

EMSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
171 Center Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15202
Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2024

Council Members Present – Abigail Donovan; Paul F. Getz; Daniel Lenz; Michael V. Mary; Kevin Wisniewski; Kevin Yurkovich

Council Member Absent: Kathleen Dine

Others Present – Robert L. McTiernan, Esq.; Dennis J. Flynn, P.E.; Cathy Jones, Borough Secretary

President Kevin Yurkovich called the December 11, 2024, meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call, the November 13, 2024, Minutes were considered for approval.

MINUTES APPROVAL

MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Ms. Donovan to approve the November 13, 2024, Minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote; Mr. Lenz voted nay.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

MAYOR REPORT – Jessica Boyd

Public Safety: OTPD: 82 calls; EVFC: 40 calls; QRS – 16 calls, 10 in Emsworth

SOLICITOR REPORT – Robert L. McTiernan, Esq.

Zoning Hearing Board will meet Tuesday, December 17 at the borough hall to discuss an appeal to the borough's decision regarding the proposed gymnasium at Holy Family Institute (HFI). Pres. Yurkovich noted HFI has reached out to the Harshman Group regarding compliance and feels HFI should be using their own design group and engineers and not have the borough pay for this information.

ENGINEER REPORT – Dennis J. Flynn, P.E.

Spring Street Catch Basin – Small Water & Sewer grant will be submitted for the next portion of this project. Phase II Consent Order – Gateway will prepare a grant submittal for this phase; a resolution will be prepared for council's consideration at the January 8, 2025, meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOROUGH PROPERTY – Abigail Donovan

Borough entrance upgrades have begun and should be completed this week.

COMMUNITY EVENTS – Abigail Donovan

Light Up the Borough – Sunday, December 1 was a success; large turnout in spite of frigid temperatures.

INFRASTRUCTURE – Paul F. Getz

Catch Basin SR 65 and Allegheny Avenue will need replaced. One bid was received, awaiting additional bid.

Spring Street Storm Sewer – Mr. Getz recommended installing a pre-cast catch basin and 10 ft. plastic pipe at the Duquesne Light pole for this project. Mr. Flynn reminded council the estimate was \$20k. Mr. Getz will work with Mr. Fashion (DPW) and Mr. Flynn and advise council.

Salt Shed – Mr. Getz met with Mr. Fashion regarding the proposed salt shed.

PERSONNEL – Kevin Wisniewski

Mr. Wisniewski thanked the borough secretary, treasurer and public works for good work this year.

PUBLIC WORKS – Michael V. Mary

Mr. Fashion has the trucks ready for winter road maintenance.

QVCOG – Paul F. Getz

Pres. Yurkovich informed council of a recent meeting with Waste Management regarding their disappointing collection service throughout the borough. A route manager will monitor collection borough-wide to ascertain the crew collects every street.

FINANCE – Michael V. Mary, Jr.

2025 Budget – MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Mr. Getz to adopt the 2025 budget as advertised in the New Pittsburgh Courier. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

2025 Millage – MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Mr. Getz to adopt Res. 2024-04 establishing the 2025 millage rate at 5.955 (no tax increase). Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Bill List - MOTION by Mr. Mary second by Ms. Donovan to approve the bill list with the following additions: Gateway Engineers \$15,195.70; Logi-Tek \$1200; New Pittsburgh Courier \$171.72 (ZHB); New Pittsburgh Courier \$186.03 (2025 Budget); New Pittsburgh Courier \$429.30 (Ord. 1017, (sewer increase); Tri State Maintenance \$410; Ohio Township \$553.90; Laura West \$499. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

OLD BUSINESS

Ord. 1017 – MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Mr. Mary to adopt Ord. 1017, sewage rate increase \$.25/1K gallons. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Zoning Hearing Board – With regard to the Zoning Hearing Board meeting on December 17 for an appeal from Holy Family regarding the proposed gymnasium, Pres. Yurkovich received a letter from a resident and was asked to read it at the zoning hearing meeting. As this was not first-hand information, Pres. Yurkovich advised he would not read the letter but invited the resident to appear at the meeting to speak for himself.

NEW BUSINESS

Reappointment – MOTION by Mr. Lenz, second by Mr. Mary to reappoint David J. Lang to the Planning Commission to a term which expires 12/31/2028. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

ALOM Legislative Reception on January 26 at Station Square, \$75/official. There was no interest to attend.

Stipend for Council and Mayor – Mr. Getz informed council of House Bill 2265/Act 131 to increase or decrease council and mayor stipends. Act 131 allows boroughs to pay officials on a per meeting basis.

MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Ms. Donovan to direct the borough solicitor to prepare an ordinance regarding compensation of council and mayor and to allow suspension of pay for non-attendance at council meetings.

Discussion: Mr. Mary questioned if the Motion (stipend and attendance) could be separate. Pres. Yurkovich stated is he 100% behind paying officials on attendance but no salary changes for council and mayor. MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Mr. Wisniewski to amend the motion by Mr. Getz, second by Ms. Donovan, to provide two separate motions: 1. Stipend of Council and Mayor; 2. Suspension of pay for non-attendance at meetings.

Motion carried with Ms. Donovan voting nay.

MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Mr. Wisniewski to authorize preparation of an ordinance to increase the stipend to Council to \$125/month and decrease the Mayor stipend to \$126/month. Motion failed: Nay: Messrs, Getz, Lenz, Mary, Wisniewski, Yurkovich. Yea: Ms. Donovan.

MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Mr. Wisniewski to pay officials on a per meeting attendance basis. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Pres. Yurkovich noted council stayed in budget this year, roads were paved and infrastructure work was done. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ADJOURN

MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Mr. Mary to Adjourn the November 13, 2024, meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

CATHY JONES
Borough Secretary