

EDGEWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 21, 2022

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. 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.

Mr. Hoepp announced that representatives from Waste Management would address Council regarding summer collection hours. Ms. Deanna Jenkins and Mr. Matthew Lind requested that on days where the heat index would reach 87° or hotter, residential waste and recycling collection could begin at 6:00 am instead of 7:00 am, as per Borough ordinance, with twenty-four hours of advanced notice. They explained that during excessive heat, temperatures inside and near the trucks can reach approximately 20° hotter than the temperature outside. This request is being made for the safety of the drivers and employees. They stated that the revision would not include any commercial or dumpster collection. The use of back-up alarms and other excessive noise would also be minimized. Mr. Hofmann stated that protecting the health and welfare of employees is of the utmost importance, and agreed with the 6:00 am start time. Mr. Schwend recommended that a date range should be set so that all residents are aware to have their cans out for collection at the earlier time. Mr. Lind and Ms. Jenkins asked that the date range occur from May 1st to September 30th of each year. Additionally, Mr. Hoepp requested that Waste Management utilize areas across Route 65 to park trucks not actively in use. Ms. Jenkins and Mr. Lind stated that trucks would not be parked on residential streets. After further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Wilson with a second from Mr. Hofmann to grant Waste Management an exception to the contractor work hours and noise ordinance, to allow Waste Management to begin residential waste and recycling collection at 6:00 am from May 1st to September 30th when the heat forecast is 87° or above, with notice provided twenty-four hours in advance. All present voted in favor of the motion. Ms. Jenkins and Mr. Lind thanked Council for their time.

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting held on May 17, 2022 were presented to Council. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Aloe with a second by Mr. Wilson to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from May 17, 2022. All present voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT for the month of May 2022 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

INVESTMENT REPORT as of June 21, 2022 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

FINANCIAL REPORT for the month of May 2022 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

BILLS PAYABLE for the month of June 2022 were presented to Council as follows: General Expenditures, in the amount of \$227,139.96 and Scheduled Expenditures, in the amount of \$17,188.88 were presented to Council as per the following list.

Scheduled Expenditures Account

22	CW Electrical Serivces	Panel Box Upgrade	\$8,500.00
23	Eisler Nurseries	Spring Tree Planting	\$1,595.00

24	Lennon Smith Souleret	Engineering Fees	\$1,077.88
25	Motorola Solutions	Police Radio Equipment	\$276.00
26	Penn Landscape and Cement	Park Mulching	\$1,630.00
27	Tall Timber Tree Experts	Tree Removal	\$4,110.00

After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second by Mrs. Genter that a voucher be drawn on the General Account in the amount of \$227,139.96, and a voucher be drawn on the Scheduled Expenditures Account in the amount of \$17,188.88. The motion was unanimously carried by all members in attendance.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT for the month of May 2022 was presented to Council. After some review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

DISTRICT JUSTICE REPORT for the month of May 2022 was presented to Council. District Justice Robert L. Ford, for District Court No. 05-03-02, reported remitting fines in the amount of \$767.72 to the Borough for the month. After review and discussion this report was ordered received and filed.

POLICE REPORT for the month of May 2022 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

FIRE REPORT for the month of May 2022 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT for the month of May 2022 was presented to Council. After discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

BUILDING PERMIT AND ZONING PERMIT REPORTS for the month of May 2022 were presented to Council. After review and discussion, the 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 May 2022 MS4 report. After discussion, the report was ordered received and filed.

QUAKER VALLEY COG REPORT for the month of May 2022 was presented to Council. Mr. Schwend stated that COG had recently opened two glass recycling areas, in Sewickley and Avalon boroughs. After 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.
- C. Correspondence was received from Nichols and Slagle Engineering regarding the Sewickley Borough Act 537 Plan. Mr. Hugh St. Martin, a member of the Leetsdale Municipal Authority Board, explained that Sewickley Borough has recently hired a new Borough Engineer, and requested a third review of the Act 537 Plan. Mr. Schwend stated that multiple municipalities affected by the Plan have not yet approved it.
- D. Correspondence was received from the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General regarding the Borough's 2020 Liquid Fuels Audit. Mr. Schwend stated that the Borough did not receive any findings or comments, and an unmodified report was issued.

- E. The resignation of Mr. Chris Blazak from the Edgeworth Municipal Authority was received. Mr. Schwend stated that Mr. Blazak is moving out of the Borough, and gave his resignation verbally, effective July 1, 2022. Council accepted Mr. Blazak’s resignation, and thanked him for his service to the Borough.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS CONCERNING NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. William Lang	617 Maple Lane
Mr. Hugh St. Martin	609 Maple Lane
Mrs. Gail Murray	605 Maple Lane
Rev. Rebecca Cartus	302 Maple Lane
Ms. Barbara Bonnett	102 Woodland Road
Ms. Deanna Jenkins	Waste Management
Mr. Matt Lind	Waste Management

Mrs. Gail Murray came before Council to highlight a petition that has begun circulating online, with currently one hundred and twenty four signatures, regarding preserving two homes in Edgeworth. Mrs. Murray asked that the petition be placed into the record:

“Petition – Edgeworth Houses

Plans are underway that may forever alter the character, aesthetics, and quality of life in Edgeworth Borough and the greater Sewickley Valley.

New landowners are quietly moving forward with development plans that are reported to invoice the demolition of the historic Blacksmith’s and Miller’s homes at the corner of Beaver Road and Village Drive (adjacent to Morrow Pontefract Park) and potentially replacing them with non-residential buildings, new parking lots, and sports-related courts and artificial turf fields.

In addition to the threat to these historic and livable structures, any new non-residential development would likely negatively impact safety and traffic conditions for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists on Beaver Road, along with increasing noise and light pollution. Any increase in nonpermeable surfaces will present a pollution risk to the pristine waters of Little Sewickley Creek, which currently holds a “high quality” stream designation.

Edgeworth and Sewickley Valley residents are faced with another loss of this area’s history with a potential development that would undoubtedly increase traffic, light and sound pollution, and pollution risk to the nearby creek and park. We must act to ensure Edgeworth officials hear from members of the community.

Please sign this petition to protect our residential neighborhoods and Morrow Pontefract Park.

****IF YOU RESIDE IN EDGEWORTH BOROUGH, Please state your address as EDGEWORTH, PA 15143 (instead of Sewickley).**

Thank you,

Preserve Edgeworth (formed by a group of concerned Edgeworth and Sewickley Valley residents)”

Mr. Schwend explained that no land development plans had been received for the property at 627 Beaver Road or for Nichols Field at this time. Once plans are received, plans will be reviewed by the Planning Commission, Borough Council, and Zoning Hearing Board, and agendas for all meetings will be available to the public. Additionally, Mrs. Murray stated that a covenant was placed on the property at 627 Beaver Road, requiring that it be used for single family residence purposes only. Mr. Schwend explained that the Borough placed the covenant on the property when the Borough sold it to the Wasco family in 1965. The covenant was not included in the wording on the most recent deed transfer to Sewickley Academy, however the covenant remains in place and runs with the land. Mr. Schwend stated that Borough Council would consult with legal counsel regarding the covenant in Executive Session. After further discussion, Council thanked Mrs. Murray for her concerns.

Rev. Rebecca Cartus came before Council to inquire about permit regulations regarding fence replacements. Mr. Schwend explained when a permit is required for fence repair or replacement in the Borough. Additionally, Rev. Cartus expressed concern with cars parking at the intersection of Chestnut Road and Maple Lane. She explained that cars park up to the intersection, and visibility for motorists attempting to turn onto Chestnut Road from Maple Lane is severely limited. Chief Burlett stated that other complaints regarding parking on the lower half of Chestnut Road have been received, and the area is congested each day around school dismissal. After discussion, Mr. Hoepf directed the matter to the Streets Committee for review. Council thanked Rev. Cartus for her concerns.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

ACTION CONCERNING ORDINANCE 557 – AMENDING THE GENERAL PENSION PLAN: Mr. Hoepf opened a public hearing to discuss the proposed ordinance amending the general pension plan. Mr. Schwend stated that the ordinance was advertised in the paper of record, and would reduce the vesting period for the defined benefit plan from twelve years to seven years, while creating a defined contribution component for all future hires. After brief discussion, the public hearing was closed. A motion was made by Mr. Aloe with a second from Mr. Wilson to adopt Ordinance 557 – Amending the General Pension Plan. A roll call vote was taken, and all members voted unanimously in favor.

ACTION CONCERNING CREATING OF 401(a) PLAN THROUGH HENDERSON BROTHERS RETIREMENT: Mr. Schwend stated that the Finance Committee has met with representatives from Henderson Brothers Retirement to discuss the specifics of creating the 401(a) plan, which would serve as the defined contribution component of the Borough's general pension plan. Mrs. Genter provided an overview of the differences between the 401(a) plan, and the 457(b) plan that is currently offered as a voluntary option for all full-time employees. Mr. Wilson stated that the Finance Committee discussed the associated fees of \$2,500 annually and 50 basis points, and determined they are reasonable. Mr. Hofmann asked whether police officers hired in the future would be included in the 401(a) plan. Mr. Schwend explained that the plan would not include police officers, however any changes to new hired police officer pensions could be discussed through negotiations for the next contract. After further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mr. Wilson to enter into the agreement with Henderson Brothers Retirement for the creation of a 401(a) plan. All present voted in favor of the motion.

ACTION CONCERNING BEAVER ROAD WALL EMERGENCY REPAIR: Mr. Schwend stated a thirty-foot section of the Beaver Road Wall recently collapsed, and is in need of emergency repair. The Borough Engineer solicited bids from four contractors, all of whom rejected bidding on the work by the deadline. Mr. Schwend stated that he contacted JASE LLC, who provided a bid in the amount of \$87,300.00 to replace sixty feet of wall with gabion baskets, and forty feet of sidewalk. Mr. Hoepf stated that attempting to receive bids for a small project during the summer months would be difficult. Mr. Schwend stated that the sidewalk repair could potentially be completed by the Borough's paving contractor, Youngblood Paving Inc., who will be completing ADA ramp repairs as part of their paving contractor. Mrs. Genter suggested that Council should consider repairing the wall in its entirety so that emergency repairs are not needed in the future. Mr. Aloe stated that the wall has not shown significant signs of movement with quarterly testing, and stated that any repairs should be completed as they become necessary. He also suggested completing a temporary repair to back fill the section of collapsed wall. Mr. Hoepf stated that the current collapse should be repaired, and Council could begin discussion on total wall repairs at a future date. After further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mrs. Genter to award the emergency repair to JASE LLC, excluding Line Item 3 – Sidewalk Repair.

Mr. Hoepp, Mr. Hofmann, Mr. Marlovits, Mr. Wilson and Mrs. Genter voted in favor of the motion, while Mr. Aloe opposed.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. DENNIS ZEITLER TO THE EDGEWORTH MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY:

Mr. Wilson stated that the Personnel Committee had met with Mr. Zeitler, and he is highly qualified to serve as a member of the Edgeworth Municipal Authority. Mr. Schwend stated that Mr. Zeitler would fulfill the vacancy left by Mr. Chris Blazak. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Aloe with a second from Mr. Marlovits to appoint Mr. Dennis Zeitler to serve on the Edgeworth Municipal Authority, with a term ending on December 31, 2025. All present voted in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION – POLICE ELIGIBILITY LIST: Mr. Schwend stated that in order to hire full time police officers in the future, an eligibility list must be established. Chief Burlett explained that if the Borough was ever placed in the position of needing to hire a full-time police officer quickly, the list would be used to determine eligibility based on interviews, and physical and written examinations. Qualified applicants would be placed on the list for up to a year after it is established. Mr. Hofmann stated that establishing the police eligibility list would allow the Borough to remain in position to hire a full-time officer if and when it becomes necessary. Mr. Wilson asked about the process of establishing the eligibility list. Mr. Schwend explained that Borough Council would authorize the Civil Service Commission to establish the eligibility list, and test for applicants. The Commission would then certify the list, and it would remain valid for six months to a year. After further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mr. Wilson to authorize the Civil Service Commission to establish the police eligibility list. All present voted in favor of the motion.

Additionally, Mayor Smith stated that the Fourth of July Bike Parade is quickly approaching. Administrative Assistant Ellen Politi stated that the parade will take place on July 4th at 10:00 am, and the Edgeworth Police and Cochran Hose Co. have agreed to escort the bicyclists. Mayor Smith and Mr. Marlovits agreed to attend and help with the event.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Council entered executive session to discuss a legal matter at 8:23 pm, and returned to regular session at 8:37 pm. After returning to regular session, Council directed Mr. Schwend to send a letter to Sewickley Academy stating the Borough's position that the restrictive covenant placed on the property located at 627 Beaver Road is still in full effect.

Additionally, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Hofmann stated that they asked Chief Burlett to report on school safety and officer preparedness for active shooter situations at Edgeworth Elementary School and Sewickley Academy. Mr. Schwend stated that Chief Burlett will present a report to Council at the next Council meeting, and the matter will be placed on the agenda for discussion.

There being no further business, the meeting on motion duly made and seconded was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

John F. Schwend – Borough Manager