

EMSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
171 Center Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15202
Business Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2022

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

Council Members Absent – Jason Helfrich

Others Present – AmySue Lillie, Mayor; Daniel C. Conlon, Esq., Borough Solicitor; Dennis J. Flynn, P.E., Borough Engineer; Cathy Jones, Borough Secretary

President Yurkovich called the September 14, 2022, business meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call, the August 10, 2022, Minutes were presented for approval.

MINUTES APPROVAL

MOTION by Mr. Fashian; second by Mr. Mary to approve the August 10, 2022, Meeting Minutes as distributed. Motion carried by voice vote.

Holy Family Institute - Sister Linda Yankoski and Michael Sexauer discussed the proposed project at the HFI campus. A pre-application meeting was held in June and HFI proposed to build a parking lot on parcel Nos. 275-M-262, 275-S-162, 275-S-156, and 275-S-152 and an auditorium on parcel No. 275-S-204. Sol. Conlon stated HFI could not use the proposed parking lot to satisfy parking requirements for the new auditorium. The proposed auditorium is located approximately 600 ft. from the proposed parking lot with no safe pedestrian walkway. Sister Linda clarified the proposed building is not an auditorium but a larger gymnasium. HFI was directed to begin the pre-application process again noting a proposed gymnasium.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

MAYOR’S REPORT - AmySue Lille

Public Safety: OTPD: 72 calls EVFC: 32 calls

Honor Banners: additional applications have been submitted for banners.

Pres. Yurkovich questioned vehicles, in particular two motorcycles on lower Allegheny Avenue, covered with tarps and left on the roadway. Chief Hanny replied if there is a borough ordinance prohibiting this, OTPD would take action.

Chief Hanny reported I-79S will be shutdown the next two weekends, from Friday night until Monday morning for Neville Island bridge work.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR REPORT – Daniel C. Conlon, Esq., Borough Solicitor

No report this evening.

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

2021-22 Road Paving Project - Two bids were opened September 8, submitted by A. Folino and T. A. Robinson. Road work covers Walliston Avenue from Center Avenue to Ohio River Blvd (SR 65) and Courtney Street from Plumer to Vista. Gateway recommends awarding to the low bidder, T. A. Robinson in the amount of \$195,346.50. MOTION by Mr. Lenz, second by Mr. Getz to award the 2021-22 Road Paving project, upon Gateway Engineers recommendation, to T. A. Robinson in the amount of \$195,346.50. Motion unanimously carried by roll call. Mr. Flynn will advise paving dates once T. A. Robinson has signed the contract and added this paving project to their schedule.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOROUGH PROPERTY – Jason Helfrich/Abigail Donovan

No report this evening.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Young Family Volunteer Project – The Young Family would like to volunteer for a community project. Mr. Fashion suggested holiday decorating. The family will spend a Saturday in November to decorate the borough hall in time for the December 4 Light-Up Night. Mr. Fashion will oversee this project.

Halloween – Halloween Parade will be held Sat. Oct. 29, 10 a.m. beginning at Allegheny Avenue. Trick or Treat will be celebrated Monday, Oct. 31 from 6 – 8 pm. Mayor Lillie would like the Avonworth Band to receive best costume prizes; the mayor will handle this.

INFRASTRUCTURE – Dan Lenz/Paul F. Getz/Jason Helfrich

Catch Basin Repairs – MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Mr. Lenz to award to G. Salandro Excavating catch basin work at Oak and Locust in the amount of \$9800. Motion unanimously carried by roll call. MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Mr. Lenz to award to G. Salandro Excavating catch basin work at Maple/SR 65 and also at 105 Gibb Street in the amount of \$9100. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Eicher Road – Mr. Lenz reported he contacted three companies, only one returned his call. MOTION by Mr. Lenz, second by Mr. Getz to award to N&N Landscaping grate cleanout on Eicher Road in the amount of \$2750. N&N will clear out the basin and grate, remove trash and silt from the creek, haul away and dispose of debris and silt. Discussion: Pres. Yurkovich, Messrs. Fashion and Mary stated this was a DPW job and could not justify the money for work that in the past had been done in-house. Roll Call: Yea: Mr. Lenz, Mr. Getz, Ms. Donovan Nay: Mr. Fashion, Mr. Mary, Mr. Yurkovich. Mayor Lille cast the tie breaker vote by voting yes to spend the money to clear this area that had been neglected and then turn it over to DPW for routine maintenance. Motion carried

3 Rivers Wet Weather Conference November 2-3, Monroeville Convention Center – Mr. Lenz expressed interest to attend this conference as he has in the past. MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Ms. Donovan to send Mr. Lenz to the 3RWW Conference in Monroeville at a cost of \$100.

Mr. Lenz will start the DPW truck inspections with Mike Adams.

AVONWORTH COMMUNITY PARK – Kristin Bennett, Executive Board rep, introduced Brian Geisler who was recently appointed to the Advisory Board at the Park. Ms. Bennett presented the annual park audit to Council and addressed upcoming challenges: a swimming pool that is 50 years old: a new roof at Mayernik Center: upgrades to Miller Hall and to the pavilion structure. Ms. Bennett made council aware of working with the non-profit Hollow Oak Land Trust who is interested in purchasing Vinegar Hollow, which equates to 46 acres for conservancy. Ms. Bennett stated she is available to council for any questions or concerns they may have at the park.

PERSONNEL – Brian Fashion/Michael Mary

DPW Hire – MOTION by Mr. Fashion, second by Mr. Mary to hire Ray Rapp at a rate of \$18/hour for a 90-day probation period then increase to \$20/hour up to 40 hours per week. MOTION unanimously carried by roll call. Mr. Rapp will begin Monday, September 19; Ms. Donovan will meet with him that morning.

Pres. Yurkovich reminded Council only the DPW Committee or he will direct work to Mr. Rapp. Mr. Mary announced a time clock will be put in place at the borough garage before Monday.

Res. 2022-03 PTO/Holiday Resolution – MOTION by Mr. Fashian, second by Mr. Mary to adopt Res. No. 2022-03 updating PTO to six paid holidays after probation period for DPW and a sliding vacation scale based on employment time; to become effective 1/1/2023. Motion unanimously carried by roll.

PUBLIC WORKS – Dan Lenz/Abigail Donovan

Pres. Yurkovich reminded the DPW Committee the skid steer door needs put on the machine before winter and the mower is currently at J&D Lawn and Tractor being serviced.

QVCOG – Paul F. Getz/Brian J. Fashian

CDBG Year 49 pre-apps are due at the COG office by the end of the week. The borough will not be submitting applications this round.

QVCOG Dinner – October 5, 7-9 p.m. at the Edgeworth Club, \$75/official. There was no interest to attend.

ZONING – Abigail Donovan/Paul F. Getz

No report.

FINANCE – Michael Mary/Brian J. Fashian

Bill List – MOTION by Mr. Fashian second by Mr. Mary, to approve the Bill List as presented with the following additions: Harshman Group \$125 (5 invoices); Traffic Systems \$10,393.87 (SR 65 & Allegheny). Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

2023 Budget – Council should submit 2023 budget needs to the finance committee by the end of the month.

OLD BUSINESS

Finance Office/EVFC Wall – After measurements, the wall will be extended 14 ft. to aid the fire company.

Reimbursement – Mr. Lenz said he will reimburse the borough the 4 hours that DPW helped at the Avonworth Community Park.

Vinegar Hollow – Multi-municipality meeting is planned for the future.

Pres. Yurkovich will make note of constant offenders who blow grass clippings onto the street which is in violation of the borough ordinance. Harshman Group will be requested to send notices to the offenders.

NEW BUSINESS

PSAB Fall Conference - October 14-16, in Gettysburg – there was no interest to attend.

202 Hazelwood Avenue – Property continues to be rented as Air BnB, in violation of the borough ordinance relegating short term rentals to R-3 district only. Former zoning officer sent a letter to the property owners giving them an opportunity for appeal, which was never acted upon. Sol. Conlon was requested to send a letter to the property owners/management group. It was noted the property is on the market for sale.

Mayor Lillie announced she met with Bethanie DiLucente who reached out to the mayor to photograph the borough council chambers and fire station for a possible commercial. Sol. McTiernan was solicited for his opinion and he stated the company could not use names nor logos and an agreement between the borough and the filming company needed to be signed. Tentative dates are in October and the borough could receive \$1500/day for this shoot.

DCNR Grant - Mr. Flynn reported DCNR grant is open and that a soft surface for the Marmo Park playground may qualify. Former DCNR rep Kathy Frankel is a Gateway Engineers grant writer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Pres. Yurkovich called for an executive session at 7:50 p.m. for the discussion of personnel. Council reconvened at 8:00 p.m.; Pres. Yurkovich announced the executive session was in compliance with the Sunshine Laws.

ADJOURN

MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Mr. Lenz to Adjourn the September 14, 2022, council meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

CATHY JONES
Borough Secretary