

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD**  
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**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2008**

President Patricia Schaefer called the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Edgewood to order on Tuesday, January 22, 2008 at 7:34 PM in the Municipal Building.

Borough Manager Kurt Ferguson called the roll and the following responded: Ms. McDonald, Mr. Harding, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Szefi, Ms. Pryce, Mr. Hellett, Ms. Schaefer.

Mayor Davin, Borough Solicitor Barry and Junior Councilperson McArdle were also present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR**

None.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

**M-1 Ms. McDonald moved to approve the minutes of December 17, 2007. Second by Mr. Reynolds.**

DISCUSSION: Mr. Hellett had a procedural question regarding new Council members voting on this motion from 2007. It was explained by Solicitor Barry that, although this may have been an opportunity for the new members to abstain, there was no problem with them voting.

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded: Ms. McDonald, Mr. Harding, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Szefi, Ms. Pryce, Mr. Hellett, Ms. Schaefer voted yes. Motion carried.

**M-2 Ms. McDonald moved to approve the minutes of January 7, 2007. Second by Mr. Reynolds.**

DISCUSSION: None.

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded: Ms. McDonald, Mr. Harding, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Szefi, Ms. Pryce, Mr. Hellett, Ms. Schaefer voted yes. Motion carried.

**M-3 Ms. McDonald 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 \$41,887.64. Second by Mr. Hellett.**

DISCUSSION: None.

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded: Ms. McDonald, Mr. Harding, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Szefi, Ms. Pryce, Mr. Hellett, Ms. Schaefer voted yes. Motion carried.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT

Ms. McDonald said that the Committee did meet this evening to review the bill list and to sign documents for Citizens Bank.

DISCUSSION: None.

### POLICE REPORT

Mayor Davin talked about the year-to-date report with regard to the December statistics. The Mayor was pleased to report that crime statistics have continued to decrease significantly since 2005. Mayor Davin explained to the new Council members how some crime statistics may turn out to be allegations rather than true crimes.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Pryce asked where most of the crimes occur and Mayor Davin referred her to the last page of the Significant Event Report for that information. The Mayor then said that most of the crimes are theft and shoplifting and occur at Edgewood Towne Centre.

Mr. Reynolds questioned what the statistics look like in the adjoining boroughs and Mayor Davin indicated that this information is not gathered from them. She stated that Edgewood Borough backs Swissvale and Wilksburg, but as far as statistics, none are kept.

Ms. Schaefer advised Mr. Reynolds to view the website for each borough and click on their Public Safety tabs. She also said that this might be discussed with the Intermunicipal Comprehensive Plan Committee, stating that the major concern for this group had been public safety. Ms. Schaefer stated that the sharing of statistics might be something Edgewood might want to consider.

Mayor Davin did a thorough review of the Significant Events Report. For Council's information, the Mayor also reported that six (6) individuals were scheduled to test for the Edgewood Police Department this date by taking the physical agility test. One (1) person did not attend and one (1) person did not pass and the four (4) remaining people are scheduled for oral interviews on January 30, 2008, as long as this is approved by Council, according to Mayor Davin.

Solicitor Barry asked why such an inordinately low number of people applied. Ms. McDonald stated that the County was testing on the same day. She said that all boroughs seem to be having this problem right now. The Solicitor advised that when the turnout is this low, it might be appropriate to redo the process and that this would be done through the Civil Service Commission.

Ms. Schaefer explained the process by which an eligibility list is established and said it would have been helpful if it had been known that the County was testing the same day.

In response to Mr. Barry's earlier question, Mayor Davin said it was her understanding that no other community was getting more than ten (10) applicants for police officer positions and of those, six (6) to seven (7) were failing the physical agility portion of the test.

Ms. Schaefer stated that most of the pool of qualified candidates are reservists and are overseas and this may account for the low numbers.

Mayor Davin suggested that the eligibility list be certified for one (1) rather than two (2) years.

Regarding the Police Report, Mr. Reynolds asked if prosecutions are tracked and Mayor Davin noted that the Annual Report would contain statistics such as this.

Borough Manager Ferguson said it is inherently difficult to keep these records as some of the minor crimes are settled by the magistrate and some of the major crimes may not be closed in the same calendar year. The Borough does not follow the crime once they are out of the Borough's purview, according to Mr. Ferguson.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Ms. McDonald stated that the current top priority is to begin reviewing applicants for Police Chief. She then read the highlights of this report.

DISCUSSION: None.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Szefi said that the Committee did not meet.

DISCUSSION: None.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

Ms. McDonald read the highlights of the report.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Hellett gave thanks to Public Works Director Guerriero and his workers for keeping Edgewood streets clean during snow events. A resident approached Mr. Hellett, stating they were amazed at the clean streets as compared to Wilkesburg and the city of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Ferguson also complimented the Police Department for doing what they need to be doing and said they are the group that first sees the street conditions deteriorate and notify the Public Works Department.

Ms. Schaefer noted that it was discussed at the retreat that the Public Works Department is an adjunct of the Public Safety team and that they work well together.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT**

Mr. Hellett said that the Committee did not meet, but the planning is ongoing for Community Day. Also, the basketball program is pressing on, according to Mr. Hellett.

DISCUSSION: Ms. McDonald reminded Ms. Pryce that she has been named to the Library Board and informed her of the Board's meeting January 29, 2008 at 7:00 PM.

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Mr. Hellett set a meeting for February 11, 2008 at 7:00 PM.

DISCUSSION: None.

## **PENSION COMMITTEE**

Mr. Szefi stated that the Committee has not met and asked when a meeting with Mr. D'Alessandro would be needed.

DISCUSSION: None.

## **AD HOC**

## **PORT AUTHORITY AGREEMENT COMMITTEE**

Ms. Schaefer offered that the Committee did not meet and that it has been reconstituted. A resolution is on tonight's agenda regarding this, according to Ms. Schaefer. She also stated that she will be in touch with Senator Costa to set up a meeting.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Barry stated for the benefit of the new Council people that there is a lease agreement on the Train Station and that Mr. Hess, the attorney for Port Authority, sent the lease agreement and discussed changes with him. According to Mr. Barry, this document has been sent to Mr. Ferguson and should now continue to be processed.

## **INTERCOUNCIL (WHSD)**

Ms. McDonald shared that a copy of a plan for Woodland Hills School District middle schools was discussed. Copies of the documents were offered by Ms. McDonald. A speaker will be present on February 12, 2008 for the Intercouncil Group, according to Ms. McDonald, and the topic of his presentation is a program by which to strengthen the link between parents and the school. A concerted effort to involve parents more in school was also discussed, according to Ms. McDonald.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer said that the group was started last year and consists of twelve (12) municipalities. Mr. Belmont and Mr. Porco organized the group to foster better relationships and insight with the Woodland Hills School District Board and its principals.

Mayor Davin encouraged Council to send a letter to the School District regarding the property which had burned on Maple Avenue. After conversation, Ms. Schaefer indicated that this is private property and would be handled by the School District.

### **3 RIVERS WET WEATHER DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

Ms. Schaefer informed Council that a meeting will be held for new members.

DISCUSSION: None.

### **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Mr. Szefi indicated that a monthly meeting was held and the consultants present provided a breakdown of demographics by community.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ferguson said that all communities were rated, with yellow designating model communities. All of Edgewood, according to Mr. Ferguson, appeared in yellow. The group was impressed that they could consistently give Edgewood this rating.

Ms. Pryce pursued the issue of the School District coming before Council and Ms. Schaefer said that this is private property. Ms. Pryce asked if the District came before Council again, might Council advise that this is private property.

Solicitor Barry offered that this is a policy rather than a legal issue.

### **BOROUGH SOLICITOR REPORT**

Mr. Barry advised Council of his move to Pittsburgh and advised that his office will open at its new location on January 29, 2008.

DISCUSSION: None.

### **BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT**

Mr. Ferguson spoke of the delivery date for the new police cruiser and said that advertising for the vehicle to be sold will take place.

The Tax Collector exoneration resolution was discussed and Mr. Ferguson stated that the amounts will be forwarded to Pennsylvania Municipal Services after approval.

Also on the agenda was a resolution appointing Mr. McNally as community representative to Port Authority. This was discussed with Mr. Barry, who recommended speaking with the Borough's insurance company and Mr. Ferguson said the insurance company saw no problem as long as a resolution is in place.

As well, the millage rate is on the agenda for first and second reading and the final reading is scheduled for February 4, 2008.

According to Mr. Ferguson, a Comprehensive Plan meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2008; the General Government Committee will need to meet with the auditors; a Personnel Committee meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2008; the Public Works Committee needs to meet to go over the street paving list.

He also said that the engineers will incorporate the sewer work as part of the infrastructure improvements and a meeting has been scheduled with the consultants for the Edgewood Avenue Revitalization Project.

Mr. McNally met with Mr. Bland of the Port Authority, according to Mr. Ferguson, and talked about preliminary options. The charrettes will be reviewed.

Mr. Ferguson stated that Ms. Showers asked for permission to encourage Mr. Bland to move forward on this project. A meeting date is being set with Mr. Bilyak, the volunteer who will examine the Train Station for potential possibilities for use.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer noted that there will be an Executive Session regarding litigation and personnel issues and action may follow.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. McDonald set a Personnel Committee meeting for 7:00 PM on February 11, 2008 and a Public Works meeting the same date at 8:00 PM.

Mayor Davin spoke of the Edgewood Foundation Retreat which she attended and reported issues offered to Council by the Foundation as follows: 1) there will be no Town Meeting next month, 2) the Limpert Award will be extended for nominations and will be presented at Community Day, 3) members of the Foundation would like to be aware of Community Services meetings that might take place, 4) the Foundation would like to purchase and install lighting at the Edgewood sign coming off the Parkway as well as lighting of the flag in Memorial Park, if it is economically feasible, 5) revamping of Crime Watch.

Ms. Schaefer said that the Crime Watch is in conjunction with the Police Department.

Mayor Davin also reported that members of the Foundation are also trying to attend Council meetings once a month since they are no longer requesting a Council member on their Board.

Ms. Schaefer mentioned that the Council of Government dinner will be held February 29, 2008 and asked Mr. Ferguson to confirm this.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

M-4 Ms. McDonald moved to authorize the payment of property tax refunds in the gross amount of \$1,964.47 as reviewed by the Tax Collector to the property owners and in the amounts designated by the Tax Collector, which owners and amounts are listed in the minutes of this meeting. Second by Mr. Reynolds.

NAME	AT/FOR	AMOUNT
Andrew Szefi	180 W. Hutchinson Avenue	\$629.28
CP Development	706 S. Trenton Avenue	\$339.71
Maxanna Properties LP	1201 S. Braddock Avenue	\$995.48

DISCUSSION: In the interest of fair disclosure, Ms. McDonald noted that Mr. Szefi is a member of Council.

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded: Ms. McDonald, Mr. Harding, Mr. Reynolds, Ms. Pryce, Mr. Hellett, Ms. Schaefer voted yes. Mr. Szefi abstained. Motion carried.

M-5 Ms. McDonald offered Resolution 2008-16 and asked for its immediate adoption. Second by Mr. Hellett.

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD**

**RESOLUTION 2008-16**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Edgewood has an elected Tax Collector, and

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector is charged with the collection of local Borough real estate taxes, and

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector has collected all real estate taxes for the tax year 2007 deemed collectible and desires to officially close her books for the 2007 tax year.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Edgewood Borough Council hereby exonerates the Tax Collector from the uncollected balance of face value taxes in the amount of \$41,567.70. The Council hereby authorizes Pennsylvania Municipal Services to undertake the procedures necessary to collect this unpaid balance of year 2007 taxes.

**ADOPTED THIS THE 22<sup>nd</sup>** day of January 2008 by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Borough Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council President

EXAMINED AND APPROVED by me this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jean O. Davin  
Mayor

DISCUSSION: None.

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded: Ms. McDonald, Mr. Harding, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Szefi, Ms. Pryce, Mr. Hellett, Ms. Schaefer voted yes. Resolution Passes.

M-6 Mr. Hellett offered Resolution 2008-17 and asked for its immediate adoption. Second by Ms. McDonald.

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD**

**RESOLUTION 2008-17**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Edgewood entered into a Cooperation Agreement with the Allegheny County Port Authority on May 13, 2002 and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Edgewood has seen considerable progress over the last year with the renovation of the train station and hiring of a consultant to create the development plan and seek funding for Edgewood Avenue and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Edgewood has a Port Authority Agreement Committee which serves to provide ongoing dialogue with the Port Authority regarding Edgewood Avenue.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Borough of Edgewood appoints Mark McNally as the Community Liaison to serve on the Port Authority Agreement Committee.

**ADOPTED THIS THE** 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2008 by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Borough Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council President

DISCUSSION: After a discussion regarding the nature of the work the Committee was pursuing, the third "WHEREAS" clause was changed from ".....regarding Edgewood Avenue" to ".....Cooperation Agreement." The Solicitor indicated that it was unnecessary

to re-read this and the motion and second were withdrawn and redone with the understanding of the language change.

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD**

**RESOLUTION 2008-17**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Edgewood entered into a Cooperation Agreement with the Allegheny County Port Authority on May 13, 2002 and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Edgewood has seen considerable progress over the last year with the renovation of the train station and hiring of a consultant to create the development plan and seek funding for Edgewood Avenue and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Edgewood has a Port Authority Agreement Committee which serves to provide ongoing dialogue with the Port Authority regarding the Cooperation Agreement.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Borough of Edgewood appoints Mark McNally as the Community Liaison to serve on the Port Authority Agreement Committee.

**ADOPTED THIS THE 22<sup>nd</sup>** day of January 2008 by the Council of the Borough of Edgewood.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Borough Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council President

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded: Ms. McDonald, Mr. Harding, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Szefi, Ms. Pryce, Mr. Hellett, Ms. Schaefer voted yes. Resolution Passes.

M-7 Ms. McDonald read Ordinance 1022 on First Reading and asked for its immediate adoption. Second by Mr. Hellett.

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD**

**ORDINANCE 1022**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD,  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR  
THE FISCAL YEAR 2008**

**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 a tax be and the same is hereby levied on all real property, within said Borough subject to taxation for Borough purposes for the fiscal year 2008 as follows:

Tax rate for general Borough purposes, the total of six and six hundred sixty-one thousandths (6.661) mills on each thousand dollars of assessed valuation.

1 mill = \$1.00 for every \$1,000 assessment  
6.661 mills = \$6.661 for every \$1,000 assessment

**SECTION 2:** That any ordinance, or part thereof, conflicting with the provisions of this Ordinance be and the same is hereby repealed insofar as the same is affected by this Ordinance.

**ORDAINED AND ENACTED** into law this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2008.

ATTEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kurt M. Ferguson  
Borough Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patricia M. Schaefer  
Council President

**EXAMINED AND APPROVED** by me this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jean O. Davin  
Mayor

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. McDonald asked if this should be added to the codification and was answered in the negative.

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded: Ms. McDonald, Mr. Harding, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Szefi, Ms. Pryce, Mr. Hellett, Ms. Schaefer voted yes. First Reading Passes.

**M-8 Ms. McDonald read Ordinance 1022 on Second Reading and asked for its immediate adoption. Second by Mr. Hellett.**

**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD**

ORDINANCE 1022

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD,  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR  
THE FISCAL YEAR 2008

DISCUSSION: None.

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded: Ms. McDonald, Mr. Harding, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Szefi, Ms. Pryce, Mr. Hellett, Ms. Schaefer voted yes. Second Reading Passes.

ADJOURNMENT

**M-9** Following an Executive Session which lasted from 8:45 PM to 9:36, Ms. McDonald moved to hire Paul Wood as consultant for the Borough at a rate of \$75.00/hour to work on transitional issues within the Police Department. Second by Ms. Pryce.

DISCUSSION: None.

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded: Ms. McDonald, Mr. Harding, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Szefi, Ms. Pryce, Mr. Hellett, Ms. Schaefer voted yes. Motion carries.

**M-10** Ms. McDonald moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 PM. Second by Mr. Szefi.

DISCUSSION: None.

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded: Ms. McDonald, Mr. Harding, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Szefi, Ms. Pryce, Mr. Hellett, Ms. Schaefer voted yes. Motion carries.

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Kurt M. Ferguson  
Borough Manager