennon Smith Souleret	Engineering Fees	\$6,276.33

After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second by Mr. Marlovits that a voucher be drawn on the General Account in the amount of \$191,258.17, and a voucher be drawn on the Scheduled Expenditures Account in the amount of \$429,383.40. The motion was unanimously carried by all members in attendance.

REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT for the month of November 2024 was presented to Council. Jordan Tax Service reported collecting real estate taxes in the amount of \$718.28. After some review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

DISTRICT JUSTICE REPORT for the month of November 2024 was presented to Council. District Justice Guiseppe Roselli, for District Court No. 05-03-02, reported remitting fines in the amount of \$819.45 to the Borough for the month. After discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

POLICE REPORT for the month of November 2024 was presented to Council. Chief Burlett reported that Mrs. Lori Lowry began her employment as full-time dispatcher and was working well with the department. After further review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

FIRE REPORT for the month of November 2024 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT for the month of November 2024 was presented to Council. Mrs. Politi stated that leaf collection was complete for the year. After further review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

BUILDING PERMIT AND ZONING PERMIT REPORTS for the month of November 2024 were presented to Council. After discussion, the reports were ordered received and filed.

MS4 UPDATE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION for the month of November 2024 was presented to Council. After discussion, the report was ordered received and filed.

QUAKER VALLEY COG REPORT for the month of November 2024 was presented to Council. After discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. Minutes from the Edgeworth Municipal Authority meeting were received.
- B. Minutes from the Leetsdale Municipal Authority meeting were received.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS CONCERNING NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. Bill Lang – 617 Maple Lane  
Mr. Matthew Dunlap – Current Hydro

OLD BUSINESS:

ACTION CONCERNING FINAL 2025 BUDGET: Mr. Hoeppe stated that a public hearing on the budget was held prior to the meeting and asked whether any members of Council had final questions or comments regarding the 2025 budget. With no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mr. Wilson for a roll call vote on the 2025 budget. Mrs. Politi called the roll and all members present voted in favor of adopting the 2025 budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

ACTION CONCERNING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 – CONTRACT NO. 24-SW01 BEAVER ROAD SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS: Mrs. Politi explained that this Change Order is due to the contractor needing a different size rock than previously determined. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second by Mrs. Genter to accept Change Order No. 1 for an increase in the amount of \$5,750.00 for Contract No. 24-SW01. All present voted in favor of the motion.

ACTION CONCERNING PARTIAL PAYMENT REQUEST NO. 1 – CONTRACT NO. 01-24 REMEDIATION OF BEAVER ROAD RETAINING WALL: Mrs. Politi explained that this partial payment request was for the portion of the Beaver Road sidewalk that has already been completed. Several members of Council complimented the new sidewalk and handrail. Mr. Hoeppe noted that the Public Works department has installed pedestrian detour signs to deter people from walking in the road or on the closed portion of the sidewalk and stated they seem to be working. After brief further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second by Mrs. Genter to approve the Partial Payment Request No. 1 in the amount of \$403,245.00 to Cronin Enterprises LLC. All present voted in favor of the motion.

ACTION CONCERNING CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 – CONTRACT NO. 01-24 REMEDIATION OF BEAVER ROAD RETAINING WALL: Mrs. Politi explained that the purpose of this Change Order is to extend the timeline of construction for the Beaver Road retaining wall project. The Contractor will begin installing the soil nails in January 2025 and is expected to shotcrete by spring of 2025. She explained that there is no price increase or decrease associated with this Change Order. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second by Mrs. Genter to accept Change Order No. 2 to extend the

contract time for Substantial Completion to April 16, 2025, and Final Completion by May 1, 2025. All present voted in favor of the motion.

ACTION CONCERNING RESOLUTION 2024-06 – FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR

2025: Mr. Hoepf noted that 2025 will be the twenty-second consecutive year without a tax increase. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Wilson with a second by Mr. Marlovits to adopt Resolution 2024-06, fixing the tax rate for fiscal year 2025 at 4.15 mills. All present voted in favor of the motion.

ACTION CONCERNING RESOLUTION 2024-07 – ELEMENATING CONTRIBUTIONS BY PARTICIPANTS UNDER THE BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN:

Mrs. Politi stated that this resolution eliminates police officer contributions into the pension plan under the provisions of Act 600, which is effective for one year. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second by Mrs. Genter to adopt Resolution 2024-07, eliminating police contributions into the pension plan. All present voted in favor of the motion.

ACTION CONCERNING APPOINTMENT OF THE LEETSDALE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY TO ACT AS THE BOROUGH’S BILLING AND COLLECTION AGENT FOR 2025 SEWER CHARGES:

Mrs. Politi presented a letter from the Leetsdale Municipal Authority requesting written consent to act as the billing and collection agent for sewer charges in the Borough in 2025. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second by Mr. Marlovits to appoint the Leetsdale Municipal Authority as the Borough’s billing and collection agent for 2025 sewer charges. All present voted in favor of the motion.

ACTION CONCERNING APPOINTMENT OF THE BOROUGH ENGINEER FOR 2025:

Mrs. Politi presented the Lennon Smith Souleret Engineering Inc. fee schedule for 2025, reflecting a few small increases in rates and fees. Mr. Hofmann expressed interest in seeking bids for engineering services within the next year. Mr. Marlovits asked Mrs. Politi to reach out to neighboring municipalities to inquire about their engineering fees and experiences. Mrs. Politi stated she would like to wait until the Beaver Road Wall project is complete and will begin looking in to the bidding process in mid-2025. After brief further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second by Mr. Wilson to appoint Lennon Smith Souleret Engineering Inc. as the Borough Engineer for 2025. All present voted in favor of the motion.

ACTION CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2025:

Mrs. Politi provided a list of proposed meeting dates for 2025, each occurring on the third Tuesday of every month beginning at 7:00 PM. After review, a motion was made by Rev. Cartus with a second by Mr. Marlovits to establish the following meeting dates for 2025, beginning at 7:00 PM. All present voted in favor of the motion.

January 21, 2025	July 15, 2025
February 18, 2025	August 19, 2025
March 18, 2025	September 16, 2025
April 15, 2025	October 21, 2025
May 20, 2025	November 18, 2025
June 17, 2025	December 16, 2025

ACTION CONCERNING RESIDENT APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: Mrs. Politi provided a list of residents that serve on various boards and commissions in the Borough with terms expiring at the end of 2024. Each resident agreed to serve another term with the exception of Mr. David Aloe who would like to vacate his seat on the Edgeworth Municipal Authority Board. After brief

discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Marlovits with a second by Rev. Cartus to approve the following list of appointments and their terms.

Building Code Board of Appeals:	Mr. Jeffrey Murray	Term Ending 12/31/2027
Civil Service Commission:	Mr. David Aloe	Term Ending 12/31/2030
Planning Commission:	Mr. David Aloe	Term Ending 12/31/2028
Planning Commission:	Mr. Patrick Auth	Term Ending 12/31/2028
Planning Commission:	Ms. Mary Ferris	Term Ending 12/31/2028
Shade Tree Commission:	Ms. Annie Genshiemer	Term Ending 12/31/2029
Zoning Hearing Board:	Mr. David McCormish	Term Ending 12/31/2027
Zoning Hearing Board Alternate:	Ms. Robin Pesa	Term Ending 12/31/2027
Zoning Hearing Board Alternate:	Mr. Charlie Harris	Term Ending 12/31/2027

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Council entered Executive Session to discuss legal matters at 8:31 p.m., and returned to Regular Session at 8:44 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting on motion duly made and seconded was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Ellen E. Politi – Borough Manager