

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
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**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD
MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

President Patricia Schaefer called the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Edgewood to order on Monday, December 15, 2008 at 7:34 PM in the Municipal Building.

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

Mayor Davin, Borough Solicitor W. Timothy Barry and the Junior Councilperson were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Ms. Schaefer welcomed members of Edgewood Boy Scout Troop 23 who were in attendance.

M-1 Ms. McDonald offered Resolution 2008-31 and asked for its immediate adoption. Second by Mr. Hellett.

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD

RESOLUTION 2008-31

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Borough Council to maintain a degree of continuity and

WHEREAS, Eric Shultz has exhibited knowledge and ability to make positive contributions to the Borough Council.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Edgewood Borough Council will hereby appoint Eric Shultz to the Council of the Borough of Edgewood to a term which will expire December 31, 2009.

ADOPTED THIS THE 15th day of December 2008.

Borough Secretary

Council President

PROCLAMATIONS

For the employees receiving service awards, Mayor Davin also read the following Proclamations:

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD

PROCLAMATION 2008-05

WHEREAS, the Edgewood Borough Department of Public Works is charged with the duties of efficiently overseeing the upkeep and aesthetics of the borough; and

WHEREAS, the workers in this Department are required to have knowledge enabling them to engage in a variety of duties, including road repair, vehicle maintenance and grounds keeping; and

WHEREAS, Jim Wissman has demonstrated his skills and commitment to the Borough of Edgewood by fulfilling the requirements of his position.

NOW, THEREFORE, on this the 15th day of December 2008, the Office of the Mayor of the Borough of Edgewood recognizes the contributions of Jim Wissman for his ten years of dedicated and loyal service to the Borough and proclaims Tuesday, December 16, 2008 as "**JIM WISSMAN DAY.**"

PROCLAIMED at the meeting of the Council of the Borough of Edgewood the 15th day of December 2008.

Jean O. Davin, Mayor

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD

PROCLAMATION 2008-06

WHEREAS, the Edgewood Newsletter is a vehicle by which residents are informed of news in the community; and

WHEREAS, Marjie Stewart, Newsletter Editor for the Borough, has consistently produced the publication over the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, the December/January 2008 issue was the last edition to be produced under Marjie's direction.

NOW, THEREFORE, on this the 15th day of December 2008, the Office of the Mayor of the Borough of Edgewood recognizes and thanks Marjie Stewart for her ten years of dedicated and loyal service to the Borough and proclaims Wednesday, December 17, 2008 as **"MARJIE STEWART DAY."**

PROCLAIMED at the meeting of the Council of the Borough of Edgewood the 15th day of December 2008.

Jean O. Davin, Mayor

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD

PROCLAMATION 2008-07

WHEREAS, Edgewood Borough has an Emergency Services team; and

WHEREAS, the workers in this Department are required to have knowledge enabling them to engage in a variety of duties, including communication with various other police and emergency management agencies; and

WHEREAS, Mark Ratajeski has demonstrated his leadership skills and commitment to the Borough of Edgewood by fulfilling the requirements of his position.

NOW, THEREFORE, on this the 15th day of December 2008, the Office of the Mayor of the Borough of Edgewood recognizes the contributions of Mark Ratajeski for his ten years of dedicated

and loyal service to the Borough and proclaims Thursday, December 18, 2008 as "**MARK RATAJESKI DAY.**"

PROCLAIMED at the meeting of the Council of the Borough of Edgewood the 15th day of December 2008.

Jean O. Davin, Mayor

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD

PROCLAMATION 2008-08

WHEREAS, the Edgewood Borough Department of Public Works is charged with the duties of efficiently overseeing the upkeep and aesthetics of the borough; and

WHEREAS, the workers in this Department are required to have knowledge enabling them to engage in a variety of duties, including road repair, vehicle maintenance and grounds keeping; and

WHEREAS, Larry Guerriero has demonstrated his leadership skills and commitment to the Borough of Edgewood by fulfilling the requirements of his position.

NOW, THEREFORE, on this the 15th day of December 2008, the Office of the Mayor of the Borough of Edgewood recognizes the contributions of Larry Guerriero for his five years of dedicated and loyal service to the Borough and proclaims Friday, December 19, 2008 as "**LARRY GUERRIERO DAY.**"

PROCLAIMED at the meeting of the Council of the Borough of Edgewood the 15th day of December 2008.

Jean O. Davin, Mayor

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD

PROCLAMATION 2008-09

WHEREAS, the early years of a child are entrusted to many people who play an important role in the child's development; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Edgewood has maintained an active School Crossing Guard staff, whose members serve under the direction of the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, these School Crossing Guards are given the responsibility of affording maximum protection to children going to and returning from school while, directing traffic at assigned intersections or posts;

WHEREAS, Donald Csellar has performed the duty of School Crossing Guard in an exemplary fashion over the last five years.

NOW THEREFORE the Borough of Edgewood proclaims Monday, December 22, 2008 as **"DONALD CSELLAR DAY."**

PROCLAIMED THIS the 15th day of December 2008.

Jean O. Davin, Mayor

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD

PROCLAMATION 2008-10

WHEREAS, the early years of a child are entrusted to many people who play an important role in the child's development; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Edgewood has maintained an active School Crossing Guard staff, whose members serve under the direction of the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, these School Crossing Guards are given the responsibility of affording maximum protection to children going to and returning from school while, directing traffic at assigned intersections or posts;

WHEREAS, Janet Henle has performed the duty of School Crossing Guard in an exemplary fashion over the last five years.

NOW THEREFORE the Borough of Edgewood proclaims Tuesday, December 23, 2008 as "JANET HENLE DAY."

PROCLAIMED THIS the 15th day of December 2008.

Jean O. Davin, Mayor

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Daniel, a six (6) year old attending the meeting with the Boy Scouts, expressed that he was glad to be a Cub Scout and was glad to be in attendance. Ms. Schaefer referred to him as a "future leader."

COMMITTEE ACTION

M-2 Ms. McDonald moved to approve the minutes of November 17, 2008. Second by Mr. Reynolds.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-3 Ms. McDonald moved to approve the minutes of December 1, 2008. Second by Mr. Cook.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-4 Ms. McDonald moved to authorize the payment of bills for goods and services received by the Borough, having been reviewed and approved by the Council in the amount of \$180,999.36. Second by Mr. Hellett.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer noted that stipends for the members of the Volunteer Fire Department were included for their hours of service.

Ms. McDonald said that Mr. Reynolds donated his stipend back to the Volunteer Fire Department.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT

Ms. McDonald reported that the Committee met this evening to sign checks.

DISCUSSION: None.

POLICE REPORT

Mayor Davin reported that, after reviewing the report, the Part I crimes are up over the last two years with the majority being burglary, shoplifting and motor vehicle crimes. The Part II crimes are down over the last two years, according to the Mayor. She also reported that the total arrests are higher this year than the last two.

As for the activity report, the Mayor said it is standard and that calls and revenue for parking are both down.

Mayor Davin noted that she did attend the Mayoral Dinner and talked with the Swissvale Mayor about repairs to LaCrosse Street which is not scheduled for any upcoming Swissvale work.

Swissvale Borough has hired a part-time police officer for the position of Borough Manager since the Manager took a job at Wilkesburg Borough. Stating that the Mayor of Swissvale was surprised at the several hundred thousand dollar estimate to repair LaCrosse Street, Mayor Davin asked that the Swissvale Mayor return to her Council and ask them to revisit the LaCrosse Street issue. The Mayor also spoke on this subject with County Councilman Martoni, and related that she thought this might require grant money because of the extensive amount of work to be done.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Reynolds referred to the Part I crimes being up by one-half and asked if Chief Payne had a plan for the coming year.

Mayor Davin stated that she will discuss this with him to see if there is anything that can be done and said that Edgewood Towne Centre takes up a lot of the department's time with shoplifting.

Mr. Reynolds felt there should be a one-year strategy.

Ms. Schaefer stated that many stores desire to pursue private prosecution. She also said that this problem requires constant education on the part of the Borough.

The Mayor said that after the first of the year, she will ask Chief Payne to attend a Public Safety meeting. Formerly, there were increased patrols at the Towne Centre around closing time, according to the Mayor. She also said that shoplifting is a very difficult crime to police.

Ms. Schaefer, referring to shoplifting crimes being up, asked if there is a trend in "all other" crimes.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. McDonald said that the Committee met last Monday and interviewed candidates for part-time officer and that a motion appears on tonight's agenda in this regard.

DISCUSSION: None.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC WORKS

Ms. McDonald stated that the Committee has not met and alluded to the Allenby Avenue problem, stating that the details would be given during Mr. Ferguson's report.

DISCUSSION: None.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

Mr. Hellett reported that the Committee did not meet. He said that constant tweaking of the Community Day schedule is being done with help from Mr. Ferguson.

According to Mr. Hellett, the basketball draft will take place over the weekend.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ferguson said a second draft has been added to Saturday's schedule.

Mr. Hellett thanked Mr. Ferguson, Ms. Freedline and Ms. Lewis for their help in organizing the basketball applications and payments.

Mr. Cook reported that the C. C. Mellor Library Board is progressing and that a dedicated group of individuals serve and bring different ideas to the table. A personnel policy has been put in place and an explanation of its benefits has been given to the employees. Mr. Cook stated that a lean budget has been passed for next year and will include shutting down the Library on Sundays and increasing the Saturday hours.

The Board is reviewing historic documents for the Club, the Library and the Community House.

To a question posed by Ms. Schaefer, Mr. Cook noted that the Library Board meets the last Thursday of each month.

Ms. Schaefer explained that Ms. McDonald, a current member of the Board, is unable to continue in this capacity due to personal issues and someone else from Council will need to take her place.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Hellett stated that the Committee met to sort out details with evaluations.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer noted that a review of appointments set to expire is needed.

PENSION COMMITTEE

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

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer asked if the Police Department is a part of the pension plan and was answered in the affirmative.

Referring to the management letter which was submitted to the Borough for compliance, Ms. Schaefer said that recommendations were made which should be instituted.

Mr. Ferguson said that this is a discussion in which Mr. Barry should be involved.

AD HOC

PORT AUTHORITY AGREEMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Reynolds said that the Committee did not meet.

DISCUSSION: None.

INTERCOUNCIL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Ms. McDonald stated that the scheduled meeting was postponed.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer informed Council of a reception at the Turtle Creek Intercouncil, stating that she will forward the invitation to everyone.

Ms. Schaefer noted that the Edgewood Primary School Committee should be placed back into the Committee listing as use of the school building is being investigated. Ms. Schaefer has had email conversations with Dr. Callinger. The Council President informed the Superintendent that the Edgewood Primary School has been an integral part of the community and further noted that the Borough Council is supportive of future dialogue in this regard.

3 RIVERS WET WEATHER DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Ms. Schaefer said that she has been sought out to become a member of the Upper Monongahela Basin Stakeholders Board with Alcosan. She stated that the group's audit was done and there were some vulnerabilities. Ms. Schaefer ended stating that the group is hoping that grant work will continue.

DISCUSSION: None.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR REPORT

Mr. Barry had no separate report.

DISCUSSION: None.

BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Ferguson said updates were included in Council packets along with the budget and supplement and that there was no tax increase.

Mr. Ruffing, a new full-time Public Works employee, passed his background check and Mr. Ferguson noted that Mr. Ruffing also has heavy equipment and building experience. The goal, according to Mr. Ferguson, is to have two (2) call-out teams for snow removal. He also stated that he will make a recommendation to hire another part-time Public Works employee.

Mr. Ferguson referred to Resolution 2008-32 for the Newsletter Editor position and told Council that he and the Council President met with someone who had the background for the position. As well, the candidate spoke with Ms. Stewart, the current editor. Ms. Stewart will also help with the next edition of the newsletter.

Mr. Ferguson also related to Council an issue which occurred on Allenby Avenue regarding sewer odors. He stated that there have been problems over the last twenty to thirty (20-30) years from the sewer lines which handle 90% of the flow from Wilkinsburg's 19,000 homes.

During the last couple of years, Edgewood Borough has requested that Wilkinsburg Borough address their sewer issues, according to Mr. Ferguson. One option would be to install a liner and keep the hydraulics as they currently are. Root infestation does exist, stated Mr. Ferguson.

Possible conclusions for the problems were given by Mr. Ferguson, the least likely being that the five (5) properties are connected to Wilkinsburg. Edgewood Borough's engineer feels that the homes on Allenby Avenue would have seen sewage, due to the fact that their homes sit at a low point. Mr. Ferguson authorized Lennon Smith and Souleret, the Borough's engineers, to coordinate with Public Works Director Guerriero.

Another possible conclusion is that the six (6) inch line connected to the portion where the homes drain is connected to the Wilkinsburg sanitary sewer at a place where a bypass line is connected to the Edgewood storm sewer. As this is a health issue, Wilkinsburg sealed this without hydraulic analyses being done and the line blew in other places.

The third conclusion or alternative is that Insight Pipe will put a temporary plastic bag liner into the Wilkinsburg sanitary line if the homes are connected. This bag would melt over about a week period, according to Mr. Ferguson. The company will also go down about a thousand (1,000) feet to vent the manhole.

Mr. Ferguson continued by saying that if none of the options prove to be the answer, then the condition of the Wilkinsburg pipe might be the issue. He further stated that Insight Pipe believes that there are holes and cracks in the pipe and the styrene blows out via the lateral and into the homes. Swisshelm Park was also affected, stated Mr. Ferguson.

Meetings on how to proceed will be held this coming Monday and Tuesday.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer said that if there is a reason identified, a meeting with the affected residents needs to be scheduled to explain how this happened, what the remedy will be, when they will do the repair work and who residents should call when this happens.

Mr. Ferguson offered to go out and meet with the residents personally. He stated this is a Wilkinsburg project, but the homes are Edgewood Borough's responsibility.

Ms. Schaefer said that there was a communication disconnect since none of Council was called until the next morning. She stated there is a chain of communication for emergency preparedness and, fortunately, this situation was no more serious than it was. By getting the emergency team involved earlier, the residents could have been reassured.

Mr. Reynolds stated that there may be more houses involved as there were at least two at 563 and 567 Allenby which were not occupied at the time of the incident. Mr. Reynolds asked about the liner being placed in the manhole.

Mr. Ferguson said that Mr. Stanton, the engineer, felt this would be beneficial and that a bypass will be created.

Continuing, Mr. Reynolds asked how it is felt that relining will fix the problem; he stated that he felt things would worsen, causing more consequences. A further discussion ensued about the root infestation at Koenig Field and how the middle of the Field could be affected.

Mr. Ferguson stated that if water drains, the affected area can be three hundred (300) feet away and the roots will still cause problems. He stated that when the lines were televised, roots were found seven hundred (700) feet down.

Mr. Hellett led a discussion of how the roots are removed and Mr. Ferguson answered that they are cut out and that foam can be put in. He stated that the ultimate solution is that a brand new line is needed.

Mayor Davin asked for the status of a request for planting near the Edgewood sign and was answered in the negative by Mr. Ferguson. The Mayor also asked about funding for the tennis court renovations. Mr. Ferguson stated that he did not send the application, which was due in September, and that Council will need to pass a resolution for a match.

Regarding the Train Station, Mayor Davin stated that eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) of a projected one hundred twenty five thousand (\$125,000) for the renovations has been received. Speaking to Mr. Ferguson, she asked if he is looking for other funding. Mr. Ferguson said that if the funding does not happen, Council will need to decide what to do as this item is not in the budget.

Mayor Davin also asked if the revenue or the expense was accounted for concerning this item.

Ms. Schaefer indicated that Senator Costa is dedicated to following through with the Borough for this issue.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hellett set a Personnel Committee meeting for December 22, 2008 at 8:00 PM.

COMMITTEE ACTION

M-5 Ms. McDonald moved to repay the 2008 Tax Anticipation Note by electronic transfer by December 31, 2008 in the amount of \$208,253.89. Second by Mr. Cook.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-6 Ms. McDonald moved to approve the 2009 Borough of Edgewood budget showing revenue of \$2,738,232.77 and expenditures of \$2,738,232.77. Second by Mr. Cook.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer noted that the budget was a lot of hard work, started by Mr. Ferguson. She also said that the Council members worked efficiently and effectively together with their priorities, stating that there are other municipalities who do not.

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

- M-7 Ms. McDonald moved to accept the proposal from the HDH Group, Inc. to provide property and liability insurance to the Borough of Edgewood beginning January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 with a premium cost of \$46,098.00. Second by Mr. Cook.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer asked if this was the group the Borough used before and was answered in the affirmative.

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

- M-8 Mr. Hellett offered Resolution 2008-32 and asked for its immediate adoption. Second by Ms. McDonald.

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD

RESOLUTION 2008-32

WHEREAS, the Borough of Edgewood Council desires a tool to inform residents of activity in the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Edgewood Newsletter editor is appointed by the Borough Council and is charged with managing the layout and distribution of the Newsletter; and

WHEREAS, Tara Sidonio has the background and experience to produce a high-quality Newsletter with a distribution to all residents and commercial properties in the Borough;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that **TARA SIDONIO** be appointed as Newsletter Editor at a rate of \$7,250 per year.

ADOPTED THIS THE 15th day of December 2008, by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

ATTEST:

Borough Secretary

Council President

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer said that during the meeting with Ms. Sidonio, it was discussed that there would be more Council news first, followed by announcements

highlighting residents of the Borough. Ms. Sidonio had ideas about mom's groups. Ms. Schaefer said Ms. Sidonio is excited to start. According to Ms. Schaefer, Mr. Ferguson will be more hands-on.

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

- M-9 Ms. McDonald moved to hire Eugene Chrise as a part-time Patrol Officer with the Edgewood Borough Police Department at a pay rate of \$11.00 per hour, effective December 15, 2008 and pending successful completion of the pre-employment physical examination. Second by Mr. Hellett.**

DISCUSSION: Ms. McDonald said there were thirteen (13) applicants, eleven (11) with prior police experience. The field was narrowed down to three (3) with Mr. Chrise being the first choice. He is number two on the current Civil Service list. Ms. McDonald went on to say that one of the top three (3) dropped out.

Mr. Chrise has experience as a police sergeant.

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

ADJOURNMENT

- M-10 It was moved by Mr. Cook and seconded by Mr. Reynolds to adjourn at 9:16 PM.**

DISCUSSION: None.

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

Kurt M. Ferguson
Borough Manager