

**Borough of Edinboro  
Council Meeting Minutes  
July 13, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Monday, July 13, 2020 the regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Mayor Aaron Gast at 6:30 PM.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**ROLL CALL:**

Council members present were Jim Kiley (via phone), Mary Ann Horne, Aaron Gast, Fred Langill, Pat Davis, and Alyssa Dobson. Absent was Mark Eisert.

Other officials present were Borough Manager Kevin Ople, Solicitor Tim Wachter, and Finance Director Jason Spangenberg. Citizens present were MJ Campbell, Curtis Hals, Debbie McElroy, and Mary Schenck.

**MINUTES:**

Mary Ann Horne moved to approve the June 8, 2020 regular meeting, CDBG hearings, and liquor license hearing minutes as presented. Pat Davis seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Debbie McElroy, 113 Maple Drive. Ms. McElroy thanked Council for looking into the concerns about speeding on Maple Drive. She discussed the speed humps installed on Lakeside Drive and asked if there was anything the residents of Maple Drive could do to help reduce the speeding on their street. Fred Langill stated that Council is listening and working to help. He discussed the research he had done on the topic, including discussions with PennDOT officials, state legislature issues, and the expenses associated with speed humps. He suggested that an informational campaign be started to inform citizens of the importance of following speeding/safety guidelines. Police Chief Al Donahue stated that the police department will be able to paint more speed lines than we could before, thanks to a new certified tape measurer, and he supported Mr. Langill's idea of painting a design on the road to encourage slower driving.

Curtis Hals, 136 Maple Drive. Mr. Hals asked who paid for the speed humps on Lakeside Drive, and what kind of ticket can be given from using speed lines. Mayor Gast replied that the speed humps were jointly paid by the Borough and the Lakeside Association. Chief Donahue said that a normal speeding ticket can be given from speed lines.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Finance Committee:**

Mary Ann Horne moved to approve bills paid June 22 totaling \$41,690.73; and paid July 13 totaling \$242,224.75. Alyssa Dobson seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

Mary Ann Horne moved to approve payroll paid June 19 totaling \$76,844.30; and paid July 3 totaling \$82,323.43. Pat Davis seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

### **Personnel Committee:**

Pat Davis stated that the Committee had completed the Borough Manager's annual performance review, and an Executive Session would be needed at the end of the meeting to discuss the results of the review.

Mayor Gast asked that interviews be scheduled for the two applicants for the Authority Board.

## **MANAGEMENT REPORTS:**

Manager Oppe presented his monthly report. The final census event will be held on Monday July 20 from 11-4. The latest census number is that we have 56% of households enumerated. There is still funding for a large event with music that we plan to target the students who live in town, who we believe are the largest reason for the very low turnout. Census will wrap up on 31 October, 2020.

We have been working with the Edinboro University Social Work Department to assess the social needs of the community. They have come up with a short questionnaire that will be available online and in paper copy. We hope to be able to distribute this in the next month. The intent is to identify what programs are difficult to access in Edinboro with the view to finding better models for service provision.

The summer outdoor movie series will occur starting on Thursday, July 16 at Goodell Gardens. Social distancing will be enforced with family group circles being painted on the grass and masks when moving about.

We received a number of complaints about large fireworks going off in the Borough on July 4. The most visible was an extensive display going off in the open space near Ergo Audio. The Police responded to the complaint, but were unable to get answers as to who was responsible. Representative Bizzarro has proposed a committee in the legislature to address concerns from the law that was passed about a year ago, loosening fireworks rules.

The project to replace the wastewater line on W. Normal, Brookview, and Water St. extension is continuing with no major issues so far.

We have been following the guidance from state/county health departments and the more detailed recommendations from the PA Recreation & Parks Society for our parks, playgrounds, and basketball courts.

We have ordered the LED elements to refurbish our lamp-poles downtown. The plan is for the one side of the poles to be taken down, paint stripped, and powder coated, and then put back, followed by the other side of the street. New wiring in conduit is being installed that will increase the ability to support public events in the street and neighboring areas with electricity.

The Erie County MPO approved an award of ~\$65,000 from Federal Aid Routes funding for Waterford Street when Wesleyville declined due to not being able to support the other \$500,000 required. Our project is conservatively estimated to be \$100,000 and we had been planning on repaving in our maintenance schedule in the next few years.

Recently the PA Department of Community and Economic Development has allocated \$225 million to go to grants for small businesses to help with the financial losses of the shutdown. Eligible businesses must apply for these grants through a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). There are four CDFIs that are designated for Erie County. Several local businesses are in the process of applying or have already applied in the first round.

Regarding the CARES Act funding for municipalities, Manager Opple has applied for reimbursement from the County for COVID-19 related expenses incurred by the Borough.

Since there hasn't been a review of options for our pension manager in quite some time, we put out a request for proposals to see what companies could offer. Tom Bean, our current manager, declined to submit. We received four valid written proposals and narrowed them to three for interviews. One manager, Equitable, was the top choice for the four members on the interviews. The fees are 10% lower than the current manager, and they are proposing more support for the defined contribution plans, including education and active support.

#### **Finance:**

Mary Ann Horne moved to appoint Equitable Advisors as the Borough pension investment manager. Mayor Gast seconded, and the motion passed 5-0, with Fred Langill abstaining due to a relative being employed by that company.

#### **COMMUNITY LIAISONS:**

#### **EVFD:**

Mary Ann Horne provided an update. The EVFD has purchased a used ladder truck in good condition from another department. Also, a new fire truck is being purchased. The EVFD is looking for ways to recoup lost income from the social club due to COVID-19.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Manager Opple explained a communication received from Jessten Oblinski.

Pat Davis moved to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Council entered executive session at 7:15 PM and returned at 7:32 PM. Mayor Gast then moved to table the vote for Manager Opple’s bonus until the next meeting. Alyssa Dobson seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mary Ann Horne for adjournment, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

**ATTEST:**

  
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Manager Kevin Opple

  
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Mayor Aaron Gast