EMSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
171 Center Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15202
Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2026

Council Members Present – Jessica Boyd; Abigail Donovan; Lucas Leighty; Michael V. Mary;John Tadler
Council Members Absent - Paul F. Getz, CBO; Kevin Yurkovich
Others Present – Chaz Bolte, Mayor; Robert L. McTiernan, Esq.; Dennis J. Flynn, P.E.;
Cathy Jones, Borough Secretary

President Michael Mary called the February 11, 2026, meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call, the January 14, 2026, Minutes were considered for approval.

MINUTES APPROVAL
MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Mr. Tadler to approve the January 14, 2026, Minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

OATH of OFFICE – Newly appointed council member Lucas Leighty provided his Affidavit of Residency and was sworn-in for a two-year term by Borough Secretary and notary, Cathy Jones.

PRESIDENT REPORT – Michael V. Mary
Pres. Mary reported a strategic planning meeting with Gateway Engineers was held prior to the borough council meeting. No decisions were made, no voting; no Sunshine Act violations.

Pres. Mary addressed the recent mega snowstorm and aftermath. 72 hours after the storm; the borough had moved forward to declare a state of emergency enabling contracts to be initiated, equipment rental if necessary, with the possibility of reimbursement for these actions. Emsworth had two trucks, 20 tons of salt and a looming bulk rock salt shortage. Pres. Mary thanked Mr. Fashian, DPW, and the snow dogs for their many hours of plowing and salting and thanked the community for their patience as DPW moved forward to clear roadways. Pres. Mary acknowledged improvements can be made and will be working with council and the mayor going forward for input.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Natalie Kyler, 222 Bryson Avenue – referred to Facebook postings regarding fines being levied if sidewalks were not cleared and questioned why volunteers weren't solicited to help. Pres. Mary stated the borough ordinance requires sidewalks to be cleared 24 hours after a snowfall, and, at one week later, many sidewalks had not been touched. Pres. Mary acknowledged a volunteer effort to help in this situation will be considered going forward.

Jeff Englemore, 262 Hazelwood Avenue – thanked Mr. Fashian and snow crew for great job throughout the borough but questioned why when the contractor was hired that the streets were not cleared curb to curb and why only Center Avenue was cleared of the piles of snow as side streets had just as much parking difficulty. Pres. Mary responded from a finance perspective, only Center Ave. was cleared.

MAYOR REPORT – Chaz Bolte
Public Safety: OTPD: 122 calls; EVFC: 53 calls; QRS: 17 calls

Mayor Bolte thanked DPW/snow removal and neighbors who helped neighbors during the recent snow storm. The mayor is looking to foster a snow-angels/volunteer group for sidewalk snow removal and

encouraged community involvement. Thursday, February 19, 6 p.m. Bellevue Forward will meet at the Borough Bldg.; as Emsworth is included in upcoming projects, Mayor Bolte extended an invitation to all.

Emergency Disaster Proclamation – Mayor Bolte signed this proclamation 1/26/2026 pursuant to Section 7501 (b) of the PA Emergency Management Act. MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Mr. Tadler to ratify the action of Mayor Bolte regarding the declaration of the local disaster emergency proclamation. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

SOLICITOR REPORT – Robert L. McTiernan, Esq.
No Report

ENGINEER REPORT – Dennis J. Flynn, P.E.
2025 Corrective Action Repairs – MOTION by Mr. Tadler, second by Ms. Boyd to approve Pay App #4 to Insituform Technologies for corrective action repair work through January 30, 2026, in the amount of $87,266.26. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

CDBG YR50 – Replacement of ADA Ramps -Nine bids were received for this project; low bidder did not provide necessary contract documents to be considered an eligible bidder. Gateway recommends rebidding the project. MOTION by Mr. Tadler, second by Mr. Leighty to rebid the ADA ramp project handled through QVCOG. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Holy Family Institute – West View Authority reached out re mapping for sanitary and storm sewers. Gateway Engineers is to provide hold harmless agreement to protect both Emsworth and Gateway.

Columbia Gas Upgrades – Meeting with Columbia Gas on February 26 at 1 p.m. at the borough building re work to be done this season for upgrades. Mr. Flynn will stress better communication between the utility company and its contractor with residents and the borough office as well as better traffic control.

2026 COUNCIL COMMITTEES
Pres. Mary distributed the 2026 council committee list; as follows: Borough Property: Abby Donovan, John Tadler; Community Events: Jess Boyd, Abby Donovan; Finance: Abby Donovan, Lucas Leighty; Grants: Paul Getz, Mike Mary; Infrastructure: Paul Getz, Lucas Leighty; Personnel/DPW: Jess Boyd, Abby Donovan; Public Safety: Chaz Bolte, Mike Mary; Zoning: Abby Donovan, John Tadler; Snow Dogs: Brian Fashian.

FINANCE – Abigail Donovan
Bill List - MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Ms. Boyd to approve the bill list as presented with the following additions: Advance Auto $28.98; T2 Utility Engineers $1365; OTPD $143.98. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

BOROUGH PROPERTY – Abigail Donovan
Ms. Donovan reported a Waste Management truck broke down today but will return Thursday to recover the balance of the borough.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Snow Removal Hire – MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Ms. Boyd to hire Steve Panormius to the snow removal team at the snow rate of $33/hour. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Avonworth Community Park Advisory Board – Board member has moved from the borough; ACP executive committee recommends accepting the resignation of Samantha Grey-Willis and appointing Kevin Wisniewski. MOTION by Mr. Tadler, second by Mr. Leighty, upon recommendation from the ACP executive committee, to accept the resignation of Samantha Grey-Willis from the Advisory Board and appoint Kevin Wisniewski; term expires 1/31/2027. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Handicap Parking Request – Resident request from 173-175 Center for handicap parking spot. Discussion: This request is for a temporary spot; Pres. Mary stated it is not to exceed one year from 2/2026 and a reminder anyone with a handicap parking placard may use the spot. MOTION carried by roll call; Ms. Donovan voted nay.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Josie Ramsey, 240 Greenwood Ave – utility markings on her street. Mr. Flynn responded this was not a borough project; possibly a light pole replacement.

Jeff Engelmore, 262 Hazelwood Avenue – questioned what does declaring a state of emergency financially cover for the borough; and, if social media was used, he and possibly other contractors have equipment at their disposal to be able to help with snow removal. Pres. Mary explained the state of emergency allows the borough to recoup expenses through PEMA should funding become available. Mr. Fashian added the borough, as well as other municipalities, was experiencing unknown bulk rock salt delivery by Compass Minerals; salt needed to be conserved throughout the duration of the storm. Mr. Fashian is the borough's only full-time employee; two employees are part-time who have full-time employment elsewhere; rotating three drivers and two trucks coupled with low salt during a mega snowstorm was challenging; particularly when snow squalls would cover freshly plowed roadways. Mr. Fashian stated he is currently digging out snow covered catch basins, as the ice melts, it will stay off the roadway. Pres. Mary commended Mr. Fashian for his efforts as the sole full-time DPW worker, working long hours in freezing temperatures, answering call-outs knowing there was limited salt and unsure when salt would be delivered.

Mr. Flynn advised council lane closures on SR 65 on February 12 for final phase of the lining project.

ADJOURN

MOTION by Ms. Donovan, second by Mr. Tadler to Adjourn the February 11, 2026, meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

CATHY JONES
Borough Secretary