

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
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FEBRUARY 4, 2008

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**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD
FEBRUARY 4, 2008**

Council President Schaefer called the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Edgewood to order on Monday, February 4, 2008 at 7:32 PM in the Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL

Borough Manager Kurt Ferguson called the roll and the following responded: Ms. McDonald, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Szefi, Ms. Pryce (arrived at 7:45 following all voting), Mr. Hellett, Ms. Schaefer.

Mr. Harding was absent.

Mayor Jean O. Davin was not in attendance, but was available by phone and Solicitor W. Timothy Barry was present.

Junior Councilperson McArdle was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Dr. Andrews of the Edgewood Foundation said that a member of their group will be attending Council meetings once per month to exchange information on what is being planned. Dr. Andrews stated that the Town Meeting is being revamped as the Foundation is trying to get more community involvement. The goal of the Foundation, according to Dr. Andrews, is to promote volunteerism. She mentioned that the Limpert Award will be given at Community Day.

Ms. Schaefer reminded Council that the Foundation has supported a number of efforts in the community, particularly the wagon used by the firefighters for hay rides and the message board at the front of the Borough Building.

Mr. Hellett asked for an update on the Regent Square Theatre rehabilitation and Dr. Andrews said that \$15,000 will be distributed over the next three years.

Ms. Schaefer announced that an Executive Session would follow the Business Meeting regarding a personnel matter, but no action would follow.

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS

M-1 Ms. McDonald moved to authorize the payment of bills, for goods and services received by the Borough, having been reviewed and approved by the General Government Committee in the amount of \$44,734.85. Second by Mr. Szefi

DISCUSSION: None.

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded: Ms. McDonald, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Szefi, Mr. Hellett, Ms. Schaefer voted yes. **Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE ACTION

M-2 Ms. McDonald read Ordinance 1022 on Third and Final Reading and asked for its immediate adoption. Second by Mr. Hellett.

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD

ORDINANCE 1022

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR
THE FISCAL YEAR 2008**

BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED, and it is hereby ordained and enacted by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania;

SECTION 1: That a tax be and the same is hereby levied on all real property, within said Borough subject to taxation for Borough purposes for the fiscal year 2008 as follows:

Tax rate for general Borough purposes, the total of six and six hundred sixty-one thousandths (6.661) mills on each thousand dollars of assessed valuation.

1 mill = \$1.00 for every \$1,000 assessment
6.661 mills = \$6.661 for every \$1,000 assessment

SECTION 2: That any ordinance, or part thereof, conflicting with the provisions of this Ordinance be and the same is hereby repealed insofar as the same is affected by this Ordinance.

ORDAINED AND ENACTED into law this 4th day of February 2008.

ATTEST

Kurt M. Ferguson
Borough Secretary

Patricia M. Schaefer
Council President

EXAMINED AND APPROVED by me this 4th day of February 2008.

Jean O. Davin
Mayor

DISCUSSION: None.

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded: Ms. McDonald, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Szefi, Mr. Hellett, Ms. Schaefer voted yes. **Third Reading Passes.**

M-3 The Chair asks, "Shall the Ordinance Pass?"

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded: Ms. McDonald, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Szefi, Mr. Hellett, Ms. Schaefer voted yes. **Ordinance 1022 Passes.**

WATER AUTHORITY REPORT

Mr. Fuller reported that the Wilkesburg Penn Joint Water Authority has re-elected the incumbent officers to the Board. He also said that the Authority will begin taking credit cards in the second quarter of the year, charging a .96% fee.

There were 41 water main breaks in December and 21 in January, according to Mr. Fuller. He also reported that the union contract will expire on December 31, 2008.

DISCUSSION: None.

RECREATION REPORT

Mr. Ferguson reported that the baseball registrations are being distributed this week. He also reported that personnel applications will be presented in the near future and further stated that there are a larger number of applicants than in the past.

(At this point, 7:45 PM, Ms. Pryce arrived.)

In answer to Mr. Hellett's inquiry regarding further incidents or problems, Mr. Ferguson said that no problems have arisen since professional referees from the WPIAL program were utilized. These people are trained in handling coaches and children who are problematic and Mr. Ferguson also indicated that more money has been paid out than in the past for the games of the older children.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Szefi said that the Committee did meet for reorganization purposes, but that he was unable to attend. That meeting addressed no other substantive matters, according to Mr. Szefi.

DISCUSSION: None.

COG REPORT

Mr. Hellett stated that the Council of Governments met, but that neither he nor Mr. Harding could attend. The COG dinner will be held February 29, 2008.

DISCUSSION: None.

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Halle reported that he was currently returning from a call to a shut down of Savannah Avenue where a gas line had broken.

He reported on the addition of a volunteer whose boyfriend is already a member. Mr. Halle said that three (3) members are currently enrolled at the Allegheny County Fire Academy.

DISCUSSION: Ms. McDonald asked if the female mentioned was the first female in the Department and was told that Junior Firefighter Boccio was the first. However, Mr. Halle stated that all the wives should be noted as members, also.

A walk-through at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf will take place Thursday, according to Mr. Halle. Radio problems have occurred and are being worked out and a repeater system may be needed from the School. In answer to Mr. Hellett's inquiry as to why this happens, Mr. Halle said that it is probably caused by steel construction in the building. He said that problems arise using the equipment even one floor above and that a security channel with the School is not heard by the 911 system.

Ms. McDonald asked if grants are available for this type of thing.

Solicitor Barry said that municipalities statewide have had a lot of problems with recruitment and that it is remarkable what has happened within Edgewood.

By the existing Volunteer Fire Department bylaws, only fifty (50) members are permitted, according to Mr. Halle, but he said some changes will be made, including increasing that number and lifetime memberships. In answer to Ms. Pryce's inquiry about why people are joining, Mr. Halle stated that people wanting to help their community is the answer given most often.

Ms. Schaefer said that part of this phenomenon is the Department's visibility in the Borough outside of firefighting with activities such as at Movie Night, the Halloween hay ride, Light-Up Night and these occasions speak to the camaraderie and sense of community for which people are hungry.

Adding to comments made by Ms. Pryce, Mr. Ferguson said that one of the great things about the Department is that no bingo or bake sales are done to raise money and Council is

committed to supplying equipment they may need. This process allows the members of the Department to be firefighters instead of fund raisers.

Ms. Pryce asked how money is raised and Mr. Halle referred to luminaria sales, Community Day and the rib and chicken sales and said that approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000 per year is raised.

Mr. Halle noted that the Borough pays for fire fighting gear, UHF radios and educational programs and indicated that Captain Greer is attending a three weekend session in Cambria County. As well, Mr. Halle noted that the Borough turned the area in back of the building over to the Fire Department for its use and that the area has been refurbished.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Barry informed Council that his move to his new office has been completed and the office is back in communication.

He indicated that Mr. Ferguson gave him a Department of Environmental Protection document regarding the paving of the compost recycling site. Mr. Barry said this document will be filed, but first should be signed and notarized.

DISCUSSION: None.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Ferguson reminded Council that these meetings had been set for February 11, 2008: Personnel – 7:00 PM, Public Works – 8:00 PM.

The street paving project for 2008 will be recommended soon, according to Mr. Ferguson and two (2) sewer projects will be undertaken, one of which is Railroad Alley, a project which has been more than six (6) years in waiting.

Mr. Ferguson advised the Pension Committee that a meeting is needed to review the divestment of annual funds.

The Zambelli fireworks agreement expires this year, the last of a three-year contract, and Mr. Ferguson stated that he would like to get this underway fairly soon so that completion will take place in time for Community Day festivities.

Another consideration Mr. Ferguson alluded to was the updating of information from Council members for the website.

According to Mr. Ferguson, there have been two (2) sewer issues in the past week near the Parkway. A homeowner approached Mr. Ferguson stating that their drains were problematic. On Monday, a company was sent to jet the line and when opened, it was noted that someone had dumped railroad ties, paint cans and lumber into the sewer. Unfortunately, where these items were

placed caused reduced flow from the homeowner's sewer by eighty percent (80%). The debris was removed.

Mr. Ferguson said that the newsletter and website will strongly suggest that if people see something amiss, 911 should be called.

Also, in the past week five (5) homes on Washington Street had sewage in them. This was caused by rocks and debris clogging the drains at the same location where a water break had occurred nine (9) days earlier.

As much debris as possible was cleared from Pennwood Avenue to Washington Street. The contractor was out all day with the four foot (4') break, as well as the Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Ferguson referred to the sump pumps which he and Chief Andrews determined three (3) years ago were needed for both the Fire Department and the Public Works Department. He stated that these were used during this current event and performed well, preventing significant damage.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Reynolds asked how much damage was done to the homes and Mr. Ferguson said damage was very minimal as the residents had called at such an early stage.

Mr. Ferguson then reviewed the bill list and explained the work needed on the generator in the Borough Building.

Ms. Schaefer noted to Council that due to his years of experience, Mr. Ferguson really was extremely proactive when one (1) house began having trouble. He knew that more homes would follow and mobilized everyone, minimizing damage. She offered much appreciation for his help.

An extensive explanation was given to Ms. Pryce regarding how information is disseminated.

Mr. Hellett had questions regarding the illegal placement of items into the sewer system and the degree of crime this might represent.

Solicitor Barry said that, depending on the severity and amount, these crimes would, at the very least, be misdemeanors, but may reach to the level of federal crimes as this would impact the environment. He stated that the District Attorney would make the determination needed.

A discussion followed regarding prosecution that might be allowed.

Mr. Reynolds asked if Washington Street work has been completed and Mr. Ferguson stated that in the spring that section of the road will be repaved.

Mr. Hellett was answered in the affirmative when he asked if the utilities are under the same rules and regulations as the Borough for using superpave products.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Schaefer reminded Council members of the February 11, 2008 meetings: Personnel at 7:00 PM and Public Works at 8:00 PM.

As President's Day falls on February 18, 2008, the next Council meeting will be held February 19, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT

M-4 Following an Executive Session which lasted from 8:22 PM to 9:17 PM, it was moved by Ms. McDonald and seconded by Mr. Hellett to adjourn this meeting at 9:18 PM.

DISCUSSION: None.

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded: Ms. McDonald, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Szefi, Ms. Pryce, Mr. Hellett, Ms. Schaefer voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Kurt Ferguson
Borough Manager