

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

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

President Kevin Yurkovich called the September 11, 2024, meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call, the August 14, 2024, Minutes were considered for approval.

MINUTES APPROVAL

MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Ms. Donovan to approve the August 14, 2024, Minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote; Messrs. Wisniewski and Yurkovich abstained.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pres. Yurkovich called for an executive session of council at 6:32 p.m. to discuss potential litigation. Council reconvened at 6:50 p.m.; Pres. Yurkovich stated the executive session was in compliance with all Sunshine Laws.

AVONWORTH COMMUNITY PARK – Kristin Hahn Bennett

Ms. Hahn Bennett presented the audit for years 2022 and 2023 for the Avonworth Municipal Authority. Avonworth Community Park was discussed: updated security system; updated basketball courts; working with the Hollow Oak Land Trust to update trails; Concert Series was successful and the Authority is working to get bids for the pavilion roof. The Authority is also working on grants for the park. WQED has tapped the Park as one of the top five parks in Allegheny County. Challenges facing the Board are park growth; parking; and an aging swimming pool. The Board partnered with Bellevue for an end of season dog swim; Oktoberfest is scheduled for October 12; Breakfast with Santa is December 8 and the annual Christmas Party is Dec. 14. Last year, Duquesne Light was tree trimming and a limb fell precariously close to a YMCA class. Mayor Nalevanko requested all municipalities receive a copy of the safety report and better communication is needed from Duquesne Light to Park personnel whenever tree trimming is scheduled.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

MAYOR REPORT – Alexander Nalevanko

Public Safety: OTPD: 166 calls; EVFC: 39 calls

Pres. Yurkovich requested Mayor Nalevanko sign the QVCOG SR 65 Corridor agreement and coordinating resolution as well as the ten-year fire agreement between Emsworth and Glenfield Emsworth and the coordinating resolution. Mayor Nalevanko refused to sign both citing the SR 65 corridor (he felt) was a binding agreement as the text indicated “to be legally bound”; further the mayor did not agree with a ten-year term for the fire contract. Mayor Nalevanko felt the agreements were misrepresented to Council and questioned if Council had read the documents. Sol. McTiernan noted as council voted and approved both the SR 65 corridor agreement and the fire contract with concurring resolutions, they go into effect with or without the mayor’s signature.

SOLICITOR REPORT – Robert L. McTiernan, Esq.

No Report

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

2024 Paving Program – A catch basin/storm sewer is proposed to alleviate underground springs from seeping onto Walliston Avenue and freezing in the winter; ice would accumulate to several inches and the skid steer bucket was needed to break up the ice. Cost is approximately \$69,425. MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Mr. Getz to approve a catch basin/storm sewer above Walliston as part of the 2024 paving project. Mr. Getz noted the same addition of a catch basin/storm sewer will be needed in the future on Allison Avenue. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOROUGH PROPERTY – Abigail Donovan

Borough Hall Front Entrance Upgrade – Two proposals received for the window and door upgrades, Tri-Lite Windows in the amount of \$10,900 and H&L Glass in the amount of \$10,704. MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Mr. Getz to award the front entrance upgrades to H&L Glass in an amount not to exceed \$12K. Discussion: Mr. Getz stated the doors should have a full panic push bar; Ms. Donovan will contact the contractor. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

COMMUNITY EVENTS – Abigail Donovan

Halloween Parade will be held Saturday, October 26 at 10 a.m., registration at the borough office.

INFRASTRUCTURE – Paul F. Getz

192 Center Avenue sink hole and the manhole elimination at Huntington/Hazelwood have both been completed.

PERSONNEL – Kevin Wisniewski

No report this evening.

PUBLIC WORKS – Michael V. Mary

The new paint sprayer has already paid for itself as Mr. Fashian painted the centerline on Center Avenue and Memorial Drive which previously cost \$2700 by contract to paint. The borough continues to look its best.

QVCOG – Abigail Donovan

CDBG Year 50 – Emsworth received an award amount of \$41K towards ADA sidewalk ramps.
2025 Dues – No increase in dues for 2025, three years without an increase in membership dues.

SALT SHED – Paul F. Getz

Messrs. Getz and Fashian will meet to discuss the proposed salt shed.

FINANCE – Michael Mary

Bill List - MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Ms. Donovan to approve the bill list with the additions of Columbia Gas \$45.68; Sherwin-Williams \$375.44; SWIF \$4909. Motion unanimously approved by roll call.

OLD BUSINESS

Holy Family Institute - MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Ms. Donovan contingent upon meeting all conditions set forth in the Borough Engineer’s correspondence on September 11, 2024, relating to the Holy Family Institute gymnasium project, including, but not limited to, complying with the height requirements of the zoning ordinance for accessory buildings, and complying with the applicant’s agreement that the gymnasium will be used only by students of the school during school hours or for basketball in the evening. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

NEW BUSINESS

Request submitted by Mr. Getz for No Parking Between Signs on Ivanhoe between Walliston and Greenwood Avenues to enable tenants to access the garage at 222 Walliston. There was no motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

ADJOURN

MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Mr. Getz to Adjourn the September 11, 2024, meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

CATHY JONES
Borough Secretary