

# ETNA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

## MINUTES

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TUESDAY, July 19, at 7:30 P.M  
For approval on August 16, 2022

The regular meeting of the Etna Borough Council was held on July 19, 2022. Chairman Becki presided and called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Roll was called and members present were: Mr. Porter, Ms. Semler, Mrs. Schafer, Mrs. Tuñón, Mrs. Gabriel, Mr. Trader, Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney, Mr. Burke. Also present were Solicitor Heck, Mayor Rengers, Manager Ramage, Police Chief Timothy Rodman, Hampton Shaler EMS Representative Eric Schmidt, and Engineer Richard Minsterman. Absent was Junior Councilperson Bethany Rodman.

Mayor Rengers led everyone in a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Becki asked if there were any questions, suggested changes, or corrections to the June Minutes. None were needed. Minutes stood as written.

Chairman Becki stated that Council received a copy of the Treasurer's Report and asked if there were any questions. Chairman Becki also thanked Manager Ramage for having the Fund Numbers added to the Treasurer's Report. The Dollar Bank Accounts showed the following account balances:

Fund 01 General Account	\$	1,284,178.24
Fund 05 Education Account	\$	354.14
Fund 03 Payroll Account	\$	462.38
Fund 04 Police Fund	\$	11,164.64
Fund 21 Hockey	\$	1,344.33
Fund 30 Capital Improvement	\$	-
Fund 33 Christmas	\$	16,099.40
Fund 34 Etna Senior Center Fund	\$	23.63
Fund 35 Liquid Fuels Account	\$	58,442.86
Fund 36 War Memorial Fund	\$	4,007.63
Fund 38 Sanitary Trunk Line Account	\$	148,066.87
Fund 39 Middle Street Escrow Account	\$	6,019.89
Fund 42 Capital Reserve	\$	304,283.41
Fund 44 Sewer Account	\$	72,245.53
Fund 45 Project Escrow Account	\$	0.00
Fund 46 Riverfront Park & Trail	\$	459.49
Fund 48 Etna Green Streetscape	\$	20.01
Fund 50 GI Account	\$	1,084.62
Fund 51 Fire Escrow Account	\$	12,603.83
Fund 52 Infrastructure Account	\$	88.73
Fund 53 Youth & Recreation Fund	\$	4,070.79
Fund 54 American Rescue	\$	173,427.93

*A motion to accept and file the Treasurer's Report was made by Mrs. Gabriel, seconded by Mr. Porter. Motion carried.*

A check register by fund (bills already paid) as well as outstanding accounts payable (bills due) were given to each member of Council.

Total Owed	\$	446,152.59
Total Bills Paid	\$	305,141.80
Total Balance Due	\$	141,010.79

*A motion to pay the bills was made by Mrs. Gabriel, and was seconded by Mr. Burke. Motion carried.*

Chairman Becki reported that if everyone would have looked at the Council Manic, it can be seen that so far for this year we are in the black. He thanked the staff for this effort.

### **Police Chief's Report**

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Chief of Police, Tim Rodman, submitted a *Department of Public Safety Report* on July 14, 2022. Fair Week, with 1 (one) minor arrest at the Fair; 1 (one) minor yelling match (fight) at Dewey and Jones. Very good week, with marking issues at Martin Tire. Very successful. We had (two) 2 gatherings in town, one at Eco Park on Dewey and the other at the Triangle at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Street Bridge with no issues. DUI Checkpoint was conducted in coordination with the North Hills DUI Task Force on July 8th, 2022. 957 vehicles passed through, 17 individuals administered field sobriety tests. Of the tests, 7 arrests made for DUI; 2 arrests for possession of paraphernalia and possession of a small amount of Marijuana; and 11 citations were issues for various vehicle code violations. Lastly, the LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) Program is moving forward and will announce next meeting and who to contact. They advised that the North group will be first, and are still having meeting about what types of crimes and the eligibility requirements.

Mrs. Tuñón asked who the “north communities” were in regards to the LEAD program, and is Etna included. Chief Rodman responded in the affirmative and stated that it included Millvale, and Shaler.

Chairman Becki stated that Chief Rodman approached him about requesting two (2) meetings. The first being with the Police Committee, and requested if Manager Ramage could attend the meeting; and that a date was needed. Chairman Becki asked how quickly this meeting needed to be held; Chief Rodman requested it be prior to the next Council meeting. Chairman Becki requested that Mr. Burke pick open dates, and Mrs. Tuñón, Mayor Rengers, and Manager Ramage gave notice of unavailability for certain dates. July 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. was chosen. Next, Chairman Becki stated that Chief Rodman requested a meeting with the Parking Committee related to an issue with the Senior Center; and August 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. was chosen. Manager Ramage confirmed availability.

Chairman Becki then asked if there were any additional questions or meeting requests for Chief Rodman, and Manager Ramage requested the final Agenda item be moved up at this time so Chief Rodman could return to his duties as the Agenda was finalized and presented prior to this item being presented. Chairman Becki allowed and item 9 was presented.

## Agenda

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### 9.) Handicap Space – 102 Locust Street

Ms. Carole Edwards wrote Council a letter, requesting that a Handicap parking space be placed directly in front of her home. In her letter, Ms. Edwards states that parking far from her home—due to her age and health issues—have made winters and carrying groceries more difficult, and being forced to park far from her home has made her fearful of injury. Lastly, she kindly requests that during winter, the Borough clear snow and ice up to her front door. Chairman Becki stated that the Borough does not do parking paths, and requested that Chief Rodman explain whether Ms. Edwards could have the Handicap Parking space. Chief Rodman stated that based on recommendations, he would suggest that the space be authorized. Chairman Becki requested a Motion to grant the Handicap Parking space.

*A Motion to grant the Handicap Parking Space at 102 Locust Street was made by Mrs. Tuñón, seconded by Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney. Motion carried without objection.*

## Engineer's Report

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Engineer Rick Minsterman submitted an *Engineer's Report* dated July 14, 2022, regarding Sewers—General, Richard D. Minsterman, P.E.; Etna CSO Reporting—Jennifer J. Slagle, P.E.; 51 Bridge Street Storm water Management Review—Jennifer J. Slagle, P.E.; Etna Streetscape Phase 5—2022 319 Grant—GROW Grant—Jennifer J. Slagle, P.E.; ALCOSAN Regionalization—Robert J. Maher, P.E.; CDBG Year 47 Grant Project—Michael J. Galet, P.E.; CDBG Year 48 Grant Applications—Robert J. Maher, P.E.; Dewey Street and Spring Street Sewer Separation Project—GROW Grant—Jennifer J. Slagle, P.E.; Ganster Street Demos—Robert J. Maher, P.E.; Pine Creek Stream Restoration—Richard D. Minsterman, P.E.; Etna Streetscape Phase 4—Jennifer J. Slagle, P.E.

Chairman Becki asked if anyone had questions for Mr. Minsterman. None being asked, Mr. Minsterman stated he had nothing to add to the current report and stated that everything stood as presented. Chairman Becki then followed up with a question regarding the second item, C-43001-2201 Etna CSO Reporting. Addressing Manager Ramage in her meeting with ALCOSAN, he asked if the Borough was “okay”. Manager Ramage confirmed her meeting with ALCOSAN on July 18<sup>th</sup>, and stated that there is an additional meeting scheduled. Manager Ramage confirmed that the Borough is okay as is for now, but stated that there are some unsettled issues that have been placed on the back burner for the time being.

Chairman Becki then asked if there was an earmarked use for the monies left over from the Ganster Street Demolitions; and Manager Ramage stated the aforementioned funds have no current allocation and asked if it is to be returned. Manager Ramage stated that these funds were “pay-as-you-go” and that the total funds have not been received by the Borough, just the award. Manager Ramage then stated that she let it be known that another home or two (2) could be added, but because this is their first time through the Program they would like to wait and see—but they know the Borough would be interested.

Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney asked to who and when can she ask questions regarding the proposed greenspace on Ganster Street, and is it part of this grant? Chairman Becki stated that the greenspace grant is a potential grant and that plans were discussed but nothing further and that there may be additional homes on Ganster Street demolished before there is enough space for a greenspace. Chairman Becki then asked if there were additional questions for Mr. Minsterman, or if he had any additional comments. Mr. Minsterman stated he had nothing additional.

## **Shaler Hampton EMS Report**

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Chairman Becki acknowledged Eric Schmidt, Director of Shaler Hampton EMS, and asked if there were any questions on the provided Monthly Report. Mr. Schmidt then addressed Council and went over the call numbers for June 2022. There were 39 calls in the Borough of Etna, for a total of 281 year-to-date, which is an increase of 54 year-over-year. In total, SHEMS has gone on 409 calls with 277 transports in June 2022; 2,455 calls and 1,628 transports overall for the year.

With no questions being asked, Mr. Schmidt presented a couple of updates. 3 (three) additional employees have joined SHEMS as Paramedics; 2 (two) as full-time and 1 (one) as part-time employees. Additionally, 2 (two) more Paramedics will be finishing their education in the coming months and will be full-time employees; and 2 (two) full-time EMTs will be beginning their Paramedic classes in the coming weeks.

Mr. Schmidt then confirmed that SHEMS was “good to go” for Etna Community Day on August 6<sup>th</sup>. There will be free emergency training classes at the 3 (three) local community pools. August 12<sup>th</sup> here in Etna. He continued that it was a 40 (forty) minute session on 3 (three separate topics); 911 system activation, “Hands Only” CPR, and Stop The Bleed. Classes are open to everyone. Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney asked if instructors or volunteers were needed, to which Mr. Schmidt stated he believes the response will be good but not overwhelming. Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney stated that Mr. Schmidt could receive her contact info from Mr. Porter, and if help is needed to let her know and she can potentially find people who are passionate about the program. Manager Ramage stated that people can also register in the Borough building via call or walk-in; and that she also posted the program on the Borough’s Facebook.

## **Zoning & Code Enforcement Report**

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Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer Emily Moldovan (not-present) submitted a *Zoning & Code Enforcement Report* dated June, 2022, regarding Permits; Residential Code Compliance Inspections; Residential Rental Inspection Program; Violation Notices sent; Citations filed; Hearings held; Building Permits; Zoning Permits; Boards/Commissions; and Misc./Other Items. Chairman Becki requested Manager Ramage thank Mrs. Moldovan for the report, as it helps.

Chairman Becki then moved on to Public Audience

## **Public Audience**

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1.) Jason McKay – Art Project

Jason McKay, unfortunately, was unable to be present due to recently contracting COVID-19

2.) Slade Miller—Short Term Rentals

No one from Slade Miller was in attendance.

3.) Jenny Mendek—Millvale Youth Group

Jenny Mendek proceeded to thank Council for the last month’s pool day. The kids had a great time. She has been coming over to Etna a lot more and enjoys the community. She stated that all the kids were incredibly excited for the upcoming swimming event. Additionally, she would like to talk about the

first ever “Youth Event”. The date requested in August 10<sup>th</sup>, for a late night dance/swim movie night. The movie would be *Luca*. Ms. Mendek stated that she would be providing “everything” from Millvale. Their screen, speakers, snacks, prizes (sunglasses, glow sticks, etc.). She would be cleaning up and setting up, and distributing flyers. Chairman Becki asked if our lifeguard contractor has availability, and Manager Ramage stated in the affirmative and that it had all been worked out with them prior to this meeting. Manager Ramage also confirmed that the underwater lights were working, so there are no issues. Chairman Becki stated that since the pool is Borough property, a Motion of Council is needed to allow the usage; and he asked for said Motion.

*A Motion was made by Ms. Semler to allow the Millvale Youth Group to have access to the Community Pool for their dance/swim/movie night, seconded by Mr. Porter. Motion carried without opposition.*

Chairman Becki then asked Ms. Mendek to start by contacting Manager Ramage for any potential events, as there are times when a vote is or isn’t needed and Manager Ramage would be the one to know moving forward.

## **Agenda**

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### 1.) Streetscape 4 – Grant/Engineer Authorization

Chairman Becki started by stating the Borough received a letter from the County of Allegheny, letting the Borough know it will be receiving \$500,000 CDBG grant for the Streetscape Phase 4. Which is one side of Butler Street from High to Maplewood. He continued by stating that the grant should be accepted, and/or giving Manager Ramage the authority to be working with whomever is needed to be preparing the bid specs and paperwork necessary; he also stated that the project has a tight schedule and that it must be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Manager Ramage confirmed the scope of this phase, and stated that the grant has been submitted for Phase 5 which is the other half of Butler Street not included in this grant. Chairman Becki confirmed that this is good news, as we will have more water control; and Manager Ramage confirmed upcoming meetings with the Engineering Company. Chairman Becki requested a Motion to allow Manager Ramage to proceed with actions to request for bids from Gateway.

*A Motion was made by Mrs. Gabriel to allow Manager Ramage to proceed as planned, seconded by Mr. Burke. Motion carried without objection.*

### 2.) Borough Audit—Receive and file

Chairman Becki stated that if the report from MaherDuessel was read, it can be seen that financially the report came out fine. There were many adjustments needed, and that for the second year in a row the Borough was cautioned about some things that we need to correct: bank reconciliation, correct use of account numbers, and so forth; and that prior to requesting a motion to receive and file, he wanted to mention that he has had a discussion with Manager Ramage about this and reminded her that no vote from Council is needed to discipline employees and make corrective action. The Borough employees are Manager Ramage’s to manage, and hopefully that is all that would be needed to no longer be concerned. Chairman Becki then requested a Motion to receive and file the Audit.

*A Motion was made by Mr. Porter, to receive and file the Audit from MaherDuessel; seconded by Mr. Trader. Motion carried without objection.*

3.) Liquid Fuels Audit – Receive and file

Chairman Becki explained the Liquid Fuels money, was typically used for salt and street lights. There have been no findings in the Audit. Additionally, there are potentially more funds available if needed. Chairman Becki then requested a Motion to receive and file the Audit

*A Motion was made by Mr. Burke to receive and file the Liquid Fuels Audit, seconded by Ms. Tuñón. Motion carried without objection.*

4.) Dewey Street Bridge – Inspection Report

Chairman Becki explained that for those new to Council, the State comes in and inspects the bridges then issues an Inspection Report. The Borough has 3 bridges, Greeley, Dewey, and Hafner. Unlike the City of Pittsburgh which states that they do not know the condition of their bridges, this report tells us everything. The Dewey Street Bridge passed with flying colors, and the minor repairs that were on the report can be done by the Borough Public Works Department. Manager Ramage added that the bridge is fairly new and was over Million Dollar bridge.

5.) Girl Scouts – Request to use pool

Chairman Becki began by explaining that the Troop was offering to pay \$400 for a 2 (two) hour rental of the Borough Pool, and stated that same question occurs: can our Lifeguard Contractor accommodate us, and if so can we give approval to do this. Manager Ramage stated that she reached out to SwimAmerica and July 31<sup>st</sup> worked the best for the Life Guard staff. Ms. Gabriel added that there were 30 (thirty) families coming to the event. Chairman Becki requested confirmation that there would be enough Lifeguards to cover that many. It was also added that the Troop Leader had a previous conversation with the wife of Chairman Becki, where it was disclosed that perhaps there may be more added to the list – and after discussion with Mrs. Becki (present, in crowd), Chairman Becki wanted confirmation this was no longer going to happen as this would change the lifeguarding ratio. Manager Ramage then confirmed that Allegheny County recently changed the rule, and that the number of lifeguards is no longer depending upon the size of the pool but the number of people in the pool at a given time.

Mrs. Gabriel inquired as to the charge for Jennifer Mendek (present) for their use of the pool. Ms. Mendek then answered that it was 30 (thirty) people for \$120. Chairmen Becki then stated that Ms. Mendak received a discount. Mrs. Gabriel then stated that she wanted to be sure that the Borough was not being inconsistent, and Manager Ramage stated that Ms. Mendek's event was after normal working hours. Manager Ramage then added that at some point, the Borough may want to consider more pool rentals, while acknowledging it may be more difficult than neighboring communities since the Borough subcontracts out the Lifeguarding duties. Chairman Becki wanted to ensure that the \$400 being paid would cover the costs to operate. Manager Ramage confirmed. Mrs. Tuñón asked Manager Ramage if Shaler had a recreational person in charge of scheduling pool events to which Manager Ramage replied in the affirmative. Adding that Shaler also has a full time Recreation Director and additional recreation staff that. Manager Ramage also discussed how the pool and Riverfront park are public spaces, and stated that

these particular pool rentals are after hours and can be used for non-public events. Chairman Becki then requested a Motion to accept the offer from the Girl Scouts to rent the pool.

*A Motion was made by Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney to accept the offer of \$400 to rent the Borough Pool for thirty (30) families from a Girl Scout troop, seconded by Ms. Semler. Motion carried without objection.*

#### 6.) Keystone 2019 Real Estate Liens – File

Chairman Becki explained this is done annually. When homeowners do not pay their property taxes for any given reason, a lien is placed. Liens only have so much time before they have to be renewed. Additionally, there is an order in which payments are made if money is found to be owed, and if Liens are not renewed then they drop to the bottom. Chairman Becki clarified that if the money runs out, then the liens are not honored. Therefore it has been the policy of the Borough that if there is money owed over \$100, it is pursued. The list provided by Keystone Collections Group, the Subcontractor for the Borough who collects the funds, charges the Borough \$60 per lien filed and the Tax Year represented is 2019. Chairman Becki stated that as per Manager Ramage, there are 81 properties worth filing against for a total of \$4,860, and he suggests the Borough file them as the amount of money that can be recovered is way above the cost to file. Chairman Becki then asked Solicitor Ron Heck the term that these liens can go before renewal, to which Solicitor Heck replied it was a term of 5 (five) years. Chairman Becki then asked for questions and stated that the list provides names, and requested a motion to approve filing the Liens.

*A Motion was made by Mr. Trader to permit Keystone Collections Group to file the Liens on behalf of the Borough, seconded by Mr. Porter. Motion carried without objection.*

Manager Ramage stated she wished to make it clear that these liens were not being refiled, and that these are first time liens being filed. She then stated that taxes must be 3 (three) years delinquent prior to having the lien filed. The renewals are separate.

#### 7.) CDBG Pre-apps – 9/16/22

A Memo was provided by Manager Ramage suggesting which grants the Borough apply for, to be used next year. Chairman Becki wanted to reiterate that these are suggestions from the Manager and opened the floor to discussion, should they have any ideas or desires. The Memo includes grants for the demolition of 151 Dewey Street, resubmitting a grant paving roads which was denied due to an inaccurate service area being determined by the Engineering firm, putting another roof on the future library with Solar Panels, and to remove trees and replace fencing in the playground above the municipal lot. Manager Ramage stated that the new trees planted a few years back are being shaded by the older trees. Additionally, the fence is very old and previously had barbed wire.

Chairman Becki stated that we may never be able to replace the fence with one as sturdy as the one there now, and gave the idea of a plastic/composite fencing. Manager Ramage stated that these fences were put in by the Steel Mill decades ago, and are likely down several feet into the ground; giving the example of the ones out at the baseball field.

Manager Ramage added that only communities with low-to-moderate income can apply for CDBG funds, and the Borough was previously eligible for 5 (five) years and this is no longer the case for the Borough. The Borough is currently in Block Group 2. While the income thresholds have been increased, we must household survey for grants in block groups that touch the project area since the low-to-moderate income is no longer Borough wide. Chairman Becki then asked for questions on the proposed grant pre-applications, or additional suggestions. Being none, Chairman Becki requested to move forward and thanked Manager Ramage.

#### 8.) Locust Street Lots—Community Meeting

Chairman Becki gave the floor to Manager Ramage to go into detail on the specific lots on Locust Street. Manager Ramage explained that there is a large flat lot down from the Community Garden, which previously had long-term vacant homes that the Borough tore down with grant money. The Borough then worked with Action Housing, the housing arm of Allegheny County, and (what was previously known as) Lawrenceville Land Trust; to meet a challenge from several local community foundations, to expand upon the Lawrenceville Land Trust mission. After nearly a year-long series of meetings with representatives from Lawrenceville, Polish Hill, Sharpsburg, Millvale, and Etna, the City of Bridges Land Trust was formed.

Manager Ramage continued to explain that a land trust is a way to perpetually provide affordable, fair market housing low-to-moderate income residents. With the interest in these lots on Locust Street, a meeting was held with Action Housing and an agreement was made to transfer them to the Land Trust. Last year, an application was put in for the home program, from the County, for federal funds. A Public Meeting was held via Zoom, for the community—particularly everyone who lives on the street and immediate area—on the type of housing that was desired; 4 (four) options were discussed during this public meeting; 4 (four) single-family homes, 2 (two) duplexes, and multi-level. It was decided that 2 (two) duplexes would be the best bet, and unofficial word from the County was that the grant would be awarded. It would total in excess of over \$1 Million (one) to build the 4 (four) homes. Manager Ramage continued that in discussion with the Executive Director of the Land Trust, a “fall” timeline was most likely to begin moving forward and that another community meeting be scheduled to ensure the residents that the homes are in-line with zoning ordinances, the design and features of the homes, and that they fit within the community. The date of July 28<sup>th</sup> has been scheduled for this meeting, Fugh Hall has already been secured for this meeting at 7 p.m.; and appropriate advertising has been set up. Manager Ramage continued that the programs provided are educational and offer levels of assistance. The goal is for the residents who move into these homes are able to save up funds, participate in the financial education provided, and are able to purchase homes in a different place; making this location available for someone else to become a homeowner and get on their feet.

Mr. Trader asked if there were any updates on the lot next to Shiny Bean. Manager Ramage responded in the negative, but that she and the President of EEDC had dinner with the owner of the lots in question. The current agreement with the Borough, EEDC, and the lot owner, stated that construction needed to begin within 5 (five) years; which does end this year. It is unknown if COVID extended the timeline, or if a request to extend has been made or granted. However, the current owner has secured funding and is ready to begin. They have been connected with Ms. Moldovan in relation to Zoning, and are being re-connected to the County for Planning (which did occur previously to the COVID-19



Pandemic). Chairman Becki explained the process and negotiations that occurred previously, and detailed the conditions placed on the sale of these lots agreed upon by the purchaser (now owner) at that time. Manager Ramage explained that the Borough is legally permitted to donate property to a nonprofit for the purposes of economic development; therefore the lot that was owned by the Borough was donated to the EEDC, who then sold it to the current owner. The time, date, and location were again confirmed for those in attendance.

### **Council/Committee Members Reports**

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Mr. Porter stated he had no new reports, but asked Mr. Trader to clarify a question they had regarding fire statistics from the previous month's meeting. Mr. Trader stated that there was nothing specific, but that because he always hears the sirens, he would be interested to know how many calls per month the Department responds to, and that various social media posts are constantly inquiring as to the location and type of calls. Mr. Porter stated that it's an easy report to print and that he would do so.

Ms. Semler stated that Chief Rodman pointed out that the Borough's contract with an Animal Control, Hoffman's Kennels, expires at the end of this year; and wanted Council to be intentional regarding any potential Ordinances in this regard. Currently the Committee is working on drafts of packets of Ordinances and will be connecting with Hoffman's for their review; with the intention of moving forward with a September-October timeline. Ms. Semler continued that no feedback has been received up to this point. Chairman Becki stated that after a conversation with Chief Rodman, that the Draft Ordinances were needed due to the difficulty in finding a contractor to do what Hoffman's does; and that moving forward, the idea of running proposed Ordinances by those contracted by the Borough is a good idea to ensure they do not pull out. Manager Ramage offered the potential that the Contractor come to a Council or Committee meeting to discuss any draft ordinance. Ms. Semler then reported that in the last week of June, a former Junior Councilperson held a Pride in the Park event at the Eco Park. Both Mayor Rengers and Chief Rodman attended, to ensure the safety of participants. Ms. Semler was happy to report that the event went great, but shared that there have recently been a number of discriminatory Bills passed through the Pennsylvania State Legislature aimed at the LGBTQIA+ Community; and wanted to state the importance of an Ordinance showing that the Borough does not stand for that discrimination. Chairman Becki stated that just as a reminder some Ordinances depend greatly on State Acts. Ms. Semler agreed, but stated that showing young folks that even just taking the stand can be an antidote to these messages.

Mrs. Schafer had nothing to report

Mrs. Tuñón reported on the Permit Parking Committee. About one third responded to the survey and majority were of respondents were indifference to parking permits. Most want to keep the status quo. The Permit Parking Committee has not yet had the opportunity to make recommendations, but based on the responses there may be more information that needs to be gathered. Mrs. Gabriel inquired if the current \$20 (twenty dollar) fee was to cover costs, could the price be reduced or made free, or if the residents would be dissatisfied regardless. Manager Ramage stated that the costs to the residents are simply to cover the expenses. Mr. Porter then asked of Mrs. Tuñón that because there are no time constraints for a decision, could it be discussed at the Committee Meeting in the coming month; Mrs. Tuñón replied in the affirmative. Mrs. Tuñón then stated she personally counted the on and off-street

parking spaces on Maplewood Street, and there are approximately a total of 120 spaces. While the use of the spaces are varied by residents, the data is provided. Chairman Becki then confirmed that there is no timeline, but the surveys confirmed the indifference; and the responses varied from Upper Maplewood vs Lower Maplewood residents. Mrs. Tuñón then updated Council on Etna Community Organization (ECO) by stating that Manager Ramage reported that the building purchase is going to happen any day. This means that the Community Meetings can return; the first one is scheduled for August 17<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 p.m. This will be an informational session regarding the planning for the library and potential programs for the upcoming library. Additionally the Art Tour has been scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup>, and a call for artists has been made.

Mrs. Gabriel stated that Riverfront Yoga continues to go well. There are between 16-20 regular attendees, and a new speaker system has been made available to them.

Mr. Trader wanted to bring to the attention of Council and Manager Ramage that the *Welcome to Etna* sign is still not working. Manager Ramage stated that a part has been ordered to fix the sign, and it should be lit soon; but will send a reminder. Manager Ramage also wanted to add that the demolition of the 3 (three) houses on Ganster Street are set to begin very shortly. A pre-construction meeting, as per the County requirements, has been scheduled; so hopefully the demolitions can begin mid-August with minimal disruption. Mr. Trader inquired as to the number of houses on Ganster Street. They are currently occupied. Manager Ramage stated that at the time of the submission of the related grant, the Borough could only confirm 3 (three) were abandoned—so that is the number within the grant. Once these 3 (three) have been demolished, the Land Bank will purchase and hold the properties for the Borough, and currently hold 9 (nine) other very small lots on this same street. All will be held until there is funding for the next phase of this program. A meeting has been scheduled with PennDOT, and there are still plans being made for the design/safety of that particular area; as well as other areas, such as Snyder Street. Manager Ramage continued that the whole area is not safe due to several issues, and there may be an opportunity to increase the ask for this grant or partnering with PennDOT for some of the scope of work. Mr. Trader asked about a property that is above Snyder, if there is something going on with a backhoe or heavy equipment. Unknown what is occurring. Manager Ramage mentioned that it is the location where storm water is coming from.

Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney began with the report from the Fire Committee, stating that there was a training on the 11<sup>th</sup> in place of their monthly meeting. F-100 advances in fire suppression. She believed that with the leaning towards electric and battery powered vehicles, scooters, and bikes; this training would be the future if there were to be an emergency. It was also stated that the products are environmentally friendly. Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney continued that if at least one Member of the Committee attends the meeting of the Fire Department and obtained their report to bring to the Council meetings, the information can be easily provided so everyone will know what's going on. Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney stated that if it ever came down to needing the F-100 fire suppression, then the breakdown of the types of calls the Fire Department receives would be provided; and that scanners or apps were available if Mr. Trader wanted immediate access to the information to provide. Chairman Becki stated that the app was called PulsePoint and provides instant information for all emergency calls in Allegheny County. Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney continued her report by speaking about Anchorpoint Ministries, stating that the organization provides mental health services for members of the Community. Chairman Becki asked if this was the place that partnered with Emmanuel Lutheran Church, to which

Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney replied in the affirmative and that it was a location for them to get started. She continued that there are a lot of residents who could benefit from these services, and the information needs to be made available to those who need it. Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney stated that she set up a meeting for July 21<sup>st</sup>, at 9 a.m., at Emmanuel Lutheran, and invited the entire community to see what it is all about. The meeting is set up to provide representation at Community Day for this organization. After discussion with Chairman Becki, Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney directly requested that the Minutes reflect that the Council of Etna does not sponsor Community Day; and wanted to ensure that everyone feels included to attend the meeting. Chairman Becki and Manager Ramage inquired as to previously provided information, to which Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney confirmed that this is why the information needs to be put out there to assist the organization and gave details about their ability to provide services to different income levels. Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney moved on to calendar events. Etna Community Day, sponsored by the Etna Neighborhood Association, is August 6<sup>th</sup> and the organization needs volunteers—asking Council if there is anything they would like to do for representation; gave an example of name tags so the community would be able to recognize the Members, so all the good things going on within the community can be explained. Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney then stated that Ms. Tuñón had previously mentioned some things that the community wants through ECO; and it had been previously mentioned to Manager Ramage, that perhaps a survey needs to be made to inquire as to the wants of the residents by members of Council. She requested potential assistance or suggestions for potential questions for the survey. Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney continued that on the morning of Community Day, tables are being donated and set up and asked for availability or desire for a table from Council. She continued that she received permission from Dianne Sheridan, President of the Etna Neighborhood Association (ENA) to state the availability of tables. 9 a.m. was confirmed as the meeting time at Fugh Hall. Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney stated that August 10<sup>th</sup> is the date for the Etna Youth event; September 10<sup>th</sup> is the craft show hosted in the ball field by Allegheny Fire/Police Association, and still have tables available; September 24<sup>th</sup> Art Tour. Permission was requested of Manager Ramage to receive a permit for the ball field, which is granted yearly; and what the requirements are for specific types of events. Manager Ramage then confirmed the type of insurances needed by Permittees, as per the Borough's Insurance Company. Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney then requested collaboration on a community event calendar and Mrs. Tuñón replied in the affirmative, and a discussion was had for a desire for multiple postings of a community calendar. Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney provided a report summarizing the Concession Stand at the community pool. Start up and June purchases totaled \$1,049.80; July purchases totaled \$283.30; July salaries totaled \$523.30; Vendor costs were from Restaurant Depot (June \$785.09, July \$184.02), Tri-Rivers Express Frozen (June \$195.67, July \$99.28), and Slammin' Sam's Pizza (June \$61.48). Donations included 2 cases of Freeze Pops (Unknown value, Frank McElhaney, June), Hot Dogs (approx. \$30, EEDC post carnival, June) and Hot Dog Buns (approx. \$22, EEDC post carnival, June). Sales totaled \$684.07 for June and July-to-date of \$684.80, for a total of \$1327.87. This balanced to a negative - \$245.23. The Proposed 2022 budget for the concession stand was \$1,000, past budgets were \$14,000. Operations were open daily from 1-5 (flexible), 34 potential days open (136 hours), closed 7 (seven) due to weather or no available volunteers. Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney confirmed that while the concession stand had been slow moving and currently operating in the negative, it had only been open 27 (twenty seven) total days up to this report. Manager Ramage then stated that people were very happy with the prices of items sold at the stand, and Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney had confirmed and that while pricing could have been more aggressive; the goal is to just cover costs and not upset residents at a public place. Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney stated that she is open to suggestions and help, and that the assistance from

the newly hired paid employee has helped tremendously. In the past, paid personnel were for admissions and concessions, and dialogue could be had in the future as to the direction of the staff. It was additionally stated that perhaps we did need to get on board with a Recreation Committee with the information provided once this season is over. Chairman Becki confirmed that a Recreation Committee meeting may be needed, which in the past had been based on the pool and playground; but increasing requests for rentals have perhaps increased the need for Committee discussion. Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney continued that there may be a need for a Recreation Committee meeting before the end of the pool season, and she may need the approval of Council for another matter. This matter is regarding Etna Deck Hockey, and Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney stated that a resident informed her that there previously was a company interested in running the Deck Hockey program. While the timeline as to when that was is currently unknown to her, the company is still willing to run the program based on her phone call with them. The company wants the Borough to gauge interest as it has been since 2021 fall season since a program had been in place, and it is not known the number of interested players. Perhaps she can informally survey at Community Day, and Mayor Rengers provided Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney with references from previous players. However there may be a need for the Recreation Committee to meet prior to this, to determine feasibility. Chairman Becki stated that while he agreed with the idea, the Committee would need to be cut to 4 (four) Members or a public meeting would need to be advertised; or if the concept is to just discuss a single idea, then having just 4 members meet informally would be appropriate. Mrs. Tuñón inquired about the process of previous years to sign players up, and Chairman Becki replied that at the end of each season an officer would re-sign players for the upcoming season. Manager Ramage stated that there was a recent investment of \$16,000 in the Deck Hockey rink a year ago. Mrs. Gabriel asked about the survey, and inquired if it could be passed around with the parking permit survey; and Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney replied in the affirmative and discussed other possible options to determine resident engagement and desires.

Mr. Burke stated that everything that needed to be said tonight had been said and nothing needed to be added.

## **Manager's Report**

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Manager Ramage submitted a *Manager's Monthly Report* dated July 16, 2022 regarding: Army Corps/Flood Project; Growing Greener/319 Funding; Streetscape; Public Works; Playground Pool Updates; Engineering Updates; GREAT Places-Butler ST.; Etna Riverfront Park and Trail; Zoning/Code New Office; Assistant Manager Space; Reconnecting Communities Program; PA Downtown Center Conference; PEMA/FEMA COVID Funds; American Rescue Funds; and Garbage Contracts.

Manager Ramage stated that there was one thing that was a little concerning regarding a meeting with ALCOSAN, as the Shaler contractor is moving forward. The contractor wanted to dig in the grass at the pool area, as that is one of the sewers that need lines; and they were told not until after the pool season has ended for the year. ALCOSAN also had 3 (three) pages of repairs that have not yet been done, and we were under the understanding that everything was previously included in the Shaler contract; but apparently it was not. Therefore in the last 2 (two) days preceding this meeting, the information was able to be provided on the main Truck Line Sewer. In order to do the work, it's the most expensive part; in the hundreds of thousands of dollars range. Currently, the Sanitary Sewer Truck Line Account, there is a large sum based on surrounding building plans tapping into our Sewer system. The Borough is the owner of the funds, and there is an agreement between Etna, Ross Township, Shaler, and Indiana for the lines.

Another meeting is scheduled with Shaler and Ross Townships regarding this, as Indiana Township no longer wants to participate. These funds had been desired to be used to other projects, but this account will come to a total of more than this fund. After an explanation of the long-term history of these funds and sewer lines, Manager Ramage stated that she would keep Council posted as to upcoming meetings and findings in relation to the findings and potential needed repairs.

Additionally, Manager Ramage confirmed that the GREAT Places-Butler Street signs came in and explained the sign design and locations for the signs to celebrate the award for the community.

The second installment of the American Rescue Funds has been pushed back to August 2<sup>nd</sup>, and that will be \$173,000 added to that account. While those funds may be restricted, they are available to be spent by the end of 2024. It previously was only storm water, but now was a lot more wide open.

Manager Ramage thanked Council.

### **Mayor's Report**

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Mayor Rengers wanted to report that the Etna Carnival exceeded expectations. The Neighbor Association fully staffed the bingo hall nightly, a local business came and assisted the booth, and families helped the EEDC in the kitchen. He wanted to thank them all. Additionally, Mayor Rengers wanted to thank the Etna Public Works department, as they were truly a joy to work with; from the early morning, to hot afternoon, they worked to ensure the carnival was amazing. The Borough and associations worked extremely well together, and should be commended. There were an incredibly high number of visitors, particularly families with young children, and they were all smiling from ear to ear. So thanks to everyone involved in putting the event together and ensuring it went well. Additionally, the fire and police departments were there all in force to ensure it went off without a hitch.

Councilman Becki asked for any questions from the Audience. There being none, a request was made to Motion to adjourn the regular meeting.

*A Motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting was made by Mrs. Tuñón, Seconded Mr. Burke. Motion Carried without objection.*

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mary Ellen Ramage, Manager

Date: \_\_\_\_\_