

**Borough of Edinboro  
Council Meeting Minutes  
June 14, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Monday, June 14, 2021 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, Fred Langill, Alyssa Dobson, Mark Eisert, Aaron Gast, and Mary Ann Horne. Absent was Pat Davis.

Other officials present were Solicitor Tim Wachter, Borough Manager Kevin Oppe, and Finance Director Jason Spangenberg. Citizens present were Curtis Hals, MJ Campbell, Kathy Amidon, and Michael Amidon.

**MINUTES:**

Mary Ann Horne moved to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021 regular meeting as presented. Jim Kiley seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Michael Amidon, 809 Lakeside Drive. Mr. Amidon discussed the orange snow fence in his front yard for which he had been cited by the Code Enforcement department. He passed out a handout to Council showing the permanent fence that he was requesting permission to install. He stated that the ordinance allows a three-foot fence in the front yard, but he was requesting to use a four-foot fence, which would be used to contain his three dogs. He said he called 23 fencing companies and none of them were able to install a fence for him this year, but the 24<sup>th</sup> company would be able to install the four-foot fence on the handout. Manager Oppe stated that a variance would need to be obtained in order to install the four-foot fence, or the ordinance could be changed to allow taller fences in front yards in the whole Borough. Fred Langill asked how often the three-foot fence restriction has been brought up as a problem, and Manager Oppe replied that it has never been brought up as a problem until this situation. Mr. Langill suggested that Mr. Amidon first try leashing and invisible fencing for his dogs. Council discussed briefly and Mayor Gast recommended that Mr. Amidon try for a variance if he wanted to proceed with the four-foot fence. Solicitor Wachter noted that going in front of the Zoning Hearing Board for a variance has a cost and approval is not guaranteed.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Finance Committee:**

Mary Ann Horne moved to approve bills paid May 24 totaling \$63,076.95; and paid June 14 totaling \$57,600.71. Mayor Gast seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

Mary Ann Horne moved to approve payroll paid May 20 totaling \$80,511.96; and paid June 3 totaling \$87,640.55. Jim Kiley seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Solicitor Wachter discussed a draft proposal for amending the portion of the Code of Ordinances regarding student rental permits. He reviewed the proposed changes: add a definition for bedroom using the 2018 International Property Maintenance Code definition, remove definitions and language referencing students and the student rental designation, remove the existing language regarding a nonconforming use, and add that bedrooms shall not be occupied by more than two unrelated adults. Alyssa Dobson stated that she would schedule an Ordinance Committee meeting to review the proposal. Mary Ann Horne expressed a concern about how the proposal would impact parking at rental houses, stating her opinion that it should be addressed in this ordinance. Council discussed the parking concern. Solicitor Wachter noted that the ordinance proposal could be amended as desired by Council.

### **MANAGEMENT REPORTS:**

Manager Oppe presented his monthly report. The ECED hosted a Community Meeting, titled Envision Edinboro, to present the revitalization plan created with Atlas. It was a great event with around 80 in attendance, including EUP President Dale Pehrsson, ECGRA Director Perry Wood, representatives from State and County elected officials, and community leaders.

Regarding the Mike Onda Beach Eagle Scout project, work began two weekends ago and continues. Reducing the height of the near wall of the pavilion has been halted because the concrete is more solid than expected, so the Borough will take over that renovation, but the cleaning and painting of the rest of the pavilion is going well.

Jesse Kohler, a local contractor, volunteered to paint the Edinboro concrete sign on Erie St. and did a great job. Heidi Marcinko, owner of Bud's Barber, is responsible for the nice flowers and foliage planted there.

Manager Oppe submitted an ECGRA Parks Grant request for five projects:

- \$9,200 for 7 trash enclosures to replace the utilitarian trash barrels at Billings (6) and Thompson (1) Parks. This has been a request from Lakeside Association for several years.

- \$4,400 for another drinking fountain with bottle filling station for Billings Park. This is the same model as has been so successful at Thompson Park.
- \$5,300 for a spinning playground piece for Chestnut Park to replace the unused purple metal item in the park. This is like the one that was placed in Thompson Park through the 2019 ECGRA Parks grant. It is inclusive for safe use by mentally and physically challenged kids, but is enjoyable for all ages.
- \$600 to purchase four share-a-bike racks (2 for Billings and 2 for Thompson Park) in conjunction with the 50 bikes and 70 racks the university is purchasing. The bikes will be free and can be unlocked by use of a smartphone app connected to a credit card in case of damage or loss of the bike. The racks are solar powered, so only require a concrete pad.
- \$2,700 for materials and rental equipment for pouring the concrete pads for these projects.
- \$300 for treated lumber to replace damaged parts of the Mike Onda Beach Pavilion.

The share for the grant would be \$11,500 from the Borough and \$11,500 from ECGRA.

The Town & Gown Committee discussed current events on campus and in the Borough including planning for July 3 fireworks where plans are going well. The university was pleased to hear that we are supporting their plan for a share-a-bike program with some racks at Billings and Thompson Parks. Manager Opplé spoke with the Student Government President and they are looking to place some of the bike racks off-campus in areas for use by students & residents.

The Triathlon was highly successful. Participants and spectators were universally positive as to the high quality of organization and enthusiasm from the community.

Planning for the July 3 fireworks event is in high gear and on track. Primary parking will be next to McComb Fieldhouse and there will be amenities and viewing areas in the same area as last time, but also behind the Pogue Center. This is possible this time since the pedestrian bridge behind Pogue has been replaced.

Plans are behind schedule for the 6N/99 PennDOT intersection improvement project due to delays from the utility companies. Manager Opplé had meetings with the owner of Dairy Supreme and PennDOT to improve the traffic flow in his property as well as fulfill the state highway requirements. The project is now expected to be completed in the fall.

Mark Eisert asked about the status of the sidewalk project to Giant Eagle. Manager Opplé replied that the process is stuck at the PennDOT environmental review stage.

**Recreation:**

Mayor Gast moved to approve the Edinboro University soccer tournament event and road closing permit. Alyssa Dobson seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

**COMMUNITY LIAISONS:**

**EVFD:**

Mary Ann Horne stated that a ceremony will be scheduled soon to dedicate the recent fire apparatus purchases, and she noted that it is becoming more difficult to find qualified EMTs as more departments begin to also utilize paid EMS.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

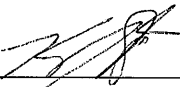
Fred Langill proposed that a banner project be undertaken in honor of next year's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Title IX; banners could be placed on light poles in town honoring important Edinboro women. Manager Oppe supported the idea and suggested that Mr. Langill discuss with Edinboro University about using the light poles on campus.

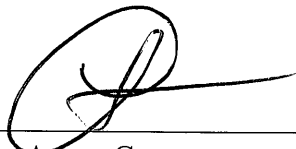
Mark Eisert asked about rental permitting for AirBnBs. Manager Oppe stated that these require the same rental permit and inspection process as any other rental.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Gast moved for adjournment, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM.

**ATTEST:**

  
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Manager Kevin Oppe

  
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Mayor Aaron Gast