

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EDGEWATER MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORK SESSION HELD ON OCTOBER 7, 2024, IN THE EDGEWATER MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LOCATED AT 55 RIVER ROAD, EDGEWATER, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.**

Mayor McPartland asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

Observing a moment of silence for Edmund Sullivan

Mayor McPartland called the meeting to order by reading the “**Open Public Meeting Act**” “In compliance with New Jersey’s Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 of P.L. 1975, I hereby declare that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided specifying that this meeting would be held on this date, October 7, 2024, in the Municipal Building, 55 River Road, Edgewater, New Jersey at 7:00 p.m. This notice was published in the Record and Jersey Journal, posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Borough Hall and posted on the Borough’s website.”

**PRESIDING:** Mayor McPartland

**PRESENT ON ROLL CALL:** Councilman Gutierrez, Councilwoman Lawlor, Councilman Monte Councilman Martin, Councilman Bartolomeo

**ALSO PRESENT:** Administrator Gregory Franz, Borough Attorney Robert Travers, and Borough Clerk Stephanie Evans

**ABSENT:** Councilman Vidal

**OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC** There were no comments

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES;** at the next Regular Meeting of October 21, 2024

**1. September 16, 2024 Regular Meeting**

The Mayor and Council had no comments regarding the Minutes

**ORDINANCES**

**FOR ADOPTION;** at the next Regular meeting of October 21, 2024

**ORDINANCE 2024-013**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF EDGEWATER AUTHORIZING THE PRIVATE SALE OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE BOROUGH OF EDGEWATER NOT REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13(b)(5)**

The Mayor and Council had no questions or discussion regarding this ordinance

**RESOLUTIONS** Consent Agenda

Adoption at the next Regular Meeting of October 21, 2024

**RESOLUTION 2024-256**

**EDGEWATER HOUSING AUTHORITY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION AUTHORIZATION**

**WHEREAS,** a Bergen County Community Development Block Grant of \$180,000.00 has been proposed by the Edgewater Housing Authority for Window Replacement Phase I at the Ferry Plaza Property located at 27 Dempsey Avenue, in the municipality of Edgewater, and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the State Interlocal Services Act, Community Development funds may not be spent in a municipality without authorization by the Governing Body, and

**WHEREAS**, the aforesaid project is in the best interest of the people of Edgewater (Seniors and Disabled), and

**WHEREAS**, this resolution does not obligate the financial resources of the municipality and is intended solely to expedite expenditure of the aforesaid CD funds.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Governing Body of Edgewater hereby confirms endorsement of the aforesaid project, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Director of Bergen County Community Development Program so that implementation of the aforesaid project may be expedited.

**RESOLUTION 2024-257  
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Edgewater from time to time participates in internship programs sponsored by various educational institutions and programs; and

**WHEREAS**, model internship programs are designed to provide interns with opportunities to develop an understanding of the career area duties, responsibilities, terminology, climate, protocols, and other information that will enable interns to gain valuable experience; and

**WHEREAS**, Bergen County Technical High School, 275 Pascack Road, Paramus, New Jersey 07652 sponsors a “Cooperative Education Experience” and “Work-Based Learning” program and has a student who would like to participate.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Jose Manuel Brito will participate in the Bergen County Technical High School “Cooperative Education Experience” and “Work-Based Learning” program and will be interning with the Borough of Edgewater, Department of Public Works Auto Repair Garage.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Jose Manuel Brito will serve in the Borough of Edgewater Internship Program beginning October 3, 2024 until May 31, 2024.

**RESOLUTION 2024-258  
SALARY AND WAGES**

**RESOLUTION 2024-259  
SALARY AND WAGES**

**RESOLUTION 2024-260  
SERVICES AND SUPPLIES**

**CLOSED SESSION**

- 1. Veterans Field Litigation Special Counsel Tim Corrison**
- 2. Clerk’s Office Personnel**
- 3. Court Office Personnel**
- 4. Public Works Personnel**
- 5. Recreation Personnel**
- 6. Police Personnel**

7. **Ben Mose Development Violation**
8. **Maple Street Driveway Violation**

**Mr. Travers read the resolution for the record.**

**Exit Work Session and Enter Into Closed Session @ 7:12 PM**

**Motion by: Councilman Monte**

**Second by: Councilman Bartolomeo**

**Yes: Councilman Gutierrez, Councilwoman Lawlor, Councilman Monte, Councilman Martin, Councilman Bartolomeo**

**Exit Closed Session and Return to Work Session @ 8:42 PM**

**Motion by: Councilman Martin**

**Second by: Councilman Bartolomeo**

**Yes: Councilman Gutierrez, Councilwoman Lawlor, Councilman Monte, Councilman Martin, Councilman Bartolomeo**

**REQUESTS / MATTERS BY MAYOR & COUNCIL FOR OPEN DISCUSSION:**

**1. Affordable Housing**

Mr. Franz provided a packet to everyone regarding Round 4 to review

**2. 2024 Best Practices Inventory**

Mr. Franz explained that based on the answers Edgewater will receive 100% of it's State Aid. This year's Best Practices was based on Affordable Housing.

**3. North Bergen Old River Road Proposal**

Mr. Franz provided a copy of North Bergen's Ordinance proposal turning Old River Road into a one way due to the cannabis store's traffic. Councilman Martin was asked to look into the situation and he found in case of emergencies all services use that road as a detour and making it a one way would cause problems and to keep the roadway as it presently is. Mr. Travers will relay this information to North Bergen Borough Attorney.

**4. \$1.5 Walkway Grant**

Senator Sarlo's office officially notified us that we will be receiving this grant, which will tie in with the Special Improvement District. This grant will go towards a walkway, but not Admiral's Walk, since the money can't be used for private property, but possibly for connections. Mr. Franz will review options.

**5. Special Improvement District**

SID will be holding their third meeting on Thursday. They hired Don Pepe to be the SID Attorney.

**6. Haig Shirinian Property Request**

Mr. Franz has been in contact with Mr. Shirinian regarding his request. Mr. Travers also has been in contact with Mr. Shirinian and requested a survey.

**7. Old Borough Hall Park Project**

Mr. Franz stated the project is moving along. Mayor McPartland added that this is going to be a great addition for the town. Parking issues will need to be addressed. This will include pickleball courts, tennis court, handball court, benches, and fences. Mr. Franz explained that there is \$175,000 change order which includes additional drainage installed, irrigation sleeves for a sprinkler system at a later date, sidewalk lighting conduit, and concrete the southern entrance, which were not included in the original bid but would like to add at this site. If we concrete the two main gate entrances so a service vehicle would have a hard surface to use. They are removing some existing public service lights and sidewalk extension so the DPW equipment can plow the walkway with the small

vehicle and not rip up the grass. There is an item for lining of pipes, which was recommended against, it's a \$25,000 savings. That is basically the change orders. Mayor McPartland stated he wanted to review these items first.

**8. Bar Closing Time**

Mr. Franz spoke about the current ordinance with a closing time of 3am. and possibly modifying the hours. Mayor McPartland canvased Cliffside Park, Fort Lee, and North Bergen closing time is 2am. He recommends closing at 2am, because what is happening is the surrounding bars close at 2am and therefore people are coming to Edgewater, which exasperates all the complaints that we are getting. The Mayor would like to recommend that last call be at 1:30am and doors locked at 2am. Mr. Franz received two complaints today about Pier 115 with the music. A straw poll was taken, all present councilmembers want to modify the ordinance. This included Councilman Gutierrez, Councilwoman Lawlor, Councilman Bartolomeo, Councilman Monte, and Councilman Martin.

**9. Library Expansion**

Mr. Franz explained that the Library is expanding by installing a new elevator and very minor square footage. He offered them space at the Senior Center and Community Center to operate some programs.

**9. Quanta Superfund Project**

Mr. Franz stated site #10 EPA sent notice regarding OU2, the water portion side, they are going to evaluate the pier a little bit longer.

**11. Massa Lane**

Mr. Franz explained that a Ms. Harrelson from Massa Lane inquiring if the street name may be changed. She believed it had a negative connotation going back to slavery. In reviewing Edgewater's Incorporation papers Massa was a family name. He forwarded Ms. Harrelson the information and she was relieved and the request has been withdrawn.

**12. Police and EMS Commendations**

Mr. Franz stated regarding a motorcyclist's injuries from the motorcycle accident the Police Chief is requesting lifesaving commendations for officers involved. This list includes Sgt. Wetklow, Officer Gillian Cabrera, Officer Viola, Officer Aguilar-Fuentes, Det. Carrano, Dispatcher Shirinian, EMT Navarro, and EMT Karim. The motorcyclist's injuries were very severe possibly losing his life. The motorcyclist's father commented that Office Cabrera was first on scene and quickly placed a tourniquet around the leg to stop the bleeding. The motorcyclist's family is very thankful for her actions. The Police Chief wants to make those recommendations if everyone agrees we can do present at the next meeting. All were in agreement. Mr. Franz added that there were 2 motorist that assisted, one happened to be a nurse. If we can obtain their information and invite them as well. EMT certification was part of the police training, but the academy removed, but however, Edgewater does provide the police officers and detectives to obtain the certification.

**ADJOURN**

Mayor McPartland asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting @9:13 pm

Motion by: Councilwoman Lawlor

Second by: Councilman Bartolomeo

Yes: Councilman Gutierrez, Councilwoman Lawlor, Councilman Monte, Councilman Martin, Councilman Bartolomeo

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie Evans, RMC  
Borough Clerk

Approved: October 21, 2024