

EMSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
171 Center Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15202
Business Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2020

Council Members Present – Jolene Bennett; Brian J. Fashian; Paul F. Getz; Jason Helfrich (7:05 p.m.); Dan Lenz; Michael V. Mary, Jr.; Kevin Yurkovich

Others Present – AmySue Lillie, Mayor; Robert L. McTiernan, Esq., Borough Solicitor; Dennis J. Flynn, Borough Engineer; Cathy Jones, Borough Secretary

President Yurkovich called the March 11, 2020, business meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call, the February 12, 2020, Business Meeting Minutes were considered for approval.

MINUTES APPROVAL

MOTION by Ms. Bennett, second by Mr. Getz, to approve the February 12, 2020, Minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Alma Fincke, 215 Bryson Avenue – her split rail fence was damaged by contractor working for the gas company to replace main lines. Contractor stated they would not pick up the damaged fence. (Paving contract has not yet been awarded.) Mr. Fashian responded that he will ask public works to remove the damaged fence.

MAYORS REPORT – AmySue Lillie

Public Safety: OTPD – 106 calls; EVFC – 15 calls

Allegheny County Banner Recognition – Mayor Lillie and the borough secretary attended the Banner Community Ceremony and Luncheon held at PNC Park on March 6.

Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) – Joe Koehler, Emergency Management Coordinator and Mayor Lillie worked to update the borough's EOP. The Plan was previously distributed to council for review. MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Mr. Lenz to adopt the updated Emergency Operations Plan as distributed including accompanying resolution No. 2020-01. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Honor Banners – Mayor Lillie questioned if EVFC will be able to help with the banners installation.

Pres. Yurkovich will check with the fire company on their availability.

- Mayor Lillie requested additional signs be installed at the end of the Center Avenue Bridge reminding dog owners to clean up after their pets. Mr. Fashian will check to see if there is an inventory at the garage.

- Mayor Lillie congratulated the Avonworth-Northgate Swim Team on their season achievements.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR REPORT – Robert L. McTiernan, Esq., Borough Solicitor

Draft Occupancy for commercial buildings was distributed for council's consideration. Mr. Getz questioned if Labor & Industry trumps a borough ordinance for commercial occupancy. Sol. McTiernan will research this and advise council. Action tabled.

Parcel 213-G-200 – Sol. McTiernan had a discussion with Chip Hansen, Trinity Commercial Development, who is interested in dead tax parcel 213-G-200 adjacent to their property at the former Schaffner plant. Trinity's client would like to get ownership without tax liens; nine property owners who use that road would still have access. Sol. McTiernan stated Council cannot vacate and return ownership to adjacent property owners as the street was never shown on any recorded plan; it cannot be taken by eminent domain and conveyed to a private owner; Sheriff Sale is an option but that is a public sale in which anyone could bid. Sol. McTiernan will keep council advised.

BOROUGH ENGINEER REPORT – Dennis J. Flynn, P.E., Gateway Engineer, PE

- Gateway worked with T.A. Robinson to close-out the 2018-2019 paving program punch-list. Recommended is Payment App #7 and Final to T.A. Robinson in the amount of \$36,613.03.
- Preconstruction meeting was held with Tri State for the 2019 Preventive Maintenance and CCTV contracts; work is to start in April.
- Construction is just about complete for the DCNR portion of Marmo Park; there are only a few punch-list items to address. The ADA sidewalk issue will be addressed under this punch-list.
- Force Main – GROW grant app will be submitted by the June 30 deadline.
- One overflow at the pump station; report submitted to ACHD.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOROUGH PROPERTY – Mr. Helfrich/Ms. Bennett

Mayernik Field - Ms. Bennett reported Mobile Powerwash inadvertently cleaned an additional footage of fencing at Mayernik Field. There will be a \$300 charge to seal and stain this area. Ms. Bennett would like the borough to absorb this amount and not split the charge with AGAA. There was no discussion. Ms. Bennett stated the fence looked like new and was pleased with the results.

DEPT. of PUBLIC WORKS – Messrs. Fashion/Lenz

No Report

SR 65 PUMP STATION – Messrs. Getz/Lenz

No report this evening

QVCOG – Messrs. Getz/Fashion

SHACOG – MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Mr. Lenz to participate in the non-binding SHACOG survey for emergency public works services. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Zoning Fees Resolution – MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Ms. Bennett to adopt Resolution No. 2020-03 to update the borough's zoning fees as prepared by Chris Rearick, QVCOG Zoning Assistance. The draft fee resolution had previously been distributed to council. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

ROADS – Messrs. Helfrich/Getz

2019 Road Program – The borough has received emails relative to drainage issues since the 2018-2019 Roads program was completed at properties at 157 North and 159 North Avenues. The borough engineer will look into this and advise council. MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Mr. Lenz to pay App #7 and Final to T.A. Robinson contingent upon resolution of the drainage issue at 157 North and 159 North Avenues. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Walliston & Huntington Avenues – MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Ms. Bennett to approve Carmel Construction proposal not to exceed \$3K to repair sink holes on Walliston and Huntington Avenues. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

SEWERS – Messrs. Getz/Fashion

Superior Avenue – MOTION by Mr. Fashion, second by Mr. Lenz to approve Carmel Construction proposal in the amount of \$1250 to repair the manhole on Superior Avenue. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

FINANCE – Jolene Bennett

Bill List – MOTION by Ms. Bennett, second by Mr. Getz to approve the Bill List as presented with the following additions: IBIS \$243.90; T.A. Robinson \$36,613.03 (with contingency); Marmo Technology \$370.35. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Getz requested an update on the fire station exterior lights which was approved by Council last year. Pres. Yurkovich stated he would look into this and advise.

Mayor Lillie announced her Dare to Dream Scholarship forms are available in the borough lobby and at Avonworth High School and is open to any graduating senior who lives in Emsworth Borough.

Mayor Lille added she was invited by Avonworth to help review senior portfolios and was impressed with the graduating class at Avonworth.

Mayor Lillie questioned the status of the vacation days for the borough staff as was discussed prior to January. Mr. Fashian stated this would be addressed through an updated employee handbook which is currently being reviewed with the borough solicitor.

NEW BUSINESS

Sunshine Law & Right-to-Know – Ms. Bennett reported she and Mr. Lenz would like to attend a Sunshine Law and Right-to-Know class at a cost of \$50/official in Pittsburgh. MOTION by Mr. Fashian, second by Mr. Getz to approve Ms. Bennett and Mr. Lenz to attend the Sunshine Laws and RTK class at a cost of \$50/official. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

PATH Training – Mr. Lenz requested permission to attend two PATH training classes for planning commissioners at a cost of \$50/class. MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Ms. Bennett to approve Mr. Lenz attending two PATH classes for planning commissioners at a cost of \$50/class. Motion unanimously carried by roll call. Mr. Getz added classes can be accredited through the commonwealth for CBO, certified borough official.

Sol. McTiernan informed council Sol. Voltz will hold a right-to-know seminar at the 7 Springs Conference and he also writes a blog through Tucker Arensberg.

Mr. Lenz reported he attended the two-day Boot Camp Training and will file his certificate at the office.

Chief Hanny reported on telephone scams in the area and advised everyone to exercise caution if they are requested to get gift cards; and to call the Ohio Twp. Police to file a report.

173 Allegheny – Pres. Yurkovich reported he had been made aware of a water run off problem at 173 Allegheny. Mr. Getz added he will check this area the next rain storm and advise council of his findings. Mayor Lillie added property at 169 Allegheny continues to experience water run off issues.

Pres. Yurkovich commented on a potential issue that was brought to council last month: a smell along Center Avenue near Grant and North Avenues. Mr. Yurkovich said he walks this area almost daily and only once did he notice a smell; the fire company has flushed this area.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURN

President Yurkovich Adjourned the March 11, 2020, council meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

CATHY JONES
Borough Secretary