

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
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July 5, 2011

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**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
July 5, 2011**

Council President Schaefer called the Meeting of the Borough of Edgewood to order on Tuesday, July 5, 2011 at 7:30 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 and Solicitor Barry were also present.

PLEDGE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Al Caruso –Edgewood Foundation –reported the following:

1. The Edgewood Foundation will host children's activities at the Edgewood Community Day from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm. These will include a magic show, a moon bounce and a 50/50 raffle to benefit playground repairs.
2. The Edgewood Foundation has a new board member, Beth Nelson. Mr. Caruso also stated that interviews are taking place for one more board seat, and if Council knows of an individual who might be interested to have them contact the Foundation.
3. Mr. Caruso thanked the volunteers who participated in the Edgewood Avenue weeding that took place, and stated that on August 13 at 9:00 AM volunteers would work on a Bruton Road clean-up project. Those interested in volunteering can meet at 132 Dewey Street.
4. On September 17, the Foundation will host a Camping with your Kids overnight in the Park. This will consist of a bonfire, lights out at 10:00 pm and breakfast the next morning. Those interested in participating can email info@edgewoodfoundation.org.
5. On September 22, the Foundation will host a Newcomers Dinner from 7-9 PM at 150 Gordon Street. Any individual who has moved into Edgewood in the past 12 month period will be invited to attend.
6. On September 25, the Foundation will host its first Oktoberfest from 3-6 PM, with profits benefiting the playground repairs.

President Schaefer thanks Mr. Caruso and Rob Felter for their hard work in planning this new fundraising event. She also thanked the Edgewood Foundation for their efforts in supporting Community Day, recognizing the needs of the Borough and getting new residents involved in the community.

David Evans -311 W. Hutchinson Avenue –reported the following:

“Good evening everyone. I am David Evans, my girlfriend, Lysie Campbell and I moved to the “Borough in December of last year. We live on W. Hutchinson Avenue and have had a great time living here. Unfortunately, last Sunday night our home was broken into. Within moments of figuring out what was going on, and calling 911, Officer Brian Wyck was outside of our house and getting information, an hour later, our keys has been returned and the suspect was in custody.

“We are here tonight to praise the police force. Moving to a new area can be tenuous. Nothing calls a decision like that into question more quickly than having your home defiled. Our neighbors were so caring even though we are new. The most common question we received the next day from these wonderful people was ‘you’re not going to move, are you?’ I can say with certainty, that if not for the excellent response of the Swissvale Force and Officer Wyck, the answer may have been ‘we don’t know’ but given that our safety felt restored almost immediately, we are sure that we’ve made the right decision moving here. Our only concern in regards to safety since moving to Edgewood is the abandoned house, which is in disrepair, located at 313 W. Hutchinson Avenue. We ask the Borough to please take this matter seriously moving forward.

“Thank you again to Officer Wyck and the entire force for their efforts. We couldn’t be happier to live in Edgewood.”

Chief Payne responded that he was proud of the Police Force and praised Mr. Evans and Ms. Campbell for their quick reaction to the situation. Chief Payne stated that through the use of Swissvale’s canine force, the suspect was captured, who was out on parole for two other robberies.

Ruth Pickering -416 Locust

Ms. Pickering stated that she was concerned about the start of a slum on Walnut Street. She stated that on June 17, 2011 she spoke with Building Inspector Allen Ayres about properties on Walnut, Coal and Swissvale. As of today, Ms. Pickering believes nothing has been done about the weeds on Walnut Street. She stated that tires and a commode are in the backyard of the property. Ms. Pickering stated that the Borough has a responsibility and can cut the grass at this property. She stated that something has to be done. Ms. Pickering stated that we cannot afford to let this Borough go downhill. Ms. Pickering stated that she does not want to have to come back to Council to talk about this again.

Manager Cecconi stated that Mr. Ayres has written citations for the properties. Manager Cecconi stated that the Borough has a procedure in place that it goes through with every property that violates code. The homeowner is cited, and if the homeowner takes no action after the citation, it will go to the District Magistrate's office. He also stated that he has been in touch with the Mon Valley Initiative to take over one of the abandon properties.

Ms. Pickering asked when conversations have occurred and where the process of taking over the property currently stands.

Mr. Cecconi stated that the Borough has been in discussion with the owner of 828 Walnut Street for two years. They spoke last week again about the property.

Ms. Pickering asked what she should tell the residents concerned about these properties.

Mr. Cecconi said that he has been in communication with concerned residents, and has explained the citation process and told them that the Borough is aware of the issue and is working toward a solution.

Ryan Spralce -102 McKelvey Avenue

Mr. Spralce stated that he was at the Council meeting on behalf of Bike Pittsburgh, a group of eastern area concerned citizens. Mr. Spralce stated that the goal of this group was to make non-motorized transportation more accessible in Pittsburgh's eastern suburbs. This includes a focus on crosswalks, sidewalks and streets. Mr. Spralce stated that the group is still formalizing, but wants the eastern suburbs to be safer and more enjoyable. Their next meeting will take place at the end of July.

Mayor Hellett asked if the group had made any progress in talks with the Edgewood Town Center Management.

Mr. Spralce stated that his colleague Paul Heckbert would speak to that point.

Paul Heckbert -104 Washington Street

Mr. Heckbert stated that a community development meeting took place with Edgewood residents who spoke about their concerns with a pedestrian gate at Edgewood Town Center. He states that most of the residents in attendance were biased against the opening of the pedestrian gate. Mr. Heckbert believes strongly that the opening of the gate would be a net positive thing for the Borough. He stated that he understood the concerns of some residents, but believes that with increased police presence in the area, the gate would help the Borough. Mr. Heckbert stated that the pedestrian gate would help lighten the perspective that Edgewood has of being somewhat exclusive or walling itself off from its neighbors.

President Schaefer stated that this issue could be discussed further at the next community development meeting, which Mr. Fuller would call in the future.

Ms. Waldock asked about the security cameras now monitoring Regent Square, and who was responsible for monitoring the cameras.

Chief Payne stated that the cameras were not yet fully functional, but were to be monitored by the local police forces from their patrol cars.

Mr. Fuller stated that a main concern with the pedestrian gate was the collection of trash that would accrue, and that no one was willing to handle the maintenance of the area.

Ms. Waldock believes that a problem with dumping trash is occurring, rather than just litter collecting in the area. While working during an Edgewood Foundation clean up, Ms. Waldock stated that she noticed large bags of garbage. She suggested that if residents are concerned about trash that they should look close to home.

Mr. Bright stated that he has tried to clean the entire area himself, and believes most of the paper is new and appeared over the winter. Mr. Bright believes the owner needs to find someone to clean the area.

Mr. Bowers asked who would pay for security cameras, and how they might function to better monitor the area.

Chief Payne stated that he has previously spoken with Edgewood Town Center management, who believe the security cameras were cost prohibitive.

Ms. Waldock stated that if Regent Square was able to find a way to install the cameras, there has to be a way to do it at Edgewood Town Center.

Mayor Hellett stated that the Regent Square cameras cost \$12,000 each, and that with these while they were very detail specific, they did not include night vision. The money used for the Regent Square and Strip District cameras came from Homeland Security. Mayor Hellett stated that to install night vision cameras would cost an additional \$9,000.

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 \$40,514.13 from the General Fund and \$2,935.19 from the Sewer Fund for a total of \$43,449.32, 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.**

COMMITTEE ACTION

Ms. Gleba made a third and final reading of Ordinance

Mr. Gleba read the following ordinance into the record:

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD

ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

ORDINANCE 1036

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD, COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, FIXING THE BASIC SEWAGE SURCHARGE RATE AT FOUR DOLLARS AND SEVENTY CENTS (\$4.70) PER ONE-THOUSAND (1,000) GALLONS OF WATER USED AND ANY COLLECTION COSTS APPLICABLE TO THE BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD

BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED, and it is hereby ordained and enacted by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania;

SECTION 1: That the Borough of Edgewood increases the basic service rate from the existing rate of three dollars and seventy cents (\$3.70) per one-thousand (1,000) gallons of water used and any collections costs applicable to the Borough of Edgewood to four dollars and seventy cents (\$4.70) per one-thousand (1,000) gallons of water used and any collections costs applicable to the Borough of Edgewood. This increased rate applies to all properties which use the Borough of Edgewood sanitary sewer system, including any properties not situated in the Borough of Edgewood.

SECTION 2: The increase will be effective with the 2nd quarter billing of 2011, which will have a due date in October 2011.

SECTION 3: Any Ordinance or any part of any ordinance, in conflict herewith is repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 4: It is the intention of Borough Council that the provisions of this Ordinance shall be part of the Codification of Ordinances of the Borough of Edgewood and that said Codification shall be amended and supplemented accordingly.

ORDAINED AND ENACTED this __ day of _____, 2011.

ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD

Warren Cecconi
Borough Manager

Patricia M. Schaefer
Council President

EXAMINED AND APPROVED by me this 5 day of July, 2011.

Mal Hellett, Mayor

M-2 Ms. Gleba made a motion to enact the ordinance. Second by Mr. Fuller

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**

President Schaefer then asked shall the motion carry. 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**

Mr. Bowers read the following resolution into the record:

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
RESOLUTION # 2011- 14
REPLACING RESOLUTION # 2003-15

WHEREAS, the Borough of Edgewood recognizes its employees as its most important resource and asset;;
and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Edgewood desires to provide an official personnel policy for all persons employed by the Borough.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of Edgewood does hereby adopt the Edgewood Borough Personnel Policy, which shall govern the job conduct and duties of all persons employed by the Borough of Edgewood from July 5, 2011 until further official action by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

ATTEST:

Warren Cecconi, Borough Secretary

Patricia Schaefer, Council President

M-3 Mr. Bowers made a motion to adopt Resolution 2011-14, Second by Mr. Wilson.

Discussion: Solicitor Barry asked if Council planned to also adopt the evaluation form as part of the Personnel Policy.

Ms. Waldock stated that if Solicitor Barry recommended they be enacted as part of the policy, she saw no reason why it should not be.

Mr. Bowers clarified that the job descriptions were not a part of the Personnel Policy, and would be adopted separately.

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**

President Schaefer thanked the Council and the Solicitor for their hard work in creating the new personnel policy.

M-4 Ms. Waldock made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Edgewood Police Department and Woodland Hills School District, Second by Ms. Gleba.

Discussion: Mr. Bowers asked what had changed in the memorandum since the last meeting.

Solicitor Barry stated that after the June 20 Council meeting, Chief Payne had followed up with the School District, and the memorandum was revised to reflect the 2008 memorandum that was signed by the Edgewood Council. Solicitor Barry stated that the other issue Council was concerned with regarded the mediation of discrepancies in reporting between the police and the school. He stated that the Borough is not opposed to having a process to try and reconcile any inconsistencies between reports. The memorandum now states, however, that the Chief and the Edgewood Police Department hold the ultimate authority over what goes in a report and the cooperation process. Solicitor Barry emphasized that Council would basically be signing the 2008 memorandum of understanding with the added process for fact checking reports.

Ms. Waldock asked about Section B on page 5, which discussed issues not reported to the Edgewood Police.

Chief Payne stated that this section has long been a standard between the two entities. He stated that the police not the school district determines what constitutes a criminal act.

Ms. Waldock asked if some of these actions might need law enforcement assistance.

Mr. Bowers stated that some issues might be better handled in-house by the school district and within the school's code of conduct.

Chief Payne agreed with Mr. Bowers that smaller issues, such as bullying, should be dealt with by the school district and would be taxing to the Edgewood Police Department's resources if they were called upon every time a student shoved another student. Chief Payne emphasized that the Police Department has a good working relationship with the school district, and feels confident they will call upon the police when necessary.

Mr. Bowers stated that if parents are unsatisfied with the school district's action on a particular matter, they could always bring criminal charges themselves.

Solicitor Barry stated that this was not just an agreement between Edgewood Borough and Woodland Hills School District, but that it was regulated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and so some language was standard across the Commonwealth.

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**

BUSINESS MEETING

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Manager Cecconi reported that Fire Department received 40 calls for the month of June, and had one cardiac arrest life save with the assistance of the Police Department. The Fire Department continues to plan for its Community Day involvement. During the July 4th storms, the fire department received seven calls, and had five fire calls over the July 4th weekend.

RECREATION REPORT

Manager Cecconi reported that the recreation committee held an extra meeting in June. The board is still working on its mission statement. At the meeting, the board discussed its vision, and Manager Cecconi believes it will be self-operational by next year. He also stated that the board has a good representation from a cross-section of the Borough. They would ultimately like to be an authority outside of the Borough, such as an athletic association.

Manager Cecconi also stated that soccer registration would be starting soon, and t-ball was ongoing.

Mr. John Grzybek of 143 Lloyd Avenue gave a short presentation on the contest he entered. Jack designated the Borough to be the recipient of the grant and it looks like we will be eligible for up to \$20,000.00 worth of improvements to the ball fields.

WATER AUTHORITY REPORT- Mr. Fuller

Mr. Fuller stated that the water authority was installing new radio reads on meters. The authority saved \$400,000 in bonds this year. There were 30 water breaks in June, which is more than normal.

Mr. Fuller distributed to Council an example of a combined water and sewer bill that the authority now has the ability to send out together.

Mr. Fuller stated that there was no movement on the union contract, and a meeting was scheduled for this week. Mr. Fuller stated the union had no sense of urgency. Under the previous contract

negotiations, raises were made retroactive. Mr. Fuller stated that the majority of the Board did not want this to occur again.

Solicitor Barry stated that retroactivity was not automatic. An agreement to continue the terms and conditions of a contract must be made, but that does not mean automatically agreeing to retroactivity.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Ms. Waldock

Ms. Waldock stated that the next planning commission meeting would be on July 26th. Manager Cecconi stated that Giant Eagle would be sending the commission their plans for renovation.

COG REPORT- Mr. Wilson

Mr. Wilson had nothing to report.

LIBRARY REPORT

Ms. Waldock reported that the Library Board reviewed and approved the audit. It has accepted a bid to renovate the public restrooms.

Ms. Waldock also reported that due to recent incidents, security cameras have been installed around the library. The cameras currently are monitor only and do not record. Ms. Waldock reported that the librarians are more closely monitoring who is on what computer unit and at what times.

President Schaefer asked about the issue of the Council's representation on the library board.

Ms. Waldock stated that the library board currently has an attorney who has reviewed the deed and believes there is no need to petition the orphan's court.

Solicitor Barry stated that the deed is very clear on this issue, and disagrees with the library board. He believes the Borough should not leave the resolution hanging. If the Borough does not want to move on the resolution, Solicitor Barry believes it should be rescinded. The Council can always pass it later since the work has already been done. Solicitor Barry believes there is no ambiguity in the deed and no question that it requires reformation.

Ms. Waldock stated that she would email the library trustees and tell them this issue needs to be addressed.

President Schaefer stated that if Council members wish to sit on the library board, this Resolution wouldn't exclude them from doing so, it just won't require that two Council members sit on the board.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Barry had no further report.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Cecconi stated that the July 4th storm caused some damage in the Borough, but could have been much worse. He stated that no sewers back up due to the storm. He stated that three public works employees were sent out that night, and the streets were swept the next morning.

The next movie night will be July 11th and start at dusk.

Manager Cecconi stated that he would like to take a picture of the council and mayor after tonight's meeting in order to add it to the new community directory.

NEW BUSINESS

The mayor stated that he had public safety personnel issues to discuss in executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was called at 8:55 PM to discuss personnel matters.

The session ended at 10:20 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

M- 5 Adjournment

It was moved by Ms. Waldock and seconded by Ms. Gleba to adjourn at 10:21 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