

EMSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
171 Center Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15202
Business Meeting Minutes – June 14, 2023

Council Members Present – Paul F. Getz; David J. Lang; Daniel Lenz; Michael V. Mary; Kevin Yurkovich

Council Members Absent – Brian J. Fashian, Abigail Donovan

Others Present – Edward A. Miller, Mayor; Robert L. McTiernan, Esq., Borough Solicitor; Dennis J. Flynn, P.E., Borough Engineer; Cathy Jones, Borough Secretary

President Yurkovich called the June 14, 2023, business meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call, Pres. Yurkovich called for approval of the May 10, 2023, Minutes.

MINUTES APPROVAL

MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Mr. Lenz to approve the May 10, 2023, Meeting Minutes as distributed. Motion carried by voice vote.

HOLLOW OAK LAND TRUST

Sean Brady, Executive Director of the Hollow Oak Land Trust, addressed council with the Trust's vision of their recently acquired portion of Vinegar Hollow to work with Avonworth Municipal Authority to connect Vinegar Hollow to Avonworth Community Park, to Ben Avon Park and to Kenny Field thereby opening up walking trails between the communities. The Trust will soon offer memberships to help this plan come to fruition. Discussion followed as to debris accumulating at the end of Vinegar Hollow as rain streams through Kilbuck Twp. to Ben Avon ending in Emsworth. Ben Avon and Emsworth are committed to maintain this outfall area. It is hoped Kilbuck Twp. will install and maintain a trash rack to catch debris, preventing debris to flow and accumulate in this catch basin. This past winter, the catch basin overflowed onto Memorial Drive and continued onto SR 65, temperatures dropped and this area froze. Ben Avon brought in equipment to clear the basin. It is common for some residents to dump yard waste and leaves in this area. Kilbuck Twp. will be requested to send a letter to their residents educating them on how dumped leaves impacts the catch basin and reminding residents no dumping is also a requirement under the MS4 guidelines.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

MAYOR'S REPORT – Edward A. Miller, Mayor

Public Safety: OTPD: 100 calls; EVFC: 44 calls

Pres. Yurkovich reported several dirt bike riders meet on Ivanhoe, test their bikes and then ride up into Kilbuck Twp. Chief Hanny responded that OTPD will step up patrol in this area.

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

Sol. McTiernan is drafting a letter to Kilbuck Twp. supervisors and manager re outfall impact from Kilbuck Twp. affecting Emsworth at Vinegar Hollow catch basin and update them from recent meetings.

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

2023 Road Program – Youngblood Paving has milling almost completed; paving should conclude by end of June.

Vinegar Hollow – Gateway requested proposals from three contractors for the Vinegar Hollow work; only one quote was received and it was above the threshold. Gateway will reach out again to have a quote for the July 12 meeting.

GTRP Grant – Grant deadline was met for Marmo Park improvements. It is estimated the upgrades will be \$400K; DCNR and GTRP grants total \$350K, Emsworth share would be \$50K. The grant will be awarded in late fall.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOROUGH PROPERTY – Abigail Donovan/David J. Lang

Salt Shed – Mr. Fashian met with rep from Advantage Structures regarding a new salt shed. It is proposed a 30 x 70 shed would be in the \$60-80K range; plus, demo of existing shed, removal of debris, and new asphalt pad. Messrs. Lang and Fashian will further discuss. Action tabled.

Cameras at Marmo Park & Mayernik Field – Recent vandalism at Marmo Park restrooms include stall doors ripped off hinges, dispensers smashed, toilets clogged with paper towels, and at Mayernik Field, the port-o-john has been toppled twice, which prompted discussion for upgraded surveillance cameras. An internet drop is required at these locations. Chief Hanny stated he will provide two cameras once the borough arranges the internet drop. Pres. Yurkovich stated if the vandalism continues, restrooms will be locked and only unlocked during park rentals.

INFRASTRUCTURE – Paul F. Getz/David J. Lang

No Report

MS4 – Mr. Mary

2023 Audit – The borough passed the recent state MS4 audit, covering cycle 2018- to-date.

PERSONNEL – Abigail Donovan/Michael V. Mary

No Report

PUBLIC WORKS – Abigail Donovan/Michael V. Mary

No Report

QVCOG – Paul F. Getz/Brian J. Fashian

QVCOG is looking into cameras for SR 65. Chief Hanny will speak with Sister Linda at Holy Family regarding subsidizing cameras at the SR 65 and Allegheny Avenue intersection.

ZONING – Abigail Donovan/Paul F. Getz

No report

FINANCE – Michael V. Mary/Brian J. Fashian

Bill List – MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Mr. Getz to approve the bill list with the following additions: \$250 Avonworth Band Boosters; \$216 The Barn; \$210 Mike Christy Plumbing; \$1097 Tri State Maintenance. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

OLD BUSINESS

Harshman Group - Pres. Yurkovich reported the Harshman Group is not providing adequate code enforcement service: 192 Superior is not completed, there is debris in the yard as well as a large hole that is unprotected; 8140 Ohio River Blvd. received a 60-day extension from the district magistrate yet the borough has no idea what is happening at this site and there is no building permit on record. It has been learned that Ben Avon has fired the Harshman Group. Pres. Yurkovich invited anyone on council to begin to look into another code enforcement agency.

NEW BUSINESS

Ohio Twp. Police Contract – The borough was recently contacted by Chief Hanny, OTPD, regarding a substantial increase (80%) in the police contract with Ohio Twp. Other entities were researched: state police, no; other police forces nearby, not interested. A right-to-know was submitted, and received, to Ohio Twp. for financials and it was determined the increase was justified. After discussions, a preliminary increase will be considered for adoption by the municipalities contracted by Ohio Twp. Police; with minimal increases the next three years and a higher increase in year four. The proposal includes zone cars to handle calls: Zone: Emsworth/Kilbuck/Amazon; Zone: Ben Avon/Ben Avon Heights/Giant Eagle with a second car as back-up. Chief Hanny stated response time would be the same for calls as they are now. Chief Hanny added Covid, inflation and the current environment regarding police have added to stress in hiring. Due to personnel shortages in Avalon Borough, Ohio Twp has been providing overtime services; but this in no way effects coverage in Emsworth. The contract deadline is approaching; Emsworth and Kilbuck will vote at their July meetings; currently, Ben Avon is not on board with this proposal. Pres. Yurkovich added the borough financial committee is looking at a tax increase in 2024 to recover from inflation; but reported the borough would still have one of lowest tax bases.

Locust Street Handrail – Pres. Yurkovich reported on (state road) Locust Street: the handrail and sidewalk are in need of repair. The handrail is loose and not attached at the base in many areas. Mr. Getz stated former borough solicitor Michael Marmo had drafted an agreement with PennDOT which had a specific clause regarding the retaining wall, the handrail and sidewalk would be maintained in perpetuity by PennDOT. Judge Marmo will be contacted for recollection on this issue. Sol. McTiernan added he will also research this agreement with PennDOT.

Pusateri Brothers Proposal, Center Avenue Trees – Mr. Fashian contacted three tree trimming companies for a quote on trimming the decorative tress on Center Avenue; two responded: Tall Timber, \$4500; Pusateri Brothers, \$2150. MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Mr. Lenz to award the decorative tree trimming job along Center Avenue to Pusateri Bros. in the amount of \$2150. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

21 Willow Street - During recent milling, a survey pin was removed by the contractor in order to mill and pave the street which led to a verbal confrontation with the resident. It has been noted boulders at this property were later moved further into the street which may impede vehicle traffic. Concern is over emergency vehicles and borough snow plows navigating this turn. Council directed the borough solicitor to draft a letter to be sent regular mail, certified mail and hand delivered. It was noted the parents are the property owners.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

ADJOURN

MOTION by Mr. Lenz, second by Mr. Getz to Adjourn the June 14, 2023, council meeting at 7:30 p.m.
Motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

CATHY JONES
Borough Secretary