

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
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**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD
MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2009**

President Patricia Schaefer called the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Edgewood to order on Monday, March 16, 2009 at 7:37 PM in the Municipal Building.

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

Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Hellett were absent.

Mayor Davin and Borough Solicitor Barry were also present. Junior Councilperson Hazlett was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Bechtold of 7630 Westmoreland Avenue, Swissvale, and a former Edgewood Borough employee had questions regarding an insurance letter which he received. He addressed Council on this topic and, after discussion, Ms. Schaefer assured Mr. Bechtold that she would personally research this and contact him.

Dr. Andrews, a resident of 327 Locust Street and a representative of the Edgewood Foundation, presented a listing of the Foundation contacts to each Council member.

Ms. Schaefer asked Ms. Lewis to provide Dr. Andrews with her email address and thanked Dr. Andrews for the contact list.

Regarding the upcoming Clean-Up Day, Ms. Schaefer asked if the Borough could help and suggested that Dr. Andrews contact Public Works.

Mayor Davin asked that an announcement be placed on the marquee.

Mr. Cook felt it would be beneficial to announce coordination of activities in the Newsletter.

COMMITTEE ACTION

M-1 Ms. McDonald moved to approve the minutes of February 17, 2009. Second by Mr. Cook.

DISCUSSION: Mayor Davin had a correction for the January 20, 2009 Index to the Minutes (the year was shown as 2008).

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

- M-2 Ms. McDonald moved to approve the minutes of March 2, 2009. Second by Mr. Cook.

DISCUSSION: None.

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded: Ms. McDonald, Mr. Shultz, Mr. Szefi, Mr. Cook, Ms. Schaefer voted yes. **Motion carried.** NOTE: THESE MINUTES WERE LATER TABLED UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING.

- M-3 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 \$164,256.31. Second by Mr. Shultz.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT

Ms. McDonald said that the Committee met this evening to review and sign bills. She proceeded to read the highlights of the report.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer noted that a motion to accept the audit from Maher Duessel is on the agenda and asked Ms. McDonald if the General Government Committee has reviewed this.

Ms. McDonald stated that this was reviewed and some points in the Management Letter will not be cost effective because of the Borough's size. She stated that there are three points which need to be reviewed.

POLICE REPORT

Mayor Davin addressed the Part I statistics and said they are lower than in the past month. Part II statistics seemed standard and the Mayor noted that there have been a number of DUI's during traffic stops. Mayor Davin said that additional parking tags have been issued this month.

Referring to the yearly report, Mayor Davin said she will have a typographical error corrected.

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. McDonald said that the Committee has not met and then read the highlights of the report.

Ms. McDonald informed Council that money received from forfeiture in a case has been used to purchase light bars for the police vehicles.

As well, Ms. McDonald noted that Chief Payne, in conjunction with several other area police departments, is working to decrease the amount of money which will be spent on vests for the officers. She stated that one of the officers is field testing one of the vests currently and Chief Payne will report the results to Council.

DISCUSSION: Mayor Davin asked for a Public Safety meeting regarding the federal monies from the stimulus package which are earmarked for local police departments. The Mayor said she would like to make application for some items. She explained that the COPS grants (with no matching funds) are being reintroduced and can also be used to purchase equipment.

Only two vests are to be purchased this year and in 2010 there will be a significantly larger number purchased.

Ms. McDonald asked if it would be better to have Chief Payne get the information and inform Council.

Ms. Schaefer stated that grants need to be reviewed before they are applied for and asked that Council watch the timing for the grant and to ensure that it is, in fact, free money.

Mayor Davin stated that Chief Payne is currently evaluating the situation and the Committee can meet after this is completed.

Ms. Schaefer said that the stimulus package ranks communities with respect to need.

Solicitor Barry, referring to the former COPS grant, explained that the program of several years ago required that an officer be employed for an additional three (3) to four (4) years. He stated that the money for the light bar was from a forfeiture of funds with a criminal case and that there is a policy about how to handle funds. He stated that the light bar still needed to go through the process, as these are Borough funds.

Ms. McDonald shared with Council that she has been informed by Chief Payne that CALEA will be done in June and that the Borough will not be penalized as it was their call to delay a visit until that time.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Szefi said that the Committee did not meet. He then read the highlights of the report.

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC WORKS

Ms. McDonald noted that the Committee has not met and read the details of this report.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer stated that she talked with Mr. Stanton of Lennon Smith Souleret Engineering regarding the current bidding time.

Mr. Ferguson said that the Allenby Avenue issue is complicated as this is the lowest area in the Borough and is almost right at the culvert. He stated that videotaping left it unclear if there are only five (5) houses connected to the Wilkinsburg interceptor.

Responding to Ms. Schaefer's inquiry as to when dye testing will be completed, Mr. Ferguson said that calls are underway by Mr. Guerriero of Public Works and the engineers.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

Mr. Cook said that the Library's Annual Book Sale is Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer spoke about the information received about the consolidation for the School District. She stated that the Intercouncil group looked at the different districts and grouped the municipalities together based on population. According to Ms. Schaefer, there would be three (3) main districts and two (2) representatives per district.

Noting that a petition was available on the first floor of the Borough Building, Ms. Schaefer offered this for consideration to any Council person that might want to sign. This document will be presented to the School Board at their next meeting.

Ms. Schaefer shared information regarding the musical, Wizard of Oz, being presented at the end of April.

Mr. Ferguson noted that the Easter Egg Hunt is coming up.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Hellett was not present to give a report.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer said she that spoke with Mr. Cecconi, the recently hired Borough Manager, regarding dinner on March 27, 2009.

Ms. Schaefer also noted that a short Executive Session would be needed tonight regarding personnel.

PENSION COMMITTEE

Mr. Szefi said that the Committee did not meet and asked if the Committee might meet prior to Mr. Ferguson's departure.

DISCUSSION: None.

AD HOC

PORT AUTHORITY AGREEMENT COMMITTEE

Ms. Schaefer informed Council that Mr. Bland was unable to meet today and that the meeting has been rescheduled. Mr. Cecconi will also attend this meeting.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Cook inquired whether a meeting should be held regarding the School for a discussion of the direction they plan to go in.

INTERCOUNCIL COMMITTEE

Ms. McDonald reported that the Committee has not met, but will meet March 24, 2009.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer said that Mr. Prevost of Alcosan will discuss the stimulus package and how we might work together. A "Getting To Know You" dinner will take place in April.

3 RIVERS WET WEATHER DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Ms. Schaefer attended the stakeholders' meeting with regard to working with Alcosan.

DISCUSSION: None.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR REPORT

Mr. Barry had no separate report.

DISCUSSION: None.

BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Ferguson explained that he will be finalizing the details for his departure.

Mr. Ferguson then gave thanks to all members of Council and noted that Council made a good decision with its hiring of Mr. Cecconi as he is absolutely qualified, seasoned and fiscally responsible.

Mr. Ferguson informed Council that he will be leaving numbers to reach him for any information they may need. He closed by saying that he has enjoyed his last six and one half years here.

DISCUSSION: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Meetings were set as follows: March 23, 2009 – 7:00 PM Pension; 8:00 PM – Public Safety.

Mayor Davin presented U.S. Census Bureau information about a voluntary program encouraging communities to make sure that all residents are counted.

Ms. Schaefer said that it is extremely important that the numbers are as accurate a count as possible.

Mr. Ferguson noted that this count also affects the Liquid Fuels dollars.

Ms. Schaefer asked that this be placed in the Newsletter that the census is coming soon.

COMMITTEE ACTION

M-4 Ms. McDonald moved to accept the Borough of Edgewood 2008 audit prepared by Maher Duessel. Second by Mr. Cook.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-5 Ms. McDonald moved to accept the Borough of Edgewood 2008 Tax Collector audit prepared by Maher Duessel. Second by Mr. Cook.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-6 Mr. Hellett moved to hire Katie Freedline as a seasonal part-time employee in the Recreation Department effective immediately at a pay of \$7.15 an hour. Second by Mr. Reynolds.

DISCUSSION: Ms. McDonald asked about the supervision of the employee.

Mr. Ferguson explained the Recreation Coordinator positions. He said that bringing Ms. Freedline aboard and hiring youngsters from the community gives the Recreation Coordinators a good group of people from which to seek help.

Mr. Shultz inquired about the types of things the part-time people do and was told that they work the concession stands and work on Movie Night.

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

ADJOURNMENT

M-7 Following an Executive Session which lasted from 8:40 PM to 9:21 PM, Ms. McDonald moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Mr. Reynolds.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

Kurt M. Ferguson
Borough Manager