

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
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APRIL 4, 2011**

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**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
APRIL 4, 2011**

Council President Schaefer called the Meeting of the Borough of Edgewood to order on Monday, April 4, 2011 at 7:33 PM in the Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL

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

Mayor Hellett, Solicitor Barry and Ms. Brouman, the Junior Councilperson were present.

PLEDGE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Ms. McGregor of Walnut Street shared a letter that she wrote to Chief Payne in which she presented the Edgewood Police Department both the American and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania flags, which had been displayed in the Judge McGregor's chambers. She explained that these flags are being given in honor of the police, and in memory of the Judge. Ms. McGregor noted that the flags are in the front hallway of the Borough Building and that a plaque will also be made for the display.

Mr. Lithgow's daughter, Susan, thanked Council for honoring her father and asked that he be remembered with laughter and not sadness.

Mayor Hellett then presented the following Proclamation.

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD

PROCLAMATION 2011-01

WHEREAS, Edgewood Borough depends on its residents to volunteer in various capacities; and

WHEREAS, Dick Lithgow embodied what is best about a volunteer: he saw a need and filled it, without any fanfare or fuss. For example, Dick was been a member of the Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department since the 1970's, and when poor health forced him to discontinue fighting fires, he stepped into

an administrative role for the fire department. Throughout the years, he was the President, Vice President, and Secretary. He utilized his talents in another capacity for the good of the fire department.

WHEREAS, Dick volunteered in many activities as an Edgewood resident, he was a coach in Little League baseball at Koenig Field, as well as serving several years on the board of the Edgewood Youth Activities Association (EYA).

NOW, THEREFORE on this the 4th day of April 2011, the Office of the Mayor of the Borough of Edgewood recognizes Dick Lithgow for his many years of loyal service to the residents of the Borough and proclaims Thursday, April 7, 2011 as **"DICK LITHGOW DAY."**

PROCLAIMED at the meeting of the Council of the Borough of Edgewood the 4th day of April 2011.

Mal Hellett, Mayor

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS

M-1 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 in the amount of \$42,046.90 from the General Fund and \$2,687.42 from the Sewer Fund for a total of \$44,734.32. Second by Mr. Wilson.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-2 Mr. Fuller moved to award a contract to Soli Construction, Inc. for East Hutchinson Avenue sewer repairs in the amount of \$7,650.00. Second by Mr. Bowers.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Cecconi informed Council that four different companies were called with three of them responding. The fourth was too busy to consider the job. He then read the list of bids received.

To Ms. Waldock's request concerning the work that Soli Construction will do, Mr. Cecconi said that they will dig the brick street up, replace two collapsed Y's and replace the brick.

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded: Mr. Bright, Mr. Bowers, Ms. Waldock, Ms. Gleba, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Fuller, Ms. Schaefer voted yes. **Resolution Passes.**

Ms. Schaefer noted that an Executive Session would follow concerning a personnel issue.

BUSINESS MEETING

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Andrews reported that a \$112,000 grant has been received, one of only six presented in Pennsylvania from a national grant. He explained that this will allow scholarships and tuition money to be available and would also be used to get more volunteers. Mr. Andrews said that the money would be paid over four years and Mr. Reynolds will be sitting down with the grant people to review the process.

RECREATION REPORT

Mr. Cecconi reported that the basketball season has ended and that baseball signups continue. There will not be an 11-12 year old team, but arrangements are being made for this group to play with the Squirrel Hill team. Next will be T-ball and girls' softball sign ups.

Mr. Cecconi said that a thank-you note will be sent to the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf where the team played. According to Mr. Cecconi, the players and parents liked the atmosphere.

WATER AUTHORITY REPORT

Mr. Fuller reported that much of the Authority's meeting was taken up with their audit.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Ms. Waldock informed Council that the Commission will meet May 19, 2011 at 7:30 PM.

COG REPORT

Mr. Wilson noted that the emergency energy efficiency grant applications are due by April 15, 2010.

LIBRARY REPORT

Ms. Waldock informed Council that the Board met on April 10, 2011. She explained that there are three new members on the Board from the Edgewood Club and much of the meeting was spent trying to explain the archaic and chaotic situation that makes up the Board.

Ms. Waldock said that there is a move to ask Council not to rescind their seats on the Board. She said that the group did not understand the implications of this happening.

Ms. Waldock offered that the constant turnover is a problem for the Board of Trustees as any organization functions only as well as its board. She further stated that since there is a continual turnover, the Library will face difficulties with being well managed. The issue before Council, according to Ms. Waldock, is whether it wants to move forward with giving up its Board seats. She noted that Mr. Davies did not want to undertake this issue and noted that Council could pay \$1,000 and move forward.

Major discussion of the situation followed and President Schaefer noted that a donation is given to the Library.

Ms. Waldock noted that the Mayor will continue to sit on the Board.

Mr. Barry said that he had some thoughts on the matter, but would reserve them for Executive Session.

Mr. Bright asked if \$1,000 will be enough to accomplish the goal.

Ms. McNeill, Children's Librarian, will be leaving on April 16, 2011 and will be working at the Hill District Carnegie Library Branch. Ms. Waldock said that this is a great opportunity for Ms. McNeill.

According to Ms. Waldock, the book sale was successful.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Barry had no separate report, but noted that he would have one for Executive Session.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Cecconi stated that the properties with delinquent sewer account will be posted for water shut off.

He also reported that he is waiting on another bid of the repair/replacement of the exterior doors and that camera replacement will start tomorrow.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Waldock reported that a Public Safety meeting had occurred and Ms. Neff, Chair of the Civil Service Commission, was in attendance. Three issues emerged from this meeting: 1) there is currently

only one sergeant, 2) does the Borough want to use an alternative test administered by Mr. Gamble, and 3) does the Borough want to lower the passing grade of the current test to 70%?

Mr. Hellett said he spoke with Ms. Neff this date and was told that the Commission will speak with their counsel, Mr. Evashavik, as to how to proceed.

President Schaefer questioned the logic of administering tests which no one can pass.

It was noted by the Solicitor that this has been a problem in other communities for some time since the Pennsylvania Chiefs Association has monopolized the testing process.

Ms. Schaefer rationalized that if everyone else is passing these tests, our rate should remain at 75%.

Ms. Waldock added that Ms. Neff said that the test requires study of a great deal of information, but does not cover everything.

Chief Payne said that White Oak tested five officers and none passed with 70%.

Mr. Wilson said that Swissvale had to grade on a curve to allow people to pass the test.

Chief Payne noted that Mr. Gamble has two scenarios for testing and that the test has 100 questions.

The Solicitor said that under the new law, physical agility testing must be done; no promotions will be made until amendments are made to the Civil Service Rules and adopted via Council through ordinance. He said that the test given is supposed to fully and fairly test the ability of the applicant.

Ms. Waldock explained that the Chief has one sergeant and there are three shifts to fill.

More discussion of the percentage issue ensued and Mr. Bowers asked what percentage of officers passed the test.

It was Ms. Schaefer's opinion that becoming a sergeant is a learning tool in becoming a chief and is a middle management position. She said that the promotion needs to mean something.

Mr. Wilson shared that the national testing for the insurance industry agents is 65% and for brokers it is 70%.

CIVIL SERVICE POLICE ELIGIBILITY LIST

It was Ms. Waldock's suggestion that Ms. Neff be notified that Council is in a quandary regarding this issue. Ms. Waldock said that there is no need for hiring officers right now. A question posed by Ms. Waldock concerned how the need to come up with an eligibility list can be eliminated when there is no intention of a likely hiring.

Solicitor Barry said that a current eligibility list is not necessarily needed. He went on to say that the new law makes it clear that that the eligibility list is good for one year and then must be extended.

Solicitor Barry indicated that if the Borough needs to hire an officer, there is no Civil Service list and the position could remain open for up to six months.

Mr. Hellett informed Council that Chief Payne is working on some great part-time candidates.

Chief Payne explained that the Civil Service Commission receives the test from Chicago and then administers the tests. The tests are then sent back to Chicago for review. He noted that Mr. Gamble corrects his own testing.

Mayor Hellett then shared with Council the costs associated with the DUI Check Point which was recently done.

Ms. Waldock then turned a conversation regarding three ton weight limit signs around the Borough over to Chief Payne. The Chief then explained that a truck was blocking traffic and the City of Pittsburgh was called out for help.

Ms. Waldock felt that the signs must be taken down.

Solicitor Barry said that some signs are grandfathered. He said that people who drive through the area repeatedly can be required to have bonding or can be charged a fee.

Mr. Wilson said this process will require scales and use of them would require training.

Mr. Cecconi spoke with regard to the law and Borough Code. He spoke about an engineering study that would have to be done.

Solicitor Barry asked that Council not change anything until all issues have been checked.

Ms. Waldock's attention then turned to the fact that part-time Edgewood police officers are the lowest paid in the area. She said that Forest Hills is looking at hiring part-time officers at \$22.00/hr. Ms. Waldock's opinion was that this matter will strain the Borough's ability to get good officers.

Mr. Cecconi explained that Forest Hills required 2,080 hrs of experience plus sixty college credits. Also, they will be required to take a Civil Service test.

ADJOURNMENT

M-3 Following an Executive Session which lasted from 8:41 PM until 9:45 PM regarding a personnel issue with no action following, it was moved by Ms. Waldock and seconded by Ms. Gleba to adjourn at 9:46 PM.

DISCUSSION: None.

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



Warren Cecconi
Borough Manager