

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD  
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OCTOBER 6, 2008

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**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD  
OCTOBER 6, 2008**

Council President Schaefer called the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Edgewood to order on Monday, October 6, 2008 at 7:33 PM in the Municipal Building.

**ROLL CALL**

Borough Manager Kurt Ferguson called the roll and the following responded: Ms. McDonald, Mr. Harding, Mr. Reynolds (arrived 7:41 PM), Mr. Szefi, Mr. Cook, Ms. Schaefer.

Mr. Hellett was absent.

Mayor Jean O. Davin, Solicitor W. Timothy Barry and the Junior Councilperson (arrived 7:40 PM) were also present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR**

Mayor Davin gave a report on the Edgewood Foundation activities for her neighbor. She stated that the recent sleepover at Koenig Field was a wonderful event, having been attended by fifty (50) adults and children. The Mayor thanked the Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department for their participation and help.

A Newcomers Reception was held and the Mayor reported that some of the neighborhood organizations gave reports on what they do. Mayor Davin reported that sixty seven (67) invitations were sent out, but only twenty (20) people attended.

The Wine and Chocolate Affaire was attended by one hundred fifty (150) people. According to the Mayor, the food was delicious, there were various wine stations to sample from, and the chocolate was overflowing.

The Edgewood/Wilkinsburg Community Block Party was held on Saturday afternoon and Mayor Davin reported that attendance, although not heavy, was steady. As things turned out, October 4 was a popular date for other activities. It was decided that this event would be advertised more next year.

The Edgewood Foundation has an opening on its Board, according to the Mayor, and will solicit a new person.

The Mayor informed Council that Greer Mulholland won the Foundation's Limpert Award.

**AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS**

M-1 Ms. McDonald 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 \$164,563.84. Second by Mr. Cook.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ferguson gave detail on two items which increased the bill amount.

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

Mr. Reynolds arrived at this point.

- M-2 Mr. Cook moved to accept the resignation of Marjie Stewart effective with the completion of the December/January issue of the Edgewood Newsletter. Second by Mr. Harding.**

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer reported that, on behalf of Council, during the Newcomers' meeting, Ms. Stewart spoke about the position, offering to mentor a replacement person. As well, Mr. Bush will still provide photographs as in the past.

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded: Mr. Harding, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Szefi, Mr. Cook, Ms. Schaefer voted yes. Ms. McDonald voted no. **Motion carried.**

- M-3 Ms. McDonald moved to authorize the advertisement for a full-time Public Works Laborer and a permanent part-time Laborer in the Edgewood Borough Public Works Department. Second by Mr. Reynolds.**

DISCUSSION: Ms. McDonald explained that this motion is to replace someone who resigned two months ago and this is the time of year where the staff is beefed up with part-time employees for leaf pickup and the snow season.

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

- M-4 Ms. McDonald moved to accept Dennis Hockenberry's request for transfer from the position of Sergeant to Patrol Officer, effective September 1, 2008. Second by Mr. Reynolds.**

DISCUSSION: None.

Upon roll call vote, the following was recorded: Mr. Harding, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Szefi, Mr. Cook, voted yes. Ms. McDonald and Ms. Schaefer voted no. **Motion carried.**

- M-5 Ms. McDonald moved to recommend that the Civil Service Commission proceed with the creation of an eligibility list for Sergeant for the Edgewood Police Department. Second by Mr. Reynolds.**

DISCUSSION: Ms. McDonald reported that this motion was made due to the Sergeant position vacancy. This issue was discussed at length by the Public Safety Committee, according to Ms. McDonald.

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

In response to Mayor Davin's question regarding a replacement for Ms. Stewart, Ms. Schaefer stated that this was reported both in the Newsletter as well as on the website and will not need to be advertised in the newspaper.

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

### **VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Halle indicated that there may be changes in the format for the Christmas Party, making it a larger activity.

Twenty seven (27) calls were done for the month, including ten (10) motor vehicle accidents involving extrication, and seventeen (17) fire calls, extending into Forest Hills and Swissvale. There was one call on the Parkway for which the Department was not called.

Study for the Firefighter I testing continues, and Mr. Halle said that if more people pass within the department, the department will be eligible for more grants.

Plans for luminaria packaging and distribution are being made, but Mr. Halle stated that there was poor participation by the street captains last year and other options will be entertained.

The hayride is being planned for the last two weekends of October in conjunction with the Haunted House.

Mr. Halle reported that the Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department's fund drive will start within a month. As well, he reported on the new applicants to the department.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer asked about the Thursday night training and Mr. Halle explained that it is preparation; for example, how to start a generator, or learning the language that might be used in a real test situation.

Mr. Barry asked, with regard to the motor vehicle accidents on the Parkway, about the Department not being notified.

Mr. Halle explained that Wilkinsburg and the ambulances were dispatched and this was under the Brinton Road Bridge, which is in Edgewood, but the Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department was not dispatched. This has been an ongoing problem, according to Mr. Halle. He shared that two weeks ago, extrication was done at the city portion of the Parkway by the Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Reynolds indicated that he has written a letter to Allegheny County Fire Chief Full to let him know that the call was found to be in Edgewood. The truck which was dispatched was found not to have extrication capabilities. Mr. Reynolds said that he called 911 to inform them that if the call was in Edgewood, the Edgewood Chief needed to be notified. This has been a recurrent problem, according to Mr. Reynolds.

A second vehicle had to be dispatched when there was no extrication equipment for use on the first vehicle and a vehicle was available in the Borough during this time.

Ms. McDonald said that this should be discussed at a Public Safety meeting.

Ms. Schaefer said there may need to be some re-education, as the desire is to get people who are the closest to the scene as quickly as possible.

Mr. Reynolds said that Chief Andrews has tried to address this at his level. The letter written to Mr. Full was done by Mr. Reynolds on his own behalf, but he stated that the answers he receives may require involvement by Council.

Ms. Schaefer stated that formal action will be taken, if necessary.

Solicitor Barry noted that Mr. Pardy is Mr. Full's assistant and he might be contacted for any problems.

Mr. Reynolds did not know with whom Chief Andrews had spoken, but stated that this issue must be addressed.

Mr. Barry was answered in the negative to his question whether the Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department would go to a call automatically, without being dispatched.

Mr. Halle said that the insurance will not cover them in an instance such as that.

Mr. Reynolds felt there is something in the law which says the Department needs to respond to incidents within the Borough.

Mr. Halle noted that equipment is available which allows the 911 Center to see the Parkway from Squirrel Hill to Monroeville.

Ms. McDonald asked if the County has a database of our information and Mr. Reynolds stated the key is education. He felt that the dispatchers needed to come out and see the lay of the land to better understand the boundaries.

### **WATER AUTHORITY REPORT**

Mr. Fuller felt that this is the quiet month before the storm. He said the budget has been started and the union negotiations have begun, as well as the audit.

The Wal-Mart is progressing across from the Water Authority.

DISCUSSION: Mayor Davin asked about the five (5) year contract and Mr. Fuller stated that the contract ends December 13, 2008.

Ms. Schaefer asked if any discussion has taken place about the areas being reviewed more closely with the cold weather coming and Mr. Fuller noted that Greendale has been in their sights. He said that the whole system has been mapped out where the breaks are occurring on a regular basis. Mr. Fuller said it is difficult to predict where things will happen; hence, you almost have to wait for something to occur.

**RECREATION REPORT**

Mr. Ferguson gave the dates of the Haunted House for Halloween as October 17-18 and October 24-25, 2008. An artistic director has been down at the site.

Mr. Ferguson has met with the Community Services Committee regarding the basketball program and the hope is to have the registration forms out at the end of the month.

Looking forward to 2009, Mr. Ferguson stated that Community Day will occur August 15. Some of the bands from this and previous years have been asked to return and there will be an expansion of the number of booths. More physical events will be added for the children, according to Mr. Ferguson. The fireworks contract with Zambelli has been finalized through 2010.

Mr. Ferguson said that the soccer program ends in three weeks.

DISCUSSION: Ms. McDonald asked that it be kept in mind for next Community Day that a vendor was selling Penguin gear this year that was not licensed.

**PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

Mr. Szefi stated that the Committee did not meet.

DISCUSSION: None.

**COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG) REPORT**

Mr. Hellett was not available to give this report.

DISCUSSION: None.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Barry said that at the last Council meeting, the Maher Duessel contract was approved through August 9, 2010, subject to the Borough Solicitor's review. He stated that there are a couple of things that he did not like regarding payment for additional hours.

DISCUSSION: Ms. McDonald questioned whether any additional hours have been needed in past years and was answered in the negative.

**BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Ferguson noted that paving will take place by early next week and that the sewer work is about done. The change taking place on Railroad Alley, a big issue for residents, has been phenomenal. Two hundred feet (200 ft.) of storm sewer pipe has been put down for drainage. This also has been done on Mifflin after having been discussed for some years.

The leaf pick-up program, according to Mr. Ferguson, begins October 17 and runs from Friday to Wednesday. Thursday is an off day and will be used to backtrack for anything missed during the initial pick-up.

The Pension Committee met with Mr. Dalessandro, who reviewed both the uniform and non-uniformed pension plans. Mr. Dalessandro wants to meet in another month to look at proactive actions.

A meeting of the Public Works Committee regarding paving and sewer work for 2009 took place, including Elm St. and Ivy St. Mr. Ferguson stated that he spoke with the Public Works Director regarding staffing and pushing this issue toward the end of the year. Police Chief Payne, according to Mr. Ferguson, has been careful in managing his budget, also.

Mr. Ferguson said that the employee evaluation process has begun, and, when he is instructed, he will forward the forms to Council.

Mr. Ferguson shared that no Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) will be taken for 2009, saving the Borough \$20,000 in interest. Instead, monies will be taken from the cash reserve and repayment will be made directly to the Borough.

DISCUSSION: Mayor Davin asked if the new recycling program had been discussed with regard to Public Works.

Ms. McDonald noted that the Committee was not comfortable with switching to a company without references. She said that Trafford has signed on with the company and an opportunity will present itself for the Borough to do the same in six (6) months, if the Borough so chooses. In the interim, the Borough will discuss Trafford's experience and will revisit the situation in ninety (90) days to decide whether to change to them or not.

Ms. Schaefer said that this has been addressed from all angles and more due diligence will be done by checking the experience of others with this company.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. McDonald set a Public Safety Committee meeting for October 13, 2008 at 8:00 PM. She then remarked that Community Services needed to reevaluate the Recreation Commission as it stands now.

Another item addressed by Ms. McDonald was the parking permit fee and whether this should be adjusted prior to the sending out of letters in mid-October. Ms. Schaefer asked that this be put on the agenda for next meeting.

Mayor Davin reported that Eastern Area Prehospital Services is doing free flu shots for Borough employees and Council.

Ms. Schaefer requested a short Executive Session regarding personnel.

**M-6 Following an Executive Session which lasted from 8:24 PM until 9:00 PM, the meeting was adjourned.**

DISCUSSION: None

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

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Kurt Ferguson  
Borough Manager