

**CITY OF EDGEWOOD  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**August 2, 2010  
6:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Link called the meeting of the Edgewood City Council to order at 6:30 PM in the council chambers of the Edgewood City Building. The following council members were present: Jeff Schreiber, Chris Link, Dale Henson, Steve Jaeger, Joe Messmer, and Steve Middendorf. Also in attendance were City Attorney Frank Wichmann, City Administrator Roger Rolfes and City Clerk Jeanette Kemper. Ray Spears was absent.

**INVOCATION**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – no changes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – July 19, 2010 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Schreiber made a **motion** to adopt the July 19, 2010 meeting minutes as written; second by Mr. Henson. Mr. Link and Mr. Middendorf abstained. **Motion passed: 4 ayes – 2 abstentions.**

**REPORT/PRESENTATIONS**

**Mayor's Report** – Mayor Link advised that the newsletter will be coming out soon. The Golden Age Social Club has new officers; Barb Hellmann is President, Nancy Rodgers is Vice-President, Carol Schaeffer is the Treasurer, Alma Bonham is Secretary and Phil Landwehr is the Corresponding Secretary. Mayor Link thanked the staff for getting the city's bond rating changed in order to get better financing.

Chief Kramer announced that there is a drug disposal box in the police department's lobby for people to drop off unwanted or unused prescription drugs and it will be properly disposed of.

**Administrator's Report** – Mr. Rolfes stated that a resident is having a noise problem and our ordinance doesn't cover the issue. The resident's neighbor is mowing his lawn at 6:30 a.m. Mr. Rolfes will discuss the issue with Mr. Wichmann and look into revising the ordinance; council concurred.

**Staff Reports** – Council reviewed reports from the following staff members: City Administrator, City Clerk, Fire/EMS, General Services, Police, and Recreation.

**CITIZENS DESIRING RECOGNITION ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA** – none

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS** – **Request to cancel the August 16<sup>th</sup> council meeting for the annual NKADD dinner** – Mr. Middendorf made a **motion** to cancel the August 16<sup>th</sup> council meeting; second by Mr. Messmer. **Motion passed: 6 ayes- 0 nays.**

**Request to cancel the September 6<sup>th</sup> council meeting for the Labor Day holiday** - Mr. Jaeger made a **motion** to cancel the September 6<sup>th</sup> council meeting; second by Mr. Link. **Motion passed: 6 ayes- 0 nays.**

**Request to schedule a special meeting for August 30<sup>th</sup> for a public hearing on the property tax rate and the establishment of the tax rate for the 2010-2011 fiscal year** – Mr. Henson made a **motion** to schedule a special meeting for August 30th; second by Mr. Middendorf. **Motion passed: 6 ayes- 0 nays.**

**Discussion of property tax rate** – Mr. Rolfes stated that if no one has any objections the 2010/2011 property tax rate will stay the same at \$.240 per \$100; there were no objections.

**Results of Aerial bids** – the fire department went out for bid for a ladder aerial and a platform aerial. Ladder aerial is also called a stick and the platform aerial is also called a bucket. After the fire department's committee reviewed the bids and the committee voted, Chief Chris Amon recommended that the ladder aerial be purchased from Dill's Fire and Safety at a cost of \$684,450. The platform aerial cost is \$806,210. There is \$950,000 in the CIP budget.

Safety was a concern and council asked which ladder was safer. Chief Amon said both are safe and safety gear would be used with either truck.

Mr. Messmer said the City of Florence has always had a straight ladder but recently purchased a platform; they felt having both were advantageous. Since they've had the platform the staff has gravitated to it stating that being able to swing it off to the side, set it down, load tools and raise it to the roof makes it much easier to get the tools to the scene rather than carrying the tools up the ladder.

Asst. Chief Dickman said an advantage to the straight ladder is the extra 200 gallons of water it can hold; 500 gallon tank.

Joe Landwehr stated that he has been opposed to the straight stick all along. He feels it's safer on a platform and if a platform truck is chosen they have the option to add a parapet ladder which it would attach to the front of the bucket.

Trey Kellner, volunteer since 1981, spoke in favor of the platform truck. He said he climbed the stick ladder when the demo was here and his comfort level was nowhere near where his comfort level is on a bucket truck. He thinks there is more broad utility to a platform and more safety and if we're going to have volunteers then it's a strong consideration.

Chief Amon said it's a highly opinionated topic and it has split the department.

Mr. Schreiber was told by someone at the Ft. Mitchell Fire Department that the only departments to have platform trucks are Burlington, Airport and Florence; everyone else has the stick ladder. Florence has one of each. When Ft. Mitchell bought their truck they didn't even consider a platform because everyone there wanted a stick.

Mr. Jaeger asked what the advantages were for a stick ladder. Chief Amon said in his opinion you can ventilate a roof easier off of a straight stick than a platform but others would disagree; it's a matter of opinion.

Shawn Kleier, volunteer, said we're not going to risk safety on either machine; they're both safe machines. He said he's more comfortable in the platform than on the ladder; feels more secure.

Mike McNally, volunteer and part time fireman, said a Texas fire department bought a brand new platform and they were in training when they lost two firefighters because they didn't follow safety procedures. They were thrown out of the bucket because the bucket hit the side of the building and they did not have their safety equipment on. He said we will not operate without safety equipment whether it's a platform or stick. He has trained in the bucket and said

it's a lot harder to do it in the bucket than lying on the stick to reach a building. He was on the committee. He has only worked out of a bucket; that's all he has ever known since being on the department. After reviewing the sticks and talking to other departments who have them he suggested going with a stick. As a taxpayer of the city, he said he can't see paying the extra money for safety when safety is not an issue; safety comes with proper equipment and training.

Dave MacMillan spoke in favor of the platform truck. He said safety is the most important issue. He said it was mentioned that we have never had to rescue anyone but the one time that we need to then we'll need it.

Mark Messmer, volunteer, spoke in favor of the platform truck. He reiterated Mr. MacMillan's comments and added that the bucket can be used for multiple applications. Rescue is one and rescuing a disabled person; you can place the disabled or unconscious person in the bucket and ride them down; medical aid can be administered while riding down. On a straight stick only one person can operate off the end of it; you can have two on a bucket.

Corey Deye, part time firefighter with the department, spoke in favor of the ladder truck. He was on the committee as well. He doesn't think one ladder is safer than the other. He has worked on both. He remembered an incident at Brookwood Swim Club when the platform failed. Most departments have a stick ladder and volunteers, not paid professional firefighters, and they manage. The bucket is cumbersome because you can't lie down; you have to lean out of it. When lying on the stick there are side rails making it comfortable to work from. He said the Airport does have a bucket truck but are in the process of buying a stick. Doesn't know why the surrounding cities operate with a stick and we cannot. He thinks the extra 200 gallons of water the stick holds is very important. He said more people have died from fire than a ladder. He asked if a platform is so much safer than why doesn't everyone buy one. He said we're looking for reach in a ladder not height; 109' horizontally not vertically.

Mr. Schreiver said we have never questioned a department's recommendation; he thought it was their decision and not city council's but he is comfortable if everyone wants to spend the other amount of money to get the platform truck, he would vote for that too.

Mr. Messmer made a **motion** to purchase the Smeal 100' Platform Aerial Fire Truck; second by Mr. Middendorf.

Mr. Henson stated that he understands that the trucks are equal as far as safety goes but hasn't heard why a platform is unsafe and he'll be voting for the platform. He further stated that he understood the gentlemen's comment about being a tax payer but as a councilman he doesn't want to be in a situation where someone has fallen off of a ladder or any other piece of equipment that we have and there's any question that something we could have done to prevent that; he doesn't want to be the one to face the family. He said we have the money for this and it's not that much money over the 25-30 years we'll own it.

Mr. Jaeger said he heard comments about comfort and believes that's important so sticking with the familiar is better than going into the unknown of a straight stick. He said he'll probably vote for the motion.

Roll Call Vote – Mr. Messmer, Mr. Middendorf, Mr. Henson, Mr. Schreiver and Mr. Jaeger voted aye. Mr. Link voted nay. **Motion passed: 5 ayes – 1 nay.**

Expected delivery date would be summer 2011. It was asked what color it would be; Chief Amon said it would be red. There was discussion on matching it to the current color of the trucks which is green. Mr. Landwehr said we've got until August 14<sup>th</sup> to change the color. Mr. Messmer said he doesn't care about the color but believes the membership should decide on the color. Mr. Henson said our trucks should match. Chief Amon said these were demo trucks we looked at and decided we would be accepting a red truck and not looking at a choice of colors. Mr. Messmer said this truck hasn't been built yet.

**Budget amendment for unanticipated cruiser replacement** – the police department was not going to purchase any new cruisers this budget year but a 2005 cruiser that was going to be replaced next year just had its transmission go out. The cost of repair would be \$1600 - \$2100. The vehicle has over 91,000 miles and Chief Tony Kramer suggested that they go ahead and replace the vehicle this budget year rather than repair it. Council concurred; a budget amendment will be done to reflect the cruiser purchase.

**ORDINANCES, MUNICIPAL ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS** – **Ordinance 2010-07-05 amend zoning ordinance in regards to basketball goals – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.** Mr. Wichmann read the ordinance: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EDGEWOOD, IN KENTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, AMENDING THE TEXT OF THE EDGEWOOD ZONING ORDINANCE IN REGARD TO BASKETBALL GOALS. Mr. Middendorf made a **motion** to adopt ordinance 2010-07-05; second by Mr. Henson. **Motion passed: 6 ayes- 0 nays.**

**Municipal Order 2010-04 declaring surplus property** – Mr. Messmer made a **motion** to adopt municipal order 2010-04; second by Mr. Henson. **Motion passed: 6 ayes- 0 nays.**

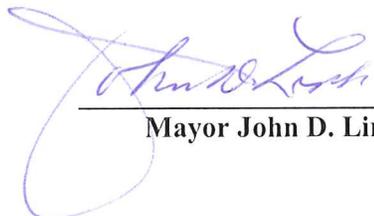
#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Tuesday Evening Summer Concert Series – Presidents Park, 7 p.m. – August 3 is the Mistics, August 10<sup>th</sup> is The Royal Palm Orchestra featuring Nancy James; August 17<sup>th</sup> is the Cincinnati Metropolitan Orchestra and the final concert is on the 24<sup>th</sup> Midnight Special.
- Edgewood Family Campout, for residents only, will be held in Presidents Park on August 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Men's Flag Football League now forming; sign up before August 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Shakespeare in the Park presents "Hamlet" on August 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in Presidents Park

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Henson made a **motion** to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.; second by Mr. Jaeger. **Motion passed: 6 ayes – 0 nays.**

Attest:   
 Jeanette Kemper, City Clerk  
 Date passed: 8/30/10

  
 Mayor John D. Link