

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
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**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD
MONDAY, JULY 19, 2010**

Council President Schaefer called the meeting of Borough Council to order at 7:38 PM in Council Chambers.

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

Mayor Davin and Solicitor Barry were also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Ms. Kness of 1408 East End Avenue Extension spoke regarding the power lines running to her house being overrun with foliage. She stated that she has talked with Duquesne Light and Equitable Gas regarding cutting the area back to no avail. She asked what can be done about this situation.

Another issue which Ms. Kness talked about was getting her street on the leaf pick-up, street sweeping and snow plowing schedules.

Ms. Schaefer assured Ms. Kness that this would happen and Mr. Cecconi said to make sure that no cars are parked there.

Ms. Kness said that there is not an issue as there is no parking on the street.

Mr. Cecconi said that the area belongs to the apartment building and that Mr. Ayres, Code Enforcement and Building Inspection officer, has already addressed this by letter. He said the next step is issuance of a citation.

Ms. Schaefer said this will go before the magistrate if the owner does not respond and asked Mr. Cecconi to follow up with the Code officer.

Ms. Shields of 567 Allenby Avenue at East End Extension provided photos of damage from Hurricane Ivan and stated that she still worries about flooding. In front of the house next to hers, Ms. Shields said that the Borough sewers flood every time it rains, leaving not just water, but raw sewage.

Ms. Shields said that a year ago the residents of Allenby were nearly asphyxiated from the sewer backup at Koenig Field. According to Ms. Shields, an emergency meeting was held and surveyors were sent to investigate, but nothing has happened since.

Ms. Schaefer told Ms. Shields that residents have been kept informed regarding the sewers via emails and reports given in Council meetings about where the Borough's lines are. She explained that

bidding out the sewer work brought in a cost of \$708,045 to clean them out. The best and most cost effective ways to remedy the situation are being looked at.

In further explanation, Mr. Cecconi said that the interceptor must be cleaned out, including the roots, and the pipes need to be lined. The location of the lines is also a concern.

Mr. Pilarski of 424 Elmer Street and Ms. Savitt of 426 Elmer Street told Council of some safety concerns with cars speeding between Dewey and Walnut Street. Both residents requested that a 15 MPH limit be imposed on traffic and they also said that the streets in this area were not designed for heavy traffic.

Mr. Pilarski noted that the street extends about 100 feet and makes a sharp turn. He said that the neighborhood has lots of children and one neighbor witnessed a near accident. Another suggestion from Mr. Pilarski was to make the street one way.

Ms. Waldock felt that a traffic study would need to be done.

Mr. Hellett said that at a June 20 Public Safety meeting they discussed this issue and Chief Payne is looking at the problem. The information will be passed on as things develop.

Mayor Davin said she will have Chief Payne target that area and slow traffic down. In response to the Mayor's question, Mr. Pilarski said that the specific time for speeders is during the morning rush hour. The Mayor sympathized with Mr. Pilarski, citing an example that when the Maple Avenue speed was lowered to 15 MPH, she received a call from someone who lived in Pitcairn who used Maple Avenue as a cut through to the Parkway.

Mr. Pilarski stated that he no longer parks on Elmer Street.

Mr. Hellett said that a grant for a speed control device has been submitted by the Borough.

Ms. Limpert of 142 Oakview Avenue shared that when visiting, her children ask what is happening to Edgewood, as they feel the community is deteriorating. Ms. Limpert asked if the Borough should get its own Code Officer back.

Ruth McGregor of 1420 Walnut Street spoke regarding several issues: a branch on a Borough tree on Hawthorn Street, boxes near the salt bin in the Borough parking lot which would be ripe for children or others starting a fire, and the condition of the Borough Building (memo submitted to Council).

Borough Manager Cecconi explained that he has been working on the list of repairs to be done. He said that there has been talk of fixing the exterior doors, doing interior plastering and painting and fixing sidewalks.

M-1 Ms. Gleba moved to approve the minutes of June 21, 2010. Second by Mr. Wilson.

DISCUSSION: Mayor Davin corrected page 2 regarding the Safety Committee "and Police Chief" (not Fire Chief). At the bottom of page 3, the last sentence regarding "replacement of signage" should say "repaired around the Edgewood sign where there was concern regarding the hillside."

On page 4, "Edgewood Foundation offered to obtain rain barrels." On page 7, concerning the tennis courts, the cost was \$130,000. On page 8, strike "lack" of police and replace with "reduced." The Mayor said it was at their request.

Ms. Schaefer had a correction for page 4, indicating that she spoke about Community Day expenses. She also corrected the section to reflect that "Community Day was starting between noon and 2:00 PM" and asked Mr. Cecconi to "dispel rumors." On page 5, Ms. Schaefer said she "talked about artwork on Braddock Avenue Express." Ms. Schaefer asked that the last sentence regarding Ms. Pickering and alcohol not being served be stricken. Ms. Schaefer questioned the spelling "Nixle" on page 7 and said the repair cost ten years ago was \$130,000.

On page 9, Ms. Waldock said the sentence should read update residents of the rationale.

M-2 Ms. Gleba moved to table the minutes of June 21, 2010 and July 6, 2010 until the next meeting. Second by Ms. Waldock.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

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 \$70,320.20. Second by Mr. Wilson.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Ms. Gleba reviewed the items on the "to do" list. She followed up on the garbage contract and said there was a need to discuss the pros and cons of early repayment of the Tax Anticipation Note.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Ms. Schaefer asked Solicitor Barry to speak to this and he stated that he read the article in question and his opinion was based on the requirement when there is a quorum of Council present at committee meetings.

Ms. Schaefer said that meetings have been advertised and they are open to the public. She felt that there is value in keeping minutes of meetings, but that minutes are supposed to be very succinct and

should be part of the Council packet. A reflection of what Council has done during the year is shown via the minutes. The items which are exempt from the minutes concern contracts, personnel and litigation.

POLICE REPORT

Mayor Davin did not distribute the monthly report, as she had questions for the Chief. She shared that she was notified that two police cars are down and she has instructed Chief Payne to check on the new car.

Mr. Cecconi explained that the Department is down to one vehicle and a car was obtained from Day for five days.

Mayor Davin requested an Executive Session regarding a personnel issue.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Hellett stated that the Committee met on June 28, 2010. It was reported that the new Police Department vehicle is being detailed.

Part-time candidates are being interviewed for the Police Department and there is training coming up for officers which will be held at the FBI facility in Monroeville, according to Mr. Hellett.

Mr. Hellett also reported that Mr. Caulfield of Churchill will be sworn in as Magisterial District Judge on July 29, 2010.

Mr. Hellett noted that the Movie Night opening was a success, as was the Citizen's Police Academy. He also reported on the I.D. theft seminar sponsored by Edward Jones Company and reported that a larger seminar will be held in the coming months.

There will be an update of the Police Department website and parking issues were also discussed.

Responding to Ms. Schaefer's inquiry regarding a grant, the Mayor indicated that stimulus-type funds were applied for, and application has been made, but no reply has been given as yet.

Mr. Hellett then read the Eastern Area Prehospital statistics and the highlights of the report.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Mr. Wilson said that the Committee did not meet.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Waldock reported that Phillips Edison is the managing owner of Edgewood Towne Centre, but that the Borough owns Parcel D. A contractual obligation exists to maintain the parking lots, but they are offering to take over the maintenance of the areas and will give the Borough the right to control the rear gate. Ms. Waldock noted that the bridge that is in the back of Laurel Street is a state route and PennDOT owns the bridge, but that the Borough must maintain the roadway.

Ms. Waldock proposed entering into an agreement with Phillips Edison, with a 90 day termination clause.

Mr. Cecconi said that he asked Phillips Edison to prepare a draft agreement.

Ms. Waldock also noted that the Borough could address this and say that they want a pedestrian or vehicle access. She said that if the Borough does not enter into this agreement, it would be required to maintain this area, costing a significant amount of money.

The Solicitor asked if the 90 day clause was discussed as Phillips Edison may want a longer term.

Ms. Waldock said that if the Borough wants more pedestrian access, it may be eligible for money to clean up the area. She stated that Parcel D is an unrecognized asset. She presented the idea of a land swap, keeping the area contiguous with the shopping center. She said it would be worth evaluating how to develop this area.

Mr. Bright noted that the area is far bigger than the map shows.

It was Ms. Waldock's view that Phillips Edison could be asked to subdivide the area.

Mr. Barry said that the subdivision could be redivided and that starting over with a blank page might be appropriate to see what everyone wants to do.

Ms. Waldock said that a notice of abandonment might be filed and the area might be used as neighborhood parking.

Mr. Barry said that in 2006, Phillips Edison told employees to park in the space.

Ms. Schaefer felt that the Borough's location might be underestimated as people are moving here. She said that people might stay here if the area was developed.

Ms. Waldock stated that young residents are more sensitive to pedestrian traffic. She then offered that a formal agreement or an allocation agreement should be entered into. She then reported that discussion occurred regarding the easements and restrictions of Parcel D over which the Borough has no control and which change with tenants leaving.

Mayor Davin asked the length of these leases and was answered by Ms. Waldock that the leases vary between Phillips Edison and the tenants.

Speaking to a rumor circulating, Ms. Schaefer was asked if Council approved the parking lot and governor's drive at the school and Mr. Cecconi answered that nothing has been approved. Ms. Schaefer noted that this would go before the Planning Commission before any approvals could be made.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Bowers reported that he, Ms. Gleba and Mr. Cecconi met and talked through separating the garbage from the taxes, including discussion of a third-party billing system. Fuel surcharges were also discussed, according to Mr. Bowers.

Mayor Davin asked if there is any discussion about joining other communities as she has heard that several communities went together to try for a better contract. She stated that Wilksburg is now partnered with the City of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Cecconi stated that as long as Edgewood Borough remains with one day a week pickup, there will only be two bidders.

Mayor Davin then asked about requirements for bulk items and garbage.

Ms. Waldock was in favor of speaking to residents with regard to dropping their recycling off at the Borough Building. She further stated that the residents are in favor of recycling. As well, she spoke of looking at a garbage contract three years ahead.

Mr. Cecconi stated that by law the Borough is not required to recycle. He also explained to Ms. Waldock, in response to her question concerning partnering with the Council of Governments, how the contract works. Mr. Cecconi also explained to Ms. Gleba how unpaid bills would be handled.

Mr. Barry answered in the affirmative to Ms. Waldock's question regarding whether a resident's property might be liened for non-payment of the bill. Mr. Barry then explained the tax law to Ms. Waldock with reference to such a case.

Mr. Cecconi promised to put a document together of bidders, including their possible fuel surcharge.

Mayor Davin questioned whether there is a provision and a charge for back yard pickup.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Hellett said that the Committee did meet to talk about issues including the Personnel Manual and its updating as well as performance reviews.

PENSION

Mr. Bright said that the Committee did meet and Mr. Dalessandro gave a six-month report on how the plan is working and provided a chart showing the Borough's assets. Mr. Bright said that Mr. Dalessandro's research is good in that he reported that there would not be a fluctuating bond and stock market and this is true.

AD HOC

INTERCOUNCIL

Mr. Hellett said that the Council did not meet.

3 RIVERS WET WEATHER DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Ms. Schaefer mentioned that the group did meet and has a vacancy to be filled. She also reported that CONNECT had its congress and there is a board meeting Tuesday.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Barry had no separate report.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Cecconi attended training at the 911 Center where emphasis was placed on special needs people.

He reported that there is nothing new with the FEMA Grant. As well, Mr. Cecconi reported on several other items: the island at the Edgewood Towne Center is completed; the gate is to be replaced by the end of the week; the SEIU representative has been replaced.

An extensive discussion regarding partnering with other municipalities ensued.

Mayor Davin asked if there has been any discussion of reopening the window for the mercantile tax, banned in the 1980's, for merchants.

The Borough Manager noted that the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) will be reviewed.

Ms. Waldock said that the Note could be paid off in the next few weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bright spoke to someone regarding using rubberized cement at a cost between \$100 and \$200 to fix the cracks in the tennis court.

Mr. Hellett said that some residents are concerned about the Tot Lot and that he spoke with someone who runs children's programming at the Jewish Community Center who wants to help the Borough. She felt that the children's area could be moved to the basketball area. Mr. Hellett stated that there are people who want to be involved.

Mr. Hellett replied to Ms. Schaefer's request to get the names of interested volunteers and he stated that he has already done this. Ms. Schaefer continued by stating that timelines and strategy would have to be figured out. She said that Senator Costa is committed to securing funding for this project.

COMMITTEE ACTION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

M-4 Following an Executive Session which lasted from 10:10 PM to 11:01 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, Mr. Wilson, Ms. Gleba, Mr. Hellett, Ms. Schaefer voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Warren Cecconi, Borough Manager