

**CITY OF EDGEWOOD
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**June 6, 2011
6:30 PM**

PUBLIC HEARING: MUNICIPAL AID ROAD FUND (MARF) - Mayor Link called the public hearing 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: Steve Jaeger, Nancy Atkinson, Dale Henson, Ray Spears and Chris Link. Also in attendance were City Attorney Frank Wichmann, City Administrator Doug Beckham and City Clerk Jeanette Kemper. Jeff Schreiver and Joe Messmer were absent. The city expects to receive \$184,900 from the state to be used for road repairs in the 2011/2012 budget. The list of streets for repair are concrete replacements, all or part: Colony Drive, Magnolia Court, Marcel Drive, Glen Arbor Drive, Coach Light Drive, Timber Ridge, and Dudley to Trailwood. Horsebranch Road, with stripping, Walker Lane, Brookwood Drive and Brookwood Circle to Willowbrook. Grant for Reconstruction of the Dudley Hill – Winding Trails to Ky 17. Work on the Dudley Hill will commence in the fall, 2011 and be completed in 2012 / 2013. Asphalt streets, curbs and gutters: Ridgetop Way & Yatz Drive. (concrete for both) Total Cost for the repairs in 2011 – 2012: \$1,590,832.75. This does not include the City's match for the Dudley Road Grant. **Nancy Atkinson made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:38 p.m.; seconded by Ray Spears. Motion passed: 5 ayes – 0 abstentions.**

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 16, 2011 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Steve Jaeger made a **motion** to adopt the May 16, 2011 meeting minutes as written; second by Ms. Nancy Atkinson. **Motion passed: 5 ayes – 0 abstentions.**

REPORT/PRESENTATIONS

Mayor's Report – Thanks to Stan Goetz, staff, and volunteers for participating in the Freedom Park Yard Sale. Thanks to the Police Department and our soldiers who participated in the Memorial Day Celebration at Freedom Park. Mayor Link read the Budget Address to Council; a copy is attached for the record.

Administrator's Report – Mr. Beckham has reported that there are two personnel actions: The City Administration has hired a new Recreation Director, Mrs. Elaine Hoblik, who will start on June 7, 2011. A tentative employment offer has been made to Mr. James Kreinst, with the Police Department.

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

Mayor Link stated the 911 Study is in place. Included with the Police Department Report, Chief Kramer noted that the Judge Executives in the three northern counties, and the County Administrators brought in a subject matter expert, Mr. Paul LeNay.

CITIZENS DESIRING RECOGNITION ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA –

Tom Feagan, 519 Oak Ridge Drive, addressed drainage problems on Oak Ridge Drive. He has been a resident since 1970. He has concerns about the sidewalk and street which is 100' in length. Requesting to split the cost of repairs to Mr. Feagan's property from water damage due to lack of sewers on Oak Ridge Drive. Neighbor, Mike Burton, 517 Oak Ridge, was also in attendance with the same issue. Doug Beckham stated he will review the street status.

Norbert Meyer, 3118 Locust Hollow, asked if the City's population had decreased by approximately 15%. Mayor Link confirmed the decrease. Families have downsized. The Census results were reviewed twice for the numbers submitted, and were found to be accurate.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS – Approve service from Summit Fire Apparatus – Mrs. Atkinson made a **motion** to purchase a hose bed divider fabricated from ¼” thick aluminum to be installed in the new ladder truck from Summit Fire Apparatus at the cost of \$611 because the item purchased is in the best interest of the public, and the city due to convenience; second by Mr. Link. **Motion passed: 5 ayes – 0 nays.**

Approve installation of water level gauge from Summit – Mr. Spears made a motion to purchase and install a new Class One Intella style water level gauge and sender on Engine 152 from Summit Fire Apparatus at the total cost of \$1158.87 because the item purchase is in the best interest of the public and the city due to supply. **Motion passed: 5 ayes – 0 nays.**

ORDINANCES, MUNICIPAL ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS – Ordinance 2011-06-05 Adopt Budget 2011/2012 – 1st Reading. Mr. Wichmann read the ordinance: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EDGEWOOD, IN KENTON COUNTY KENTUCKY ADOPTING THE BUDGET AND PERSONNEL PAY PLAN BRACKETS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2011 BY SUMMARY THE BUDGET AND PAY PLAN BRACKETS ARE ATTACHED TO THE ORDINANCE.

Mr. Spears questioned the Fund Balance from the May Treasurer’s Report and requested the net fund balance in total by the next council meeting.

Richard Rigsby, residing at 3056 Balsam Court for 20 years. Voiced concerns on employee salaries being cut and no raises given; he stated that we have good quality employees and they should be rewarded. Mr. Rigsby voiced concern that tuition reimbursement would be taken out of the budget.

Steve Jaeger addressed the concern of Mr. Rigsby. No one’s salary is being cut. Although the mayor states that economic status is positive, Mr. Jaeger is not sure he shares this optimistic outlook, so he encourages council has to be cautious in spending. Council has to be able to control expenditures. Steve Jaeger approved of the cost of living (COLA) increase, but opposes the cost of living increase (COLA) across the board funding for merit increases to employees’ salaries. Mr. Jaeger said this in no way reflects upon the performance or his respect and appreciation of the employees. Presented with this year’s budget and the proposed salary increases, it was originally requested that Council approve there could be a total pay increase of 5%. While Council has worked to reduce this number to 3%, Mr. Jaeger feels this increase would be burdensome on the residents of the City of Edgewood, who are not seeing a corresponding increase in their salaries. The merit system does not seem to work within the City ranks. Based on input from other councilmembers, it seems that historically, All employees will receive the same amount of raise when all is said and done. This defeats the purpose of the merit system. An increase in salaries has an effect on other items in the budget, such as increases in workers compensation and pensions. The General Fund may be running at a deficit. We must be prepared for future challenges when we have the opportunity to do so.

Dale Henson addressed the \$243,000 deficit on the Summary Sheet. The General Fund shows a \$20,000 deficit, and the Capital Fund shows a \$223,000 deficit. Mr. Beckham will review this information for accuracy. According to the State of Kentucky, the City of Edgewood is keeping up with the pace in raises. Mr. Henson is requesting the council packets be sent to council prior to Friday. There is a limit set forth in the budget for tuition reimbursement. Employees may not receive more than what is approved. If the amount of tuition would be more than the budget amount, the reimbursement would be pro-rated between the employees. The amount of reimbursement will never exceed the amount approved in the budget.

Ray Spears suggested that Council revise the pay plan ordinance which has a built in automatic cola increase by removing that feature and simply having council vote on a city-wide pay plan increase each year. Also, in regards to the current tuition reimbursement plan, restrictions should be put in place that limit graduate degrees and payment of classes deemed non-essential to the job. He felt it would be difficult to explain to residents who are struggling to put their own kids through college that the City is paying for advance degrees for city employees. Mr. Spears also wanted to know what the total fund balance is before the next council meeting.

~~Ray Spears requested that council and the City Attorney revise the ordinance for COLA. What is the Fund balance? What is the cost of the pay plan? What is the cost of tuition? We have never passed a deficit budget. Mr. Spears is recommending that the COLA be removed from the budget. Also, limit the amount of tuition reimbursement to employees. It was recommended by Mr. Spears that year after year council should vote only for merit raises and/or cost of living increases.~~

Mr. Wichmann suggested scheduling a Special Meeting to have first reading again of the budget ordinance; address the COLA ordinance as well as the tuition ordinance. A special meeting was scheduled for June 13, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

Chief Anthony Kramer addressed the tuition reimbursement. The Police Department frequently applies for tuition reimbursement. It is a benefit to the Police Department for officers to receive a higher degree in order to improve the performance of the officers. The City of Edgewood has provided these officers who choose to improve their opportunities, given the ability to do so. Chief Kramer will offer assistance to any decision made for tuition reimbursement.

Mr. Beckham stated that the strength in the approval process for tuition reimbursement should improve the management of the funds.

Ordinance 2011-06-06 Codification of the 2010 Ordinances – 1st Reading. Frank Wichmann read the ordinance: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EDGEWOOD, IN KENTON COUNTY KENTUCKY ACTING AND ADOPTING A SUPPLEMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF EDGEWOOD, KENTUCKY BY SUMMARY OF THE STATE STATUES REQUIRE THAT THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BE UPDATED PERIODICALLY AND ADOPT AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A CODIFICATION.

Municipal Order 2011-07 declaring the old aerial as surplus equipment. Steve Jaeger made a **motion** to accept the aerial as surplus equipment; seconded by Dale Henson. **Motion passed: 5 ayes – 0 nays.**

The aerial is being housed at the Public Works facility currently. The City of Edgewood invites anyone to come and look over the equipment, and give the City a bid.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Tuesday Evening Summer Concert Series, at Presidents Park, at 7 pm.
June 14th, Kyle Ryan as Elvis; June 21st, Jimmy's New Invention – 70's, 80's, 90's
June 28th, Ooh La La – 60's, 90's
- Nominate an amateur gardener; deadline is June 17th.

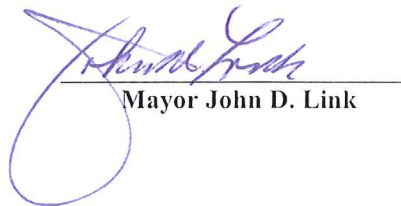
ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Spears made a **motion** to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.; seconded by Mrs. Atkinson. **Motion passed: 5 ayes – 0 nays.**

Attest:


Jeanette Kemper, City Clerk

Date passed: 6/20/11


Mayor John D. Link

**MAYOR JOHN LINK'S 2011 2012
STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS
AND BUDGET MESSAGE**

I am pleased to again be able to begin my address by telling you that the financial state of our City is positive.

There are encouraging gains in our area, such as modest increases in revenue for Kentucky and other States, and increases in housing starts. These gains are indicative that the economy is beginning to move forward again. I am cautiously optimistic that the next year will bring still more indicators that the recovery will continue.

Edgewood's financial success is attributable to many factors, which begins with adopting and following a good, conservative financial plan. The City Council, our staff, and myself work daily to follow the guidelines that the

budget creates. This allows us to live within our means, and to ensure that each and every public dollar that is spent by the City is an investment in the livability and quality of life that is so important to all of our citizens.

We have maintained a stable, proactive government with a solid financial core, which has resulted in a high level of satisfaction among the citizens and businesses of Edgewood in the services we provide them. We continue to provide these services without raising taxes or fees, and you're City Council and I have continued to provide value and service to the residents and our businesses. We have done this by such things as providing the new ladder truck for the Fire Department, and the upcoming purchase of a new ambulance for our EMS providers. We continue to spend a large percentage of your City taxes on road and

sidewalk renovations. We constantly search for new and innovative ideas to provide you with security and service, such as the new National League of Cities Sanitary Sewer Insurance program. I am convinced that, because of the sound financial decisions that we have made, we have been able to continue to provide both the quantity and quality of services that our citizens have come to expect, while, at the same time, maintaining our financial stability during these trying times.

We do continue to face future challenges. Unfunded mandates by the State and Federal Governments continue to erode the finances of the City. Quality of life issues need to be addressed in order to stem the flow of residents who, as was noted in the recent Census, leave Edgewood. The costs of services continue to increase. We can't

control these things, but we have to address them when we are confronted with them. In all honesty, I must say that the financial future of our City will be sound and stable, but only if we can account for and be prepared for changes that confront us.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Council for their leadership in establishing reasonable parameters that have contributed greatly to our stability both financially and culturally, and by also allowing us to maintain the level of service that our citizens expect.

I also want to thank our staff for the fine job they have done during these challenging times. I believe that all of our department heads understand the need to always look for the best way to meet our needs and to consider both the short-term and long-term needs when making

decisions that impact the operating costs of their departments. I believe that each of you have done a good job in that area. I encourage you to keep up the good work, and your pride in the job you do.

I would also suggest that all of us could thank God for the stable and caring community that we are so fortunate to live in, and ask that our well being continues to prosper.

Thank you.