

EDGEWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 16, 2024

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, Mrs. Katherine D. Larsen, Rev. Rebecca M. Cartus, Mayor Gary L. Smith, Borough Manager John F. Schwend, and Mr. Brendan Lucas representing the Borough Solicitor.

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting held on June 18, 2024 were presented to Council. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second by Mr. Wilson to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from June 18, 2024. All present voted in favor of the motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT for the month of June 2024 was presented to Council. After discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

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

BILLS PAYABLE for the month of July 2024 were presented to Council as follows: General Expenditures, in the amount of \$207,090.25 and Scheduled Expenditures, in the amount of \$43,669.38 were presented to Council as per the following list.

<u>Scheduled Expenditures Account</u>			
187	Davey Tree Experts	Tree Pruning	\$2,687.00
188	Garvin Boward Beitko	Engineering Fees	\$1,840.00
189	Lennon Smith Souleret	Engineering Fees	\$26,200.64
190	Penn Landscape and Cement	Sidewalk Repairs	\$12,941.74

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 \$207,090.25, and a voucher be drawn on the Scheduled Expenditures Account in the amount of \$43,669.38. The motion was unanimously carried by all members in attendance.

REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT for the month of June 2024 was presented to Council. Jordan Tax Service reported collecting real estate taxes in the amount of \$218,119.15. After some review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

DISTRICT JUSTICE REPORT for the month of June 2024 was presented to Council. District Justice Guiseppe Roselli, for District Court No. 05-03-02, reported remitting fines in the amount of \$577.85 to the Borough for the month. After discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

POLICE REPORT for the month of June 2024 was presented to Council. Rev. Cartus inquired about recent panhandling in the Borough, and asked whether the Borough has a discretionary fund to help those in need. Chief Burlett explained that numerous residents expressed concern with panhandling occurring on Beaver Road, and officers continue to monitor the area, as well as offer help. He explained that the act is legal, and while the Borough has an ordinance against loitering, it is difficult to enforce in its current state. Mr. Lucas explained that the Borough could review ordinances to ensure their compliance with state and federal law,

however panhandling is considered a protected First Amendment right. Mrs. Larsen expressed interest in reviewing the ordinance for updates. Chief Burlett stated that multiple municipalities in the area have increased instances of panhandling. After further discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

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

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT for the month of June 2024 was presented to Council. After discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

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

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

QUAKER VALLEY COG REPORT for the month of June 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. The resignation of Mrs. Amy Harkins from the Edgeworth Municipal Authority was received. Mrs. Harkins dedicated significant time to contract negotiations, personnel changes, and financial management while serving as the Authority's Chairperson, and felt as though she needed to focus her time on her personal and professional life. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mr. Wilson to accept Mrs. Harkins' resignation with regret. All present voted in favor of the motion.
- C. Correspondence was received from Ms. Evelyn Rader regarding several recent complaints. Mr. Schwend stated that he would reach out to Ms. Rader to address each point in her correspondence.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS CONCERNING NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Rep. Valerie Gaydos – 315 Pine Road
Mr. Bill Lang – 617 Maple Lane

Rep. Valerie Gaydos came before Council with an update on current happenings in the state legislature. She explained that the state budget has been passed, and encouraged the Borough to reach out for any grant opportunities that may come along. Additionally, the landslide insurance legislation that she has co-authored with Rep. Emily Kinkead has passed its assigned committee and will be up for consideration in the coming months. Finally, Rep. Gaydos stated that with respect to panhandling, the Borough should consider updating ordinances to protect residents from potential squatters. Mr. Lucas stated that he would review state statute and make any necessary recommendations to Council. Additionally, Mr. Hoepf thanked Rep. Gaydos for her support in the Borough's efforts to apply and secure grant funding for various infrastructure projects. After further discussion, Council thanked Rep. Gaydos for the updates.

OLD BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION REGARDING CONTRACT NO. 24-S1 – EAST DRIVE SANITARY SEWER

RELOCATION REBID: Mr. Schwend stated that the Edgeworth Club has yet to officially vote on whether to move forward with accepting the rebid for the East Drive sanitary sewer relocation project, however in conversations with the Club it seems that the general consensus is to reject the bids due to the high cost. Mr. Schwend noted that the Club formally requested that the Borough relocate the sewer line in 2022, and to date the Borough has spent approximately \$54,000 in engineering costs related to the project. Mayor Smith suggested relining the sewer line if the Club ultimately decides against the project. After further discussion, Council decided to take no action on the matter.

BEAVER ROAD BRIDGE UPDATE: Mr. Schwend explained that the contractor is continuing repairs on the Beaver Road bridge, with most work taking place underneath the bridge. Sections of spalled concrete has been removed and replaced, areas of eroded streambank have been repaired, and pipe is being replaced. Remaining work includes repointing stone and completing drainage updates. Mr. Schwend included photographs of the completed work. After brief discussion, Council thanked Mr. Schwend for the update.

NEW BUSINESS:

ACTION CONCERNING PARTIAL PAYMENT REQUEST NO. 1 – CONTRACT NO. 23-R01,

BEAVER ROAD BRIDGE REPAIRS: Mr. Schwend stated that the contractor for the Beaver Road bridge repairs, Pugliano Construction Co., has submitted for partial payment. The Borough Engineer has verified the work completed for the partial payment request is satisfactory and recommends partial payment in the amount of \$68,206.50. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Wilson with a second from Mrs. Larsen to approve the partial payment request from Pugliano Construction Co. in the amount of \$68,206.50 for repairs to the Beaver Road bridge. All present voted in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

PRESENTATION ON LICENSE PLATE READER TECHNOLOGY: Chief Burlett presented Council with information and a video demonstration of the license plate reader technology installed in two police vehicles. He explained that the technology reads both front and rear license plates, and is notifying the officer of a registration is that is expired, suspended, or has insurance cancellations. After implementation, the police department experienced a 62% increase in citations issued, and a 33% increase in warnings issued with the use of the new technology. Chief Burlett noted that citations do not always result in a fine paid for a variety of reasons. Mr. Hofmann asked whether officers use discretion when deciding to write a warning or citation. Chief Burlett said officers do use their own discretion, and explained various scenarios where a citation or warning is issued. Mrs. Larsen asked whether the technology is making the Borough safer. Chief Burlett explained that pursuing a vehicle over a notification from the license plate reader can also assist with stolen vehicles, missing person searches, and be-on-the-lookout (BOLO) notifications. Additionally, officer safety is significantly higher with the technology, as officers are no longer hand-typing license plates into a computer while operating a vehicle. After further discussion, Council thanked Chief Burlett for the presentation.

Additionally, Assistant Borough Manager Ellen Politi announced that the Borough will be hosting a Pizza with the Police event on August 29th, with further information to come.

Finally, Mr. Schwend stated that he has explored a microsurfacing option to extend the life of roads that are not ready for paving. Sewickley Heights Borough recently completed microsurfacing, which a slurry mix that coats the road, with success. Mr. Schwend provided photographs of Persimmon Road, which was

completed the day of the Council meeting, and of a portion of Backbone Road, which was completed approximately a year ago. He explained that microsurfacing is not the same as tar-and-chip, and would not replace the Borough's paving program. However, the product is expected to extend the life of a lower-volume road by approximately five to seven years. The contractor in Sewickley Heights, Peter J. Caruso and Sons, Inc. provided a quote to microsurface the block of Meadow Lane between Hazel Lane and Quaker Road in the amount of \$12,480.00, or \$8.00 per square yard. Mr. Schwend recommended proceeding with the quote in order to test the product for future use. Mr. Hofmann supported the recommendation, and stated that he has seen the product work very well in the past. After further discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Genter with a second from Mr. Hofmann to accept the quote from Peter J. Caruso and Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$12,480.00 to microsurface one block of Meadow Lane. All present voted in favor of the motion.

There being no further business, the meeting on motion duly made and seconded was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

John F. Schwend – Borough Manager