

EDGEWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 2021

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. David T. Aloe, 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 February 16, 2021 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 February 16, 2021. All present voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

At this time, Mr. Hoepp announced that there was a change in the order of the agenda, and that Council will hear from representatives from Maher Duessel regarding the 2020 Borough Audit.

ACTION CONCERNING 2020 BOROUGH AUDIT – MAHER DUESSEL: Mr. Wilson stated that the Finance Committee met with Mr. Brian McCall, Ms. Emily Gatz, and Mr. Bob Belicose from Maher Duessel prior to the meeting to discuss the 2020 Borough Audit. The audit team presented the audit to the committee 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. The audit team noted that a loss of approximately \$120,000 in the capital improvement fund is due to invoicing from the paving contract completed in 2019, however the Borough still maintained a surplus for the year. Mr. Wilson stated that a management letter was issued to recommend that everyone with a Borough email address receive training to recognize and report phishing scams. After further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Wilson with a second from Mrs. Genter to approve the 2020 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.

TREASURER’S REPORT for the month of February 2021 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

INVESTMENT REPORT as of March 16, 2021 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

FINANCIAL REPORT for the month of February 2021 was presented to Council. After further review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

BILLS PAYABLE for the month of March 2021 were presented to Council as follows: General Expenditures, in the amount of \$166,453.03 and Scheduled Expenditures, in the amount of \$33,353.55 were presented to Council as per the following list.

Scheduled Expenditures Account

6479	Cleaning Systems Inc.	Heated Wash System	\$3,887.74
6480	Garvin Boward Beitko	Engineering Fees	\$1,953.75
6481	Home Depot	Sign Post Materials	\$336.00
6482	Lennon Smith Souleret	Engineering Fees	\$5,605.78

6483	Motorola Solutions	Police Radio Equipment	\$8,707.28
6484	Penn Landscape and Cement	Garage Floor	\$10,988.00
6485	Thomas V. Giel Garage Doors	Garage Door Repair	\$1,875.00

After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Wilson with a second by Mr. Hofmann that a voucher be drawn on the General Account in the amount of \$166,453.03, and a voucher be drawn on the Scheduled Expenditures Account in the amount of \$33,353.55. The motion was unanimously carried by all members in attendance.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT for the month of February 2021 was presented to Council. After some review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

DISTRICT JUSTICE REPORT for the month of February 2021 was presented to Council. District Justice Robert L. Ford, for District Court No. 05-03-02, reported remitting fines in the amount of \$705.72 to the Borough for the month. After review and discussion this report was ordered received and filed.

POLICE REPORT for the month of February 2021 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

FIRE REPORT for the month of February 2021 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT for the month of February 2021 was presented to Council. Mr. Schwend stated that the Public Works crew has been installing updated street signs and sign posts throughout the Borough. After discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

BUILDING PERMIT AND ZONING PERMIT REPORTS for the month of February 2021 were presented to Council. After review and discussion, these reports were ordered received and filed.

QUAKER VALLEY COG REPORT for the month of February 2021 was presented to Council. Mr. Schwend stated that workshops related to Route 65 corridor improvements are wrapping up. Additionally, Mr. Schwend announced that the COG Executive Director, Mrs. Susan Hockenberry, has decided to leave her position in April, and the search for a new executive director has begun. After discussion, this report was 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 February 2021 MS4 report. After discussion, the 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.
- C. Correspondence was received from the Allegheny League of Municipalities recognizing Edgeworth Borough as a Banner Community. Mr. Schwend announced that this is the fourth consecutive year that the designation has been given to the Borough. Council thanked the professional staff for their work in receiving the award.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS CONCERNING NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

William Lang	617 Maple Lane
Gail Murray	605 Maple Lane
Emily Gatz	Maher Duessel
Bob Belicose	Maher Duessel
Brian McCall	Maher Duessel

OLD BUSINESS:

UPDATE REGARDING PROPOSED CHANGES TO ZONING ORDINANCE: Mr. Schwend stated that the Planning Commission reviewed proposed changes to the zoning ordinance related to both gas resources development and wireless cell towers. The Planning Commission recommended approval for both sets of revisions, and the proposed ordinances will be sent to the Allegheny County Planning Commission for review. Mr. Hoepp recommended that any other proposed revisions be discussed by the Property Committee prior to beginning the advertisement process. Ms. Morris stated that she recommended additional changes to the professional staff for review. After further discussion, Council thanked Mr. Schwend for the update.

NEW BUSINESS:

ACTION CONCERNING EDGEWORTH MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT:

Mr. Schwend stated that the Borough and the Edgeworth Municipal Authority have a well-established a mutual aid agreement to share resources during emergency situations. The Authority has asked to reauthorize the original agreement, previously adopted in the mid 1990's. The Borough Solicitor has reviewed and did not find any issues or areas of concern with the language. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mr. Wilson to approve and execute the mutual aid agreement with the Edgeworth Municipal Authority as written. All present voted in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

ALLEGHENY GOATSCAPE: Administrative Assistant Ellen DeWeese explained that in an effort to promote the Borough's sustainability program, a quote was received from Allegheny Goatscape to clear an area of hillside along Route 65 that is overgrown with knotweed and other invasive weeds. Ms. DeWeese explained that the goats are able to clear the entire 550-foot area in approximately one week, with setup, clean up, and goat care handled by the Allegheny Goatscape staff. The total projected cost is between \$1,100 and \$1,400. Currently, the Public Works crew attempts to clear the knotweed with weed whackers and mowers, with approximately seventy-two hours of labor dedicated to the area. Ms. DeWeese highlighted the cost and time savings for the Borough and Public Works crew, as well as the environmental and sustainable benefits to the area. Ms. Morris asked whether the project would comply with the Borough's zoning ordinances. Ms. DeWeese explained that there is a provision of the zoning ordinance allowing for the Borough Manager to issue a temporary special use permit that would cover the goat project. Mr. Marlovits asked whether the goats create a permanent solution for knotweed, or if the project will occur on an ongoing basis. Ms. DeWeese stated that the goats will eat the weeds down to the root, and minimal regrowth, if any, will only occur after a year. Mr. Hofmann asked for an estimated start date for the goats arrival, and Ms. DeWeese stated that Allegheny Goatscape has currently proposed late June. After further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Aloe with a second from Mr. Wilson to approve the Allegheny Goatscape project. All present voted in favor of the motion.

There being no further business, the meeting on motion duly made and seconded was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

John F. Schwend – Borough Manager