

EDGEWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 20, 2022

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. David T. Aloe, Mr. Ivan T. Hofmann, Mr. Gregory J. Marlovits, Mrs. Elizabeth H. Genter, Mrs. Katherine D. Larsen, Mr. Dainel S. Wilson, Mayor Gary L. Smith, Borough Manager John F. Schwend, and Philip J. Weis, Borough Solicitor.

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting held on November 15, 2022 were presented to Council. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Wilson with a second by Mr. Aloe to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from November 15, 2022. All present voted in favor of the motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT for the month of November 2022 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

INVESTMENT REPORT as of December 20, 2022 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

FINANCIAL REPORT for the month of November 2022 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

BILLS PAYABLE for the month of December 2022 were presented to Council as follows: General Expenditures, in the amount of \$193,851.82 and Scheduled Expenditures, in the amount of \$436,749.66 were presented to Council as per the following list.

Scheduled Expenditures Account

64	Axon Enterprise	Handle and Cartridge	\$2011.59
65	Robert Crusan	Arborist Fees	\$9415.00
66	Lennon Smith Souleret	Engineering Fees	\$11,263.85
67	Markl Supply.	Police Glocks	\$993.90
68	Penn Landscape and Cement	Sidewalk Repair/Trees	\$2,775.00
69	Pittsburgh Socialites	Holiday Tree	\$3,300.00
70	Robinson Pipe Cleaning	Chestnut Sewer Cleaning	\$12,187.50
71	Youngblood Paving	2022 Paving	\$394,802.82

After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Wilson with a second by Mr. Aloe that a voucher be drawn on the General Account in the amount of \$193,851.82, and a voucher be drawn on the Scheduled Expenditures Account in the amount of \$436,749.66. The motion was unanimously carried by all members in attendance.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT for the month of November 2022 was presented to Council. After some review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

DISTRICT JUSTICE REPORT for the month of November 2022 was presented to Council. District Justice Robert L. Ford, for District Court No. 05-03-02, reported remitting fines in the amount of \$490.71 to the Borough for the month. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

POLICE REPORT for the month of November 2022 was presented to Council. Chief Burlett highlighted a recent active shooter training that some members of the department participated in, and he thanked the Chief of the Ohio Township Police Department for offering a very good training. Mr. Hofmann questioned the Chief about police fines received from the District Magistrate's office, and why this number was much less than it had been in prior years. Chief Burlett stated he would look into the matter and report back to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

FIRE REPORT for the month of November 2022 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT for the month of November 2022 was presented to Council. Mr. Schwend stated that there had been issues with the motor on the leaf truck, but that the public works crew was able to successfully repair the machine. After discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

BUILDING PERMIT AND ZONING PERMIT REPORTS for the month of November 2022 were presented to Council. After discussion, the reports were ordered received and filed.

MS4 UPDATE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION for the month of November 2022 was presented to Council. After discussion, the report was ordered received and filed.

QUAKER VALLEY COG REPORT for the month of November 2022 was presented to Council. After discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS CONCERNING NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. Charles Harris	526 Irwin Drive
Rev. Rebecca M. Cartus	302 Maple Lane

Rev. Cartus addressed Council with a concern about raccoons in the dumpsters at Walker Park. She also stated that she noticed raccoons in trees above areas where people walk their dogs. She wanted to make Council and Staff aware of this. Mr. Schwend stated that he would ask the police and public works to keep an eye on this, and that frequently raccoons do get into the dumpsters, and that public works open the lid and place a piece of wood in the dumpster to allow them to climb out. Rev. Cartus also thanked Council for the no parking sign that was installed on Chestnut Road, and stated that it has alleviated many of the parking and turning concerns at that intersection.

OLD BUSINESS:

ACTION CONCERNING 2023 PROPOSED BUDGET: Mr. Hoepf asked if any members of Council had any final comments on the 2023 budget. With no further comments, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mr. Hoepf for a roll call vote on the 2023 Budget. Mr. Schwend called the roll, and all members present voted in favor of passing the 2023 Budget.

PENSION PLAN RFP UPDATE: Mr. Schwend addressed Council with an update on the request for proposals process for the pension fund manager. He recapped a meeting with the Finance Committee and the consultant, Chris Englebert, and reviewed the timeline for interviews and the final presentations. The responses to the RFP are due by January 20th, and Mr. Schwend stated he would update Council again at that time.

NEW BUSINESS:

ACTION CONCERNING RESOLUTION 2022-07 – FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023: Mr. Schwend stated that there was no proposed property tax rate increase included in the 2023 budget. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Aloe with a second from Mrs. Genter to approve Resolution 2022-07, fixing the tax rate for the Borough of Edgeworth at 4.15 mills for fiscal year 2023. All present voted in favor of the motion.

ACTION CONCERNING RESOLUTION 2022-08 – ELIMINATING CONTRIBUTIONS BY PARTICIPANTS UNDER THE BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN: Mr. Hoepf explained that the resolution eliminates police officers’ contributions to the pension plan under Act 600, and that the elimination is effective for one year. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mr. Wilson to approve Resolution 2022-08, eliminating contributions by participants under the Borough police pension plan. All present voted in favor of the motion

ACTION CONCERNING RESIDENT APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: Mr. Schwend stated that all of the current residents holding positions with terms set to expire at the end of 2022 are willing to serve another term, and recommended approval of the following appointments to boards and commissions:

Building Code Board of Appeals:	Mr. Neil Napolitano	Term Ending 12/31/2025
Planning Commission:	Mr. David Martin	Term Ending 12/31/2026
Zoning Hearing Board:	Mr. Robert Weinberg	Term Ending 12/31/2025
Civil Service Commission	Ms. Stacy Gianiodis	Term Ending 12/31/2028
Edgeworth Municipal Authority:	Mrs. Amy Harkins	Term Ending 12/31/2027
Shade Tree Commission	Mrs. Joyce Scalercio	Term Ending 12/31/2026

After brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Aloe with a second from Mr. Marlovits to approve the list of all appointments and their terms. 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 2023 SEWER CHARGES: Mr. Schwend 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 for 2023. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Aloe with a second from Mr. Wilson to appoint the Leetsdale Municipal Authority as the Borough’s billing and collection agent for sewer charges in 2023. All present voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ACTION CONCERNING APPOINTMENT OF THE BOROUGH ENGINEER FOR 2023: Mr. Schwend presented Council with the Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering Inc. fee schedule for 2023. He stated that rates did increase for 2023 and the average appeared to be around ten percent. Mr. Hofmann questioned if these rates had been benchmarked against similar firms providing engineering services. Mr. Schwend stated that they had not been compared on a line-to-line basis, however the fees were in line with what other firms are charging neighboring municipalities. After further discussion, a motion was

made by Mr. Wilson with a second from Mrs. Larsen to appoint Lennon Smith Souleret Engineering as the Borough Engineer in 2023. All present voted in favor of the motion.

ACTION CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2023: Mr. Schwend presented a list of proposed meeting dates for 2023, with all Borough Council meetings taking place on the third Tuesday of each month. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mr. Wilson to establish the following meeting dates for 2023, with a start time of 7:00 pm. All present voted in favor of the motion.

January 17, 2023	July 18, 2023
February 21, 2023	August 15, 2023
March 21, 2023	September 19, 2023
April 18, 2023	October 17, 2023
May 16, 2023	November 21, 2023
June 20, 2023	December 19, 2023

ACTION CONCERNING AGREEMENT FOR ACTUARIAL SERVICES: Mr. Schwend reviewed the results of the recent request for proposals for actuarial services that had been received on December 8th, 2022. Two firms participated in the RFP process, the Borough's current actuary, USI, INC. and Mockenhaupt. Mr. Schwend had reviewed the fees with the Finance Committee, and Mockenhaupt was lower in almost every category. Mr. Schwend stated he was familiar with this firm and they provide service to many municipalities in the region, and had contacted their references for further information. After further discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Genter with a second from Mrs. Larsen to approve the agreement with Mockenhaupt to provide actuarial services to the Borough beginning in 2023. All members of Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ACTION CONCERNING AMENDMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE RULES: Mr. Schwend stated that the Civil Service Commission had met on December 12th 2022 to review proposed changes to the Civil Service Rules. The proposed changes included adding language for promotions to the position of Sergeant, and clarified the promotion process and the subsequent probation period for persons promoted to the position of Sergeant, Lieutenant or Chief. The Civil Service Commission had approved these updates to the Rules. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mr. Wilson to approve the Civil Service Rules. All members of Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

SIDEWALK REPAIRS NEAR STREET TREES: Mr. Wilson addressed Council regarding the upcoming 2023 sidewalk survey, and stated that he felt it would be beneficial for the Borough to share the cost of repairing sidewalk slabs near street trees. Mr. Wilson reiterated issues that the Borough had faced in the past with numerous sidewalk repairs at the same residences due to the same street trees. He stated that since trees and sidewalks are both important assets to the community that we should encourage proper repairs without residents wishing to remove trees due to the damage they cause sidewalks. Mr. Aloe noted concerns for residents who live at homes with no sidewalk, and asked if this was an equitable use of tax payer funds. Mr. Hofmann stated he had long been opposed to this idea, but does understand the reasoning behind it. He stated that if the Borough was to agree to share the cost of grinding or replacement with the residents for sidewalks affected by street trees, that the Borough have the discretion whether the sidewalk slabs would be ground or replaced. Mr. Marlovits reiterated the importance of the mature trees in the Borough, and felt a solution to promote trees and sidewalks should be considered. After discussion, Mr. Hoepp referred this matter to the Property Committee for further review.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Council entered executive session to discuss a legal matter at 7:50 p.m., and returned to Regular Session at 8:21 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting on motion duly made and seconded was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

John F. Schwend – Borough Manager