

EMSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
171 Center Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15202
Meeting Minutes – July 10, 2024

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

Council Members Absent – Daniel Lenz

Others Present – Alexander Nalevanko; Mayor; Robert L. McTiernan, Esq.; Dennis J. Flynn, P.E.;

Cathy Jones, Borough Secretary

President Yurkovich called the July 10, 2024, meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call, the June 12, 2024, Minutes were considered for approval.

MINUTES APPROVAL

MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Ms. Donovan to approve the June 12, 2024, Minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote; Messrs. Getz and Yurkovich abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

MAYOR REPORT – Alexander Nalevanko

Public Safety: OTPD: 184 calls; EVFC: 55 calls.

Chief Hanny added 70 citations were issued along SR 65 during a recent aggressive driver detail that ran from Beaver County to the City of Pittsburgh. Grant money for the detail was through a state grant with the support from State Rep. Arvind Venkat.

PRESIDENT REPORT – Kevin Yurkovich

Elected officials are held to a higher standard...going forward if someone is in violation of an ordinance including property maintenance, blowing grass into the street which also violates MS4, not removing snow from sidewalk etc. they will have the same consequence as any other resident for the ordinance violation.

SOLICITOR REPORT – Robert L. McTiernan, Esq.

Holy Family Institute – At their June 26 meeting, the Planning Commission had approved the submitted land development plan from HFI for a proposed new school gymnasium subject to conditions/restrictions from Gateway Engineers and the borough's zoning hearing board. Sol. Ayoob (HFI solicitor) agreed to a time extension until the August 10 council meeting. Sol. McTiernan recommended action be tabled.

Vinegar Hollow – Kilbuck Twp. solicitor sent a letter offering a \$3500 settlement towards the December 2023 Vinegar Hollow work. The project was approximately \$22k and was to be split between Kilbuck Twp., Ben Avon Borough and Emsworth Borough as all communities feed into this area; Ben Avon has paid their share. Kilbuck Twp. Chair, Tom Tomaro, was unaware of this project but requested their solicitor present a letter to Emsworth offering \$3500. A maintenance agreement will need to be drafted between the municipalities for continual clean-up of this area.

ENGINEER REPORT – Dennis J. Flynn, P.E

Holy Family Institute – Gateway is awaiting the decision from the zoning hearing board relative to the engineering concerns.

2024 Paving Program – Youngblood Paving is scheduled to begin the paving program at the end of July. A pre-construction field meeting will be scheduled.

Spring Street – Sink hole on Spring Street has been filled by Duquesne Light as a result of a new pole replacement. This line has been cameraed and is damaged. The cost is \$17-20K to replace the pipe and repair the sinkhole; if the line is collapsed to the end wall at Lowries Run Creek, the cost would be \$170-190K plus a general permit would be required.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOROUGH PROPERTY – Abigail Donovan

Borough Hall, Electrical Upgrade - Property Committee is awaiting proposals.

Borough Hall Front Entrance Upgrade – Ms. Donovan met with Mr. Fashian to discuss upgrades to the exterior of the building on the community room side to include painting, new carpeting and new door/window replacement. One proposal in the \$10K range has been submitted for the window/door replacement; Ms. Donovan will seek additional quotes.

Marmo Park – Pres. Yurkovich questioned The Electric Company doing work at the pavilion. Ms. Donovan reported several outlets did not work at the pavilion; Mr. Getz indicated condensation was visible in the overhead light.

COMMUNITY EVENTS – Abigail Donovan

Avonworth Marching Band – MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Ms. Dine to approve a \$250 donation, Drum Major Level, to the Avonworth Marching Band. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Story Walk sponsored by Avalon Public Library is currently taking place at Marmo Park during July and August. Storyboard signs are placed around the park and a story unfolds as one follows the signs throughout the park.

Dixmont Cemetery Clean-Up – This clean-up will take place Saturday, July 21 beginning at 10 a.m. in Kilbuck Twp.

INFRASTRUCTURE – Paul F. Getz

Joint Sewer Lining, Year 18 – MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Mr. Mary to concur with the SHACOG Bid Concurrence, Sewer Lining, Year 18, to award to Jet Jack in the amount of \$295,015; Emsworth’s share is \$19,175. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Gibb Street – Mr. Getz reported on the roadway condition of Gibb Street and requested, if possible, to add this street to the 2024 Paving Program. The roadway was rebuilt after Hurricane Ivan washed out the roadway. Small trucks hauled asphalt from Sunny Jim’s parking lot across the Gibson Street Bridge and worked with residents to shut down the area for one day. The borough has continued to salt and plow this area. Mr. Flynn will check with Youngblood Paving to possibly remove one street and add Gibb Street this year, or DPW will patch this year and Gibb Street will be added to the 2025 paving program.

Pres. Yurkovich removed Mr. Lenz from the Infrastructure Committee and Salt Shed Committee. Mr. Getz offered to work on the salt shed; Pres. Yurkovich will be on the Infrastructure Committee. Should Mr. Lenz return to his council duties, Pres. Yurkovich will be reinstate Mr. Lenz to those committees.

PERSONNEL – Kevin Wisniewski

No report this evening.

PUBLIC WORKS – Michael V. Mary

No report this evening.

QVCOG – Abigail Donovan

SR 65 Corridor Project – QVCOG Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement was discussed; no funding commitment. MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Mr. Getz to participate in the QVCOG SR 65 Corridor Project. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Resolution No. 2024-02 covers the SR 65 Corridor Project. MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Mr. Getz to approve Res. 2024-02 covering the SR 65 Intergovernmental Agreement. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Act 101 Section 94 Recycling Grant –The borough was a recipient of \$805.48 through this grant.

Hard to Recycle Event will be held July 29, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Buncher Park in Leetsdale; advance registration is required. Information is on the borough’s web site.

SALT SHED – Dan Lenz

No Report

FINANCE – Michael Mary

Bill List - MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Ms. Dine to approve the bill list with the additions of Columbia Gas \$45.30; Mike's Plumbing \$405; Sherwin-Williams \$33.27; Tri State Maintenance \$475. Motion unanimously approved by roll call.

Transcripts – Invoices were received from court stenographer for service at two zoning hearing board meetings. Submitted invoices were inconsistent relative to payments already made but not noted plus price per page for transcripts differed. MOTION by Mr. Mary second by Mr. Wisniewski to pay L. Cavaliere Court Reporting an amount not to exceed \$1786 for transcripts covering two zoning hearing board meetings after clarification of noted inconsistencies have been addressed. Motion carried by roll call, Pres. Yurkovich voted nay stating Holy Family is under Catholic Charities and a non-profit and he felt strongly Emsworth taxpayers should not foot the bill for these zoning board hearings, or any hearing.

OLD BUSINESS -None

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment, Zoning Hearing Board – MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Ms. Donovan to appoint Ed Young to the Zoning Hearing Board to a term that expires July 1, 2026. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Summer Help – MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Mr. Wisniewski to approve one summer help employee at \$14/hour, not to exceed 30 hours/week, beginning mid-July through Sept. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

A security light at the Veterans Memorial popped off the wall, Mr. Mary requested Ride the Thunder, who did the initial install, be contacted to resecure.

West View Water Authority – WVWA will be beginning their lead service line upgrades in various areas of the North Boroughs. There is no cost to the borough; WVWA is seeking funding through PennVest for this project.

Handicap Parking - Requests from resident at 179 Allegheny Avenue and at 219 Center Avenue (rear apartment, requested on Orchard Avenue) were received. It was noted 179 Allegheny Avenue has parking off the alley at the rear of the property and 219 Center, rear apartment, it was unclear where the parking was being requested. Resident did not include a telephone number to contact. No motions were made.

187 Allegheny Avenue – Tenants moved out and left a sizeable amount of refuse for Waste Management (WM) to collect. WM did not collect this and with the upcoming July 4th weekend, it was an eyesore and health hazard for residents. Pres. Yurkovich, Mr. Conners (QVCOG), and WM will have a zoom meeting July 15 to address this. Emsworth DPW cleaned up the mess which filled two dumpsters. Harshman Group will cite the property owner.

Pres. Yurkovich requested an ordinance update to restrict parking of boats and trailers on the streets.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Sexauer, President, Holy Family Institute, stated HFI was not part of Catholic Charities; and offered HFI to pay half the price of the transcripts from the zoning hearing board meetings. Mr. Sexauer also announced Holy Family was hosting the Avonworth Marching Band for two weeks band practice at their field. This is a cooperative effort between Avonworth School District and Holy Family Institute.

ADJOURN

MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Mr. Wisniewski to Adjourn the July 10, 2024, meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

CATHY JONES, Borough Secretary