

**CITY OF EDGEWOOD
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 19, 2008
6:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Link called the meeting of the Edgewood City Council to order at 6:41 P.M. in the council chambers of the Edgewood City Building. The following council members were present: Nancy Atkinson, Dale Henson, Jeff Schreiber, Chris Link, and Ray Spears. Also in attendance were City Administrator Roger Rolfes, City Attorney Frank Wichmann and Sr. Deputy Clerk Mary Jane Lucas. David MacMillan and Mark Steffen were absent.

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Mr. Rolfes moved Ordinance 2008-05-06 under NEW BUSINESS as an item for discussion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 5, 2008 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Schreiber corrected soccer to baseball in the staff reports. Mrs. Atkinson made a **motion** to adopt the May 5, 2008 meeting minutes as revised; second by Mr. Henson. Mr. Link abstained. **Motion passed: 4 ayes – 1 abstention.**

REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

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

Administrator's Report – Mr. Rolfes reported to Council important issues discussed at the Mayor's Group Meeting on Saturday, May 17, 2008. He also received notification from the Planning Commission that on June 5th at 6:15 P.M., there will be a Public Hearing on a zone change of the Michaels property in Fort Wright. This is not in our jurisdiction but there will be a significant amount of excavation in the hillside and we have residents on top of the hill. Although we cannot vote, we can comment.

Mr. Rolfes gave an overview on the following issues:

- Sanitation District 1 – An agreement for the takeover of the storm sewer system will be sent out. A handout was distributed explaining responsibilities. They can proceed on a case by case within cities. Nationwide the cost of the Clean Water Act is expected to cost nine billion dollars.
- Business License – Judge Drees advised that a new Inter-local agreement has been sent out. It will be effective July 1st and the fee will double. It was sent out with two options, to sign it or be out of the system. Mr. Rolfes recommended we look very closely at the agreement and attempt to make provisions. This is not only a Kenton County issue. The General Assembly is looking at legislation that would mandate centralized collection of city and county business tax; so it is important to show unity here. The lack of efficiency in collections caused by procedures and computer programs was also discussed.

- Tank – Judge Drees requested support for removal of the \$28,000 payroll cap on the TANK tax or they may cut service.
- District 6 Road Project meetings – Cities requested to attend the county meeting with District 6. Judge Drees said there was not enough room so the cities could send one representative selected through the Mayor’s Group.
- MDT’s- The County was sending the cost to pay off the MDTs early.
- Dispatch – Police can now talk to Fire when necessary and also directly contact the state through Erlanger.
- Sign Regulations Ordinance – Public Hearing, June 5th at 6:15 NKAPC. A testimony in support of the new regulations to encourage council to submit comments or make them in person.
- Handouts were given to Council for review on Pavement Management/Maintenance and Crime Management.
- Covington is requesting cities to pass a resolution encouraging the General Assembly to have a special session on CERS; provided there is a substantial agreement between the house and senate first.
- Area Planning now requires contractors to provide a list of subcontractors before they issue a certificate of occupancy.

CITIZENS DESIRING RECOGNITION ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS NOT ON THE

AGENDA – Norbert Meyer complimented the Public Works Dept on getting the grass mowed. He also requested an officer to direct school buses out of the west exit on to Dudley Rd. at St. Pius School. The Mayor reviewed the process it takes before the grass can be cut by the City. Mr. Meyer asked if anything was being done on the dip on Brookwood Dr. and if the peers would remain. Mr. Goetz replied the work is still in progress and the road will be as high as the peers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – Ordinance 2008-05-06 – An ordinance prohibiting storage of construction materials and equipment. Mr. Rolfes provided background information as to what they want to do and why.

ORDINANCES, MUNICIPAL ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS –

Ordinance 2008-05-05 amending 911 fees – 1st reading. Mr. Wichmann read the Ordinance: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EDGEWOOD, IN KENTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, AMENDING SECTION 2.0 OF EDGEWOOD ORDINANCE 2008-03-01 TO INCREASE THE MONTHLY SUBSCRIBER SERVICE CHARGE LEVIED AND IMPOSED IN THAT SECTION FOR 911 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICES FROM \$2.76 TO \$4.25 PER MONTH

Ordinance 2008-05-07- An Ordinance adoption of 2008/2009 Budget – 1st reading. Mr. Wichmann read the Ordinance: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EDGEWOOD, IN KENTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF EDGEWOOD FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2008 AND ENDING ON JUNE 30, 2009. A budget summary is attached to the Ordinance with supporting detail.

Municipal Order 2008-03 – The agreement to renew the 08/09 contract option period with Rumpke for residential solid waste collection and recycling at a yearly rate of \$191.88 per household. Mr. Henson made a **motion** to accept Municipal Order 2008-03; second by Mr. Spears. **Motion passed: 5 ayes – 0 nays.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Tennis Clinics available for adults and children beginning June 2nd. Contact the City building for more information at 331-5910.
- Freedom Park Yard Sale will be Saturday June 14th, 9 am – noon. Residents can reserve a space for \$20. City crew will haul away items after the sale to St. Vincent De Paul.
- Tuesday Evening Concert Series in Presidents Park will begin June 17th at 7 p.m. starting off with the Swingtime Big Band.
- Nominate an amateur gardener for their hard work and dedication; deadline is June 13th.
- Memorial Day Services- Monday, June 2nd in Freedom Park

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Henson made a **motion** to adjourn at 7:35 P.M.; second by Mr. Link. **Motion passed: 5 ayes – 0 nays.**

Mayor John D. Link

Attest: _____
Mary Jane Lucas, Sr. Deputy Clerk
Date passed: _____

MAYOR'S 2008-2009
STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS
AND BUDGET MESSAGE

As a Nation and a State we are truly facing some challenging economic times. Unfortunately, this down turn in the economy has impacted some of our citizens. We can only hope and pray for their full and speedy recovery.

The state of the City remains very sound. The recommended budget for fiscal year 2008-09 is \$6,715,400. This is an increase of 8.65% over the current year projections. I found it interesting that our property tax represents only 27.54% of our total revenue. This is a reduction of just over $\frac{3}{4}$ of a percent of the total budget from last year. Due to the required reassessment of the real estate in the city, and the resulting increase in value, I expect our property tax rate for the new fiscal year to be reduced by a little over 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents. We will not be able to calculate the exact rate until the assessment is certified by the state.

Our payroll tax has grown by 10% from last year and now represents just over 47% of our total revenue. If our payroll tax projections are reached this would be a good indicator that our local

micro economy is still strong. We are running about 3% ahead of our current projections compared to this same time last year.

Considering the extremely high increases in several products that we must have, our operating costs are up only 5.39% over last year's projections.

Based on our projections for fiscal year 2008 / 2009, our real estate tax is just over $\frac{3}{4}$ 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 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. If our actual tax rate works out as projected we will have about the same property tax rate that we had back in 1974. That was 34 years ago. This is only possible because our total number of taxable properties grew, as well as increased in value, during that period.

I believe that our future is bright and our financial picture is sound. We have succeeded in repaying ourselves the money that we

borrowed from our capital fund for our construction projects. You may recall last year when the property tax rate was set we agreed that any surplus from that line item would go into a separate sinking fund that will be used to help retire our bond debt. If previous trends hold true we should have about \$35,000 to transfer to that fund. The General Fund operating budget totaling \$6,715,400 is a sound financial plan for the new fiscal year. We are asking for \$1,334,400 to be allocated for street reconstruction and repair. We have 176 streets, totaling 52 miles. We have divided those streets into 216 sections. Each section is either a whole street or a portion of a larger street. Based on this year's street assessment we are down to 16 sections in need of replacement or significant repair. Of those 16 sections, 11 need to be replaced, 1 is to be over-laid and 4 will be repaired by our people. Hopefully the pricing will be favorable and we will be able to accomplish all of this road work this year. I urge adoption of the 2008 / 2009 budget.

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 addition to the expectation that all departments will come in under budget, I asked that we try to find ways to save money this year. This could be by changing purchasing habits or making modifications to our facilities or procedures. I am happy to report that we had 100% participation from all departments and the CAO and collectively they saved \$96,071.58.

In the Administrative department, Jeanette Kemper has continued to make progress in the pursuit of her Master Municipal Clerk designation. The new property tax program was successfully implemented. It has added efficiency to that department and enabled us to put tax information on the web site which is helpful for companies dealing in real estate closings. The members of the administrative staff have done a great job 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 62 of our 3461 tax bills.

In the General Services department, eight streets were totally reconstructed or had significant reconstruction on them during this past year. In addition to those we had a large sink hole develop on Brookwood Drive that cost over \$350,000 to repair.

Dave Kriege was a welcomed new addition to our General Services Department. He came from the Airport.

In the Parks Department Alex Kenwright continued to take care of the Senior Center as well as oversee our seasonal help. We have requested funding in this year's budget to replace the floor covering in the Senior Center. Our General Services and Parks personnel will provide the installation.

In the Police Department, we added Jeff Nagy and Dan Ryan as police officers. Both of these gentlemen were experienced and are likewise contributing to the success of our department.

The police department received their accreditation from the state this year. This was a significant achievement for

which they are to be congratulated. That project was handled by Lieutenant Bayer.

The Recreation department added six new events this year. This made a total of 41 different activities. The good news is that most all programs were well attended.

The operations of the Senior Center, has been overseen by Kim Wolking. Kim with the assistance of the other ladies in the office handle 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. Chris Amon was elected by the membership to replace Chief Dreyer. Chief Amon has done a fine job in his first year as chief. The Fire /EMS department held a very successful recruitment drive. They were able to increase our volunteer participation significantly. We now have a waiting list for new members.

During the 2007-2008 fiscal year we made a change in the provider of our emergency dispatch service. The change from Kenton County to Erlanger was a" seamless" transition for our

citizens. I would like to commend all who helped make that happen.

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: our aggressive street improvement program, to continue to upgrade equipment in all departments, as needed as well as offer a competitive performance based salary program for our employees.

I would like to commend the department heads and the City Administrator again this year for the job they have done in fiscal management. We are expecting a similar year for fiscal year 2008-2009.

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 2008-2009 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.

Thank you.