

BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
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DECEMBER 1, 2008

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**BOROUGH OF EDGEWOOD
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD
DECEMBER 1, 2008**

Following a Public Hearing on the budget, which lasted from 7:30 PM to 8:00 PM, Council President Schaefer called the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Edgewood to order on Monday, December 1, 2008 at 8:01 PM in the Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL

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

Mr. Harding and Mr. Hellett were absent; however, Mr. Hellett arrived during the Executive Session.

Mayor Jean O. Davin, Solicitor W. Timothy Barry and the Junior Councilperson were also present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Ms. Clevenger, 1129 East End Avenue, spoke on behalf of the Edgewood Foundation and gave information regarding Light-Up Night. She also referred to the upcoming 25th Anniversary of the Edgewood Foundation next year and asked for ideas for its celebration.

As well, she informed Council that the Foundation's budget meeting will be held on January 24, 2009. Ms. Clevenger stated that the long-standing Treasurer of the Foundation, Mr. Mulholland, will be leaving that position and the new Treasurer will be Mr. Salter.

DISCUSSION: Mayor Davin spoke about a young girl who did a photographic mini movie of Community Day and won a prize for her work. The members of the Foundation, according to the Mayor, thought this work was wonderful and truly showed what the day is all about.

Ms. Schaefer said that she would supply a picture of the girl. She informed Council that the girl also won a trip to Disney for writing about an African-American jazz musician.

Mr. Ferguson offered to place the photography on the website.

Ms. Clevenger then thanked all of Council, as both a resident and Foundation member, for their work throughout the year.

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 \$178,918.91. Second by Mr. Cook.**

DISCUSSION: Ms. McDonald asked why the total was so high and Mr. Ferguson explained that the bills included payments for paving and sewer work, although for the street paving the retainer was being held back in the amount of 10% for the punch list still pending.

Solicitor Barry asked why ninety percent (90%) of the amount was being paid and punch list items were still in place.

Mr. Barry also asked about a letter, a copy of which was received by Mr. Ferguson, claiming price adjustments and whether this has been resolved.

Mayor Davin had questions regarding the cleaning allowance afforded Chief Payne, as he has been with the Borough just since April, and she was informed that this check has been pulled.

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

- M-2 Ms. McDonald moved to hire Bruce Ruffing as a full-time laborer in the Public Works Department at a pay of \$10 an hour effective December 15, 2008 with a six (6) month probationary period, pending the successful completion of a pre-employment physical. Second by Mr. Cook.**

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ferguson explained that this position was budgeted for and that the recent hiring of Mr. Gee in Public Works was as a replacement for a resignation.

Ms. Schaefer noted that Mr. Ruffing was interviewed by both Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Guerriero and both were pleased by the experience which Mr. Ruffing has.

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

- M-3 Ms. McDonald moved to accept the resignation of Scott Harding as an Edgewood Borough Councilperson effective December 1, 2008. Second by Mr. Reynolds.**

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer explained that the resignation was due to a job change and stated that Mr. Harding has agreed to participate in subcommittees.

Solicitor Barry said that the appointment must be filled within thirty (30) days from this date or a special meeting must be held.

Ms. Schaefer noted that Mr. Brouman has been contacted for assistance with the one year vacancy, which will extend until the next election.

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

It was noted that an Executive Session would take place regarding personnel and action may or may not be taken.

BUSINESS MEETING

WATER AUTHORITY REPORT

Mr. Fuller reported that the Water Authority budget meeting had taken place and the rates will increase fifteen percent (15%) for 2009 due to the increased cost of chemicals, piping and electricity, among other items. He went on to say that the paving contract will be for six (6) months instead of the normal two (2) years due to costs.

Mr. Fuller said that residential rates and private fire service (sprinkler systems) has increased sixty five percent (65%). He noted that Monroeville's rates are at \$2,000 per year.

According to Mr. Fuller, the fifteen percent (15%) increase last year translated to a nine percent (9%) revenue increase. The monthly residential water usage is 15,000, stated Mr. Fuller. He indicated that the Water Authority is selling less water due to the age of the communities and the loss of customers.

Also, instead of negotiating a new contract, the current contract will be honored for two (2) more years.

DISCUSSION: A discussion ensued regarding service on Council.

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Reynolds gave the Volunteer Fire Department report, stating that luminaria are being prepared for sale at eight dollars (\$8.00) per kit. He also said that the firemen will be doing the Light-Up Night in conjunction with the Edgewood Foundation and Santa will be in attendance from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

DISCUSSION: None.

RECREATION REPORT

Mr. Ferguson reported that the adult basketball program begins December 4, 2008 and that the youth basketball draft begins December 13, 2008. He stated that applications are still currently being taken for the youth basketball program.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer asked who the Recreation Coordinators are and Mr. Szefi asked for information on the time for adult basketball.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Szefi stated that the Committee did not meet.

DISCUSSION: None.

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG) REPORT

Mr. Hellett was absent and there was no report.

DISCUSSION: None.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Barry said that he had several issues for Executive Session involving personnel and litigation.

DISCUSSION: None.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Ferguson reminded Ms. Schaefer and Mr. Reynolds of the meeting with the newsletter candidate.

Regarding the bill list, Mr. Ferguson explained the one dollar (\$1.00) payment to Port Authority, stating that this item will be added annually to the budget for this twenty nine (29) year lease.

Mr. Ferguson met with the Port Authority Board regarding the Train Station. He spoke of the grant through the county, with the help of Senator Costa, where the county recommended seventy five thousand dollars (\$75,000) of funding. Mr. Ferguson stated that, after his presentation to the Port Authority Transit (PAT) Board, they approved eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) of funding.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schaefer thanked Senator Costa for his help and stated that he emailed her and said he may be able to get an additional fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). She said he has taken this project on and is extremely supportive of the Borough.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Davin offered tickets for Woodland Hills High School events.

The Mayor noted that applicants for part-time police officer positions have been gathered and that scheduling of interviews was to begin once the Public Safety Committee schedules a meeting. Since Officer Libell will be off for one month, Mayor Davin said it would be wonderful to hire someone by the end of the month.

It was noted by the Mayor that, out of the thirteen (13) candidates who applied, only two (2) did not have experience. Chief Payne was advised by the Mayor to examine the top six (6) candidates.

A discussion of how the candidates will be scheduled ensued. Ms. Schaefer noted that a list of six (6) candidates will be available on December 8, 2008 with interviews scheduled for 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM on December 15, 2008.

An Executive Session began at 8:30 PM, and on returning to public session, the following motion was then made.

M-4 Ms. McDonald moved to approve the four-year contract for Borough Manager Kurt Ferguson through December 31, 2012. Second by Mr. Cook.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

M-5 Ms. McDonald moved to adjourn the meeting and this was seconded by Mr. Szefi.

DISCUSSION: None

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

Kurt Ferguson
Borough Manager