

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
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**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD
MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2007**

President Patricia Schaefer called the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Edgewood to order on Monday, June 18, 2007 at 7:36 PM in the Municipal Building.

Borough Manager Kurt Ferguson called the roll and the following responded: Mr. Cook, Ms. Nogrady (arrived at 7:50 PM), Mr. Szefi, Mr. McNally, Ms. Schaefer.

Ms. McDonald and Mr. Hellett were absent.

Mayor Jean O. Davin, Borough Solicitor W. Timothy Barry were also present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Mrea Csorba of 120 Maple Avenue addressed Council regarding perceived issues with the proposed governor's drive at the Edgewood Primary School. She stated that she and some neighbors have drafted a consensus statement which was distributed to Council previously. Ms. Csorba felt that the suggestions offered may address the concerns of residents regarding the Governor's Drive and the issue of teacher parking.

DISCUSSION: Mr. McNally summarized the situation by stating that the issue presented by Ms. Csorba is not currently before the Planning Commission or Borough Council, and that the communication between Ad Hoc Borough committees and the School District are, in fact, just discussions. It was Mr. McNally's opinion that the remarks shared by Ms. Csorba should be preserved for future reference.

Having stated the above, Mr. McNally said that it is premature for issues outlined by Ms. Csorba to be reviewed by Council as they are not ripe for consideration.

COMMITTEE ACTION

M-1 Mr. McNally moved to approve the minutes of May 21, 2007. Second by Mr. Cook.

DISCUSSION: None.

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded: Mr. Cook, Ms. Nogrady, Mr. Szefi, Mr. McNally, Ms. Schaefer voted yes. Motion carried.

M-2 Mr. McNally moved to approve the minutes of June 4, 2007. Second by Ms. Nogrady.

DISCUSSION: None.

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded: Mr. Cook, Ms. Nogrady, Mr. Szefi, Mr. McNally, Ms. Schaefer voted yes. Motion carried.

Mr. McNally explained, prior to presenting the motion to pay bills, that the General Government Committee did not meet this evening as there was not a quorum of members in attendance. He stated that the approval and authorization needed to be carried out by the full Council, all of whom have received and reviewed the bills.

M-3 Mr. McNally moved to authorize the payment of bills, for goods and services received by the Borough, having been reviewed and approved by the Borough Council in the amount of \$120,832.36. Second by Ms. Nogrady.

DISCUSSION: Mayor Davin questioned the amount of the bills, as it is lower than the amount which appeared in the packets distributed.

Mr. Ferguson indicated that he will be discussing the Waste Management bill with Mr. Barry, and this bill represented the difference between the original amount circulated to Council and the amount presented for approval.

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded: Mr. Cook, Ms. Nogrady, Mr. Szefi, Mr. McNally, Ms. Schaefer voted yes. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT

Mr. McNally stated that the Committee was scheduled to meet one week ago, but did not, and will now meet next Monday. The Committee also did not meet this evening.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ferguson changed the time for the June 25, 2007 General Government meeting to 7:00 PM.

POLICE REPORT

According to Mayor Davin's review of the Police Department activity report, the numbers for Part I and Part II crimes is down quite significantly. She stated that there are, however, other crimes which contributed to the total number of calls being 2,600+. The Mayor felt that there was nothing out of the ordinary.

Mayor Davin shared an article with Council which talked about police departments throughout the country who are relaxing the age, fitness and other standards in their bids to attract new officers.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer asked the Mayor to share copies of this article with Council members.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. McNally stated that the Committee has not met.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer reported that, with respect to the Edgewood/Wilkinsburg border, a grass-roots organization of men, the Mad Dads, met this past Saturday from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. They are trying to show their presence in the community and who are trying to reclaim their neighborhoods. Ms. Schaefer said that there was a dee-jay, food, arts and crafts and jump rope and that approximately 100 people were in attendance at any given time.

Mr. Cohen, Wilkinsburg Council Vice President, and Ms. Moore, Wilkinsburg Council President, were also in attendance, according to Ms. Schaefer.

Mayor Davin felt that a letter could be sent to Wilkinsburg Council regarding the situation with the borders.

Ms. Schaefer went on to say that she spoke with Mr. Cohen regarding a meeting of both boroughs' Public Safety committees, possibly to talk about COPS grants or other ideas.

The Mad Dads convened to let the children know that they are there to support them and that there are safe places for them to go. Ms. Schaefer stated that she is reporting this information to Council as there will be follow-up. She further stated that neighbors seem pleased that Council is putting their time and effort into this situation.

Mr. McNally reported that he had an email from Ms. McDonald reporting on the progress alluded to by Ms. Schaefer. He stated that there has not been a meeting of the Public Safety Committee as yet to discuss the issues.

Mayor Davin reported that a committee met consisting of a representative of Mr. Costa's office, the County Council office, a gentleman from Wilkinsburg and herself. She indicated that she expressed her frustration with what needed to be taken care of and asked the politicians in attendance about potential COPS grants to obtain more officers for Wilkinsburg, as there are only two officers per shift.

Western PA School for the Deaf, once again, volunteered to pay the salary of a part-time officer for patrol of the Wilkinsburg/Edgewood border. Mayor Davin stated she will try to discuss the problems which are occurring with the Wilkinsburg Mayor. Chief Wood, according to the Mayor, has himself done patrol at the border, and states that the Police Department is doing what it can to alleviate the situation. Mayor Davin said the group will not meet again until September.

Ms. Schaefer stated that it is important to partner with sister communities, since Edgewood cannot go it alone anymore and must lead with goodwill.

Mayor Davin will also invite Swissvale Borough to attend the meetings.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Nogrady stated that the Committee did not meet, and then read the highlights of the inspections report.

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC WORKS

Ms. Nogrady read the highlights of the report.

DISCUSSION: Mayor Davin asked if tarps are put on the rock salt behind the Borough Building and Mr. Ferguson stated that the pile is 80% covered. The Mayor also requested that a dead tree at 311 Maple Avenue be removed by the arborist.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

Mr. Cook reported that at the next meeting, there will be a presentation to Council with respect to Koenig Field.

DISCUSSION: Mayor Davin reported that Wilkinsburg will be starting a newsletter in September and they are asking whether Edgewood would like to submit an article, as well as doing reciprocity by putting an article in the Edgewood newsletter.

Ms. Schaefer asked that this be placed on the Community Services agenda.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

No report was available.

DISCUSSION: None.

PENSION COMMITTEE

There was no report.

DISCUSSION: None.

AD HOC

PORT AUTHORITY

Mr. Szefi reported that he met with Ms. Heckman, Mr. Feder, Mr. Donatelli and Mr. Nutbrown last week with no viable suggestions. Mr. Szefi reported that he asked that pertinent paperwork be sent to Mr. Ferguson for completion.

Following a meeting with Mr. Donatelli, Mr. Szefi will pursue a meeting with County representatives.

DISCUSSION: None.

EDGEWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Ms. Schaefer stated that the Committee did not meet.

DISCUSSION: None.

PARCEL D COMMITTEE

Mr. McNally indicated that the Committee did not meet.

DISCUSSION: None.

3 RIVERS WET WEATHER DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Ms. Schaefer had no report.

DISCUSSION: None.

COMPREHENSIVE INTERMUNICIPAL STEERING COMMITTEE

Mr. Szefi reported there will be a meeting on July 5, 2007.

DISCUSSION: None.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Barry reported to Council that he and Mr. Ferguson will compile information relating to the Borough's current garbage contract, which expires this year. Mr. Barry stated that this will require an Executive Session.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer reminded Council to be prepared with questions and comments for this session.

Mr. Barry asked that those absent tonight be brought up to date.

Mayor Davin asked if the issue with the bidding/auction for the cherry picker had been resolved and, referring to the Borough Code, Mr. Barry indicated that this could be purchased by auction if less than \$10,000 was being spent and less than three bidders were available in the area.

Mr. Ferguson will put the information in Friday's Council packets.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Ferguson indicated that extremely aggressive measures will be taken with regard to code enforcement issues such as getting sidewalks and curbs fixed. A meeting with the regional manager of the code inspection company (B.I.U.) used by the Borough took place and plans are underway to finalize efforts to proceed.

The area of East Hutchinson Avenue and Walnut Street will be one of the first areas reviewed, but 200 Center Street will be the initial site.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer stated that Mr. Cohen talked about these issues and asked what is being done for code enforcement.

Mr. Ferguson indicated that he wants to pursue cooperative code enforcement techniques with Wilkinsburg.

The paving for the Borough, except for the recycling site, according to Mr. Ferguson, has been completed. The lots have been completed and run-off issues have been addressed.

The Pension Committee has been moving more aggressively and has moved money out of the fixed income fund. An actuarial analysis will take place soon, according to Mr. Ferguson, and the pension funds are sound and are being monitored.

For the record, Mr. McNally commended the Borough Manager on his response to resident issues and stepping up code enforcement, stating it is a model of how borough government ought to work when it works properly. Mr. McNally stated that a gap existed between the expectation of the citizens and the code enforcement that was being carried out and Mr. Ferguson stepped up to the plate and devised an appropriate plan to get these issues addressed in a prompt and efficient way. This demonstrates what can be done when a Borough Manager is actively managing issues, according to Mr. McNally.

Mr. Barry asked if an investment policy is in place and, after discussion, Mr. McNally answered in the negative.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Davin stated that the Edgewood Republican Committee did not want a booth last year because of a disclaimer regarding liability insurance.

Ms. Schaefer stated that this can be taken up at a Community Services meeting.

Ms. Schaefer noted that Council is charged to review the garbage contract and the proposal that Mr. Ferguson put together with respect to Recreation.

Mayor Davin revisited the request for a proclamation and asked Mr. Ferguson to do this soon.

Mr. McNally noted that General Government will meet June 25, 2007 to review the report with the auditor.

Community Services will meet June 25, 2007 at 7:30 PM.

COMMITTEE ACTION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

M-4 It was moved by Mr. McNally and seconded by Mr. Cook to adjourn this meeting at 8:42 PM.

Kurt M. Ferguson
Borough Manager