

EMSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
171 Center Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15202
Business Meeting Minutes – October 13, 2021

Council Members Present – Abigail Donovan; Brian J. Fashian; Paul F. Getz; Daniel Lenz; Michael V. Mary; Kevin Yurkovich

Council Member Absent – Jason Helfrich

Others Present – AmySue Lillie, Mayor; Robert L. McTiernan, Esq., Borough Solicitor; Dennis J. Flynn, P.E., Borough Engineer; Cathy Jones, Borough Secretary

President Yurkovich called the October 13, 2021, business meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., After the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call, the September 8, 2021, Minutes were offered for approval.

MINUTES APPROVAL

MOTION by Mr. Fashian second by Mr. Getz to approve the September 8, 2021, Meeting Minutes as distributed. Motion carried by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mark Bracalielly, 44 Courtney Street, requested an update on the paving for Courtney and expressed concern for snow plowing with the street in its current condition. Mr. Getz responded the two streets on the paving schedule this year, Courtney and Walliston from Center Ave. to Ohio River Boulevard, will be paved early in 2022. Utility line work took longer than scheduled and it is too late in the year to get on a contractors paving schedule; but since everything is ready, bids will go out early in 2022 for this work.

Mr. Bracalielly also questioned who monitors sidewalks and retaining walls throughout the borough as he has noted several in need of repair. Mr. Yurkovich stated anyone can contact the borough office with a concern and the codes officer will look into the matter.

HOLY FAMILY INSTITUTE – Representatives from Holy Family Institute, Sister Linda Yankoski, CEO, and Michael Sexauer, President; DLA Architecture, Anthony Lucarelli, VP, and John Sickles, Project Manager, presented an overview for the proposed Science and Activities Center planned for the HFI campus. An on-site meeting was requested with members of the Emsworth Volunteer Fire Company and Fire Marshal. A presentation will be made to the Emsworth Planning Commission in the near future.

Sister Linda also acknowledged HFI will have a shelter on campus for Afghanistan orphans in transition.

MAYORS REPORT – AmySue Lillie, Mayor

Public Safety: OTPD – 88 calls; EVFC – 21 calls

Mayor Lillie thanked EVFC for their recent Fire Prevention Open House and also extended a thank you to the Ohio Twp. Vol. Fire Company for the use of their smoke house and OTPD for their help at this collaborative event.

Honor Banners – Mayor Lillie reported more banner applications have been submitted and her order to the banner company will be submitted shortly.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR REPORT – Robert L. McTiernan, Esq., Borough Solicitor

Sol. McTiernan reported he prepared a draft Ord. No. 1009, covering the 2021 sewage rates. This action was approved December 2020, a resolution needed to be prepared to ratify this action by Council. Sol. McTiernan made clear this is not a 2022 rate increase, the ordinance covers this current 2021 year.

MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Mr. Lenz to advertise Ord. 1009, covering 2021 sewage rates. Motion carried by roll call. Mr. Getz voted nay.

Sol. McTiernan requested a brief executive session for discussion of potential litigation at the end of the meeting.

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

Force Main Replacement - Payment App #1 and Final to W. A. Petrakis for the SR 65 pump station force main in the amount of \$121,795, which was \$9K under budget, is ready for approval. MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Mr. Lenz to authorize payment to W. A. Petrakis, #1 and Final, for the force main replacement project in the amount of \$121,795. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Consent Order Phase II – Consent Order has been reviewed and was offered for consideration to adopt. MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Mr. Lenz to adopt the Allegheny County Consent Order Phase II as issued by the Allegheny County Health Dept. and under Res. No. 2021-06. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

GIS Training – Mr. Flynn reported the ArcGIS implementation has begun; logins are being setup. Mr. Lenz questioned when GIS Training would begin; Mr. Flynn will coordinate schedules with Ryan Berner for this GIS training and will advise council.

PA One Calls – Mr. Getz will step down from this duty at the end of October. Public Works will begin training for the PA One Calls, Mr. Lenz also expressed an interest to be included on the training.

SR 65 Pump Station – No reported overflows were reported in September.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOROUGH PROPERTY – Abigail Donovan

Ms. Donovan reported there was recent vandalism at the Marmo Park restrooms and is looking into hands free dryers for the restrooms. Restrooms will remain locked except for one rental this month, then the park will be winterized for the season. Mr. Mary added he is looking into a grant for playground soft surface at the park and will see if hands-free dryers may be added.

Marmo Park Grant - Mr. Getz updated council on the grant he will be closing out for Marmo Park (upgrades to basketball court and pickle ball court addition). Mr. Getz was recently informed any project over \$5K would be at prevailing wage per the grant requirements. As the grant must be closed out by the end of the year, there is not enough time to write a contract and put out a bid to light the courts. Mr. Getz concluded his report by announcing the DCNR sign has been received and will be installed shortly. Mayor Lillie questioned using the \$50K maintenance fund for the park. Mr. Getz reminded council that only the interest on this account may be used.

Pres. Yurkovich stated two recent restroom incidents had been reported by OTPD: all paper towels were strewn about the restroom and in another incident, the paper towel dispensers were ripped off the wall. Mr. Getz added newer security detectors set off an alarm at the sound of glass breaking or a sharp noise. Pres. Yurkovich also noted kids, with a parent present, were observed riding mini bikes at the park.

COMMUNITY EVENTS – Messrs. Fashion/Mary

Halloween 2021 – Parade: Saturday, Oct. 30, 10 a.m. line-up at PA Avenue at 9:30 a.m. and march to the borough hall for prizes and treats. In case of rain, everyone will meet at the fire station at 10 a.m.

Trick or Treat will be celebrated on Sunday, Oct. 31 from 6-8 p.m.

Light Up/Yuletide on Center – Sunday, Dec. 5 beginning at 5 pm. The 2021 ornaments will be available.

PUBLIC WORKS – Messrs. Fashion/Lenz

Mr. Fashion reported both DPW trucks have been serviced for the winter. Mr. Lenz stated he will get together with the public works to go over a maintenance program for the trucks. Mr. Getz added that the grease points are at the truck rear and need to be greased before the salt boxes are installed for the season.

SR 65 PUMP STATION – Messrs. Getz/Lenz

Mr. Getz noted no overflows were reported at the pump station with the force main replacement completed.

QVCOG – Messrs. Getz/Fashion

Refuse Contract – MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Mr. Lenz to adopt the QVCOG Joint Refuse/Recycling Contract covering Emsworth Borough through December 31, 2026. Discussion: Mr. Getz reported a 13% increase for the first year of the contract and then a 3% per year increase thereafter. Pres. Yurkovich wanted the residents to weigh in on weekly or bi-weekly recycling as life has changed with more boxes being delivered. This action will be put on social media as an informal post to track results. Motion withdrawn; action tabled until the November 10 council meeting.

Recycling – The final PA Resource Council Traveling Glass Recycling for 2021 will held be at the Avalon Public Works Garage October 25-November 4.

QVCOG Annual Dinner – Wednesday, October 20, 6 pm at The Edgeworth Club, \$75/person. MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Mr. Lenz to send two officials to the annual QVCOG Dinner at a cost of \$75/person. Motion unanimously carried by roll call. Mr. Flynn announced Gateway would sponsor the two officials.

ROADS – Messrs. Getz

Mr. Getz announced the road specs are ready to be put out in January per discussion with Gateway Engineers; which would cover the paving of Walliston (Center Ave. to SR 65) and Courtney Street. Pres. Yurkovich recommended Emsworth Avenue, SR 65 to Race Street be included with the 2022 paving specs.

SEWERS – Messrs. Getz/Fashion

No Report this evening.

ZONING – Abigail Donovan/Paul Getz

No Report the evening.

FINANCE – Mr. Mary

Bill List – MOTION by Mr. Mary, second by Mr. Getz to approve the Bill List as presented with the following additions: DCED (UCC) \$13.50; Station Auto Parts \$78.39; Woltz & Wind (#454) \$3068.10; W. A. Petrakis \$121,795; QVCOG (Codes) \$468.75; SWIF \$622. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

2022 Budget – Pres. Yurkovich stated the first draft of the 2022 budget was ready and Council was requested to submit any feedback to the finance chair.

OLD BUSINESS

Pres. Yurkovich reported Trinity Commercial Development paid the overage on their escrow.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Getz noted several spots around the borough that residents were saving parking spots with safety cones and questioned the validity of this action.

Pres. Yurkovich questioned who authorized updating the security system at the public works garage. Mr. Getz replied he did; the VCR was replaced and cameras will be getting an upgrade shortly. Mr. Fashion added with the remote location of the borough garage and if an incident occurred, no one would be able to access the new security system without proper training. Pres. Yurkovich stated at least borough property and public works committee should have been informed and requested that council be informed going forward.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mark Bracalielly, 44 Courtney, agreed with council's decision to put the recycling poll on social media for residents' input.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pres. Yurkovich called for an executive session of council at 7:45 p.m. for the discussion of potential litigation and added no borough business would take place after the executive session. Council reconvened at 7:49 p.m. Pres. Yurkovich announced the executive session was in compliance with the Sunshine Act.

ADJOURN

MOTION by Mr. Lenz, second by Mr. Getz to Adjourn the October 13, 2021, council meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

CATHY JONES
Borough Secretary