

EDGEWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 21, 2020

MEETING was called to order via Zoom 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, Ms. Carrie A. Morris, Mr. Gregory J. Marlovits, Mr. Daniel S. Wilson, Mrs. Elizabeth H. Genter, Mayor Gary L. Smith, Borough Manager John F. Schwend, and Mr. Brendan Lucas, Esq., representing the Borough Solicitor.

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting held on March 17, 2020 were presented to Council. After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Wilson with a second by Mr. Hofmann to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from March 17, 2020. All present voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT for the month of March 2020 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

INVESTMENT REPORT as of April 21, 2020 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

FINANCIAL REPORT for the month of March 2020 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

BILLS PAYABLE for the month of April 2020 were presented to Council as follows: General Expenditures, in the amount of \$183,316.96 and Scheduled Expenditures, in the amount of \$13,049.73 were presented to Council as per the following list.

Scheduled Expenditures Account

6407	Ambridge Lumber Co.	Salt Shed Repairs	\$171.75
6408	Belson Outdoors	Memorial Bench	\$1,011.00
6409	Robert Crusan, Urban Forestry	Arborist Fees	\$4,687.50
6410	Eisler Nurseries	Tree Plantings	\$1,882.00
6411	Lennon Smith Souleret	Engineering Fees	\$4,997.48
6412	Tall Timber Tree Experts	Stump Grinding	\$300.00

After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second by Mr. Wilson that a voucher be drawn on the General Account in the amount of \$183,316.96, and a voucher be drawn on the Scheduled Expenditures Account in the amount of \$13,049.73. The motion was unanimously carried by all members in attendance.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT for the month of March 2020 was presented to Council. After some review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

DISTRICT JUSTICE REPORT for the month of March 2020 was presented to Council. District Justice Robert L. Ford, for District Court No. 05-03-02, reported remitting fines in the amount of \$906.54 to the Borough for the month. After review and discussion this report was ordered received and filed.

POLICE REPORT for the month of March 2020 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

FIRE REPORT for the month of March 2020 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT for the month of March 2020 was presented to Council. Mr. Schwend stated that the Public Works employees have increased their cleaning and sanitizing protocols, and have implemented policies to ensure social distancing. After further discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

BUILDING PERMIT AND ZONING PERMIT REPORTS for the month of March 2020 were presented to Council. Mr. Marlovits asked about the current and future status of Way Hollow Road. Mr. Schwend explained that PennDOT has been in contact with the Borough about a turn back process, in which the state would pay for the cost of repairs and then return the road to the Borough, who would be responsible for its maintenance in the future. He stated that the Borough of Sewickley Heights will also need to decide whether to take back their portion of Way Hollow Road from the state. Ms. Morris asked about options beyond the turn back program, and Mr. Schwend stated that any other option would require a cul-de-sac to be installed at the Borough line. After further discussion, these reports were ordered received and filed.

MS4 UPDATE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: President Hoepf opened the floor for public comment on the topic of stormwater by reviewing the March 2020 MS4 report. After discussion, the report was ordered received and filed.

QVCOG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: for the month of February 2020 was presented to Council. Mr. Schwend stated that the COG is forming a committee to develop specifications for the next waste removal contract. The existing contract expires at the end of 2021. After discussion, the report was ordered received and filed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. Correspondence was received from Mr. George Patterson stating his resignation from the Leetsdale Municipal Authority. Mr. Schwend stated that he will be contacting residents who expressed interest on service on a board or commission in the past, and asked Council to consider other residents who may be willing to serve.
- B. Correspondence was received from Mr. Richard McCormack stating his resignation from the Edgeworth Planning Commission and Building Code Board of Appeals. Mr. Schwend stated that the vacancy on the Building Code Board of Appeals must be filled by a resident who is a licensed architect or engineer. After some discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Genter with a second from Mr. Hofmann to accept the resignations of Mr. Patterson and Mr. McCormack. All present voted in favor of the motion. Council thanked both residents for their years of service and dedication to the Borough.
- C. Correspondence was received from Ms. Rebecca Earlewine requesting a property address change for 621 Poia Road. Ms. Earlewine's request explained that her property does not physically touch Poia Road, and that her driveway access is located off of Sycamore Road. Mr. Schwend stated that the new address would be 325 Sycamore Road. After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mr. Wilson to approve the request made by Ms. Earlewine to change her property address from 621 Poia Road to 325 Sycamore Road. All present voted in favor of the motion.

- D. Correspondence was received from State Senator Pam Iovino, commending Edgeworth Borough for its recent recognition as an Allegheny League of Municipalities Banner Community.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS CONCERNING NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

William Lang 617 Maple Lane
John Unknown address – logged in via Zoom

OLD BUSINESS: No old business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

ACTION CONCERNING RESOLUTIONS 2020-01, 2020-02, AND 2020-03 – AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS WITH THE RAAC: Mr. Schwend stated that the Borough completed three applications to receive grant funding for infrastructure repairs from the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County. The applications are for stream bank restoration and pollutant reduction in Walter Park and along Creek Drive, and for a sewer lining on Church Lane. Mr. Schwend explained that the applications are evaluated based on the positive impacts they will produce for the surrounding community, and that State Representative Valerie Gaydos submitted letters of support for each project. After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mr. Wilson to adopt Resolutions 2020-01, 2020-02, and 2020-03 for applications for funds with the RAAC as submitted. All present voted in favor of the motion.

ACTION CONCERNING EXERCISING FIRST OPTION YEAR ON ROCK SALT CONTRACT: Mr. Schwend stated that the first option year is to extend the contract with Cargill Inc. for rock salt for another year, until June 30, 2021. Due to a very light winter, Cargill has implemented a 3% reduction in price for rock salt, yielding a price of \$79.30 per ton. He also explained that the Borough is required to provide an estimated tonnage that will be purchased, and due to the unseasonable winter Cargill has extended the timeframe for purchase requirements from June 30 until December 31, 2020. Mr. Schwend estimated that the Borough will have approximately 350 tons of rock salt on hand by the end of 2020. Mr. Wilson expressed concern over purchasing excess rock salt. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Wilson with a second from Mr. Marlovits to exercise the first option year in the rock salt contract with Cargill, Inc. after reviewing estimated needs for 2021. All present voted in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

RECOGNITION OF ARBOR DAY IN THE BOROUGH OF EDGEWORTH: Administrative Assistant Ellen DeWeese discussed the requirements set forth by the Arbor Day Foundation in order to meet the requirements for the “Tree City USA” program for a fourth year. Due to the ongoing situation with the COVID-19 virus, the Arbor Day Foundation has waived the requirement for an in-person celebration of Arbor Day, but still encourages recognizing the benefits that trees have in the community. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Wilson with a second by Mrs. Genter to recognize April 24, 2020 as Arbor Day in the Borough of Edgeworth. All present voted in favor of the motion.

LGA INTERN PROGRAM UPDATE: Ms. DeWeese stated that after interviewing many applicants for the Local Government Academy’s Municipal Internship Program, the Borough’s Sustainability Internship position was offered to and accepted by Ms. Emily Schnarre, a resident of Cranberry Township and a graduate student studying geography at the University of Alabama. Ms. DeWeese explained that Ms. Schnarre has experience in sustainability, local government, and GIS mapping, and she will begin on May 18, 2020. After some discussion, Council thanked Ms. DeWeese for the update.

At this time, Mr. David T. Aloe joined the meeting, and provided a brief update on the house fire that he responded to.

MANAGER'S COVID-19 UPDATE AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS: Mr. Schwend began discussion by reviewing revenue sources that could be most impacted by the COVID-19 restrictions, including earned income tax, business privilege tax, and police citations. Currently, there has been no interruption to the number of building and zoning permits issued. Mr. Schwend stated that the overall impact on the Borough budget is difficult to predict at this time, and will depend on closure extensions or virus reoccurrences throughout the year. In addition, Governor Wolf recently signed Senate Bill 841 into law, giving municipalities the option to extend real estate tax discount and face collection dates. Mr. Schwend explained that after discussions regarding previous collection data with Jordan Tax Service, he recommended keeping the discount collection date July 15th as previously set, and extending the face collection date at a later time only if deemed necessary. He stated that a large percentage of residents pay real estate taxes through escrowed funds held by mortgage companies, and the vast majority of households take advantage of the discount date. Mr. Schwend stated the Borough operating budget would sustain any delay in real estate tax collection if necessary. Mr. Hofmann and Mr. Wilson agreed with the recommendation to monitor the budget and adjust the collection period, if necessary, at a later date. Mr. Marlovits stated that leaving the Borough's collection dates in place will allow residents time to prepare for school district tax collection as well. Ms. Morris inquired about Earned Income Tax collection, and whether there is a process in place to ensure that the Borough received taxes due from businesses or residents who may send the tax to the wrong municipality, and Mr. Schwend stated he would research the process used to collection by Keystone Tax Collectors. After further discussion, Mr. Schwend stated that he will provide budget updates and projections monthly. Council thanked Mr. Schwend for his report.

There being no further business, the meeting on motion duly made and seconded was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

John F. Schwend – Borough Manager