

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
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**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD
MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2010**

Council President Schaefer called the meeting of Borough Council to order at 7:34 PM in Council Chambers.

Borough Manager Cecconi called the roll and the following responded: Mr. Bright, Mr. Bowers, Ms. Waldock, Ms. Gleba, Mr. Hellett, Ms. Schaefer.

Mr. Wilson was absent.

Mayor Davin and Solicitor Barry were also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Ms. Otto-Abeshouse of 308 W. Hutchinson Avenue spoke regarding traffic safety concerns with distracted drivers and those using cell phones passing through the area to bypass the Squirrel Hill Tunnel. She informed Council that these people present a danger for pedestrians. As well, the South Braddock corridor is being used to get to the Waterfront, Kennywood and the new Children's Hospital. Consideration by Council of changing the speed limit to 15 MPH was requested.

As easy solutions to the problems, Ms. Otto-Abeshouse asked if crosswalks might be painted, additional children at play signs might be added, stronger police presence and more yield signs might be installed.

Ms. Otto-Abeshouse informed Council that she has been passed while driving on Maple, Greendale and West Hutchinson Avenue. She then presented Mr. Hellett with a document outlining her concerns.

Mr. Bradford of 305 W. Hutchinson Avenue concurred with Ms. Otto-Abeshouse's comments, indicating that more signage and crosswalks are needed.

Council President Schaefer asked Mayor Davin if a traffic study was required with respect to the crosswalks.

Borough Manager Cecconi informed Council that sight distance problems must be checked, making sure there are no blind corners. He offered that Public Works is trimming trees to help improve sight distance.

Mayor Davin said the Safety Committee is in charge of this, which includes Public Works, the Borough Manager and the Police Chief.

Mr. Bright shared that there is no uniformity in signage or rules in the United States as in Europe and drivers are confused with what they view. In Europe, according to Mr. Bright, it is universally known that as soon as a person's foot touches the road, all cars are to stop.

Vice President Hellett said that the line issue will be addressed, since lines are repainted every year before the start of school.

Ms. Lehrian of 116 Race Street and a representative of the Edgewood Foundation spoke with regard to changes to Community Day. She said that she wants to be able to commit people, time, money and other resources, but needs to know what the proposed Community Day schedule is.

Mr. Cecconi reported that the day begins at 4:00 PM in Koenig Field and is asking that the Edgewood Foundation host the children's games. As well, there will be an air bounce, climbing wall and a band, followed by the Symphony and fireworks finale.

Ms. Lehrian asked that she and Mr. Cecconi meet regarding the shortening of the day. She said that residents are concerned. Ms. Lehrian said she would like to encourage past participation levels and felt that Community Day makes Edgewood a nice place to live and continue its traditions.

Stating that the Republican Committee has a booth every year, the Mayor indicated that the 4:00 PM starting time will affect the Committee's business. The Mayor said she understood that the firemen are not doing their barbeque and continued by stating that everyone expects food. She stated that the junk food is part of the charm and not having it will cause some people not to attend.

Ms. Gleba questioned whether shortening the day would change the financial picture.

Mr. Cecconi felt that the majority of people come later in the day. He stated that the booths are \$55 each for the day.

Ms. Lehrian said the Edgewood Foundation would be able to do this and also be part of the volunteers.

Ms. Waldock's observation was that 50% of the people attending the parade were from Forest Hills. She wondered if the festivities could begin at 2:00 PM with old-fashioned games such as egg toss and potato sack races.

The Mayor said that individual groups are supposed to pay for their booths, but she noted that Ms. Luckett of the Garden Club said that a 4:00 PM start prohibits the group from making enough money for the event to be worthwhile. The group believes it would be better to begin the day at noon to entice people to attend and share.

A discussion ensued regarding other options to keep Community Day afloat and Dr. Andrews of 327 Locust Street mentioned that the Greensburg Community Day was sponsored by WTAE-TV, when the station is actually in Edgewood's back yard.

Dr. Andrews then informed Council regarding refurbishment of the Edgewood sign for \$7,000. Included in the project was the addition of retaining and back walls, and adding mulch, plants and bulbs has

been done at the Parkway exit ramp into Edgewood. Dr. Andrews asked could the Public Works assist with the watering of these new plants. The Edgewood Foundation has investigated whether the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association could produce rain barrels with a closed top to assist with the watering which, according to Dr. Andrews, would be paid for by the Foundation.

Dr. Andrews also had questions regarding when Movie Night will begin in an effort to help her know how much popcorn she will need to provide as she has done in the past. She stated that she and her husband set up the movies.

Ms. Gleba answered stating that at last Monday's meeting, it was decided that Movie Night will begin June 28, 2010 and will continue every other week through August. This announcement will be placed on both the website and the reader board at Koenig Field. She said she will have Mr. Wilson follow up with Dr. Andrews.

Ms. Lehrian asked if the movies for the smaller children might start earlier and Mr. Cecconi said that all movies start at dusk.

Mayor Davin commended the Foundation on the new sign, stating that it looks beautiful. She also gave accolades to Ms. Clevenger who was the point person on this project and stated that she did a wonderful job. The Mayor explained that the sign was becoming structurally deficient and the refurbishment was a wonderful addition to the community.

Ms. Schaefer thanked the members of the Foundation in attendance for all they do.

Mr. Hellett, speaking to Ms. Lehrian, asked that she talk with the Borough Manager sooner rather than later as expenses for Community Day are fixed.

Ms. Schaefer expressed that there are *places* to live and there are *communities* in which to live and that Edgewood is trying to continue to meet the needs of our community within budget parameters.

Mr. Bright offered that some communities have sponsors for their race and parade.

Mr. Caulfield of 31 Barton Drive, Churchill informed Council that as of 5:00 PM this date, Governor Rendell has approved his appointment as District Magistrate. He wanted Council to know that he plans to stay in contact with communities regarding speeding and other issues and stated that the court has a lot of power to shape life in a community.

Ms. Amick of 53 Churchill Road and a Woodland Hills School District school teacher for 33 years (20 at Edgewood Primary), gave a presentation on mosaics being done by 40 students who are committed to the project. She said she is also working with Mr. Belmont of Forest Hills doing banners on telephone poles.

Ms. Amick shared the designs with Council members and stated that they are also working with Duquesne Light.

Ms. Amick said whoever makes a donation to this effort gets their name placed at the bottom and this would be good public relations for Woodland Hills School District.

Mayor Davin asked where the mosaics and banners would be placed and asked if permission has been received from Duquesne Light for placement on their poles. Ms. Amick said Mr. Belmont is working with the utility in this regard.

Mr. Cecconi asked Ms. Amick to speak with Verizon also.

Ms. Schaefer, speaking of the artwork on the wall of the Braddock Avenue Express, noted that the taggers have respect for real art. No destructive paint has been placed over that artwork.

Ms. Amick said that the student leadership club is working on paw prints and that ownership of and pride in the project is very important to the students.

Ms. Pickering McGregor of Walnut Street commended the Foundation for all of their work. She then mentioned that previously Community Day had announcers from Channels 2 and 4 in the parade. She also mentioned that she was concerned with alcohol being served at Koenig Field during Community Day and asked Council to allow the ban on alcohol to stand. She indicated that this would be a huge liability if an attendee or an employee were to have an accident after attending a Borough function where alcohol was present.

M-1 Ms. Gleba moved to approve the minutes of May 17, 2010. Second by Ms. Waldock.

DISCUSSION: Mayor Davin corrected Motion 7, Page 9 regarding the resignation of Officer Kempert.

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded. Mr. Bright, Mr. Bowers, Ms. Waldock, Ms. Gleba, Mr. Hellett, Ms. Schaefer voted yes. **Motion carried.**

M-2 Ms. Gleba moved to approve the minutes of June 7, 2010. Second by Mr. Bowers.

DISCUSSION: Mayor Davin had a question on Page 7 regarding the lower playground and Borough Manager Cecconi stated that the playground was not flooded in the last heavy rain, only the area below it.

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded. Mr. Bright, Mr. Bowers, Ms. Waldock, Ms. Gleba, Mr. Hellett, Ms. Schaefer voted yes. **Motion carried.**

M-3 Ms. Gleba 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 from the General Fund in the amount of \$50,567.53 and from the Sewer Fund in the amount of \$97,537.74. Second by Mr. Hellett.

DISCUSSION: None.

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded. Mr. Bright, Mr. Bowers, Ms. Waldock, Ms. Gleba, Mr. Hellett, Ms. Schaefer voted yes. **Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Ms. Gleba presented an application form for a revenue solutions conference which she and Ms. Waldock would like to attend. Ms. Gleba encouraged everyone to pull out their "to do list" and look it over.

Ms. Waldock said that she has been working reviewing salaries of public employees throughout the state, including contributions to insurance which, in many cases, covers just the employee and not his family.

POLICE REPORT

Mayor Davin passed out the monthly Police Report and stated that in reviewing the monthly report, everything was in line with only one question which she had to get clarification from Chief Payne.

She then read from the report and noted that June, July, August and September are the big crime months. It was noted by the Mayor that the number of calls received is down and the revenue is in line with the last two years.

Mayor Davin informed Council that she was in possession of a \$5,000 Department of Community and Economic Development grant approval for police body armor. She indicated that she will give this to the Borough Manager for processing. The officers are already measured for their vests. The Mayor noted that between now and next year nine to ten vests will be needed, but they will last for five years.

The Mayor updated Council on the recent police chase through the Borough, which ended in Murrysville and Monroeville. She indicated that there were no problems in the Borough during the chase.

Officer Kelly, who was hired as a part-time officer at a previous meeting, has declined the offer as he was receiving more hours elsewhere. He wanted to be guaranteed three days a week in Edgewood. Two applications have been forwarded to the Mayor from Chief Payne.

Mr. Bowers thanked the Edgewood Police Department for notifying Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf to lock down during this event. Mr. Bowers said that it was appreciated.

A discussion of whether or not another motion was needed ensued with Solicitor Barry asking if the psychological and physical examinations had been completed by Officer Kelly. Upon being told that they had not, he said the conditions were not satisfied.

Mr. Bowers asked if Officer Palermo had taken the psychological examination and was answered in the affirmative.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Hellett noted that a meeting will take place this coming Monday. He then read the highlights of the report.

Ms. Waldock said it was of paramount importance to have a discussion regarding Nixle, for which Chief Andrews has signed up Edgewood. She indicated that you can sign up to get email, text messages and alerts and the system can be user controlled.

As an example, Ms. Waldock stated that the Nixle system and its capabilities would have been an invaluable tool for the tree count.

To Ms. Schaefer's question regarding whom the administrator of the system would be, Ms. Waldock stated that either Chief Payne or Borough Manager Cecconi would operate in this capacity.

Solicitor Barry indicated that while driving down Maple Avenue at 15 MPH this evening, he could not see the stop sign until the last second, so he knows anyone who travels in a speedy fashion cannot see the sign.

Ms. Schaefer informed Council that the trees on Maple Avenue have branches which are growing together.

Mr. Cecconi offered that red reflectors might be added to the stop sign. He felt that this could be done at West Hutchinson also.

Mr. Bright felt that the intersection of Pennwood and Race was also a problem.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Waldock had nothing to report.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Bowers said that the Committee did not meet, but he had a few comments. He stated that he attended the ball game last Friday at Koenig Field. He commended the workmanship of the steps which were replaced and stated that they were safe and sturdy. He also commented that the field looked fantastic and groomed, as did the shrubs, and the atmosphere was as it was 50 years ago.

Mr. Bowers asked if the far end of the field would remain open during Movie Night or could a temporary fence be placed in the area. Mr. Bowers also wondered if repairs to the tennis court have been cost estimated. He said that the Edgewood Club often has older nets which they might give to the Borough, as well as tennis balls.

A lengthy discussion ensued and Ms. Waldock informed the Council that she visited to Deer Valley and saw a surface distributed by Snap Sports consisting of one-half inch, plastic, snap together squares which are placed over the old court. Ms. Waldock said the surface is from a Utah company.

Ms. Schaefer said the repair cost many years ago was \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Mr. Bowers asked about the leaning gate between the tennis courts and asked if it was safe. As well, he mentioned a piece of wood in between and asked if it could be replaced or, at the very least, painted. Mr. Cecconi said he will have it checked.

Mr. Bowers also asked about the telephone poles currently holding up the scoreboard and possible signage or a banner which might be added to the bare space. He asked if he would be permitted to take care of getting this done.

Ms. Schaefer queried who is responsible for the planters on South Braddock Avenue at the Edgewood Towne Centre and the strip dividing the Avenue.

Borough Manager Cecconi explained that Oxford Development and then Phillips Edison were initially responsible; however the signed agreement showing whose responsibility this is was not available. According to Mr. Cecconi, last year the area was lined with mulch only. Other issues which Mr. Cecconi mentioned concerned the trees in the area, the traffic island, maintenance issues and the reduction of police patrols.

Ms. Schaefer noted that a peer-to-peer study of the Department of Public Works is being performed and that a presentation will be made to Council upon its completion.

Mr. Bright said that two neighbors complained about a hole in the Laurel Avenue fence. He said that this is owned by Edgewood Towne Centre and as often as they fix it, someone uses bolt cutters to reopen it. The complainants believe this will bring crime to the area.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Ms. Gleba said that the Committee met last Monday and made the decision to start Movie Night. She stated that they attempted to investigate if there are legal issues connected with this event.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Hellett had nothing to report, but said there is a meeting next Monday.

PENSION

Mr. Bright said that the Committee did not meet, but they are working on a study of the defined benefit plan. He indicated that the managers of the pension funds will have a report soon.

AD HOC

INTERCOUNCIL

Ms. Schaefer reported that Wilkins and Churchill Borough voted not to participate in the regional police study. She indicated that Edgewood Borough would be remiss not to move forward and Mr. Belmont was notified and Forest Hills will move with Edgewood.

Ms. Schaefer then passed out Ms. Waldock's article regarding regionalization and asked for edits and comments.

Mr. Cecconi stated that a win-win situation for everyone is needed, but cautioned that getting to this will take much effort.

Ms. Waldock stated that after her personal research, it is important that socioeconomic and demographic criteria be similar.

3 RIVERS WET WEATHER DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Ms. Schaefer mentioned that the sewer conference will be held in Monroeville at the Convention Center and will have outside demonstrations.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Barry noted that for the General Government to do list, there are a number of issues he felt that he could give his input on and this would be included in his retainer.

Since the last meeting, Mr. Barry reported that he received notice from the Pennsylvania Human Relations Board that the Teamsters were chosen as the bargaining agent for the Police Department. The representative wants to meet with Chief Payne and Borough Manager Cecconi. As well, he said that Council members or the Mayor can attend if they wish.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Cecconi gave updates regarding the garbage contract status and the need to discuss recycling, payment options and third party billing.

After an extensive discussion, the importance of getting information to residents regarding garbage collection and billing was noted.

Mr. Cecconi then led a discussion of the need to revamp the parking permit system. Ms. Schaefer gave background on the process and asked Public Safety to include this as an agenda item.

Regarding the Train Station, Mr. Cecconi reported that work on the rain garden has been started and also reported that Lami Grubb has moved into the unit.

Ms. Schaefer reported that Swissvale and Wilksburg residents were part of the tree inventory which identified safety issues, measured the trees, identified pruning issues and the trees' relations to wiring. Approximately 20-25 people participated in the count, according to Ms. Schaefer.

Ms. Waldock said this is a critical first step in becoming a tree city through the National Arbor Foundation. She said a tree commission would need to be formed and asked where this effort was stalled in the past. She also reported that two trees have been lost in her neighborhood in the last ten years and asked if planning for replanting would take place. She said that moving forward with the tree commission makes Edgewood eligible to receive trees for free.

Mr. Hellett indicated that in the past it was decided not to go forward with applying for a tree city designation as there is language that is restrictive.

Mr. Bright wondered if there is a policy on what type of trees can be planted and was answered in the affirmative.

Ms. Schaefer offered that consideration when planting trees is given to issues like sewer lines, electrical lines and root infestation.

Mayor Davin mentioned a dead tree at 455 Maple Avenue to Mr. Cecconi.

NEW BUSINESS

The following meetings were set for June 28, 2010: 6:00 PM – Personnel; 7:00 PM – Public Safety; Movie Night – dusk.

COMMITTEE ACTION

M-4 Ms. Waldock offered Resolution 2010-40 and asked for its immediate adoption. Second by Mr. Hellett.

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD

RESOLUTION 2010-40

WHEREAS, the Borough of Edgewood recognizes the importance of aesthetics and maintaining the character of the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Edgewood has an active and involved Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, J. Edward Cook has exhibited the desire, knowledge and ability to contribute positively to the Planning Commission.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Edgewood Borough Council appoints J. Edward Cook to the Edgewood Borough Planning Commission to a term which will expire December 31, 2013.

ADOPTED THIS THE 21st day of June 2010 by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

ATTEST:

Borough Secretary

Council President

DISCUSSION: Mr. Cecconi explained that the terms will be staggered.

Ms. Waldock asked the exact function of the Planning Commission and Ms. Schaefer gave her background information.

Mr. Cecconi said they oversee land development, simple subdivisions and site developments. He went on to explain the D-7 zoning district.

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded. Mr. Bright, Mr. Bowers, Ms. Waldock, Ms. Gleba, Mr. Hellett, Ms. Schaefer voted yes. **Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

M-5 Following an Executive Session which lasted from 10:35 PM to 11:05 PM, it was moved by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Ms. Gleba to adjourn this meeting.

DISCUSSION: None.

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded. Mr. Bright, Mr. Bowers, Ms. Waldock, Ms. Gleba, Mr. Hellett, Ms. Schaefer voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Warren Cecconi, Borough Manager