

EMSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
171 Center Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15202
Meeting Minutes – August 13, 2025

Council Members Present – Abigail Donovan; Paul F. Getz, CBO.; Daniel Lenz; Michael V. Mary (Telecom); John Tadler; Kevin Wisniewski, Kevin Yurkovich
Others Present – Jessica Boyd, Mayor; Ashley Puchalski Esq.; Dennis J. Flynn, P.E.; Cathy Jones, Borough Secretary

President Kevin Yurkovich called the August 13, 2025, meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call, the July 9, 2025, Minutes were considered for approval.

MINUTES APPROVAL

MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Mr. Tadler to approve the July 9, 2025, Minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote; Mr. Lenz voted nay.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathleen Wilwohl, 226 Walliston Avenue - reported a wasp nest under the slide at Marmo Park; she is concerned park restrooms are not unlocked daily making the park underutilized; Mr. Mister is not and has not been working. Ms. Donovan reported the borough has applied for a \$225K grant for park upgrades; park restrooms suffer vandalism when left unlocked. Mr. Tadler added social media encourages destroying public restrooms and posting. After discussion a Motion was considered to change park restroom hours to be open daily. Sol. Pulchalski advised a motion to amend the agenda was necessary.

MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Mr. Wisniewski to amend the agenda to add discussion of Marmo Park restroom hours. Motion carried with Messrs, Getz and Lenz voting nay.

MOTION by Mr. Wisniewski, second by Mr. Lenz to change Marmo Park restrooms hours to 9 am–9 pm daily. Motion failed: nay: Ms. Donovan, Messrs, Getz, Mary, Yurkovich; yea: Messrs. Lenz, Wisniewski, Tadler.

Tracey Weaver, 26 Center Avenue – concerned with speeding vehicles traveling from Ben Avon on Center Avenue and the school bus stop on Plummer Avenue. Chief Hanny stated with the beginning of the school year, Ohio Twp. Police will follow busses on both Center Avenue and Ohio River Blvd, in order to further protect children at the bus stops from not only speeders but those choosing to pass a school bus. Pres. Yurkovich stated crosswalks can only be painted across Plummer Ave. at Center Avenue, as Center Avenue does not have a curb opposite Plummer Avenue. Borough Engineer Dennis Flynn indicated a traffic study would take about two weeks to perform. Pres Yurkovich reminded council the last traffic study yielded average speed of vehicles at 24.8 mph along Center Avenue.

Josie Ramsey, 243 Greenwood – suggested parents attend an Avonworth School Board meeting with their concern for this bus stop. The parents have also taken their concerns to the school district.

MOTION by Mr. Lenz, second by Mr. Tadler to amend the agenda to add discussion of a traffic study on Center Avenue at Plummer Avenue. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

MOTION by Mr. Tadler, second by Mr. Lenz to authorize Gateway Engineers to perform a traffic study on Center Avenue at Plummer Avenue in an amount not to exceed \$2500. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Joe Koehler, Emergency Mgmt. Coordinator for Emsworth Borough, announced he attended a quarterly meeting at the 911 Center, a Hazard Mitigation Plan was discussed including linking to social media.

Bob Donovan, 220 Allegheny Avenue, (Donovan Cleaners), has concerns with parking on Center Avenue in the business district hours, including parking for the proposed the multi-unit townhouses at 235-237 Center Avenue and requested Council consider reopening Orchard Avenue from Center to the alley for parking. This area was originally a 15- minute loading zone for the hardware store, which no longer exists. Pres. Yurkovich stated if council agrees, that section of the borough ordinance would need updated, advertised and considered for adoption, then DPW would repaint the curb from the yellow No Parking.

MAYOR REPORT – Jessica Boyd

Public Safety: OTPD: 209 calls; EVFC: 42 calls; QRS: 17 calls

Mayor Boyd received a note reporting overgrowth of vegetation encroaching on sidewalks; Harshman Group will investigate and send letters as warranted.

SOLICITOR REPORT – Ashley Pulchalski, Esq.

Holy Family Institute – Developers Agreement has been received from HFI, has been reviewed from legal and engineering and is ready for council’s consideration to adopt. Pres. Yurkovich stated land development fees would be deducted from escrow. MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Ms. Donovan to adopt the Developers Agreement with Holy Family Institute. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

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

ADA Ramps – Information has been submitted to Patrick Connors, QVCOG for CDBG funding.

CITF Gaming Fund Grant – Grant application is available for funding at Marmo Park or Mayernik Field. Grant applications will be submitted through QVCOG.

MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Mr. Wisniewski to amend the agenda to include discussion of the CITF grant funding for Marmo Park. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Mr. Lenz to apply for a CITF grant for Marmo Park upgrades. Motion carried by roll call; Mr. Getz voted nay.

MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Mr. Tadler to amend the agenda to include discussion of the CITF grant funding for Mayernik Field. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Mr. Mary to apply for a CITF grant for Mayernik Field upgrades to include a walkway and retro-fit lighting. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

2025 Paving- El Grande is mobilized on Huntington; milling is estimated to start at the end of August.

Insituform – MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Mr. Wisniewski to authorize Payment No. 2 to Insituform in the amount of \$44,483.06 for 2025 Corrective Action Repairs on the recommendation of Gateway Engineers. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOROUGH PROPERTY – Abigail Donovan

Fire Station Doors – Proposal received from Overhead Door to replace the drawbar at the fire station at a cost of \$3537.92. MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Mr. Getz to accept the proposal from Overhead Door for a new drawbar install at the fire station. Motion carried by roll call; Mr. Mary voted nay.

Center Avenue @ Orchard Avenue Parking - Continuing the discussion of no parking on Orchard Avenue from Center Ave to the alley: MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Mr. Wisniewski to authorize the borough solicitor to amend Borough Ord. No. 880 and advertise to permit parking on Orchard Avenue from Center Avenue to the unnamed alley. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

271 Center Avenue - Property owner parking on front lawn; which is prohibited by ordinance. OTPD spoke with property owner to inform him to park on the street.

201 Center Avenue – Mr. Wisniewski expressed frustration with the utility companies working on the pipeline upgrades and getting around the borough with road closures. He also expressed frustration with an on-going sinkhole on Center Avenue. Mr. Getz reported three sinkholes in the borough: on Locust, (state road and PennDOT has been informed); on Pennsylvania Avenue, (private lateral, homeowner is responsible); and on Center Avenue, damaged by Columbia Gas contractor. Columbia Gas has agreed to reimburse the borough for repairs. Mr. Fashian, DPW, added Frew Plumbing was called to submit a proposal to repair the sinkhole; a trench box was required due to the 11 ft. depth; it was discovered the lateral was broken in three places.

INFRASTRUCTURE – Paul F. Getz

No Report

PERSONNEL – Kevin Wisniewski

No Report

PUBLIC WORKS – Michael V. Mary

No Report

QVCOG – Paul F. Getz

Intergovernmental Reception - August 28, Edgeworth Club, \$75/official. There was no interest to attend.

Bulk Rock Salt – Ms. Donovan reported on correspondence received from SHACOG regarding Bulk Rock Salt. At the SHACOG bid opening, Compass Minerals America, Inc, was the lowest responsible bidder for the 2025-2026 season with a primary bid price of \$88.32/ton. MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Mr. Mary to join SHACOG and award the bulk rock salt for the 2025-2026 winter season to Compass Minerals America in the amount of \$88.32/ton. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

ZONING – Abigail Donovan

No Report

FINANCE – Michael V. Mary, Jr.

Bill List - MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Ms. Donovan, to approve the bill list with the following additions: Advance Auto \$6.75; Marmo Technology \$150; Marmo Technology \$1213.12; Mike's Plumbing \$172.50; Tri State Maintenance \$770. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Lenz reported \$13,700 was raised at the recent annual Sunny Jim's Ducky Races which benefitted local fire, police and EMS.

NEW BUSINESS

Comcast Renewal - MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Mr. Mary to renew the Comcast Franchise Agreement as prepared through Cohen Law Group under Res. No. 2025-07. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

64 Courtney Street – Resident has been in contact with Duquesne Light regarding upgraded street light shining into his house. A light shield is \$250 and the resident is willing to pay for this. MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Mr. Wisniewski to permit a light shield at 64 Courtney Street at the expense of the property owner. Work order will be issued once the \$250 invoice is paid in full by the property owner. Motion carried by roll call with Messrs. Getz and Lenz voting nay.

Sewage Collection – Sewage contract through PA Municipal Service Company (PAMS) for current and delinquent accounts. It is the recommendation of PAMS that Council consider a lower threshold for delinquent accounts, currently at \$350 per account; accounts are billed quarterly, as to more easily collect on an overdue account. Council has held the line at zero tolerance for payment plans and requiring accounts to stay current. MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Mr. Getz to lower the delinquent account threshold to \$150. Motion carried by roll call; Mr. Lenz voted nay.

PSAB Fall Conference - October 3-5, Penn State; \$615.18/official; \$240 Registration; 187.59/2 nights lodging. Mr. Getz was interested to attend. MOTION by Mr. Lenz, second by Mr. Tadler to send Mr. Getz to the PSAB Fall Conference at Penn State. Motion carried by roll call; Mr. Gerz abstained.

Boroughs Fall Conference, October 17-19, Erie – there was no interest to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURN

MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Ms. Donovan to Adjourn the August 13, 2025, meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

CATHY JONES
Borough Secretary