

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
INDEX TO THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 17, 2008

MOTION SUBJECT	MOTION NUMBER	PAGE
Adjournment	6	9
Bills, Motion to Authorize Payment	4	5
Budget (2009), Motion to Display	5	9
Minutes, Motion to Approve (November 3, 2008)	3	5
Minutes, Motion to Approve (October 20, 2008)	2	5
Resolution 2008-30, Appointment to Civil Service Commission (Arlene Neff)	1	4, 5

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Heidi McDonald called the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Edgewood to order on Monday, November 17, 2008 at 7:31 PM in the Municipal Building.

Borough Manager Ferguson called the roll and the following responded: Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Szefi, Mr. Cook, Ms. McDonald.

Mr. Harding, Mr. Hellett and Ms. Schaefer were absent.

Mayor Davin and Borough Solicitor W. Timothy Barry were present. The Junior Councilperson was absent due to illness.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Ms. McDonald noted that an Executive Session regarding personnel would take place, but that there would be no action.

Mr. Reynolds stated that Frederick "Fritz" Schneider, founding member of the Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department passed away and proceeded to read a brief biographical sketch.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Davin presented a Proclamation honoring Mr. Schneider to Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department representatives Laird and Halle.

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD

PROCLAMATION 2008-05

WHEREAS, Fritz Schneider was a founding member of the Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department when the decision was made to transition from a paid department in 1961; and

WHEREAS, he willingly served the department as president of the fire department twice; and, in no small part under his leadership and participation, the Edgewood Volunteer Fire

Department built on a foundation of community service which has translated into traditions that exist to this day; and

WHEREAS, Fritz was an active firefighter until 1999 when he was made a life member after his health problems no longer allowed him to participate. He held many key positions including lieutenant and vice president and spent countless hours responding to fires and emergencies, as well as on community projects including Community Day and Christmas activities, among others.

WHEREAS, Fritz passed away on November 13, 2008 at age 87 and will be sorely missed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Friday, November 21, 2008 is proclaimed ***"FRITZ SCHNEIDER DAY"*** in the Borough of Edgewood.

PROCLAIMED this 17th day of November 2008 by the Mayor of the Borough of Edgewood.

Jean O. Davin, Mayor

Mr. Reynolds requested that the flags be flown at half staff in honor of Mr. Schneider.

Mr. Laird noted that a Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, November 22, 2008 at the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood in Mr. Schneider's honor.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Ms. Fontenot of 132 Lincoln Avenue addressed the issue of parking on the Lincoln/Laurel/Ivy corridor during weddings, Sunday night dances, swim meets and street cleaning. Her contention was that if she has to pay to park on the street, then she should have an opportunity to park near her home, as she has small children. It was Ms. Fontenot's opinion that visitors should park on Edgewood Avenue.

Ms. McDonald noted that this has been an issue for a number of years, long before this Council was convened.

Mr. Ferguson said that he spoke with Mr. Gallagher, Manager of the Edgewood Club, about a year ago regarding the parcel of land next to Applebee's from which they might shuttle their swim meet participants. Mr. Ferguson stated that this lot could hold up to forty (40) vehicles.

Mr. Ferguson said that this issue needed to be revisited.

Ms. McDonald felt that a conversation between the Edgewood Club and Council is appropriate.

Ms. Fontenot also had concerns about parents who arrive late to the swim meets and drive fast down Lincoln Avenue. Her concern with the street sweeping was that the Edgewood Police come around about 11:00 AM and residents park on the opposite side of the street; non-residents park and do not receive tickets.

Ms. McDonald asked for an update on this issue as the swim season draws nearer.

Ms. Leone of Lincoln Avenue had comments about the parking sticker system noting that residents purchase a lot and a street sticker and do not use the lot space.

Mr. Ferguson asked Solicitor Barry if there is any legal question with regarding to making a requirement in the system that if residents get a lot sticker, can they also purchase a street sticker.

It was Mr. Barry's opinion that further discussion needed to take place. As it stands now, according to Mr. Barry, anyone can park, except between the 3:00 to 5:00 AM timeframe.

Ms. McDonald noted that she will see that this issue is put on the General Government Committee agenda.

COMMITTEE ACTION

M-1 Mr. Reynolds offered Resolution 2008-30 and asked for its immediate adoption. Second by Mr. Cook.

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD

RESOLUTION 2008-30

WHEREAS, the Borough of Edgewood has a Civil Service Commission and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Borough Council to maintain a degree of continuity and experience on the Civil Service Commission and

WHEREAS, Arlene Neff has exhibited knowledge and ability to make positive contributions to the Civil Service Commission.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Edgewood Borough Council will hereby appoint Arlene Neff to the Civil Service Commission to a term which will expire November 18, 2014.

ADOPTED this the 17th day of November 2008 at the meeting of the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

Borough Secretary

Council President

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-2 Mr. Cook moved to approve the minutes of October 20, 2008. Second by Mr. Reynolds.

DISCUSSION: None.

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded: Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Szefi, Mr. Cook (absent from actual meeting, but chose to vote), Ms. McDonald voted yes. **Motion carried.**

M-3 Mr. Cook moved to approve the minutes of November 3, 2008. Second by Mr. Reynolds.

DISCUSSION: None.

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded: Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Szefi, Mr. Cook, Ms. McDonald (absent from actual meeting, but chose to vote) voted yes. **Motion carried.**

M-4 Mr. Szefi 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 \$69,826.49. Second by Mr. Cook.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT

Ms. McDonald had no report.

DISCUSSION: None.

POLICE REPORT

Mayor Davin noted that the more serious Part I crimes were higher than the Part II crimes. There were twenty one (21) adult arrests and the year-to-date number of arrests was one hundred seventy (170), most of which were theft crimes, according to the Mayor. She noted that revenue was lower than in the previous year, but was in line with other years.

A question was posed to the Mayor by Ms. Neff of the Civil Service Commission regarding applications for sergeant and full-time vs. part-time service.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Barry said he would investigate this matter.

Mayor Davin stated that a luncheon was held last week by AAA and continued by informing Council that the Borough again received a Platinum Award for traffic safety programming for the third year in a row.

Ms. McDonald noted that Edgewood had to compete for one of two training sessions in the state and this will occur in January. The other session is in Philadelphia.

Mayor Davin informed Council that the training will be held at Edgewood Towne Centre in one of their stores and will focus on child safety. According to Mayor Davin, a limited number of people will be able to attend.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Reynolds read the highlights of the report and said that a Public Safety meeting had occurred.

DISCUSSION: None.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ferguson discussed an abandoned house on Oakview Avenue, a bankruptcy which was filed and steps to get a court date in front of Judge Evashavik regarding this.

Mr. Ferguson also discussed pursuing, along with Community Development and the Solicitor, moving toward a legislative act which would allow the Borough to go on to a property for maintenance and, in turn, bill the owner of the property.

Solicitor Barry stated that he spoke with Mr. McCabe and the owner has been discharged from the bankruptcy. The issue is now considered a health, welfare and safety one. Mr. McCabe is monitoring the situation on behalf of the school district and intends to sell the property clear of liens, except for taxes.

Mr. Ferguson said that going onto a property is not a regular occurrence, but this is one thing the Borough can do to alleviate some of the concerns in this case, as secondary issues abound. Mr. Ferguson offered to look at what other communities do in these cases.

Mr. Ferguson noted that he and the inspector met with Judge Evashavik and she will try to get this case scheduled.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Cook reported that a wall has been built at the dump site and four hundred twenty (420) hours were used for leaf pickup.

DISCUSSION: None.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

Mr. Cook reported that the Committee did not meet, but that he spoke with Mr. Ferguson regarding review of the Recreation Commission and its relevancy, as there has been no activity recently.

DISCUSSION: None.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Ms. McDonald said there will be a brief Executive Session regarding personnel.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Reynolds noted that he met with the Department of Public Works to air out some of their concerns.

PENSION COMMITTEE

Mr. Szefi stated that the Committee did not meet and he had no report.

DISCUSSION: None.

AD HOC

PORT AUTHORITY AGREEMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Reynolds said that the Committee is in a state of hold and that the next step is to meet with Mr. Bland and speak about the vision for Edgewood Avenue. However, Port Authority is currently in negotiations and a firm date for the meeting is not scheduled.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ferguson said that he spoke with the consultant, who has also been trying to reach Mr. Bland. He reported that a total of one hundred fifty two (152) survey responses have been received.

Mayor Davin had a question regarding whether the Train Station is winterized and was answered in the negative.

Mr. Ferguson said that a grant has been compiled for a historic building through the county and the numbers were done very accurately. He said that certain bidding requirements needed to be complied with. Mr. Ferguson went on to say that the soft costs total one hundred twenty five thousand dollars (\$125,000), but that the award came back funded at seventy five thousand dollars (\$75,000) and that more discussion would be needed after passage of the budget.

Ms. McDonald noted that State Senator Costa mentioned that he would like to be involved in this process.

Mayor Davin asked if the Train Station has been winterized to prevent pipe breakage and Mr. Ferguson said he will discuss this with the Public Works Director, agreeing that protective measures should be taken.

INTERCOUNCIL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Ms. McDonald said that the Committee is trying to schedule a December meeting date. She stated that the Superintendent met with the group and wants to meet for updates and a chance for further dialogue.

DISCUSSION: None.

3 RIVERS WET WEATHER DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Ms. Schaefer was absent and no report was available.

DISCUSSION: None.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR REPORT

Mr. Barry had no separate report.

DISCUSSION: None.

BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Ferguson informed Council that the volunteer firefighters will be presented with their bonus checks and that Mr. Reynolds will be donating his share back to the fire department.

It was reported by Mr. Ferguson that this is the seventh year of no tax increase. He noted that the budget was a smooth process and that the Borough has not taken on any debt.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Barry asked if there would be a public hearing on the budget at the next meeting and was answered in the affirmative.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Davin said that the Annual Employee Christmas Party will be held on December 12, 2008 from 1:00 to 6:00 PM. The Mayor also lifted the parking restrictions for the Thanksgiving holiday.

COMMITTEE ACTION

M-5 Mr. Szefi moved to offer the proposed 2009 budget showing revenue of \$2,737,395.74 and expenditures of \$2,737,395.74 and place the proposed budget on display for ten (10) days, subject to public comment. Second by Mr. Reynolds.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

ADJOURNMENT

M-6 Following an Executive Session, which lasted from 9:00 PM until 9:44 PM, it was moved by Mr. Szefi and seconded by Mr. Reynolds to adjourn at 9:45 PM.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

Kurt M. Ferguson
Borough Manager