

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
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JULY 6, 2009

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**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD
JULY 6, 2009**

Council President Schaefer called the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Edgewood to order on Monday, July 6, 2009 at 7:35 PM in the Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL

Borough Manager Warren Cecconi called the roll and the following responded: Ms. McDonald, Mr. Shultz, Mr. Reynolds (arrived 8:10 PM), Mr. Fuller, Mr. Cook (arrived 8:05 PM), Mr. Hellett, Ms. Schaefer.

Mayor Jean O. Davin and Solicitor W. Timothy Barry were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Ms. Carr of 519 Greendale Avenue presented Council with a document outlining the problems caused by the rain event which occurred on June 17, 2009, a copy of which is appended to the minutes. She also spoke of the complex issues caused by the flooding, including a potential reduction of property values.

Ms. Carr had questions regarding the sewer system and the status of the Wilksburg Consent Decree, as well as the Edgewood catch basins.

A request for the establishment of regular communication with Council was presented by Ms. Carr for the exchange of information around the flood issues. Ms. Carr offered email addresses of the residents who were in attendance.

Speaking with regard to the storm sewers, Mr. Stanton of Lennon Smith and Souleret gave an in-depth explanation of the rainfall which occurred on June 17, 2009, stating that three inches of rain fell in a two-hour period. He talked about the misnomer "hundred-year flood" and exactly what this term meant. He stated that the current Borough ordinance calls for a ten year storm design and mentioned that the most recent storm was ten times greater.

As for the sanitary sewers, Mr. Stanton mentioned that Edgewood, Wilksburg and Swissvale are under a Consent Order. All sewers are televised and, in that process, all municipalities and Allegheny County Sanitary Authority are under the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Justice. Mr. Stanton gave an overview of the GIS mapping done in 2001-02 and stated the defects which are present date back to the late 1800's.

Ms. Schaefer explained the rating system for the integrity of the sewer pipes. She asked if the residents might have access to the GIS mapping, which Mr. Stanton deferred to the Borough and the solicitor.

Solicitor Barry felt that Edgewood is ahead of other municipalities in this process, having done many things in compliance with the Consent Decree prior to the set deadlines. He did say,

however, that the residents are entitled to the information, but he will check to see if there are any restrictions by Homeland Security.

Ms. Schaefer noted that the 3 Rivers Wet Weather Demonstration Project grant provided the GIS mapping. She also said that Homeland Security issues will be checked.

(Mr. Cook arrived at 8:05 PM).

(Mr. Reynolds arrived at 8:10 PM).

A very lengthy discussion ensued with the residents who were present regarding the storm and the specific damages done to each household.

The Tot Lot and possible solutions to its woes was discussed and, following quite an extensive discussion, Mr. Cecconi explained the funding for this project.

Conversation continued with several other residents speaking on behalf of their particular situations, as well as their shared sewer problems.

Ms. Schaefer asked Mr. Stanton to prepare a list of ten questions which will be placed on the website, with the eventual results coming back to Mr. Cecconi.

Ms. Clevenger of the Edgewood Foundation said preparations for Community Day are complete. She indicated that the Foundation is getting bids for the flower beds and that two donations have been received from Phipps Conservatory. A Koenig Field sleepover is being planned for September 12, 2009, according to Ms. Clevenger.

Mr. Cook asked that Ms. Clevenger write a request to the Borough Manager for this, as there is coordination with the Fire Department and the Police Department which must be done.

Ms. Carr asked about a collection box being placed at Community Day for residents who lost so much in the flooding.

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 \$54,984.64. Second by Mr. Cook.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

COMMITTEE ACTION

M-2 Ms. McDonald moved to ratify the hiring of Adam Haddad for a seasonal part-time position in the Public Works Department at \$8.25 per hour. Second by Mr. Hellett.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-3 Ms. McDonald moved to ratify the hiring of Cody Gill for a seasonal part-time position in the Public Works Department at \$8.25 per hour. Second by Mr. Hellett.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Halle reported on information from the June 17, 2009 storm.

Mr. Halle stated that Community Day planning continues. He also said that the Fire Department will sell funnel cake and fried dough, along with their usual treats.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Cecconi responded to the Mayor's inquiry regarding a car into a pole on Maple Avenue.

RECREATION REPORT

Mr. Cecconi said the girls' softball nights are Tuesday and Thursday and T-ball is scheduled on Monday and Wednesday. He stated that he is working on Community Day and mentioned that three bands are currently scheduled.

DISCUSSION: Mayor Davin reported that the Forest Hills Community Day had an extremely popular children's ride called "Thomas the Tank Engine" and suggested that the Borough may possibly want this for their Community Day.

Ms. Schaefer said that the Traveling Girls Team and the nine to ten year old boys' team both won their championship games.

WATER AUTHORITY REPORT

Mr. Fuller said that the Board meeting dealt with East McKeesport, where some hydrants do not have enough pressure. Fire hydrant maintenance will increase to \$100 per hydrant in 2010 and Mr. Fuller indicated that Edgewood has 89 hydrants, currently totaling \$6,675. The total cost next year will be \$8,900, an increase of \$2,225.

Meetings are being held with emergency agencies in the area, including the FBI regarding notification processes.

DISCUSSION: None.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Ms. McDonald asked if confirmation has been made with members of the Commission regarding their desire to continue serving.

DISCUSSION: None.

COG REPORT

Mr. Hellett had nothing to report.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer said that at the last meeting, a topic of conversation was how the COG could be used more effectively or as a conduit for working with other communities.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Barry had no separate report.

DISCUSSION: None.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Cecconi said that there will be a pre-bid meeting on July 8, 2009 and a bid opening on July 22, 2009. He also reported on a sinkhole on West Swissvale Avenue and stated that he is not sure where this goes. The Vactor machine is coming on Wednesday, according to Mr. Cecconi.

Mr. Cecconi also reported on the Allenby sewer work, which will start on Wednesday, a pension meeting, and the fact that three Junior Councilperson applicants have now applied. Mr. Cecconi said that he is working with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, through Paul Costa, for a \$50,000 grant for the playground.

DISCUSSION: Mayor Davin stated that \$50,000 was spent many years ago for this project and that the Edgewood Foundation did a lot of fundraising in this effort.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Cook said that with the number of concerned residents from Greendale Avenue, it would be more effective if a separate meeting was held.

Mayor Davin asked if anyone else had a sewer backup. Mr. Cecconi said that this could be caused by tree roots and infiltration of ground water. He then explained the difference between black, muddy water and water with paper in it.

Ms. Schaefer said she talked with Mr. Stanton about sewers and trees and that she had received from him a list of less invasive trees to plant. Ms. Schaefer stated that an arborist from 3 Rivers Wet Weather Demonstration Project also provided her with information, as well.

ADJOURNMENT

M-4 It was moved by Ms. McDonald and seconded by Mr. Cook to adjourn this meeting at 9:58 PM.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

Warren Cecconi
Borough Manager