

EDGEWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 19, 2019

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. Daniel S. Wilson, Mr. Gregory Marlovits, Mrs. Elizabeth Genter, Mayor Gary L. Smith, Borough Manager John F. Schwend, and Borough Solicitor Mr. Philip Weis.

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting held on October 15, 2019 were presented to Council. After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Aloe with a second by Mr. Hofmann to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from October 15, 2019. All present voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT for the month of October 2019 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

INVESTMENT REPORT as of November 19, 2019 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

FINANCIAL REPORT for the month of October 2019 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

BILLS PAYABLE for the month of November 2019 were presented to Council as follows: General Expenditures, in the amount of \$170,584.28 and Scheduled Expenditures, in the amount of \$8,957.02 were presented to Council as per the following list.

Scheduled Expenditures Account

6374	Lennon Smith Souleret	Engineer Fees	\$6,653.02
6375	Markl Supply Company	Public Safety Equipment	\$1,554.00
6376	Tall Timber Tree Experts	Stump Removals	\$750.00

After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Aloe with a second by Mr. Hofmann that a voucher be drawn on the General Account in the amount of \$170,584.28, and a voucher be drawn on the Scheduled Expenditures Account in the amount of \$8,957.02. The motion was unanimously carried by all members in attendance.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT for the month of October 2019 was presented to Council. After some review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

DISTRICT JUSTICE REPORT for the month of October 2019 was presented to Council. District Justice Robert L. Ford, for District Court No. 05-03-02, reported remitting fines in the amount of \$815.69 to the Borough for the month. After review and discussion this report was ordered received and filed.

POLICE REPORT for the month of October 2019 was presented to Council. Chief English complimented the Cochran Hose Company for their excellent response to a recent house fire on Way Hollow Road. Chief English also requested that a Life Saving Award medal be awarded to

an officer at the December Council Meeting. After further review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

FIRE REPORT for the month of October 2019 was presented to Council. Mr. Aloe explained that first arriving crews were on scene at the house fire on Way Hollow Road within ten minutes. The house sustained damage to the first floor, however there were no injuries, and everyone inside the house evacuated safely. Mr. Aloe stated that thirteen fire companies were on the scene due to the fact that daylight manpower is limited. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT for the month of October 2019 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

BUILDING PERMIT AND ZONING PERMIT REPORTS for the month of October 2019 were presented to Council. After discussion, these reports were ordered received and filed.

MS4 UPDATE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: President Hoeppe opened the floor for public comment on the topic of stormwater by reviewing the October 2019 MS4 report. After discussion, the report was ordered received and filed.

QVCOG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT for the month of October 2019 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. Minutes from the Edgeworth Municipal Authority were received.
- B. Minutes from the Leetsdale Municipal Authority were received. Mr. Schwend explained that the Authority recently completed the Act 537 Plan as required by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to explore incorporating Sewickley Borough sewage into the Leetsdale Municipal Authority. He stated that the plan has been publicly advertised, discussions are ongoing, and that Borough Council will be a participant in the decision within the coming months. Mr. Hoeppe discussed whether the Leetsdale plant would have enough capacity to adequately incorporate all of Sewickley Borough. Mr. Hofmann asked if Edgeworth residents would be affected by rate increases, to which Mr. Schwend replied that in order to answer, further evaluation would need completed by the Borough Engineer.
- C. Correspondence was received via email from the Quaker Valley Ambulance Authority regarding their Annual Audit.
- D. Correspondence was received from Mrs. Julie Watson requesting a property address change for 424 Beaver Road, located on a private drive between Beaver Road and Woodland Road. Mrs. Watson's request explained that the access point located off of Woodland Road is significantly safer and in better condition. Mr. Schwend stated that the address requested is available. After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mrs. Genter to approve the request made by Mrs. Watson to change her property address from 424 Beaver to 427 Woodland Road. All present voted in favor of the motion.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS CONCERNING NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

William Lang	617 Maple Lane
Mary Ferris	106 Woodland Road
Michelle Taylor	203 New England Place

Ms. Mary Ferris spoke to Council's earlier discussion related to the Leetsdale Municipal Authority's plant capacity. She asked whether or not the Authority had taken the potential new high school into consideration while calculating capacity. Mr. Schwend stated that the potential new high school was calculated to be the equivalent of twenty new houses, and was incorporated into the Authority's calculations. Mr. Schwend stated that the professional staff would provide continual updates on the status of the potential acquisition of Sewickley Borough's sewage, and suggested for any interested party to also attend the Authority's public meetings and address specific questions to the Authority and their engineer.

Mrs. Michelle Taylor came before Council to discuss requirements for building and zoning permits. Mrs. Taylor stated that she was replacing a porch roof that had been previously removed when she was told by the Borough that she needed to have a building permit. She was not aware that a permit was needed prior to work commencing and wanted to finish the project without obtaining the permit. Mr. Schwend explained that an anonymous complaint had been received by the professional staff regarding construction without a permit. Mr. Schwend and Mr. Fred Gregorich went to Mrs. Taylor's property to explain the process of obtaining a permit and the requirements for building within the Borough. While at the property, it could not be determined if a porch was already existing, where it was located, and whether the new construction would comply with the zoning ordinance. Due to these factors, Mr. Schwend and Mr. Gregorich instructed the contractor and Mrs. Taylor to stop work until a permit could be obtained. After discussion, Mr. Hoeppe explained to Mrs. Taylor why a building permit would be necessary for the completion of her porch. Secondly, Mrs. Taylor stated that she had been experiencing issues with stormwater runoff due to a lack of catch basins on New England Place. Mr. Schwend stated that the issue would be looked into.

OLD BUSINESS:

STREETS COMMITTEE – DISCUSSION REGARDING STREET SIGN POLES: Mr. Aloe stated that the Streets Committee had met to discuss options for street sign poles throughout the Borough. The Committee recommended replacing all sign posts and stop signs with decorative posts, and to spread the total cost over three years. Mr. Aloe stated that he recommends spreading the cost over five years in order to prioritize budget items. Mr. Hofmann stated that replacing all sign posts and stop signs would reflect the Borough well, and is a worthwhile investment for many years to come. After further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mr. Wilson to replace all sign posts and stop signs with decorative posts over the course of three years. Five members voted in favor of the motion, while Mr. Aloe opposed.

NEW BUSINESS:

ACTION CONCERNING 2020 PROPOSED BUDGET – AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE BUDGET: Mr. Wilson stated that the Finance Committee had met with the professional staff and reviewed the proposed 2020 budget line by line. For the seventeenth year in a row, there is no proposed property tax increase for Edgeworth residents. Mr. Schwend explained that the operating budget includes a slight increase in revenues, and outlined various expenditures included in the budget. He added that new construction within the Borough is expected to increase real estate tax revenue for 2021, when construction of new houses is completed. He also highlighted scheduled expenditure funds reserved for sewer reconstruction along Oliver Road, and replacement of certain public works equipment. After review and discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Wilson with a second from Mrs. Genter to authorize the advertisement of the 2020 budget. All present voted in favor of the motion.

ACTION CONCERNING RESOLUTION 2019-09 – ESTABLISHING THE PROGRAM CRITERIA FOR THE VOLUNTEER SERVICE CREDIT PROGRAM: Mr. Schwend stated that this resolution is in accordance with Ordinance No. 546 and Act 172, allowing for volunteer firefighters to receive earned income tax credit and a real estate tax reduction. Three Edgeworth residents have qualified for the program through Cochran Hose Co. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mr. Marlovits to approve Resolution 2019-09, establishing the criteria for the volunteer service credit program. Five members of Council voted in favor of the motion, while Mr. Aloe abstained.

ACTION CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT OF SOLICITOR TO THE EDGEWORTH ZONING HEARING BOARD: Mr. Wilson stated that Personnel Committee and members of the Zoning Hearing Board had met with two qualified candidates to fill the position of Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor. After the interviews and discussion, the Personnel Committee and the Zoning Hearing Board recommended appointing Ms. Gretchen Moore from Strassburger McKenna Gutnick and Gefsky to the position, and stated that the Committee and Zoning Hearing Board would evaluate the solicitor's performance at the end of next year. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mr. Marlovits to appoint Ms. Gretchen Moore as Solicitor to the Edgeworth Zoning Hearing Board. All present voted in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR FRANKLIN PARK BOROUGH'S LETTER REGARDING OIL AND GAS ZONING IN MUNICIPALITIES: Mayor Smith stated that Franklin Park Borough has asked the Pennsylvania State Legislature to review and amend the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) to give municipalities flexibility in zoning for gas and oil drilling. Franklin Park's letter stated that a contradiction exists between the MPC, which dictates that each municipality provide a zoning district for every use, and the State Constitution which dictates that right to clean air and water for all residents. Mayor Smith expressed that flexibility would be positive for Edgeworth and its residents, and asked Council to support Franklin Park Borough's request with a letter of support. Mr. Aloe expressed concern that the letter would be subject to legal action in the future, and stated that the Borough's strict ordinance related to gas and oil drilling is sufficient. After further discussion, Council decided to table the matter indefinitely.

INFORMATION REGARDING RECYCLING EVENT: Administrative Assistant Ellen DeWeese explained that in order to provide residents with a clear understanding of upcoming changes to recycling, the Borough will be hosting an informative event regarding recycling and waste reduction on January 15, 2020 at Edgeworth Elementary School. Representatives from Waste Management and Pennsylvania Resources Council will present information and ideas for residents to keep in mind while recycling. After discussion, Council thanked Ms. DeWeese for the information.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Council entered executive session to discuss a personnel matter at 8:34 p.m. and returned to regular session at 8:43 p.m.

Upon return to Regular Session, a motion was made by Mr. Wilson, with a second from Mr. Hofmann to set the Borough Manager's salary at \$90,000 for 2020, and to award a \$5,000 bonus to the Borough Manager and a \$2,000 bonus to Sargent John Burlett for their performance in 2019. All present voted unanimously 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.

John F. Schwend – Borough Manager