EMSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
171 Center Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15202
Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2025

Council Members Present – Abigail Donovan; Paul F. Getz, CBO; Daniel Lenz; Michael V. Mary; John Tadler; Kevin Wisniewski; Kevin Yurkovich
Others Present – Jessica Boyd, Mayor; Robert L. McTiernan, ESQ.; Dennis J. Flynn, P.E.; Cathy Jones, Borough Secretary

President Kevin Yurkovich called the May 14, 2025, meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call, the April 9, 2025, Minutes were considered for approval.

MINUTES APPROVAL
MOTION by Mr. Tadler, second by Ms. Donovan to approve the April 9, 2025, Minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

PRESIDENT REPORT
Pres. Yurkovich commented on the April 29 storm damage and weeklong power outage and thanked Mayor Jessica Boyd and Kevin Wisniewski for their assistance; Abby Donovan for keeping the community updated through Facebook posts and opening the borough as a charging station; OTPD, Cpl. Panormius and Ofc. Pastilevus for organizing the pop-up charging station and grilling hot dogs/hamburgers at the Dance Emotion parking lot; EVFC for helping with the charging station and responding to the many calls over several days; Rep. Venkat for keeping the borough on the radar for Duquesne Light Company's response; Brian Fashian for cutting and removing brush and the everyone in the community who pitched in and helped a neighbor clear a yard, cook a meal, or whatever it took to get through the week.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Lucas Leighty – 179 Orchard Avenue appreciated the Facebook updates during the recent storm and power outage. Pres. Yurkovich added not to think a neighbor has called Duquesne Light, he stressed that residents need to call and call often. DQL confirmed to Rep. Venkat that less than 10% of the community reported outages the first day.

MAYOR REPORT – Jessica Boyd
Public Safety: OTPD: 188 calls; EVFC: 123 calls; QRS: 25 calls
Mayor Boyd thanked EVFC for their immediate response after the April 29 storm and reminded the community that donations of water and power bars are always welcomed, as is responding to the EVFC annual fund drive.

Chief Hanny reported targeted enforcement for aggressive drivers on SR 65 from Beaver County to the City of Pittsburgh will be instituted shortly. Chief Hanny reminded the community that beginning June 5 the new distracted driver law will go into effect which prohibits handheld devices while driving, including at stop signs and traffic lights. The fine after a year-long warning period will be $50 per infraction. Mayor Boyd encouraged residents to check out PennDOT.pa.gov for additional information.

SOLICITOR REPORT – Robert L. McTiernan, ESQ.
Holy Family Institute – Sol. McTiernan is awaiting information from Judge McGinley re status of HFI request to a new build gymnasium which exceeds the borough's height restriction.

ENGINEER REPORT – Dennis J. Flynn, P.E.
Phase II Consent Order – Large sewer lining project awarded to Insituform in the amount of $530,416. Pre-construction meeting was held May 8; work is scheduled to begin May 19.

2025 Road Paving – This contract has been awarded to El Grande Industries with a base bid of $201,440 and add Alternate Bid No. 1 of $25,225 (($226,665). Pre-construction meeting will be held once El Grande is ready to schedule and the borough salt storage unit is replaced (Western Avenue paving is on 2025 list). Mr. Getz requested a meeting with Gateway to determine which ADA ramps will be covered through the QVCOG.

Spring Street – Initial repair has been completed; end wall grant application has been submitted; successful grant awards will be announced at the end of 2025.

Bid Award O&M CCTV Year 15 – MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Mr. Wisniewski, upon the recommendation of Gateway Engineers and in conjunction with South Hills COG, to award the CCTV Year 15 to State Pipe Services in the amount of $98,781.50; Emsworth Share is $16,676.50. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Mr. Mary had concerns with future paving and utility companies projected works. Mr. Flynn stated Gateway Engineers works with utility companies in advance as to the borough's paving projects so those areas that may be on a utility upgrade list can be completed before paving. Any work after a paving project is completed, the restoration by the utility company is curb to curb.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
BOROUGH PROPERTY – Abigail Donovan
Ms. Donovan thanked the community to help her stay apprised of the power outage safter the recent storm in order to post to Facebook and social media platforms and added during an awful situation the community came together. It was suggested through the community postings that the borough hall be open on the weekend as a charging station; Ms. Donovan obliged.

COMMUNITY EVENTS – Abigail Donovan
Primary Election –Tuesday, May 20; the only voting station in the borough is the borough hall for Districts 1 and 2.

Memorial Parade – Monday, May 26, Parade, 10 a.m.; Ms. Donovan announced there would be no field services. Services would be held at 11:30 a.m. at the Ben Avon Community Presbyterian Church. MOTION by Mr. Lenz, second by Mr. Wisniewski to authorize a donation in the requested amount of $100 to Avonworth Post #866. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

North Boroughs Fireworks – Save the Date: Sunday, July 6 beginning at 6 p.m. MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Mr. Tadler to authorize a donation to North Boroughs Fireworks in the amount of $500. Discussion: As the borough has not increased their donation for several years, Mr. Getz recommended increasing the donation to $1K. Motion amended and second by Ms. Donovan and Mr. Tadler. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

INFRASTRUCTURE – Paul F. Getz
No Report

PERSONNEL – Kevin Wisniewski
Mr. Wisniewski thanked Brian Fashian for his response in helping the borough during the recent storm damage.

PUBLIC WORKS – Michael V. Mary
Mr. Marry announced as of today, Mr. Fashian removed 6.7 tons of debris from the borough in an effort to help the community, and more will be collected this upcoming week. Through the efforts of QVCOG and Michael Brothers, Michael Brothers environmental landfill in Reserve Twp. was used for the debris disposal at no cost to the borough.

DPW Emergency Assistance Hire – MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Mr. Wisniewski to hire Jeff Wood at a rate of $33/hour for one day DPW work for storm damage clean-up. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

DPW Summer Hire – MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Mr. Lenz to hire Ian Fashian for DPW summer help; $15/hour; not to exceed 35 hours per week through September 1, 2025. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

DPW As-Needed Hire – MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Mr. Wisniewski, to hire Jeff Wood for DPW help; $15/hour; not to exceed 20 hours per week on an as-needed basis. It is projected alleyways will be trimmed this season. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

QVCOG – Paul F. Getz
QVCOG is working with an organization to help beautify communities along SR 65, Ohi River Boulevard. Annual Fall Dinner is scheduled to be held at The Edgeworth Club; date to be determined.

FINANCE – Michael V. Mary, Jr.
Bill List - MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Ms. Donovan, to approve the bill list with the following additions: The Barn $444; Columbia Gas $421.26; Tri State Maintenance $280. Motion carried by roll call; Messrs. Getz and Lenz voted nay.

OLD BUSINESS -
Council Email Address – Mayor Boyd has been in contact with Bill Ferianc, administer of the borough's web site, who will set-up defined borough email addresses for council.

Center Avenue Decorative Trees – Ms. Donovan and Mr. Wisniewski will meet to discuss removal of Center Avenue decorative trees and the planting of a smaller species of trees.

Centennial Clock Motor – Discussion revolved around replacing or rebuilding the Centennial clock motor. Mr. Getz recommended ordering a new motor and sending the current motor out for a rebuild to keep in inventory. Cost for the new motor is approximately $600. As this was previously discussed, no motion was required for the expenditure.

NEW BUSINESS
Community Recognition – Mayor Boyd remarked how the community came together and how neighbors helped one another during, and, in the aftermath of the recent storm. Mayor Boyd has announced community recognition and encouraged the community to recognize someone who helped above and beyond during this event. Social media will be posted. Letters or emails should be directed to Mayor Boyd or to the borough office.

Tax Collector and Treasurer Computer Upgrades – Computer upgrades are needed for tax collector and borough treasurer offices as the current operating systems will not be supported shortly. Dell quote received in the amount of $2435.34 for two computers. Mr. Mary checked other resources and this quote was compatible. MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Mr. Wisniewski to purchase two Dell computers as quoted at $2435.34 for the tax collector office and borough treasurer offices. Motion unanimously carried by roll call

PUBLIC COMMENT
Susie Serfass, 201 Allegheny Avenue, requested an update on the land development slated for 235-237 Center Avenue as the project hasn't moved forward. Pres. Yurkovich stated property owner recently requested a change in use from apartment building to townhouses. Ms. Serfass questioned if a time line was imposed; there is not.

Mr. Wisniewski thanked Officers Panormius and Pastilevus, Oho Twp. Police Dept., and Emsworth Volunteer Fire Company, for the pop-up charging event held after the April storm and thanked Ms. Donovan for all the social media updates. Chief Hanny informed council that Christ Church at Grove Farm (Ohio Twp.) provides community funding for such events.

ADJOURN
MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Mr. Wisniewski to Adjourn the May 14, 2025, meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

CATHY JONES
Borough Secretary