

EMSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
171 Center Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15202
Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2024

Council Members Present – William Bauer, Kathleen Dine, Abigail Donovan, Daniel Lenz, Michael V. Mary, Kevin Wisniewski, Kevin Yurkovich
Others Present – Alexander Nalevanko, Mayor; Robert L. McTiernan, Esq.; Dennis J. Flynn, P.E.; Cathy Jones, Borough Secretary

President Yurkovich called the March 13, 2024, meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call, Pres. Yurkovich introduced Tracy Ferguson, President Avonworth Historical Society.

AVONWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Tracy Ferguson, President/Dr. Philip P. Kerstetter
The Avonworth Historical Society mission began over 40 years ago in order to save the Dickson log house in Ben Avon. AHS has begun a quiet campaign to garner letters of support to continue preserving historical documents for the future. AHS plans to renovate a building at 7119 Church Avenue in Ben Avon for their new offices. MOTION by Ms. Dine, second by Ms. Donovan to send a letter of support to the Avonworth Historical Society. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

MINUTES APPROVAL

MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Mr. Mary to accept the February 14, 2024, Minutes as distributed. Motion carried by roll call; Mr. Lenz voted nay.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dave Wexler, 78 Courtney Street, has spoken with state reps about instituting a law for any new council member to serve a period of time before assuming a leadership role, Pres, VP, Pres. Pro Tempore, and questioned if the borough can institute this. Sol. McTiernan replied there is no such restriction in the Borough Code and this action would need to be handed down from the state; i.e. any one elected to council can ascend to be President, Vice President or President Pro Tempore and the borough could not adopt a local ordinance unless this action came from Harrisburg.

MAYOR REPORT – Alexander Nalevanko

Public Safety: OTPD: 92 calls; Chief Hanny reminded everyone to remove valuables and lock their vehicles. EVFC: 38 calls.

SOLICITOR REPORT – Robert L. McTiernan, Esq.

Two colleagues from Tucker Arensberg will present at the upcoming Allegheny League of Municipalities Conference (ALOM) at Seven Springs in April.

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

Gateway will also present at the ALOM Spring Conference in April.

Lower Allegheny Road Work – West View Authority has been working on the broken water line repair; the sub-base repair will be finished shortly, paving scheduled curb-to- curb within the next two months.
Survey for O&M Work Year 14 needs action tonight.

Consent Order Project – the Borough was the recipient of a \$370K grant; the design work has begun
2024 Road Paving – Meeting with Infrastructure for the 2024 paving list will be held March 14.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOROUGH PROPERTY – Abigail Donovan

Garland Roof Proposal – Ms. Donovan explained Garland assesses and subcontracts roof work. In speaking with the sales rep last year, it was determined soffit and fascia should also be upgraded. Garland’s proposal was \$36K for the rubber roof portion of the borough building. Ms. Donovan tabled action until April and suggested bidding out the project in-house. Pres. Yurkovich stated there was enough in the budget to cover the cost of the rubber roof, but three bids would be required.

Borough Garage Heater – MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Mr. Bauer to approve a proposal from Mel Murray to install a Zoneline through the wall PTA unit (3.4 kw electric heat and 9000 BTU cooling) with new power cord not to exceed \$3K. Motion carried by roll call with Mr. Lenz voted nay.

COMMUNITY EVENTS – Abigail Donovan

Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, March 30, 10 a.m. at Marmo Park. Pre-registration at the borough office is required. Council is requested to meet at the pavilion at 9 am to hide eggs and set up refreshments and encouraged help from the community.

INFRASTRUCTURE – Daniel Lenz

SHACOG Consent Order Work/MS4 Survey Non-Binding Participation:

MOTION by Mr. Lenz, second by Mr. Mary to participate in the SHACOG Joint Bid, O&M Repairs, Year 14. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

2024 Road Paving Program – MOTION by Mr. Lenz, second by Ms. Donovan to advertise the 2024 Road Paving Project once the list has been finalized in the New Pittsburgh Courier and the Pittsburgh Post Gazette. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

PERSONNEL – Kevin Wisniewski

No Report

PUBLIC WORKS – Michael V. Mary

Spring culvert clean-outs have begun. Street signs are being replaced as warranted. Mr. Mary has the complete DPW work list as submitted by Mr. Fashian.

QVCOG – Abigail Donovan

Cohen Law/Comcast Renewal - Ms. Donovan had distributed the Cohen Law Group cable franchise agreement at the February 14 meeting. If seven QVCOG communities agree, a 20% discount in services will be realized. MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Ms. Dine to approve the Cohen Law Group proposal for the Comcast contract renewal. Discussion: Pers. Yurkovich reminded council Cohen Law Group had negotiated on behalf of the borough and other COG communities in the past. Sol. McTiernan added Cohen Law was the best deal for communities. Motion carried by roll call; Mr. Bauer abstained.

SALT SHED – William Bauer

Mr. Bauer is investigating replacement of the salt shed.

FINANCE/PERSONNEL – Michael V. Mary, Jr.

Bill List - MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Ms. Dine to approve the bill list with the additions of Advance Auto \$30.47; SWIF \$771. Motion carried by roll call; Mr. Lenz voted nay.

OLD BUSINESS

Vinegar Hollow – The catch basin at 7600 Brighton Road has been replaced and the project was authorized to be split by Kilbuck Twp., Ben Avon and Emsworth Boroughs. Ben Avon raised concern about public safety and recommended block be added as a barrier for safety. Ben Avon and Emsworth DPWs worked together to solve this. Subsequently, a bill was received from Ben Avon for this work. Pres. Yurkovich requested a letter be sent to Ben Avon Council regarding this billing and noted a survey should be required to determine future responsibility. Emsworth DPW has subsequently cleaned out this area and Ben Avon has not been charged. Going forward, concern is Ben Avon will invoice Emsworth every time their DPW does work in this area. Emsworth is also awaiting reimbursement from Kilbuck Twp. Motion unanimously carried.

Veterans Banners – Delinquent balance due on account from Rileigh's Outdoor Advertising who manufacture the Veterans banners. MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Ms. Dine to pay the outstanding balance of \$284.90 and suspend the program. Pres. Yurkovich reported until former mayor AmySue Lillie, who spear headed this project, is in contact regarding the status of orders and hardware inventory, it is difficult for anyone to step forward and take over this program. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Solicitor Retainer – Mr. Lenz questioned the \$500 retainer charge on the solicitor's invoice. Sol. McTiernan explained the retainer covers preparation, travel and anything connected to the monthly meeting.

DCNR Marmo Park – Ms. Donovan reported along with the borough engineer and borough secretary, she participated in a zoom meeting with DCNR, relative to the \$99,800 Marmo Park Grant for the replacement of the pirate ship and swing set. An additional grant is being worked on for replacement of the large playground equipment.

Mayernik Field – Although signs are posted at Mayernik Field (and Marmo Park) dog owners continue to bring dogs to the area. Softball season is starting, the dog poop is prevalent. Avonworth Girls Athletic Association (AGAA) has requested more noticeable No Dogs Allowed signs be installed. MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Ms. Dine to purchase No Dogs Allowed signs at a cost not to exceed \$250. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Harshman Group – Pres. Yurkovich will schedule a meeting with the Harshman Group relative to on-going code violations to cite or file at the magistrate. The Zoning Hearing Board recently met and denied the short-term rental (Air BnB) at 204 Superior Avenue.

NEW BUSINESS

ALOM Spring Conference – There was no interest to attend.

PSAB Conference – There was no interest to attend.

1 and 3 Kingsland Drive, Tree Concern – Property owners reported overhanging trees onto their property and are concerned about damage to their property. According to block and lot maps, this is private property abutting SR 65 (state property). Property owners contacted the State who responded it was not state property. Property owners now say it is borough property to maintain the large trees. Property owners have been requested to provide a survey for the borough to review.

Vacancy Board – MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Ms. Donovan to appoint Paul F. Getz to the vacancy board. Motion carried by roll call; Mr. Bauer abstained.

Newly Elected Officials Boot Camp - Mr. Mary recommended newly appointed council member, Kevin Wisniewski, partake in this training program;

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Fran Donovan – 8179 Ohio River Blvd. reported PennDOT installed an arrow sign on SR 65 in front of the condo property to make drivers aware of the curve in the road. Ms. Donovan is interested in the purchase of a Veteran Banner once the program is restarted.

Jaime Mary, 237 Clearview Road, questioned who is responsible for long term care of the banners in case of wind damage, banner fading, etc. Pres. Yurkovich replied this all needs to be worked out before the program can be reintroduced.

Mr. Ejzak, 32 Hiland Avenue, questioned if general maintenance grants were available for the proposed building roof. Pres. Yurkovich replied that grant funding is also being investigated.

ADJOURN

MOTION by Mr. Yurkovich, second by Ms. Donovan to Adjourn the March 13, 2024, meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully, Submitted,

CATHY JONES
Borough Secretary