

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD  
INDEX TO THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD  
APRIL 7, 2008

MOTION SUBJECT	MOTION	PAGE
Adjournment	5	8
Bills	1	3
Laborers, Motion to Advertise for Part-Time Temporary	3	3, 4
Property Tax Refunds (2)	2	3
Resolution 2008-18 (Hire Police Chief, Robert C. Payne)	4	6, 7

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD  
APRIL 7, 2008**

Council President Schaefer called the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Edgewood to order on Monday, April 7, 2008 at 7:36 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. Szefi, Ms. Schaefer.

Ms. Pryce and Mr. Hellett were absent.

Mayor Jean O. Davin, Solicitor W. Timothy Barry and Junior Councilperson McArdle were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**WOODLAND HILLS PROGRESS**

Stephanie Hacke of the Woodland Hills Progress presented the Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department with the *Citizen of the Year Award* to Fire Chief Andrews and his department and cited increase in the size of the department, the junior firefighter program, and the handling of the Maple Avenue fire scene as some of the reasons for the award.

DISCUSSION: Fire Chief Andrews thanked all who voted for the department, stating that the reason for doing what they do is not to receive awards, but because firefighting is what the volunteers have a passion for.

President Schaefer thanked the Progress, the volunteers and junior volunteers and stated that even though volunteerism is at an all-time low in the country, this award is a testimony to the hard work being done in Edgewood by volunteers in keeping the community a safe place to live.

**ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR**

Pat Doyle, Acting President of the C. C. Mellor Library Board and Edgewood Community House Board of Trustees, and a resident of Edgewood since 1991, thanked Edgewood Borough Council for their ongoing support of Library operations. He stated that his current visit was for another challenge concerning enhancements to the building. Mr. Doyle noted some of the repairs which have been made to the building through federal and state grants, and noted that the next project will deal with the infrastructure and major repairs to the front entrance.

The repairs, according to Mr. Doyle, will take place in September 2008 and will extend from Pennwood Avenue and West Swissvale and will cost approximately \$80,000. A grant for \$175,000 was submitted to the Pittsburgh History and Museum Commission and was not funded. This organization's question to the Board of Trustees was where is the local support. Mr. Doyle

noted that \$16,000 is needed and asked that the Borough contribute some of this amount if at all possible.

Ms. Schaefer thanked Mr. Doyle for his comments and discussed the importance of the Library, stating that \$45,000 of undesignated funds have been given to the Library out of the Borough budget.

Ms. Schaefer stated that a letter would be sent to other communities encouraging support and the request will be placed with the General Government Committee. She also invited Mr. Doyle to attend the Woodland Hills Intercouncil meetings, stating that this group represents all municipalities from the area. She related that Mike Belmont is the coordinator for the group.

Mr. Ferguson offered to place information on the website for Mr. Doyle.

Mr. Reynolds excused himself to attend a fire call.

Ms. Schaefer noted that an Executive Session would be held regarding personnel, but no action would be taken.

**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 \$ 84,969.99. Second by Mr. Harding.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

M-2 Ms. McDonald moved to authorize the payment of property tax refunds in the gross amount of \$793.13, as reviewed by the Tax Collector to the property owners and in the amounts designated by the Tax Collector, which owners and amounts are listed in the minutes of this meeting.

NAME	AT/FOR	AMOUNT
Richard Becherer & Charlene Castellano	207 W. Swissvale Avenue	\$548.34
Julie D'Itri	166 Rockwell Lane	\$244.79

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-3 Ms. McDonald moved to advertise to hire up to two (2) part-time temporary laborers in the Public Works Department. Second by Mr. Harding.

DISCUSSION: Ms. McDonald noted that these are seasonal laborers who are hired yearly.

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

### **BUSINESS MEETING**

#### **WATER AUTHORITY REPORT**

Mr. Fuller offered information regarding the work on Pennwood and Mr. Ferguson gave more current information, stating that the work will take five to eight weeks.

Mr. Fuller stated that the installation of the new meters will not be subcontracted. In answer to Mayor Davin's question regarding former teachers being hired, Mr. Fuller stated that the positions are set up for college students.

The Wilkinsburg Penn Joint Water Authority will now be taking debit and credit cards, according to Mr. Fuller.

DISCUSSION: None.

#### **PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

Mr. Szefi stated that the Committee did not meet.

DISCUSSION: None.

#### **RECREATION REPORT**

Mr. Ferguson reported that the Easter Egg Hunt was a success and that Judy Mysels, Recreation Coordinator, did a good job. He stated that Movie Night will be scheduled in the next few weeks.

According to Mr. Ferguson, the 11-12 and 13-14 year olds are not playing baseball this year. Many of them are playing lacrosse this year and their coach has mandated that the children play no other sport. Mr. Ferguson mentioned that a Colt Team has been awarded, having members up to 16 years old, and they will be playing at Woodland Hills High School.

DISCUSSION: Both Mayor Davin and Ms. McDonald received positive comments regarding the Easter Egg Hunt.

Mr. Harding spoke regarding Scouting for Food, stating that this project is done yearly by the Boy Scouts. It is an effort to raise non-perishable food to be kept at the First Presbyterian

Church of Edgewood. Mr. Harding stated that this teaches the Scouts about community service and giving.

Ms. Schaefer said that hunger is an epidemic all over the country and, just as Mr. Doyle spoke about giving to the Library, food giving is down. She further stated that this activity by the Scouts is also extremely important.

Ms. Schaefer then gave some of the current activities for the School District, including a performance of Beauty and the Beast on the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup> of April, Breakfast with Belle, and a mock trial. She also indicated that rain barrels are available from [www.ninemilerun.org](http://www.ninemilerun.org) for \$107. This amount includes set up of the barrels. Ms. Schaefer said that the barrels help with water conservation and getting water out of the sanitary sewers. Also, according to Ms. Schaefer, this will help keep the water and sewage bills down.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Barry spoke of an ordinance which will be on the next agenda for First and Second Reading relating to the Local Services Tax Act. This tax, according to Mr. Barry, was once known as the Occupational Privilege Tax, but is still \$52 per year. The biggest difference in the tax is that there is a provision exempting people who earn less than \$12,000 per year. Another difference is that, instead of paying the tax from the first check in January, the payments are spread out over the entire year. Mr. Barry said that the advertising for this is quite an expense, as it must be run three times prior to passage. The ad contains a lengthy summary, which includes how much revenue the Borough expects to derive.

Mr. Barry indicated that a draft of the legislation was prepared and should be reviewed by Council with edits returned to either Mr. Barry or Mr. Ferguson.

Mr. Barry talked about two copier lease agreements which Mr. Ferguson had presented to him for review. Mr. Barry's opinion was that, since these would amount to more than \$10,000, they would need to go out for bid.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Ferguson expressed his opinion that the thousands of dollars spent to advertise this tax seems like a heavy burden to put on municipalities.

Mayor Davin opened a lengthy discussion by asking if anyone has contacted the state legislators to ask if they realize the burden. She also asked if the tax needed to be done at this current time and Mr. Barry answered that this needs to be done right away.

### **BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Ferguson reminded everyone that the final meeting regarding multi-municipal planning between Edgewood, Rankin and Swissvale is set for April 23, 2008 at 7:00 PM. The South Braddock Avenue paving, according to Mr. Ferguson, is set to begin on Tuesday night. Mr. Ferguson said the contractor will be handling the painting of crosswalks.

The Borough Manager said that the Edgewood Avenue closing will take place on the bridge this weekend. The Wilkesburg-Penn Joint Water Authority will be replacing a water line from the Wilkesburg line to Washington Street. Also, Mr. Ferguson mentioned, J-Way will have 200 ft. of storm pipe replaced.

Borough Manager Ferguson indicated that he will be talking with both the Community Services and General Government Committees regarding an application for grants to redo the tennis courts at Koenig Field. The approximate cost to do this project is \$90,000, stated Mr. Ferguson, and he itemized some of the other projects already completed at Koenig totaling \$200,000, including the scoreboard and new fields.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer commented on Mr. Harding having completed the Local Government Academy Saturday sessions. She stated that this was the Academy's largest class.

### **VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Halle informed Council that the junior firefighters are enrolled in a program where they will receive gifts for hours served. He said that most of the junior firefighters have approximately 100 hours.

Mr. Halle stated that a donation has been received from the Edgewood Foundation to buy a DVD projector and screen to enhance Thursday drill night. Statistics for the month and year were then given by Mr. Halle.

The Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department will also be purchasing animal rescue equipment, including oxygen masks. Mr. Halle noted that basic vehicle rescue classes will be held Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays for three weeks. As well, a CPR kit in a box will be made available to the department.

The Hurst Foundation sent a donation to the department with regard to a man the volunteers had helped. Mr. Halle also reported on a vehicle extrication which was done last week.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Halle and the volunteers were congratulated on winning the award.

### **COG REPORT**

No report was available.

DISCUSSION: None.

**M-4 Ms. McDonald offered Resolution 2008-18 and asked for its immediate adoption. Second by Mr. Reynolds.**

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD**

**RESOLUTION 2008-18**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Edgewood is dedicated to promoting, supporting and maintaining an excellent police force; and,

**WHEREAS**, Robert C. Payne has met the education and experience necessary to fulfill the duties of the position of Chief of Police. Mr. Payne has received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pittsburgh; worked as a supervisor for many years, including Chief of Police in two Pennsylvania departments; certified and trained as a hostage negotiator, expert witness in crimes of domestic violence and forensic hypnosis;

**WHEREAS**, the Borough and Robert C. Payne wish to cooperatively execute a Memorandum of Employment establishing the terms and conditions of his employment with the Borough.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Edgewood Borough Council that Robert C. Payne be appointed to the position of Chief of Police for the Borough of Edgewood at an annual salary of \$65,000.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Edgewood Borough Council hereby authorizes the appropriate Borough officials to execute the Memorandum of Employment on behalf of the Borough with Robert C. Payne, subject to approval by the Borough Solicitor.

**ADOPTED THIS THE 7<sup>th</sup> day of April 2008.**

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Borough Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jean O. Davin

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. McDonald thanked Sgts. Hockenberry and Kaskie for their leadership and extra work. As well, she thanked the search committee, Public Safety Committee and Mayor Davin, the police officers and the residents. The choice of Mr. Payne as Police Chief was due to his experience and the confidence felt toward him by Council.

Mayor Davin opened a discussion regarding whether Mr. Payne's start date needed to be included in the Resolution, and it was decided that it did not.

Mr. Reynolds thanked Ms. McDonald for all her work and the hours put into this process and stated that this was very much appreciated.

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. McDonald set a Public Safety meeting for April 14, 2008 at 7:00 PM and stated Mr. Payne would be invited.

Ms. McDonald also noted that letters will go out in search of a new junior Councilperson for next year. She gave the qualifications for applying and said the deadline for applications is June 15, 2008.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

M-5 Council moved to Executive Session which lasted from 8:45 PM to 9:07 PM and it was then moved by Mr. Szefi and seconded by Mr. Harding to adjourn this meeting.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

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Kurt Ferguson  
Borough Manager