

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
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MARCH 3, 2008

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**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD
MARCH 3, 2008**

Council President Schaefer called the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Edgewood to order on Monday, March 3, 2008 at 7:55 PM in the Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL

Borough Manager Kurt Ferguson called the roll and the following responded: Ms. McDonald, Mr. Harding, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Hellett (arrived at 8:05 PM), Ms. Schaefer.

Mr. Szefi, Ms. Pryce and Junior Councilperson Reese were absent.

Mayor Jean O. Davin and Solicitor W. Timothy Barry were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Ms. Lehrian, a representative of the Edgewood Foundation, reported that the annual Progressive Dinner, held February 9, 2008, was a success, with 139 people in attendance. The Clean-Up Day will be held on April 19, 2008, the Saturday before Earth Day, with a rain date of April 26, 2008. A Wine and Chocolate event is scheduled for October 4, 2008.

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 \$24,719.61. Second by Mr. Reynolds.

DISCUSSION: Mayor Davin had questions regarding payments for the Spring Festival, which was for the Easter Egg Hunt, and the Holiday Inn regarding the employment search.

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

COMMITTEE ACTION

M-2 Ms. McDonald moved to authorize the payment of a property tax refund in the amount of \$443.85, as reviewed and designated by the Tax Collector, to Joseph Dohar for 111 Maple Avenue. Second by Mr. Reynolds.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Halle reported that fourteen (14) calls were handled in February, and 263 training hours were logged. He also reported that the rescue truck is still being worked on, and equipment is being moved to the squad.

The Volunteer Fire Department has become part of the first alarm assignment in Braddock Hills, according to Mr. Halle.

Mr. Halle asked if it is possible to have the door and garage areas cleared of snow and ice during storm events for the safety of the firemen.

DISCUSSION: Solicitor Barry had a question regarding the first alarm agreement with Braddock Hills. A lack of equipment on the part of Braddock Hills was the reason Edgewood Borough became involved as first alarm assignments, and Mr. Halle reported that this also would include help from Wilkins, Forest Hills and North Braddock.

The Solicitor asked if this was covered by mutual agreement, and this was answered in the affirmative. Mr. Barry asked if Mr. Halle saw any issues from the Borough's point of view, and the answer was no. Mr. Halle responded in the affirmative when asked if Braddock Hills volunteers would still respond.

WATER AUTHORITY REPORT

Mr. Fuller said that the Allegheny County inspection of the Water Authority facility found no violations of the Pennsylvania Water Code. He reported that there were fifty nine (59) breaks in February, which is less than last year.

The Wilkesburg-Penn Joint Water Authority is now accepting credit cards, but to Ms. McDonald's inquiry whether phone credit payments could be made, Mr. Fuller answered in the negative.

Mr. Fuller opened a major discussion regarding the replacing of meters requiring an electrician, paid at the Pennsylvania prevailing wage of \$47.00 per hour vs laborer wages. He then explained exactly what had to be done to replace the meters.

Mr. Fuller also reported that he and his wife had traveled from Oakland in the recent storm event, and it took them 1-1/2 hours, but upon entering Edgewood, the streets were in great shape thanks to our Public Works crew. He also said that Edgewood Borough has always been this way.

DISCUSSION: None.

RECREATION REPORT

Mr. Ferguson reported that March 14, 2008 is the deadline for baseball and softball registration and March 15, 2008 is the last day for basketball. The Easter Egg Hunt will take place

on March 29, 2008, according to Mr. Ferguson. He also reported that the equipment shed at Koenig Field will be turned into a five (5) bin closet area for storage for each team.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer said that a mini-banquet will be held for the basketball league on March 8, 2008.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

In Mr. Szefi's absence, no report was available.

DISCUSSION: None.

COG REPORT

The Council of Government dinner was held last Friday, but Mr. Hellett reported that he, nor other members of the Council, attended due to the inclement weather.

DISCUSSION: None.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Barry reported that he had two legal issues for Executive Session, which may cause action to be taken, plus a real estate and potential litigation issue.

Mr. Barry also stated that in the last two weeks, Mr. Worner from his office has met with the Civil Service Commission and the Commission had questions and recommendations which will be forwarded to Council.

The process was then explained to the new members of Council by Mr. Barry. He stated that recommendations may be made by the Civil Service Commission, but must be approved by Council. He also asked Mr. Ferguson to check and see if this had been addressed by ordinance.

DISCUSSION: None.

Ms. Schaefer reiterated that an Executive Session would be held, and action may or may not be taken.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Ferguson reported that two hundred (200) tons of salt was delivered today, having been scheduled for delivery on Friday. Only twenty (20) tons of salt remained, and although this amount was much less than he would like to have had, Mr. Ferguson was thankful to have made it through the storm. He reported that snow is again expected on Wednesday or Thursday of this week.

A purchase order for a new police cruiser has been signed, according to Mr. Ferguson. The Borough will be selling vehicle #2 and the motion to advertise its sale will be on the agenda in

about a month. He also reported that the vehicle being replaced will be sold, including sending notices to previous high bidders who converted the cars to taxicabs for use in New York City. Mr. Ferguson predicted the estimated bid to be \$7,000.

The street paving and sewer specifications should be completed the end of March or the beginning of April, according to Mr. Ferguson. He stated that he will have the Public Works Department hot patch several areas in the spring, as well. The Borough Manager said he received several resident calls stating that they were happy to see Gordon Street on the paving list.

Mr. Ferguson indicated that the 2009 budget is aggressively underway, and that he is seventy five percent (75%) complete. He stated that he will work with the General Government Committee throughout the year until this is completed.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Reynolds asked if an alternative could be used to extend the shelf life of the rock salt.

Mr. Ferguson said that an anti-skid material is put in the salt which basically has the same effect as sand. The salt is generally ordered as far in advance as possible, but the weather last week was unexpected, according to Mr. Ferguson. He also indicated that most stores were also out of salt and reported that the barges got stuck on the river ice during the storm event.

The Borough Manager went on to say that the worst type of storm to salt in is an ongoing snowstorm. He stated that doing one run through the Borough takes about twelve (12) tons of salt and management of the use of the salt is the key.

Mr. Reynolds noted that a lot of residents thanked him, and Ms. McDonald noted that she received thanks in letter form, regarding the care given to Edgewood streets during the recent storms.

Mr. Ferguson mentioned that, in an effort to do things as efficiently as possible, he sells rock salt to Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf and they sell us magnesium sulphate to treat our sidewalks at cost. He noted that rock salt is \$45.00 per ton and all bidders added a fuel kicker, which was agreed upon by the Council of Governments, increasing the salt by \$1.00 per ton. Due to the unpredictability of fuel costs, bidders will not sign contracts for more than two (2) years. Mr. Ferguson noted that the rock salt last year was \$33.00 per ton.

Ms. Schaefer spoke of the need to remind people that the Borough has an ordinance regarding keeping their sidewalks clear of snow and ice.

NEW BUSINESS

Meetings were set as follows: Pension Committee rescheduled to March 24, 2008 at 7:00 PM. Community Service rescheduled to March 24, 2008 at 7:15 PM. Public Safety scheduled for March 24, 2008 at 8:45 PM.

An Executive Session began at 8:30 PM.

- M-3 Following an Executive Session which lasted from 8:30 PM to 9:25 PM, Ms. McDonald moved to approve the revised contribution agreement with Penndot for the paving of South Braddock Avenue. Second by Mr. Reynolds.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

ADJOURNMENT

- M-4 At 9:26 PM, it was moved by Ms. McDonald and seconded by Mr. Hellett to adjourn this meeting.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

Kurt Ferguson
Borough Manager