

EDGEWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 21, 2023

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, Mrs. Elizabeth H. Genter, Mrs. Katherine D. Larsen, Borough Manager John F. Schwend, and Mr. Brendan Lucas representing the Borough Solicitor.

Mr. Hoepp announced that there would be a change to the order of the agenda, and Council would first hear the presentation from Maher Duessel regarding the 2022 Borough Audit.

ACTION CONCERNING 2022 BOROUGH AUDIT – MAHER DUESSEL: Mr. Brian McCall of Maher Duessel presented the 2022 audit to Borough Council in regulatory format, and stated that the auditors were able to obtain reasonable assurance over the Borough’s financial statements, and no adjustments were necessary. Therefore, the Borough received a clean, unmodified opinion from the auditors. Mr. McCall noted consistent sources of revenue, and stated that the Borough’s expenditures were in line with the approved budget for the year, including a larger than expected end-of-year transfer to the Scheduled Expenditures fund. Additionally, Mr. McCall highlighted that both the uniform and non-uniform pension funds are fully funded. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mrs. Genter to approve the 2022 Borough Audit conducted by Maher Duessel, and to place the legal advertisement in the paper of record as required. All present voted in favor of the motion.

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting held on February 21, 2023 were presented to Council. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second by Mrs. Genter to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from January 17, 2023. All present voted in favor of the motion.

TREASURER’S REPORT for the month of February 2023 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed. Mr. Hofmann then asked about short-term investment options, such as certificates of deposit or treasury bonds. Mr. Schwend stated that a six-month Certificate of Deposit was issued with an interest rate of 4.6%. After brief discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

FINANCIAL REPORT for the month of February 2023 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

BILLS PAYABLE for the month of March 2023 were presented to Council as follows: General Expenditures, in the amount of \$202,793.30 and Scheduled Expenditures, in the amount of \$73,407.57 were presented to Council as per the following list.

Scheduled Expenditures Account

83	Tri Star Ford	2023 Police Vehicle	\$38,343.80
84	Coraopolis Light Metals	Steel – Salt Shed Repair	\$335.00
85	Davey Tree Expert Co	Street Tree Pruning	\$10,500.00
86	Garvin Boward Beitko	Engineering Fees	\$3,160.25
87	Horizon Information Systems	Camera Repair	\$7,400.00
88	Demetrius Pappan	Engineering Retainer Refund	\$608.52
89	Tall Timber Tree Experts	Beaver Road Pruning	\$13,060.00

After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Marlovits with a second by Mr. Hofmann that a voucher be drawn on the General Account in the amount of \$202,793.30, and a voucher be drawn on the Scheduled Expenditures Account in the amount of \$73,407.57. The motion was unanimously carried by all members in attendance.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT for the month of February 2023 was presented to Council. After some review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

DISTRICT JUSTICE REPORT for the month of February 2023 was presented to Council. District Justice Robert L. Ford, for District Court No. 05-03-02, reported remitting fines in the amount of \$701.09 to the Borough for the month. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

POLICE REPORT for the month of February 2023 was presented to Council. Chief Burlett stated that the new police officers are acclimating well to their full-time positions, and the Department is exploring additional training avenues for all officers. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

FIRE REPORT for the month of February 2023 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT for the month of February 2023 was presented to Council. Mr. Fred Gregorich stated that sign post installation is almost complete, and the Borough will assess options to distribute old sign posts once the project is finished. Additionally, Mr. Schwend stated that Mr. Gregorich plans to retire within the upcoming year, and an ad will soon be placed seeking his replacement. After discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

BUILDING PERMIT AND ZONING PERMIT REPORTS for the month of February 2023 were presented to Council. After discussion, the reports were ordered received and filed.

MS4 UPDATE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION for the month of February 2023 was presented to Council. After discussion, the report was ordered received and filed.

QUAKER VALLEY COG REPORT for the month of February 2023 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. Mr. Schwend noted that Sewickley Borough has opted to withdraw from the Act 537 plan, and will be pursuing upgrades to their existing sewer plant.
- C. State Rep. Valerie Gaydos and State Senator Devlin Robinson issued letters of support to the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) regarding the Borough's grant application for the Beaver Road Wall. Mr. Schwend explained that meetings with both Sen. Robinson and Rep. Gaydos were beneficial, however the CFA did not award funds to the project at their March 16th, 2023 meeting. Mr. Marlovits asked whether financial need is a consideration of funding awards, and Mr. Schwend explained that it is an aspect, however the specific CFA grant was geared toward economic development rather than infrastructure. Mr. Schwend stated that the Borough will continue applying for additional grant opportunities as they arise.

- D. Correspondence was received from the Arbor Day Foundation recognizing the Borough as a Tree City USA. Administrative Assistant Ellen Politi stated that the Borough has received this recognition for the sixth consecutive year.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS CONCERNING NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. Hugh St. Martin - 609 Maple Lane
Mr. William Lang – 617 Maple Lane
Rev. Rebecca Cartus - 302 Maple Lane
Mr. Charles Harris - 526 Irwin Drive
Mr. Avery Hopkins – 209 New England Place
Mr. Brian McCall – Maher Duessel
Mrs. Emily Gatz – Maher Duessel

OLD BUSINESS:

CHURCH LANE SANITARY SEWER LINING: Mr. Schwend stated that the Borough Engineer erroneously measured the pipe diameter in bid documents for the Church Lane sanitary sewer. When field verifying, the contractor identified that the pipe is larger than indicated, and is unable to complete the project at the bid price. Due to the grant requirements, Mr. Schwend explained that in order to complete the sanitary sewer lining in full, the Borough would need to rebid the project to comply with provisions of the GEDTF grant award, or the Borough could authorize a change order to complete approximately two thirds of the project to remain within the funding requirements of the grant. Change Order 1 includes deducting Add Alternate 1 for manhole rehabilitation, deducting the lining of the shallowest section of piping, and having the Borough coordinate road closures for the duration of the project, resulting in an decrease of \$3,050.00 from the original bid price. Mr. Hofmann asked why the pipe was not correctly measured during the design phase. Mr. Schwend explained that the Engineer did not have an employee enter the manhole to verify the pipe diameter. Mr. Hofmann stressed that the Engineer should refund a portion of the engineering fees to make up for the error, and ensure that it does not occur in the future. Mrs. Larsen agreed, and stated that due diligence is an important aspect of engineering. Mr. Schwend stated that the Engineer has agreed not to charge additional engineering fees, however he will continue discussion regarding fees already paid. After further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mrs. Genter to accept Change Order 1 for Contract No. 22-SW1 – Church Lane Sanitary Sewer Lining for an overall deduction of \$3,050.00, and to reassess engineering fees for the project. All present voted in favor of the motion

PENSION RFP UPDATE: Mr. Schwend stated that the Finance Committee and Mr. Chris Englebert, the Borough's pension consultant, interviewed five firms in person. After careful deliberation, the Committee narrowed the search to three firms, AndCo, Conrad Siegel, and PNC, and requested additional information from each firm, including client retention statistics, clientele within Pennsylvania, sample quarterly reports, and a portfolio example that would be utilized for the Borough. The Committee will meet again to review the additional information, and should have a recommendation for which firm to hire at the April 18th Borough Council Meeting. Mr. Hofmann stated that Mr. Englebert has been a valuable asset in assisting the Committee with the RFP process, and he is confident that the Committee will select a firm that will work in the best interest of the Borough. After further discussion, Council thanked Mr. Schwend for the update.

BEAVER ROAD WALL UPDATE: Mr. Schwend provided an update on the Beaver Road wall since the February 21st Council Meeting, including meeting with a potential contractor to review trees that would need removed during the scope of work, meeting with Rep. Gaydos and Sen. Robinson to discuss the project and its importance, communicating with the four adjacent property owners on the status of the

project, reviewing proposed construction easements necessary for the project to occur, and continuing to assess additional grant opportunities to seek funding for the project. Mr. Schwend noted that approximately six trees would need to be removed for the work to take place, of which two are dead and two are located in the existing wall. Additional information will be provided at the April 18th Council Meeting. After brief discussion, Council thanked Mr. Schwend for the update.

NEW BUSINESS:

ACTION CONCERNING QUAKER VALLEY COG FINGERPRINT SCANNER AGREEMENT: Mr. Schwend stated that Chief Burlett has agreed to house the fingerprint scanner purchased by the Quaker Valley COG. The proposed agreement was reviewed by the Borough Solicitor, and outlines the process for participating municipalities to utilize the scanner when needed. Chief Burlett explained that the scanner is easy to transport, and it is the duty of the officer requiring the technology to pick up and return the scanner. Monthly updates and all other associated fees are the responsibility of the COG. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Marlovits with a second from Mrs. Genter to approve the agreement with the Quaker Valley COG for the mobile fingerprint scanner. All present voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Hofmann stated that former Council President, Mr. William Logsdon, recently passed away. He highlighted the valuable contributions that Mr. Logsdon made to the Borough and to the community as a whole over his thirty years of service. Mr. Marlovits noted that Mr. Logsdon was a great public servant, and served the community with dedication and the utmost respect.

There being no further business, the meeting on motion duly made and seconded was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

John F. Schwend – Borough Manager