

**CITY OF EDGEWOOD
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 21, 2007
6:35 PM**

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Link called the meeting of the Edgewood City Council to order at 6:35 PM in the council chambers of the Edgewood City Building. The following council members were present: Nancy Atkinson, Dale Henson, Chris Link, David MacMillan, Jeff Schreiver, Ray Spears, and Mark Steffen. Also in attendance were City Attorney Frank Wichmann, City Administrator Roger Rolfes, and Sr. Deputy Clerk Mary Jane Lucas.

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – No changes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 7, 2007 Meeting Minutes - Mrs. Atkinson made a motion to adopt the May 7, 2007 meeting minutes as written; seconded by Mr. Spears. Mr. Link and Mr. Schreiver abstained. **Motion passed: 5 ayes – 2 abstentions.**

REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

Health Insurance – Trey Kellner, our agent, and Bill Mauch, representative from Strategic Employee Benefit Services

Mayor Link introduced Mr. William Mauch, COA Strategic Employee Benefit Services, and Mr. Trey Kellner, who were present to answer any questions concerning the health insurance renewal options. Mr. Henson confirmed with Mr. Rolfes that the presented Anthem PPO Plan, Option 5, is about a 13% increase of what we are currently paying but will leave the budget at 20% increase to cover the cost of the reimbursement. Mr. Rolfes noted that although they have done well with the reimbursements, some of the reflected changes in the proposal would, in all probability, cause the reimbursements to increase. He stated that after his lengthy discussion with Jeanette Kemper and the city's agent and health plan administrator, Mary Fiedler, they concurred that option 5 would be the best plan. Strategic Employee Benefit Services gave its prospective of what reimbursements might be, adding co-insurance makes it more challenging. Reducing the out of pocket expenses was primarily why Option 5 was chosen over Option 6, and they felt that with the reimbursement plan, it is the route to go. Mr. Henson said it looked to be a little better coverage than what we currently have; Mr. Rolfes replied that the biggest thing is that 80% co-insurance applied this time, and before it was 100% paid; we didn't have the 20% they are going to have to come up with. We did reduce the deductible by half but some of those costs will be picked up with the co-insurance. The maximum out of pocket expenditures stayed the same for the single and dropped \$2000 on the family. People going out-of-network has not been an issue. The Anthem change over would be substantially the same network and Anthem's prescription reimbursements will change from 20-30-50 to 10-30-60. Mr. Mauch added, in regard to people out of the area, if it were an emergency, you would be treated as in network no matter where you are.

No options were addressed that were greater than the one that was recommended. Mr. Spears asked how close Option 5 was to Option 7, based on our claims experience. Mr. Rolfes replied that with Option 7, the biggest concern was trying to protect what we have been able to accrue and try to avoid picking options that expose the good benefit we have had in the past to significant loss because of the benefits, higher deductibles, out-of-pocket maximum, and co-pays. Depending on claims, it was felt we would come out worse than with Option 5. Mr. Munch stated that 80% of people spent \$1,000 or less, in a given year, on healthcare; 80% of the employees will come under the deductible limit and 10% generally drive 85 to 90% of the claims. He suggested the city protect itself for the vast majority and save on the premium. Council agreed to follow the recommended Option 5.

Mayor's Report – Budget Address and State of the City (see attached)

The Mayor reported the meetings that he and Mr. Rolfes attend:

Municipal Government League was held at Southgate. Larry Pine introduced Ivan Frye. In 2008 a new ordinance based on the occupational license fee ordinances needs to be adopted (House Bill 157 & 458). John Covington, Treasurer & Financial Analysis from Kentucky infrastructure, to present what type of funds are available for municipalities.

Northern Kentucky Night – is scheduled for February 2008

The Kentucky League of Cities - will be in Northern Kentucky asking for donations from the cities to contribute to the Hospitality Night; last year, Edgewood contributed \$1,000. The Mayor's Group met 5/19/07. Discussion was held concerning dispatch and storm water issues.

Northern Kentucky Area Planning and Zoning – One Stop Shop is working very well; a coalition group met in regards to the jail situation, other sites are still an option, the next meeting will be June 16th at City of Independence.

Ryland Heights Horse Trail Opening- 12 miles of horse trails with the help of a state grant.

Administrator's Report - Mr. Rolfes reported on the change in the net profits tax. The Kenton Co. Administrators plan is to make it a one-page bullet point to easily find the changes. We still have the option of being a net profit, gross profit, and setting your own rate. A lot of the terminology and calculations were standardized to make it easier if working in multiple jurisdictions. Mr. Rolfes stated that even though the new stature does not go into effect until July 08', it makes sense to change the ordinance before January 1, 2008 so as not to split a year since most business are on a calendar year. The big changes will be the items like the interest rate, etc. Certain items will be spelled out and we will have to come into compliance.

Mr. Rolfes received E-mail from the Northern Kentucky Chapter of the A.P.W.A informing him that our project they sent to the state for review was approved and we were selected as "Project of the Year". We will receive a plaque on June 7th. He commended the staff and thanked the Northern Kentucky Chapter of the A.P.W.A. for the honor and for being selected.

CITIZENS DESIRING RECOGNITION ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS, NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dispatch Services – Mr. Rolfes advised Council to send another nonbinding letter of intent to Erlanger so they could define the actual user group. He reported that the 911 fees will change and what is most significant is to structure the fee to cover the cost of dispatch. He disclosed that currently the county is subsidizing dispatch at about \$800,000 a year and Covington is at \$1,000,000 or more. We may be looking at dispatch fees of around \$3.25 to \$4.25 if the replacement of mobile computers (not in the original deal) are built in and clearly stated in the interlocal agreement. If Kenton County would discontinue dispatch service, they would appear to have three options: to go with Erlanger, Campbell Co., or Covington. He stated that things are still up in the air and sending another letter of intent in taking the next step may help. Mr. Schreiber asked if we were able to use the mobile data computers. Mr. Rolfes said Erlanger would provide air cards and include them in the \$3.25 monthly fee. Our present system is radio (Motorola), which has not been very efficient or effective. Mr. Rolfes pointed out some issues with the mobil data computers that have to be worked out. He stated that when we signed up for the 10-year period with the county, we were of the opinion the existence of an established sinking fund would pay for one change out of the terminals. There are also the issues about Bond funds having been used for expanded radio equipment necessary to make the system work; that was not specifically spelled out. We have two options: retain the mobil data terminals and continue to use as long as possible, or after conferring with Mr. Wichmann, we could return them and get others from Erlanger; the cost would be less. Chief Kramer appears to be enthusiastic about Erlanger and the only concern Chief Dreyer has is whether we can keep Channel 2 operational or convert to Erlanger's channel 5 (the cost to convert has been built into the rate structure). Mr. Schreiber asked how we change the rate. Mr. Rolfes said an ordinance would be passed according to the interlocal agreement. Mr. Wichmann said the county established the current rate at \$1.50 but Kenton County is considering raising it to \$2.75 (good only for 2 years). Mr. Rolfes advised that Erlanger has been straight forward in laying out terms, system operations, and finances. They will maintain a separate fund and we will receive reports. Mr. Rolfes acknowledged that there are many pieces for which we have no answers and said the biggest problem seems to be the loss of landlines and continued increase of cell phones. The fee for cell phones is \$.75, with \$.35 of this going to dispatch. There is a rumor that in the next general session there is a possibility of an increased rate on cell phones statewide; a ceiling on land lines and cell phones of \$2.00 could be established; both may require a subsidy. Mr. Rolfes will continue to share new information. Mr. Henson attended the last meeting with Erlanger and stated he had two hang-ups:

- The interlocal agreement requires us to match the same rate as Erlanger and if they should increase it down the road and we don't pass it on, we would have to opt out of their dispatch service.
- This interlocal ordinance also sets up an advisory board to address problems and issues that may come up, with a representative from each city. The ultimate decision of any disputes of discrepancies would rest totally and solely with Erlanger.

After considering this, he noted that the county sets the rate and they have no advisory board. He also believes we will have a rate increase regardless and should move on the next stage with Erlanger.

Mr. Schreiber pointed out that Erlanger apparently wants us to come with them and the county has offered nothing to review except their proposed rate. Mayor Links informed Council that the county did have a four-hour presentation with their proposals and thoughts on what they could do, but there were no handouts and promises had been made in the past. Mr. Rolfes said when they went with the MDCs, they ran into a very long period of nonperformance. It took a long time to get many projects up and operational. The bottom line is that it wasn't working out and the cities started approaching Erlanger for dispatch service because it is not feasible for individual cities, as they have no radio capabilities or channels. The county made some belated improvements in their system but in Mr. Rolfes opinion, their failure to perform caused the police agencies to lose trust. He felt the way Erlanger responded to and handled ALS, and the city's commitment to provide good services beyond city limits, on a break-even cost, was impressive and he recommended a letter of intent.

Mr. Steffen made a **motion** for authorization to send a second letter indicating to Erlanger that Edgewood is interested in pursuing their dispatch service; seconded by Mr. Henson. **Motion passed: 7 ayes - 0 nays.**

Dudley Road – Tupman Lane intersection update – Mr. Goetz stated that the gentleman we were trying to work with was unresponsive and we have returned to Wagner Smith for a quote. We need to purchase a No. 5 LED Signal Light. The cost will be \$5,495.00 and will cover the following: run the line, put in loop, all programming, labor, materials, and controls. The city considered doing the labor but decided Wagner Smith was more qualified. Mr. Goetz will check on the warranty and report back. Discussion was held concerning when to install the light without wasting warranty time but allowing a test period before school begins. Council decided late July or early August.

Mr. Goetz also addressed the light to be replaced with a bigger light at Dudley and Madonna. The cost will be \$3,000 and will include installation, adjustment to the loop, and screens. Council agreed to proceed with the installation.

Mr. Goetz will have enough in his budget to cover all but \$4,000, which will be taken out of the CIP Reserve.

Concern was raised over the green turning light on Dudley Rd. coming on at the same time as the walking light on Charter Oak. Mr. Goetz will look into this.

NEW BUSINESS

Parade Route – Mayor Link called attention to Chief Kramer's memo regarding changes to the parade route and asked for any concerns or suggestions. Mr. MacMillan, Mrs. Atkinson, and Mr. Schreiber expressed a desire to keep the parade in Old Edgewood. Mr. Steffen suggested starting the parade behind the El Coyote restaurant to enter Edgewood Rd. Mr. Schreiber said that stopping traffic on Dixie is only a minor inconvenience. Nancy Atkinson explained the need to keep the parade route near St. Pius. Discussion was held concerning the following issues: avoid tying up traffic (especially at Presidents Park), keeping the parade route in Old Edgewood, parking issues, staffing problems, delays in and length of the parade, and ways to resolve the above. Mr. Rolfes stated that if Council considers changing the parade route to eliminate Edgewood & Lyndale Roads, the residents would be notified of the change, given time to respond, and the parade participants would be notified.

A decision was made to eliminate walkers, with the exception of the color guard, and to keep everyone on mobile units. In order to eliminate hills and turns, Mr. Henson and Mr. Steffen suggested staying on Madonna, turn right on Dudley, left on Thomas More to Freedom Park. Mrs. Atkinson said this would also avoid eliminating the St. Pius crowd. Ray Spears said there is no reason to change if it doesn't help Chief Kramer's problems and he suggested we get Chief Kramer's opinion since this route was not on his options. Mr. Rolfes will ask Chief Kramer to E-mail his response to Council. Mr Rolfes pointed out the problems with the congestion at Presidents Park, parking problems along the streets, and the staffing issue, suggesting that every intersection along the parade route should be counted.

ORDINANCES, MUNICIPALS ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

Municipal Order 2007-03 Declare 2001 Ford Crown Victoria as surplus property – Mr. MacMillan made a **motion** to adopt Municipal Order 2007-03; seconded by Mrs. Atkinson. **Motion passed: 7 ayes – 0 nays**

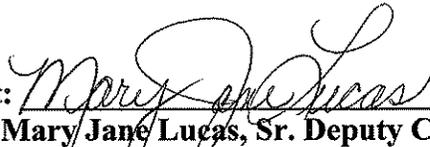
ANNOUNCEMENTS

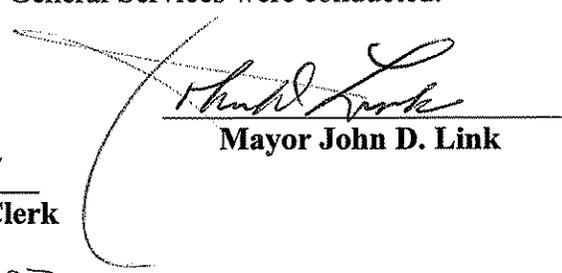
Pavers are available for \$35 for the Bill Grady.
Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 28th at 10 a.m. in Freedom Park
Reminder to vote Tuesday, May 22nd in the primary for the Gubernatorial Race.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Henson made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.; second by Mr. Spears. **Motion passed: 7 ayes – 0 nays.**

Budget presentations by Recreation and General Services were conducted.

Attest: 
Mary Jane Lucas, Sr. Deputy Clerk


Mayor John D. Link

Date passed: June 4, 2007

**STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS
AND BUDGET MESSAGE**

The state of the City remains very sound. The recommended budget for fiscal year 2007-08 is \$6,220,900. This is an increase of 5.84% over the current year. I found it interesting that our property tax represents only 28.51% of our total revenue. That is just short of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the cost to operate and equip our Police and Fire/EMS Departments. So therefore $\frac{1}{4}$ of our Police and Fire/EMS operation and all of the other services provided by the City other than trash collection, which is a pass through cost, are paid for by sources other than property taxes. This reflects a change in the roll of property taxes. Back in 1974 property taxes accounted for 45% of our total revenue. Fortunately our growth has allowed us to be able to keep up with inflation. Our actual tax rate has only increased 1.4 cents per \$100 of valuation since 1974. That is only a 5.8% rate increase in the last 33 years. This was only possible because our total number of taxable properties grew by 2,037 units, an increase of 143%.

We have now been in our new city building for slightly over a year. Most of the anticipated projects that seem to be a part of the "start up" process for a new facility have been completed.

The Bill Grady Pocket Park is about 90% completed. Unfortunately Mr. Grady passed away this year. He certainly will be missed. Naming the new park after him was a fine gesture by our Council. The dedication is set for June 3rd. The response from the community has been very favorable. The initial use has been high. The Gazebo was an Eagle Scout project of Adam Rigsby. He and his troop did an excellent job.

City Council has authorized another Eagle Scout project for Ben Schreiber. He will be constructing 6 workout stations along the new trail in Freedom Park. This project will be completed in the new fiscal year.

Our future is bright and our financial picture is sound and the General Fund operating budget totaling \$6,220,900 is a sound financial plan for the new fiscal year. I urge its adoption.

As we look at the achievements and immediate plans for each of the departments we can see where there was and will be significant achievement.

In the Administrative department, Jeanette Kemper has continued to make progress in the pursuit of her Master Municipal Clerk designation. During the new fiscal year she will reach the half way mark in this six-year process to reach her goal.

Sandy Cleveland was added to the Administrative staff as a part-time Deputy Clerk to assist Mary Jane Lucas and Kim Wolking. Our administrative staff has done a great job in maintaining the high quality of service to our citizens.

Again this year our rate of property tax collection remains very high. Currently we have collected all but 79 of our 3400 tax bills. We expect to have all but about 2% of the tax bills collected by June 30 again this year.

In the General Services department, four streets were totally reconstructed or had significant reconstruction on them during this past year. This is less than last year. However we will have completed Brookwood Circle which has been was an extremely difficult and an expensive project.

Rusty Holloway and Ken Scheben were added to our General Services Department. Both came from the Airport with years of experience and talent.

Collectively, the General Services Department was able to save the city thousands of dollars by working on special projects, especially at the new city building. We appreciate that extra effort.

In the Police Department, Mike Winkler completed his training at EKU and has been a welcome addition to the police department. This year we also added Aaron Wagner as a part time officer as well as Mike Sweeney who joined the department as a volunteer Chaplin. Both of these gentlemen are likewise contributing to the success of our department.

Sergeant Brian Zurborg has been selected to go to the FBI Academy this year. He will be the 3rd of our four supervisors to have attended this prestigious Academy. This training is available to only one thousand officers' world wide each year. We congratulate Brian on this impressive accomplishment. Chief Kramer prepared the grant application that obtained \$220,000 for sidewalks and programs through the Safe Ways to School program.

In the Parks Department Alex Kenwright continued to take care of the Senior Center as well as oversee our seasonal help. We have completely reworked the soccer field at Freedom Park. We had the entire soccer field re-sodded this year. It seems to be doing very well and should be ready for play in the fall.

The Recreation department added a number of new events this year. Free Put-Put night, NKU Sports Clinics, Youth Musik Garten Classes, Adult Swing Dancing, Adult Art Classes, Youth Day at Color Me Mine, Family day at Town & Country and Sports of All Sorts and Youth Tennis Lessons. Then 9 new events are additions to all of our other activities. The good news is that most all programs were well attended. The operations of the Senior Center have been taken care of by Kim Wolking. She has overseen the scheduling of the facility and coordinated the various operational functions necessary that make the Senior Center a big success.

The Fire / EMS Department has a new Chief. Rob Dreyer who was elected by the membership. Former Chief Joe Messmer served our city for the last 30 years. We certainly appreciate all that he has contributed to the department and the City. We are glad that he remains an important part of our Fire/EMS Department.

This year's budget has provisions for compensating our part time employees who respond to our alarms. We will explore the possibility of a stipend program for our volunteers. If we cannot make it happen this year we will make it a high priority for next year.

During the 2007-2008 fiscal year we will likely see a change in the provider of our emergency dispatch service. If the change does occur it will be a "seamless" transition for our citizens. They will continue to dial 911 when they need help and that help will be there for them just as in the past.

This year's budget is again a very conservative financial plan for the coming fiscal year; however, it is one that will meet our needs.

This proposed budget allows us to continue to progress in many areas such as: an aggressive street improvement program, to continue to upgrade equipment in all departments as needed as well as offer a new competitive performance based salary program for our employees.

I would like to commend the department heads and Roger Rolfes our City Administrator again this year for the job they have all done in fiscal management. We are expecting a similar year for fiscal year 2007-2008.

I believe that this budget will allow us to meet the needs of our citizens for the coming year by allowing us to continue to provide the high quality service that our citizens have come to expect. I would like to thank our staff for all of their efforts this past year and extend my appreciation to this council for your assistance and support. For Fiscal year 2007-2008 to be successful, it will take the combined efforts of all concerned. I'm confident that by working together we will be able to make those decisions that are truly in the best interest of the citizens of Edgewood. I would like to thank all the Edgewood residents for their support in the past and I look forward to working with them in the future.

Thank you and God bless