

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
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November 7, 2011**

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**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
NOVEMBER 7, 2011**

Council President Schaefer called the Meeting of the Borough of Edgewood to order on Monday, November 7, 2011 at 7:36 PM in the Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL

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

Mayor Hellett and Solicitor Barry were present.

PLEDGE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

President Schaefer welcomed the Boy Scout troop in attendance and stated that it was wonderful to see the Council Chambers so full.

Tim Manaca -1109 Lancaster

Mr. Manaca stated that two years ago he had attended a Council meeting with the Boy Scout troop, and spoke with Council about cars speeding off the parkway and parking in no parking spaces in Regent Square. Mr. Manaca said that since he brought this issue up, he has noticed improvement and more enforcement of the no parking zone. He thanked the Borough for addressing his concern.

Cynthia Savitt -426 Elmer Street

Ms. Savitt stated that she was concerned with speeding on Elmer Street, and had brought her concerns previously to Council. Ms. Savitt presented a petition to Council from Elmer Street residents, asking for a reduced speed limit. Ms. Savitt stated that 69 percent of Elmer Street residents were in favor of a lowered speed limit. Ms. Savitt said that according to the PennDOT website, the process for lowering a speed limit required the Borough to first conduct a traffic study. She asked if Council had taken any action.

Chief Payne responded that after Ms. Savitt approached Council, the Edgewood Borough Police had twice monitored the street during rush hours to count cars and determine if speeding occurred. After these observations, Sargent Kaskie wrote a report with the findings. Chief Payne reported that during the hours of 7 am to 8:30 am and 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm, 24 vehicles traveled on Elmer Street. Of these 24 vehicles, the report states that 7 were parked on Elmer prior to driving down the road, indicating that these were residents or visitors of residents of Elmer Street. No code violations were observed during the police observations. For comparison, during the same time period Walnut Street was traveled by 291 vehicles. Chief Payne stated the traffic patterns are not showing Elmer

Street to be a cut through or an area with excessive speeding or accidents. Chief Payne said the Police Department would continue to look at the signage and enforcement of speed limits on Elmer.

Ms. Waldock stated that she drove Elmer Street herself after hearing from Ms. Savitt, and saw a Borough Police Officer monitoring the street at the time. Ms. Waldock said that due to the sharp turn in Elmer Street, she could not drive more than 15 miles per hour on Elmer Street, and stated that she does not understand how speeding would be possible.

President Schaefer explained to Ms. Savitt that Council had heard her complaint, the Police Department had counted cars on Elmer Street, the Chair of the public safety committee and the Vice President of Council had driven on the street, and that Council would continue to monitor the situation and might create some recommendations. President Schaefer stated that speeding is a problem in many communities.

Beth Nelson -104 Race Street

Ms. Nelson reported to Council on the Edgewood Foundation. On December 2, the Edgewood Foundation will sponsor a Light Up Edgewood night at 7 pm in Memorial Park, with a reception to follow at the Edgewood Club. Ms. Nelson said the Foundation would be collecting toys for the Toys for Tots drive. On February 25, the Foundation will host a Progressive Dinner. A sign up for this dinner is in the November newsletter and will also be in the December/January Newsletter.

President Schaefer thanked the Edgewood Foundation for all they do for the Borough and the many things they do to make our community special.

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 \$116,383.81 from the General Fund, and \$4,201.99 from the Sewer Fund, for a total of \$120,585.80. Second by Mr. Wilson.

DISCUSSION: None

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

COMMITTEE ACTION

M-2 Ms. Gleba read the following Resolution into the Record:

RESOLUTION 2011-18

AUTHORIZING EDGEWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL TO MAKE FUND BALANCE ASSIGNMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GASB STATEMENT 54

WHEREAS, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has issued Statement No. 54, "Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions" which becomes effective for financial statements for reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2010; and,

WHEREAS, GASB Statement No. 54 creates new fund balance classifications in a hierarchy based upon the relative strength of the constraints that control how fund balances may be spent, as follows:

Nonspendable –inherently nonspendable or not in a spendable form

Restricted –limitation on use imposed by a party external to the government

Committed –limitation on use imposed by formal action of the governing body

Assigned –limitation on use due to intended purpose rather than formal action

Unassigned –spendable balances not contained in the above classifications; and

WHEREAS, GASB Statement No. 54 enables the governing body to delegate authority to a subordinate official to make assignments of fund balance for intended purposes not otherwise requiring formal action of the governing body.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, and it is hereby Resolved by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood as follows:

The authority to make assignments of fund balance for intended purposes shall be delegated to the Borough Council. Such assignments of fund balance shall be made only by the Council and shall remain in place until the Council releases the assignment. This authority becomes effective upon adoption of this Resolution of Borough Council.

Second by Mr. Fuller

DISCUSSION: Solicitor Barry asked if a motion had been made to table this resolution at a previous meeting. It was determined that no motion had previously been made.

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

M-3 Ms. Gleba moved to hire Maher Duessel to perform the 2011 Audits for the Borough. The cost of audits: Borough \$12,500.00 and Tax Collector \$2,150.00. Second by Ms. Waldock.

DISCUSSION: None

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

- M-4 Ms. Gleba moved to hire Christine Manges as a part-time office clerk. She will work 20 hours per week and be paid \$10.00 per hour retroactive to 10/31/2011. Second by Mr. Fuller.

DISCUSSION: None

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

- M-5 Mr. Bowers moved to accept Michael Artman's letter of resignation dated 11/3/2011 from full time employment with the Borough effective 11/11/2011. Second by Ms. Gleba.

DISCUSSION: None

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

- M-6 Mr. Bowers moved to hire Michael Artman as a part time Emergency Services Worker (ESW). He will be paid \$10.20 per hour. Second by Mr. Wilson.

DISCUSSION: None

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

- M-7 Mr. Bowers moved to hire Paul Nye as a part time ESW contingent on passing background, physical and drug test. He will be paid \$10.20 per hour. Second by Ms. Waldock.

DISCUSSION: None

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

- M-8 Mr. Bowers moved to hire Susan Pollick as a School Guard per the terms of the School Guard Contract contingent on her passing a background check and a drug screening. She will serve a 180 day working probationary period. Starting wages will be \$10.95 per hour. Second by Ms. Gleba.

DISCUSSION: None

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

BUSINESS MEETING

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Halle reported that there were two structure fires in Edgewood recently. The Volunteer Fire Department was at the scene in less than three minutes each time. Mr. Halle reported that there were no injuries and that all the buildings were saved. Mr. Halle reported that the VFD would begin selling luminaries next month. He said that the VFD is responding to a record number of calls. He reported that calls have never before exceeded 250 in one year, and that the department is currently over 400 calls this calendar year. Mr. Halle reported that three members of the Department are now swift water rescue certified. Mr. Halle stated that the VFD ran the hayride at the Fall Festival.

RECREATION REPORT

Manager Cecconi stated that the soccer season has come to an end, and had over 100 participants. Basketball registration was occurring, and the recreation board had placed flyers in the local schools. Manager Cecconi said the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf graciously allowed use of the gymnasium for the games. Manager Cecconi said the improvements to the baseball field were close to completion.

WATER AUTHORITY REPORT

Mr. Fuller said the majority of the water authority meeting was spent discussing a situation where a landlord was left with a \$1,100 bill after a tenant had skipped out on paying. The landlord sued the water authority. Mr. Fuller said the water authority board felt they could not go against their own rules and reduce the bill, and the landlord has to pay the full amount. Mr. Fuller stated that the water authority was working on its 2012 budget, and adjusting for the increase in health insurance costs of 48 percent.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Ms. Waldock reported that the planning commission had met on Tuesday October 25, 2011 and is in the process of reviewing ordinances and codes. She said the commission plans to create a matrix to include definitions from county and borough to insure uniformity. Ms. Waldock said the next meeting would be held in January.

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT REPORT

Mr. Wilson had nothing to report.

LIBRARY REPORT

Ms. Waldock said the library board had not met, and their next meeting would be on December 1st.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Barry said that he and his firm had been monitoring the Allegheny County real estate reassessments. Solicitor Barry stated that Judge Wettick is a wonderful judge who has done a lot for the area. He said Judge Wettick is still attempting to get the county wide reassessments completed by 2012, despite the County saying this is not possible. Solicitor Barry said some municipalities, including Edgewood, have completed reassessments. However, unless the entire County has completed reassessments, there is no uniformity and the reassessments cannot be sent out. Solicitor Barry stated that, as occurs every year, the Borough may receive a letter with a preliminary figure based upon reassessed values of properties. Solicitor Barry said these numbers will not go into

effect unless the whole county's reassessments are complete. Solicitor Barry advised that the Borough cannot rely upon this figure, and that the numbers for the 2012 budget should be based on 2011 figures.

Mr. Fuller asked if there would be a windfall exclusion. Manager Cecconi said there would be a five percent windfall exclusion.

Ms. Gleba asked Solicitor Barry about the news reports that the City of Pittsburgh schools would receive their reassessments prior to the rest of the County.

Solicitor Barry said that he is not sure how that would work, and that it is inconsistent with his understanding.

Mr. Fuller asked about the municipalities who were planning to join in a lawsuit if the City of Pittsburgh had reassessments mailed out before the rest of the County.

Solicitor Barry said that more information on the assessments would be coming, and that he just wanted to ensure that the budget numbers are based on last year's assessed property values. Solicitor Barry said that at this point he believes the Borough should just continue to monitor the situation, and if it becomes appropriate to consider joining the lawsuit, it can be discussed if and when that time comes.

Manager Cecconi asked if there had been any discussion on sending the 2011 tax bills to residents.

Solicitor Barry said that Judge Wettick is still ordering that all the reassessments be done by the end of 2011, so this option has not yet been discussed.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Cecconi reported that the energy retrofitting of the Borough Building was complete. He said the tree removal on East End Avenue was almost complete, and that work still remains to be done at the park.

Ms. Gleba asked if Manager Cecconi could write an article for the newsletter on the East End Avenue tree removal and the costs associated with it.

President Schaefer stated that she had participated in the Garden Club's cleanup of Memorial Park, and there was discussion about planting new trees there, since many of the existing trees are diseased. She said planting the new trees now would help keep the park from looking barren when the diseased trees have to be removed.

Manager Cecconi said that it will be important to plant the proper trees in the proper places to allow a canopy. Planting trees too close together prevents this from happening. Manager Cecconi said the Borough would be working with the Garden Club to clean the monuments in Memorial Park and price a plaque and planters to honor veterans.

Manager Cecconi reported that the Tax Anticipation Note had been sent to PNC Bank, and that the La Crosse Street brick replacement project was generating interest from many wanting to place bids.

Mr. Bowers asked if Swissvale Borough had discussed this project with Edgewood yet.

President Schaefer said that Swissvale has not yet responded, but that she had been in contact with their incoming Council, since the candidates are all running unopposed, and told them about the project since it involves a border street. President Schaefer also stated that she had send letters to the Council and Mayor candidates in Edgewood Borough inviting them to the November 12th budget meeting and informing them of the Local Government Academy's newly elected officers program.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Hellett stated that a public safety meeting should be scheduled.

Chief Payne said the Public Safety committee needed to discuss CALEA certification, which was good for one more year. Chief Payne said that with the addition of the crossing guard hired tonight, there was a full strength of six crossing guards, but no substitutes. Chief Payne said that the police officer in charge of vehicles would come to the public safety meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was called at 8:48 PM to discuss personnel and real estate matters.
The session ended at 9:20 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

M-9 It was moved by Ms. Waldock and seconded by Mr. Fuller to adjourn at 9:21 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