

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
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**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD
MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

President Patricia Schaefer called the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Edgewood to order on Monday, October 20, 2008 at 7:32 PM in the Municipal Building.

Borough Manager Ferguson called the roll and the following responded: Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Harding, Mr. Szefi, Mr. Hellett, Ms. Schaefer.

Ms. McDonald and Mr. Cook were absent.

Mayor Davin and Borough Solicitor Associate Shon Worner were present. The Junior Councilperson was absent due to a sporting event.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

COMMITTEE ACTION

M-1 Mr. Hellett moved to approve the minutes of September 2, 2008. Second by Mr. Harding.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer informed members of Council that, even if they were not present, after reading the minutes, they still may vote.

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

M-2 Mr. Hellett moved to approve the minutes of September 15, 2008. Second by Mr. Harding.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-3 Mr. Hellett moved to approve the minutes of October 6, 2008. Second by Mr. Reynolds.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

- M-4 Mr. Hellett 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 \$48,581.20. Second by Mr. Harding.**

DISCUSSION: Mayor Davin had a question regarding Chief Payne's medical expenses. Mr. Ferguson clarified the matter.

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

Ms. Schaefer said that an Executive Session would take place regarding a personnel issue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT

Mr. Harding had no report.

DISCUSSION: None.

POLICE REPORT

Mayor Davin noted a correction on the September activity report. She said that the crimes for the period were up, especially DUI and shoplifting. The year-to-date comparison since last year in theft crimes is up in number. Mayor Davin thought this might be due to the economy. Arrests, according to the Mayor, are on the increase.

The Significant Events Report error in the reporting period was corrected by the Mayor. A GPS unit was stolen from the Mayor's vehicle, which was unlocked. As well, a neighbor's car, which had the keys in it, was stolen and later found in Wilkinsburg.

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Reynolds read the highlights of the report and said that a Public Safety meeting had occurred to address several issues, including PODs and recommendations for their placement and use.

DISCUSSION: A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the POD situation. Mr. Ferguson indicated that he has established a direct contact with the regional manager for problems with the

PODs. The company asked for legislative information that they can pass on to people as they need it.

Ms. Schaefer asked if any other borough has legislation in place and Mr. Ferguson said that Mt. Lebanon has an ordinance. Ms. Schaefer asked that the document from Mt. Lebanon be obtained and forwarded to the Public Safety Committee, the Mayor and the General Government Committee.

It was Mr. Ferguson's feeling that both he and Chief Payne should be involved in the process.

Mr. Hellett's concern was that emergency vehicles should be able to pass.

On another note, Mr. Reynolds wanted to specifically recognize Mr. Guerriero, Director of Public Works, for building the handrails and steps for the hay wagon.

Ms. Schaefer asked that something be written for Mr. Guerriero's personnel file.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Szefi said that the Committee did not meet and proceeded to read the highlights of the report.

DISCUSSION: None.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

Mr. Hellett reported that the Committee did not meet, but that planning is already underway for Community Day next year, including lining up the bands and vendors.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ferguson said that he met with the basketball coaches and that some of them recommended changes. He stated that the Recreation Coordinators sought his input regarding changing the program to the Edgewood Primary School. The recommendation was made to eliminate the thirteen to fifteen (13-15) year old group next year and to expand the age group to eleven to thirteen (11-13), and the fourteen to fifteen (14-15) year olds to play with the adults. Some adults are in place to oversee this.

Concerns with the older group, according to Mr. Ferguson, centered on managing them effectively, as well as liability issues.

Ms. Schaefer asked that teams be balanced and that all children be able to play in the eleven to thirteen (11-13) year old group.

Mayor Davin posed a question for Ms. McDonald in her absence, that being, is the Recreation Commission still functioning and was answered in the negative.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Hellett said that the Committee did meet to discuss the hiring of a Public Works employee, as well as to talk about the Administrative Assistant II position.

DISCUSSION: None.

PENSION COMMITTEE

Mr. Szefi said that the Committee did meet on September 29, 2008. According to Mr. Szefi, Mr. Ferguson will set up a meeting with Mr. D'Alessandro, the actuary, and other vendors providing services similar to those currently provided by Nationwide Provident.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ferguson stated that Mr. D'Alessandro indicated that the Borough might be able to lower costs and to have greater flexibility with their funds than it has currently.

Mayor Davin asked if Council has received the compliance audit report for the pension plan dated January 2005 to January 2007. Mr. Ferguson indicated that there is a change needed to the wording and he will make sure that Council members receive a copy of the document.

Ms. Schaefer returned to the topic of personnel and public safety, indicating that a review of the Building Inspector going street to street to check on homes was needed to evaluate how time is being spent.

AD HOC

PORT AUTHORITY AGREEMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Reynolds said that the Committee did not meet, but that the vision and plan are currently being addressed by the consultant. He continued by saying that, due to Port Authority negotiations, things are a little slow in this area. Mr. Reynolds indicated that he has not spoke with Ms. Showers.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ferguson said that he spoke with Ms. Showers this date and that she will try to make contact with Mr. Bland at Port Authority. About two dozen of the surveys have been received, according to Mr. Ferguson, and they have been placed on the Borough's home page. He also said that Ms. Showers will be checking with her computer people for weekly totals.

INTERCOUNCIL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Ms. Schaefer said that the Committee will be meeting soon.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Caufield, a member of the audience, stated that a recent presentation opened a lot of discussion with other communities.

Ms. Schaefer said it was nice to have other councils involved with regard to consolidating bids and other concerns.

The Mayor was interested in whether a better rate was received with the Waste Management garbage contract, as Swissvale and Churchill had partnered for their contract.

Mr. Ferguson said he has found that the per unit costs are about the same, but he was not sure of the particular situation which the Mayor spoke about.

Mr. Lang informed Council that the joint bid did not include Churchill, but instead consisted of Wilkins, Braddock Hills and Swissvale.

Mr. Ferguson noted that there must be staging when partnering for contracts; that is, more communities that are adjacent with each other, such as Churchill and Edgewood or Edgewood, Swissvale and Braddock Hills. He said that this may cause a unit savings of five to eight percent (5-8%) and, although this does not sound like a lot, it can be substantial when there are contiguous communities involved. A conversation about the bidding procedures followed and Mr. Ferguson said that intermunicipal agreements were needed.

3 RIVERS WET WEATHER DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Ms. Schaefer stated that there was a Basin meeting and that work continues with Alcosan under the Consent Decree to maintain deadlines. She stated that meetings continue with the Board of the 3 Rivers Wet Weather Demonstration Project and Alcosan to enhance positive dialogue.

Mayor Davin asked if the issue of moving the sewer line was abandoned, and Ms. Schaefer answered that the reorganization of the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority has caused a delay, but that work is continuing with Mr. Schombert on the issue.

Mr. Hellett then raised the issue of the Tot Lot, which led to a lengthy discussion of a solution to the issues.

Ms. Schaefer felt that part of the problem is funding, citing that it required \$94,000 to restore the tennis courts. She asked that Mr. Hellett work with Mr. Ferguson to move this idea forward regarding feasibility, cost and grants.

Mr. Reynolds gave background for the Tot Lot, stating that the big issue is flooding. He stated that the resolution suggested was to move the Tot Lot to the basketball court and to turn the Tot Lot into a graded area.

Mr. Hellett wondered how to get Wilkinsburg to shoulder their responsibility.

To this end, Mr. Ferguson stated that he and Ms. Schaefer have had several meetings with Wilkinsburg and that the ongoing problem is Wilkinsburg's engineer, who has now been replaced. Mr. Ferguson said that Wilkinsburg is now doing regular maintenance and televising of the lines to prevent an infestation of roots.

After watching the tapes of the lines, Mr. Ferguson said this was discussed with the Allegheny County Health Department and a suggestion was made to insert a liner into the pipe for

the eggshelling which had taken place. This is to be done on November 1, 2008 at a cost of \$150,000 and will take a couple of weeks to complete. Our engineers, according to Mr. Ferguson, feel that if there is a heavy rain, the line will be able to handle the flow.

Mr. Reynolds noted that the liner is part of the solution, but asked if it is certain that this will fix the problem.

Ms. Schaefer stated that this is a remedy, but this is not to say that the idea can't move forward. She asked that this be discussed with the Borough Manager.

Mr. Harding noted that the area smelled of sewer gas.

Mayor Davin gave the history of the Tot Lot, stating that that this came about through monies raised by Edgewood Council (\$25,000) and the Edgewood Foundation (\$25,000) for equipment and other funds which were raised through residents.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR REPORT

Mr. Worner had nothing to report.

DISCUSSION: None.

BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Ferguson informed Council of the Intercouncil meeting he will attend on October 28, 2008. He said this would be a first step into a variety of issues, including sharing equipment rental, expertise and certifications.

On October 31, 2008, Mr. Ferguson stated that Dr. Miller, his mentor, is having a multi-municipal meeting during the day with twenty eight (28) communities committed to attend. The meeting will cover the communities working together.

Leaf pickup began last week, according to Mr. Ferguson. He stated that the Public Works Committee met and noted that paving was completed last week. Also, storm sewer work was done on Mifflin and Railroad Alley and Mr. Ferguson noted that two people expressed their appreciation for this.

Mr. Ferguson indicated to Council that PennDot informed him that they would not be able to pave some areas previously agreed to. However, they will now pave the triangle at Brinton Road and they agreed that two handicapped ramps were also needed, which they bid \$8,800 to install. This area was milled today.

Mr. Ferguson reviewed the timetable for the budget meetings.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer asked Council members to check their availability for meeting on the budget and to email her. She emphasized the importance of the attendance of all members of Council at these meetings.

Mayor Davin suggested that the Junior Councilperson's information be sent to the Borough Magazine for publication, along with her photograph.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Schaefer set a Public Safety meeting for October 27, 2008 at 8:00 PM.

Mr. Reynolds said that the Foundation and the Volunteer Fire Department would be pairing up for Light Up Night and the community ride through with Santa.

COMMITTEE ACTION

M-5 Mr. Hellett moved to authorize the payment of property tax refunds, in the gross amount of \$1,409.99, 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. Second by Mr. Reynolds.

| TO | AT/FOR | AMOUNT |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Albert & Joanne Caruso | 150 Gordon Street | \$424.31 |
| Maxim & Robin Hammer | 1203 East End Avenue | \$215.43 |
| Ernest & Jeanne Meyer | 823 E. Hutchinson | \$78.33 |
| Edgewood Properties, LLC | 101 Pennwood Avenue | \$233.15 |
| Shen Tike & Yu Hwa | 200 Center Street | \$361.64 |
| Celly McChesney | 451 Morris Street | \$88.13 |

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-6 Mr. Hellett moved to hire William Gee as a full-time laborer in the Public Works Department at a pay of \$10 an hour, effective November 1, 2008 with a six (6) month probationary period. Second by Mr. Harding.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-7 Mr. Reynolds moved to advertise to hire a part-time police officer with the Edgewood Borough Police Department. Second by Mr. Hellett.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-8 Mr. Reynolds moved to approve a stipend in the amount of \$2,700 to Officer Dennis Hockenberry for serving as the Acting Chief of Police from January 5, 2008 through April 21, 2008. Second by Mr. Harding.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer said this offering has precedent, as has been done in other areas.

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

ADJOURNMENT

M-9 Following an Executive Session, which lasted from 9:08 PM until 9:44 PM, it was moved and seconded to adjourn at 9:45 PM.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

Kurt M. Ferguson
Borough Manager