EMSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
171 Center Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15202
Meeting Minutes – November 13, 2024

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

President Kevin Yurkovich called the November 13, 2024, meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call, the October 9, 2024, Minutes were considered for approval.

MINUTES APPROVAL
MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Ms. Donovan to approve the October 9, 2024, Minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Dine and Messrs. Lenz and Wisniewski abstaining.

COMCAST RENEWAL PUBLIC HEARING
In accordance with Section 626 of the Federal Cable Act, which sets forth the process for franchise renewal, Emsworth Council held a public hearing for comments regarding Comcast Cable. Pres. Yurkovich entertained comments from the audience, there were none and a motion followed to accept the renewal agreement as prepared through Cohen Law Group. MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Ms. Donovan to accept the renewal agreement for Comcast Cable as prepared through Cohen Law Group. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

RESIGNATION – Letter of resignation received from Alexander Nalevanko dated Nov. 1, 2024. MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Ms. Donovan to accept the resignation from Alexander Nalevanko as Emsworth Mayor. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

APPOINTMENT – Two letters of interest were received for the position of Mayor. Both parties were in attendance and were questioned by council. MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Mr. Lenz to appoint Jessica Boyd as Mayor. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

AFFIDAVIT of RESIDENCY/OATH of OFFICE – Ms. Boyd completed the Affidavit of Residency and was administered the Oath of Office by the Borough Secretary and took her seat on council at 6:40 p.m.

Pres. Yurkovich announced appointments held by Mr. Nalevanko would need filled.
Allegheny County Boroughs Association – Mr. Getz was interested in this position. MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Mr. Lenz to appoint Mr. Getz as the Delegate to the ACBA. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Quaker Valley Council of Governments – Ms. Donovan expressed interest to step down as Delegate to the QVCOG but remain the Alternate; Mr. Getz was interested as Delegate. MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Ms. Dine to appoint Mr. Getz as the COG Delegate and Ms. Donovan as the Alternate. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Allegheny North Tax Collector – Emsworth has less than a half percent of a vote in this organization; no one was appointed at this time. Pres. Yurkovich announced a resident would be appointed if interested.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

MAYOR REPORT – Pres. Yurkovich
Public Safety: OTPD: 107 calls; EVFC: 56 calls; QRS – 6 calls

PRESIDENT REPORT – Kevin Yurkovich
No Report

SOLICITOR REPORT – Robert L. McTiernan, Esq.
Sol. McTiernan noted the Mayoral term fills the unexpired term through 2025.

ENGINEER REPORT – Dennis J. Flynn, P.E.
2024 Paving Program – Road project has been completed; punch-list items addressed. Payment application from Youngblood Paving Inc. is ready for consideration to pay. MOTION by Mrs. Getz, second by Mr. Mary to approve payment application No. 1 and Final from Youngblood Paving in the amount of $377,934.25 which includes the added storm sewer work. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Consent Order Phase II Source Flow Reduction – Letter of Interest for grant funding through a GROW grant has been submitted for 2700 LF of 8" to 12" Lining at a cost of $240K for the Ohio River Boulevard Lining Project.

Spring Street @ Willow Street Catch Basin – Sinkhole next to a Duquesne Light pole near 21 Willow was evaluated. The corrugated metal pipe is significantly damaged for its entirety including at the outfall into Lowries Run. The storm sewer repair would be required at minimum at the location of the sinkhole ($20K) and at the outfall ($18K and would require a General Permit). If the entire pipe is replaced between the sinkhole and the end wall, it is estimated to be $180K. Gateway will investigate grant funding.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
BOROUGH PROPERTY – Abigail Donovan
Mayernik Field – Mr. Mary reported field resurfacing including laser-grading, and resurface is estimated to be $18K; AGAA is working on grant funding. After investigating, it is cost prohibitive to run Wi-Fi to the concession stand. Upgraded security cameras to replace the current 15-year-old cameras are estimated at $500. OTPD Chief Hanny will check his security funding and may be able to help out the borough.

Mr. Mary questioned the borough solicitor about locking the gate at the softball field during winter months as both public and state funds were used for the field. Sol. McTiernan advised you can not create an undue hazard for people but you can protect your property. Sol. McTiernan will conduct research and further advise council.

COMMUNITY EVENTS – Abigail Donovan
Light Up the Borough – Sunday, December 1 from 5-8 p.m. at the Borough Building to include horse-drawn wagon rides, face painting, a magician, a juggling stilt walker and acoustic singer. On November 23, the Young clan will once again offer their assistance in getting decorations up at the borough building. Pres. Yurkovich added Santa is reported to attend as well as Mrs. Claus.

INFRASTRUCTURE – Paul F. Getz
Spring Street Storm Sewer – Mr. Getz reported a resident has contacted both the Allegheny County Conservation District and the DEP regarding this issue. Both entities will be informed of the borough engineer's report including costs to remediate.

Center Avenue Gas Line Work in 2025 – Columbia Gas will upgrade gas lines beginning in 2025. Work will include Roosevelt Road to the bend, Locust to Ohio River Blvd,, Glenn St., Superior Ave., Neville St., and Walnut St. MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Mr. Mary to waive street opening permit fees to Columbia Gas; Street Opening Permit applications will still need to be submitted to the borough office. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

PERSONNEL – Kevin Wisniewski
Mr. Fashian is getting the borough trucks ready for the upcoming snow season.

PUBLIC WORKS – Michael V. Mary
Mr. Fashian has been borough-wide collecting leaves from storm basins and at Marmo Park and Mayernik Field.

QVCOG – Abigail Donovan
Waste Management issues continue to plague the borough on an almost weekly basis. Pres. Yurkovich pressed QVCOG Director, Patrick Conners, to assess WM fines per the contract. A $5 fine was imposed. Pres. Yurkovich and Mr. Conners have scheduled a zoom meeting with WM on November 20 to discuss. Pres. Yurkovich stated a higher contract fee and different style bin pick-up is probable if WM is the low refuse bidder next contract.

SALT SHED – Paul F. Getz
Messrs. Getz and Fashian will meet regarding a proposed new salt shed.

FINANCE – Michael V. Mary, Jr.
2025 Budget – Budget distributed; MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Ms. Donovan to advertise the 2025 budget to consider to adopt at the December 11, 2024, council meeting in the amount of $1,386.835.00; $2,506,448 for all accounts. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Tax Credit for EVFC – EVFC Chief Kohl reported 20 eligible members for the Act 172 tax credit and that Allegheny County is offering a real estate tax credit for qualified volunteer firefighters. MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Mr. Mary to approve the list of eligible firefighters as provided by Chief Kohl for the Act 172 tax credit. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Bill List - MOTION by Mr. Getz second by Mr. Mary to approve the bill list with the following additions: New Pittsburgh Courier $186.03; Tri State Maintenance $410; Penn Global Signs $1784; Advance Auto $39.90. Motion unanimously approved by roll call.

OLD BUSINESS
Homeless people have been noticed in the Marmo Park/Mayernik Field area; OTPD is aware of the situation. Mr. Mary reported LED lighting for Mayernik Field will be resubmitted as a grant consideration.

NEW BUSINESS
2025 Sewage Rate – Pres. Yurkovich reported a $.25 increase/1K gallons of water will be added to the borough's sewage bills in 2025. MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Ms. Donovan to advertise 2025 rates for a sewage increase at $.25/1K gallons. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

ACBA General Membership Meeting, December 12, $60/official – there was no interest to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None

ADJOURN
MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Ms. Dine to Adjourn the November 13, 2024, meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

CATHY JONES
Borough Secretary