

**Borough of Edinboro
Council Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

Council members present were Amanda Frantz-Mamani, Pat Davis, Aaron Gast, Mary Ann Horne (via phone), George Gast, Kelly Gheres, and Mark Eisert. Junior Council Members Cole Montanye and Braydan Hartshorn were also present.

Other officials present were Solicitor Tim Wachter and Borough Manager Jason Spangenberg. Citizens present were Mary Ann Mook, Curtis Hals, Ray Overholt, Frank Stawicki, Todd Jay, MJ Campbell, Anne Hametz, Pat Mayton, Dan Mayton, Judy Davenport, Michael Zahorchak, Thom Bittner, Steve O'Neill, Mary Ann Schenck, David Mussett, Gina Mussett, Dottie Burfield, Joe Bufalino, Ellen Lyons, and Patrick Lyons.

MINUTES:

Pat Davis moved to approve the minutes of the October 14 regular meeting as presented. Mark Eisert seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Mary Ann Schenck, 116 Sunset Drive. Ms. Schenck thanked Heidi Marcinko for maintaining the flower display around the Edinboro sign downtown, Casey Brown and the others who watered the flower baskets downtown, and the Borough crew for running the leaf vacuum truck.

Steve O'Neill, 124 Waterford Street. Mr. O'Neill stated that he believes the Borough does not need more police officers as discussed in the 2025 budget hearing, listing concerns about items they are not enforcing currently. Manager Spangenberg replied that he believes all of our police officers do a great job and work very hard. George Gast noted that the addition of a full-time detective will allow the patrol officers to do more street duty and enforce items that Mr. O'Neill listed.

Pat Mayton, 311 Shelhamer Circle. Ms. Mayton expressed concerns about the idea of Aspen Way being paved to connect the neighborhoods. She stated speeding, litter, and child safety among other concerns.

Manager Spangenberg stated for clarification that this topic was on hand as a result of a survey performed by two Shelhamer residents; it was not on the table for approval nor brought up by the Borough.

Ellen Lyons, 301 Shelhamer Drive. Ms. Lyons agreed with the stated concerns and added that the area in question may be wetlands.

Dorothy Burfield, 220 Shelhamer Drive. Ms. Burfield agreed with concerns previously stated and said she does not want the roadway to be opened.

Todd Jay, 303 Shelhamer Circle. Mr. Jay stated his support for paving the road while installing a gate to ensure it is only used to improve emergency access. He noted that both neighborhoods only have one road to get in and out, which is a concern.

Dan Mayton, 311 Shelhamer Circle. Mr. Mayton said that it is a quiet neighborhood and the roadway should not be paved. He expressed concerns about the idea of installing a gate as previously suggested.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee:

Mayor Gast moved to approve bills paid October 28 totaling \$60,055.57; and November 11 totaling \$236,571.12. George Gast seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Gast moved to approve payroll paid October 17 totaling \$85,910.69; and October 31 totaling \$81,567.55. Kelly Gheres seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Amanda Frantz-Mamani moved to approve Resolution 16-2024:

**BOROUGH OF EDINBORO
RESOLUTION NO. 16-2024**

A RESOLUTION, of the Home Rule Borough of Edinboro, Erie County, Pennsylvania, fixing the tax rate for the year 2025.

WHEREAS, PA Act 51 of 2019 authorized the use of a Resolution rather than an Ordinance for setting the annual tax levy if keeping the same tax rate or lowering it; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Edinboro intends to set the same tax levy in 2025 as in 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Edinboro that a tax be and the same is hereby levied on all real property within the Borough as follows: Tax rate for general purposes, the sum of 4.50 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation, which equates to \$450 per \$100,000 of assessed value. Also, the Homestead Act enacted by Ordinance 555 shall be in effect for the year 2025 as it has been since 2008.

The same being summarized in tabular form as follows:

	<i>Mills on Each Dollar of Assessed Valuation</i>
<i>Tax Rate for General Purposes</i>	<i>4.50 Mills</i>

That any ordinance/resolution, or part of ordinance/resolution, conflicting with this resolution be and the same is hereby repealed insofar as the same affects this resolution.

ADOPTED this 11th day of November, 2024.

Mark Eisert seconded, and the motion passed 7-0: George Gast, yes; Amanda Frantz-Mamani, yes; Mark Eisert, yes; Mary Ann Horne, yes; Pat Davis, yes; Kelly Gheres, yes; and Aaron Gast, yes.

Pat Davis moved to approve Resolution 17-2024:

**BOROUGH OF EDINBORO
RESOLUTION 17-2024**

A RESOLUTION OF THE Borough of Edinboro in the County of Erie, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, appropriating sums estimated to be required for the purposes of the municipal government, hereinafter set forth, during the year 2025.

***BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED**, and it is hereby resolved by the Council of the Borough of Edinboro, County of Erie, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:*

***SECTION 1.** That for the expenditures and expenses of the fiscal year 2025 the following amounts are hereby appropriated from income for the year 2025 for the purposes set forth on the following page.*

***SECTION 2.** That any Resolution conflicting with this Resolution be and the same is hereby repealed insofar as the same affects this Resolution.*

<i>Total Revenues</i>	<i>\$5,793,109</i>
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<i>\$5,793,045</i>

BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED THIS 11th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024.

Amanda Frantz-Mamani seconded, and the motion passed 7-0: George Gast, yes; Amanda Frantz-Mamani, yes; Mark Eisert, yes; Mary Ann Horne, yes; Pat Davis, yes; Kelly Gheres, yes; and Aaron Gast, yes.

Recreation Committee:

Mark Eisert stated that the Recreation Committee met on November 4 to continue the discussion of the boat dock policy. He said that he had researched the topic and did not find anything to validate a change to our current policy. Mayor Gast had drafted a proposal for revising the policy. He asked Solicitor Wachter to review this proposal and asked Manager Spangenberg to distribute the proposal to the rest of Council. Mr. Eisert stated that he would support allowing a one-time transfer of boat dock rental privileges next year, and then stick to the existing policy after that. Pat Davis stated that it would be beneficial for all Council members to have a chance to review Mayor Gast's proposal before discussing further. Mr. Eisert made a motion for Council to state that a boat must be in a person's name and the boat must match the dock space assigned to it, in order for a person to rent a boat dock space. Amanda Frantz-Mamani seconded. At this time Mary Ann Horne's phone call for joining the meeting remotely was disconnected. After brief discussion on the motion, the motion failed by 2-4 vote. Manager Spangenberg stated for the record his support for Mr. Eisert's motion and his opposition to Mayor Gast's proposed revision.

MANAGEMENT REPORTS:

Borough Manager Jason Spangenberg presented his report.

Joint Parks Plan: The committee met on November 8. We hope to make significant progress with the plan over the winter months.

GMHS Presentations: On October 28 he went to General McLane High School to present to three classes regarding local government. It is important that we provide teenagers information about the role of local government, to hopefully increase their interest in getting involved as an adult.

GMSD Municipal Meeting: On October 30 he attended a meeting with General McLane Superintendent Matthew Lane and representatives from the other GMSD municipalities to discuss ways we can all work together.

ECGRA Community Center Grant: As previously announced, we have been awarded a \$25,000 ECGRA matching grant to renovate the Borough building's lower level. We have also received a \$44,980 grant from the PA Gaming Revenue Local Share program for this project. Bids for this project were received on November 4. We are eager to get this work completed over the winter.

ECED Christmas Commercial: On October 29 a production crew from WJET came to town to record footage for a "Shop Edinboro" TV commercial that will air during the Christmas season this year. This commercial will be grant funded.

Cherry Street: In 2022 a section of land along Cherry Street collapsed into the below stream. While the land in question is located in Washington Township, we are working together as it impacts our roadway. Washington Township submitted a grant application in late 2023 through the Statewide Local Share program for this project, and it was recently announced that they have been awarded over \$300,000 for this project. We hope to complete the repairs in 2025.

Sewer Plant Building Project: Plans are still in motion for a new building to be constructed at the sewer plant to replace the outdated garage and operations buildings. Bids for this project will be received on November 26. As previously announced, we have been awarded \$500,000 for this project from Erie County's Municipal Infrastructure ARPA funding (\$250,000 through Washington Township) and \$437,182 from the PA Gaming Revenue Local Share program.

Nature's Outlet Improvements: Phase 2 bids will be received November 22. This phase will include installing more walkways and a gazebo.

Tri-County Receptacles: Tri-County Industries has offered to provide all residential trash customers with 95 gallons receptacles for trash and recycling at no cost. Residents will have the option to opt out if desired, and this will have no impact on the amount of trash or recycling that can be placed at the curb.

6N Crosswalk Multimodal Grant: we have applied for a PennDOT Multimodal grant for the installation of a signaled crosswalk across Rt. 6N at the intersection with Lakeside Drive. The grant application is for \$71,104 with the total project cost estimated at \$92,562.

PA Main Street Matters Grants: we plan to apply for two PA Main Street Matters grants this month. One in the amount of \$26,250 for a 6N streetscape study, and one for \$100,000 to continue our downtown business façade improvement program.

Boating Facility Grant: we plan to apply for a PA Fish & Boat Commission Boating Facility grant for Billings Park bath house repairs and boat parking lot improvements. We are seeking a grant of \$43,600 with a total project cost estimate of \$87,200.

Sewer Phase 2 Grant: we plan to apply for a \$1 million grant through the PA Local Share gaming revenue grant program for the Phase 2 improvements at the sewer plant, estimated to cost \$8 million+. We will seek various funding sources for this project, including applying for a PENNVEST loan.

Finance:

George Gast moved to approve Resolutions 14-2024 and 15-2024:

**BOROUGH OF EDINBORO
RESOLUTION NO. 14-2024**

***A Resolution to Approve an Application for the
PA Main Street Matters Program***

Be it RESOLVED, that the Borough of Edinboro of Erie County hereby requests a PA Main Street Matters grant of \$26,250 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be used for the Edinboro 6N Streetscape Study Project.

Be it FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant does hereby designate Jason Spangenberg, Borough Manager/Secretary and Aaron Gast, Mayor as the officials to execute all documents and agreements between the Borough of Edinboro and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

I, Jason Spangenberg, duly qualified Secretary of the Borough of Edinboro, Erie County, PA, hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by majority vote of the Borough of Edinboro Council at a regular meeting held the 11th of November, 2024 and said Resolution has been recorded in the Minutes of the Borough of Edinboro and remains in effect as of this date.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I affix my hand and attach the seal of the Borough of Edinboro, this 11th day of November, 2024.

**BOROUGH OF EDINBORO
RESOLUTION NO. 15-2024**

***A Resolution to Approve an Application for the
PA Main Street Matters Program***

Be it RESOLVED, that the Borough of Edinboro of Erie County hereby requests a PA Main Street Matters grant of \$100,000 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be used for the Edinboro Downtown Business Façade Improvement Project.

Be it FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant does hereby designate Jason Spangenberg, Borough Manager/Secretary and Aaron Gast, Mayor as the officials to execute all documents and agreements between the Borough of Edinboro and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

I, Jason Spangenberg, duly qualified Secretary of the Borough of Edinboro, Erie County, PA, hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by majority vote of the Borough of Edinboro

Council at a regular meeting held the 11th of November, 2024 and said Resolution has been recorded in the Minutes of the Borough of Edinboro and remains in effect as of this date.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I affix my hand and attach the seal of the Borough of Edinboro, this 11th day of November, 2024.

Pat Davis seconded, and the motion passed 6-0: George Gast, yes; Amanda Frantz-Mamani, yes; Mark Eisert, yes; Pat Davis, yes; Kelly Gheres, yes; and Aaron Gast, yes.

COMMUNITY LIAISONS:

EVFD:

Manager Spangenberg noted that the EVFD should soon have a report ready to present regarding ways they can expand cooperation with neighboring departments to improve efficiency, currently being prepared by a paid consultant.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pat Davis moved to reject the bids received for the basement renovation project and approve re-bidding this project. Amanda Frantz-Mamani seconded the motion. Manager Spangenberg noted that a few of the bids received contained errors, and the lowest bid was higher than the project budget, so we plan to edit the bid package and hope for better bids on the second try.

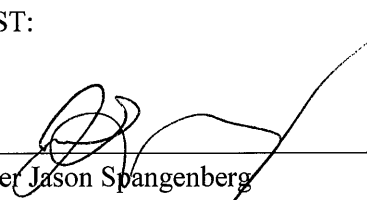
Mark Eisert moved to approve the Light Up the Beach event permit, waiving the fee. Mayor Gast seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Gast discussed the Aspen Way paving topic. He said that he grew up in a neighborhood that only had one road in and out and did experience issues with this, so he thought the idea of paving the road but installing a gate to only be used for emergency was a good idea, but due to the public comment received tonight, he stated that no action would be taken. George Gast and Pat Davis stated their agreement to not move forward with paving the road. Todd Jay again stated his concern in the event of an emergency blocking the road and he asked that Council keep in mind the idea of paving the road with a gate installed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Gast moved for adjournment, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 PM.

ATTEST:



Manager Jason Spangenberg



Mayor Aaron Gast