

EDGEWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 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. Katherine D. Larsen, 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 September 17, 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 September 17, 2024. All present voted in favor of the motion.

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

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

BILLS PAYABLE for the month of October 2024 were presented to Council as follows: General Expenditures, in the amount of \$259,607.12 and Scheduled Expenditures, in the amount of \$19,958.40 were presented to Council as per the following list.

<u>Scheduled Expenditures Account</u>			
207	Flooring by Fischer	Council Room Flooring	\$2,275.00
208	Garvin Boward Beitko	Engineering Fees	\$543.75
209	Penn Landscape and Cement	Sidewalk Repairs	\$14,614.15
210	Matthews International	Memorial Plaque	\$171.00
211	Russell Standard Corp.	Crack Sealing	\$12,600.00
212	Sewickley Academy	Sidewalk Repair Refund	\$3,024.45

After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second by Mrs. Larsen that a voucher be drawn on the General Account in the amount of \$259,607.12, and a voucher be drawn on the Scheduled Expenditures Account in the amount of \$19,958.40. The motion was unanimously carried by all members in attendance.

REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT for the month of September 2024 was presented to Council. Jordan Tax Service reported collecting real estate taxes in the amount of \$104,167.24. After some review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

DISTRICT JUSTICE REPORT for the month of September 2024 was presented to Council. District Justice Guiseppe Roselli, for District Court No. 05-03-02, reported remitting fines in the amount of \$758.23 to the Borough for the month. After discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

POLICE REPORT for the month of September 2024 was presented to Council. Chief Burlett stated that after meeting on site with the installation company, it was determined that the license plate cameras are not able to be installed at the intersection of Beaver Road and Academy Avenue. The traffic signals do not include individual power sources, and would need to be

upgraded in order to install the cameras and necessary equipment. Mrs. Larsen asked whether the cameras could be installed elsewhere in town. Chief Burlett explained that the only other option would be in front of the Borough Building, where obtaining power would be costly and challenging. Mr. Hoepf asked whether the traffic signals at Beaver Road and Academy Avenue could be upgraded with new conduit. Chief Burlett highlighted the safety concerns with the existing signals, and noted that in order to install cameras at the intersection, all four signals require an upgrade. After further review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

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

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

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

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

Mr. Hofmann also referenced a recent news article related to the embezzlement of funds from the Ambridge Water Authority, who supplies water to the Edgeworth Municipal Authority, and highlighted concerns with recent rate increases for residents. Mrs. Politi and Mr. Lucas stated that they would look into the matter further.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS CONCERNING NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. Hugh St. Martin – 609 Maple Lane
Mr. Bill Lang – 617 Maple Lane
Mr. Charles Harris – 526 Irwin Drive
Mr. David Belczyk – 205 Orchard Place
Miss Juliana Belczyk – 205 Orchard Place

Miss Juliana Belczyk came before Council to request a speed limit sign to be installed on Orchard Place. She presented a drawing of the neighborhood, and stated that motorists have increasingly used the street as an alternate route to Ohio River Boulevard. She explained that many children live in her neighborhood and play in the street, and expressed concern with speeding cars. Mr. Marlovits stated that a speed sign or “Children at Play” sign would be appropriate to remind motorists to slow down and exercise caution while driving on the street. Chief Burlett stated that the Police Department will place the speed box on Orchard Place, and will discuss a permanent sign installation with the Public Works crew. Mr. Hoepf commended Miss Belczyk for her commitment to safety in her neighborhood, and thanked her for her comments.

OLD BUSINESS:

BEAVER ROAD WALL UPDATE: Mrs. Politi stated that both the wall stabilization contractor and sidewalk contractor recently met onsite with the Borough's engineers to review utilities, timelines, and traffic control for the Beaver Road Wall project. The sidewalk removal will occur first, followed by the installation of the soil nails and shotcrete application on the wall. Traffic control measures will include a single lane closure of Beaver Road, along with concrete barriers and a temporary traffic signal during the wall stabilization work. All affected residents along Oliver Road were notified of the work, which is expected to begin in late October. Mr. Wilson asked whether busses will utilize Oliver Road to go around the construction. Chief Burlett stated that busses should not re-route off of Beaver Road, and the police will perform extra patrols in the area during the work. Mr. Hoepf asked if the shotcrete dye color had been determined. Mrs. Politi stated that a color sample sheet was provided by the contractor, which was shared with the Oliver Road residents. A test panel will also be created in order to finalize the dye color. After further discussion, Council thanked Mrs. Politi for the update.

NEW BUSINESS:

APPOINTMENT OF MS. AMY BROWN AS ASSISTANT BOROUGH MANAGER/ASSISTANT BOROUGH SECRETARY: Mr. Wilson stated that the Personnel Committee met and interviewed Ms. Amy Brown for the position of Assistant Borough Manager, and found that she is a highly qualified candidate. Mr. Hofmann stated that Ms. Brown will be a great asset to the Borough. The Committee was impressed with her qualifications and background, and highly recommended her for the position. Mrs. Politi noted that Ms. Brown was offered the position and accepted, with a starting salary of \$57,500 and increasing to \$60,000 upon the completion of her six-month probationary period and satisfactory review. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Wilson with a second from Rev. Cartus to appoint Ms. Amy Brown as Assistant Borough Manager, and Assistant Borough Secretary effective October 21, 2024. All present voted in favor of the motion.

ADVERTISEMENT OF LEAD DISPATCHER/CLERK POSITION: Mrs. Politi stated that Lead Dispatcher Mr. Daniel Boyles provided his intent to retire in early 2025. In order for his successor to gain experience and insight while Mr. Boyles is still in his position, it would be beneficial to begin the hiring process. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mrs. Larsen to advertise for the position of Lead Dispatcher/Clerk. All present voted in favor of the motion.

ACTION CONCERNING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR CONTRACT 24-SW01 – BEAVER ROAD SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS: Mrs. Politi stated that upon review from the contractors and Borough's engineers, it was determined that the original stone included in the bid for the sidewalk undercut area is not conducive for the installation of the soil nails. The Change Order includes changing the type of stone from #1 to #57 limestone, for a total price increase of \$5,750.00. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Marlovits with a second from Mr. Wilson to accept Change Order No. 1 for Contractor 24-SW01 in the amount of \$5,750.00. All present voted in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION REGARDING RULES FOR PETS AND PET OWNERS: Rev. Cartus stated that after experiencing having a cat come onto her property, and hearing from neighbors about similar situations, she would like Council to have a discussion related to rules for pet owners, and explore any action that the Borough could take to come to a solution that benefits all residents. She stated that dogs must be leashed, registered with Allegheny County, and that dog owners must clean up after their pets, however there are few clear mandates regarding cats. Mr. Hoepf stated that Council has explored this issue in recent years, including researching other municipalities' laws regarding cats, and determined that any type of ordinance

related to cats is immensely difficult to enforce. Rev. Cartus stated that neighborly issues could potentially be reduced if there were some way to identify cats that are roaming as a pet rather than a stray, and asked if the Borough could require an identification tag on all cat collars. Mr. Marlovits stated that a committee may be able to explore the issue, however enacting an ordinance that can't be enforced is not practical. Mr. Hoepp stated that the Borough could explore ways to educate residents on proper pet ownership, however it cannot require people to put a collar on their cat and also enforce the law if someone does not collar their cat. Mayor Smith recommended placing an article in the upcoming Borough newsletter related to pet ownership. Mrs. Politi stated that while roaming cats is not a concern that is regularly expressed to Borough staff, a newsletter article could allow staff to collect data from residents who are concerned. After further discussion, Council directed Mrs. Politi to include an article related to proper pet ownership for both dogs and cats in the upcoming newsletter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Council entered Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 8:24 p.m., and returned to Regular Session at 8:43 p.m. Upon returning to regular session, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mrs. Larsen to set the wage for the Lead Dispatcher/Clerk position to \$24.00-\$26.00 per hour. All present voted in favor of the motion.

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

Ellen E. Politi – Borough Manager