

EMSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
171 Center Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15202
Business Meeting Minutes – July 10, 2019

Council Members Present – Jolene Bennett; Brian J. Fashian; Paul F. Getz; Carolyn Galante; Jason Helfrich; Dan Lenz; Kevin Yurkovich

Others Present – Amy Sue Lillie, Mayor; Daniel C. Conlon, Esq.; Borough Solicitor; Dennis J. Flynn, Borough Engineer; Cathy Jones, Borough Secretary

President Kevin Yurkovich called the July 10, 2019, business meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., after the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call, the June 12, 2019, Council Meeting Minutes were considered for approval.

MINUTES APPROVAL

MOTION by Ms. Bennett, second by Ms. Galante, to approve the June 12, 2019, Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote; Messrs. Fashian, Getz, Helfrich abstained.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Lillie read and presented two proclamations from Emsworth Council; one: honoring long-time resident, former council president, former vice President and former Mayor, Regis Costello on the occasion of his 90th birthday; and, two: honoring the Avonworth Girls Varsity Softball team who secured a first place WPIAL championship for Avonworth; the first time that had been accomplished.

QVCOG Occupancy/Code Enforcement –

Susan Hockenberry, Executive Director of the QVCOG, and Anthony Ascioffa, Code Enforcement, were in attendance to discuss with Council occupancy permits being issued upon the sale of a residential property. Pres. Yurkovich stated in his opinion occupancy permits should be issued for both property sales and changes in tenants at rental properties. Ms. Hockenberry stated the occupancy permits ceased when the borough ended their contract with Building Inspection Underwriters.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cynthia Borgese, 222 Plumer Avenue – 28-year resident; concerned about water running down Plumer; it ices across the roadway in the winter; last winter vehicle tires were engulfed into 6” of ice; now there is a slippery algae situation on the street. Ms. Borgese is hopeful council will get ahead of this situation before the upcoming winter season. Mr. Fashian stated DPW will check out the algae situation and address it; Mr. Getz will meet with the borough engineer to see if a catch basin can be added above this area to collect water.

Barb Dunkle, 93 Maple Avenue – 42-year resident; complimented snow removal team on keeping Maple Avenue clear for travel last winter; her concern is the vacant residence at 95 Maple Avenue. Ms. Dunkle distributed pictures of the deplorable condition of the house including weeds growing from the gutter, a hole in the roof, garage door not completely down and animals potentially getting inside. Mr. Getz reported the owners, although not living there, are paying taxes. This property has been reported to code enforcement.

Rob Bennett – AGAA liaison, thanked Mayor Lillie and Council for the proclamation for the girls varsity softball and invited council to the tournament to be held for girls ages 8 and younger beginning Thursday at 6 p.m. at Mayernik Field.

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Alma Fincke, 215 Bryson Avenue - was part of the retired nurses reunion at Marmo Park and thanked council for the new picnic tables that were recently purchased.

MAYORS REPORT – AmySue Lillie

Public Safety Calls: OTPD – 150 calls; EVFC – 21 calls

BOROUGH SOLICITOR REPORT – Daniel C. Conlon, Esq., Borough Solicitor

43 Courtney Street – Sheriff Sale of this property is scheduled for September 3.

Marmo Park – restrictive covenant title has been resolved with the DCNR; Marmo Park project will move forward as scheduled.

BOROUGH ENGINEER REPORT – Dennis J. Flynn, P.E., Gateway Engineers

GROW grant application has been submitted for the force main replacement project.

SR 65 – manhole work was completed June 14-15.

CDBG, Marmo Park – Jet Jack has completed the ADA walkway to the tennis courts; Motion required for payment; contract did exceed CDBG grant by \$105, the borough will pay through DCNR.

DCNR, Marmo Park – McElroy Paving is scheduled to start week of July 15 to remove tennis courts, add two pickle ball courts and resurface the basketball court.

2018-2019 Paving Project has been completed; punchlist still needs addressed.

MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Mr. Helfrich to approve Payment #1 and Final to Jet Jack in the amount of \$21,680.50; with an additional \$105.50 contract over-run. Payment to be made upon request from QVCOG. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Executive Session

Pres. Yurkovich called for an executive session of council at 7:50 p.m. for the discussion of personnel. Council reconvened at 8:05 p.m.; Pres. Yurkovich stated the executive session was compliant with the Sunshine Laws.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOROUGH PROPERTY – Jolene Bennett

Mayernik Parking Lot Fence– AGAA will not pay for half of the fence rehab; work will not proceed.

Ms. Bennett ordered a new bench for out front of the borough hall to be placed near the water fountain.

INFRASTRUCTURE/PLANNING – Paul F. Getz

No Report this evening.

QVCOG – Paul F. Getz

No Report this evening.

PUBLIC WORKS – Brian Fashian

MOTION by Mr. Fashian, second by Ms. Galante to hire Gary McStay for DPW; 45 day probationary period; pending physical and drug test; \$14/hour; up to 35 hours per week. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

FINANCE – Carolyn Galante

Bill List – MOTION by Ms. Galante, second by Ms. Bennett, to approve the bill list as presented. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Bennett questioned if PennDOT responded to the traffic study request for a left turn arrow at the intersection of Lowry and SR 65. The borough has not yet received an update.

Mr. Lenz questioned why Tri State Maintenance was brought out during the June 15, SR 65 closure for the manhole repair, and who authorized it, as the borough would be charged overtime. Mr. Getz replied while the road was closed for the scheduled manhole repair, Tri State was brought in to clear catch basins in the area as routine maintenance. Pres. Yurkovich added he authorized the work.

Mr. Lenz questioned the concrete pad expenditure at Mayernik Field. Mr. Getz stated the bill was passed to AGAA for payment.

NEW BUSINESS

Zoning Hearing Board - MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Ms. Galante to reappoint Brian Schmigel to the Zoning Hearing Board to a term that expires July 1, 2022. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Notary Renewal - MOTION by Mr. Getz, second by Ms. Galante to authorize an amount not to exceed \$300 to renew the four-year notary service for the borough secretary. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Block Party - MOTION by Ms. Galante, second by Mr. Getz to approve the Walliston Avenue (Center to SR 65) Block Party for August 10. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Stop Sign - MOTION by Mr. Helfrich, second by Ms. Bennett to install a stop sign on Bryson at Pennsylvania Avenue. Motion unanimously carried by roll call.

Mayor Lillie is looking into which holidays neighboring communities close their borough office for council to consider for Emsworth. If council moves forward with this action, Pres. Yurkovich recommended the borough handbook be updated.

Ms. Galante questioned if the borough solicitor should draft an ordinance relative to the occupancy permit process. Pres Yurkovich stated he will meet with the borough property committee then submit findings to the solicitor to draft an ordinance to cover property sales occupancy inspections and a separate ordinance to cover rental occupancy inspections.

Pres. Yurkovich stated DPW was almost hit by a car that did not stop at a stop sign; and has noticed at other stop signs. OTPD will step up patrols at stop signs.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nancy Whyte noted the Avalon Book Club will meet July 17, 6:30-8 pm at the borough hall for an evening of activities and discussion.

ADJOURN

President Yurkovich Adjourned the July 10, 2019, council meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
CATHY JONES
Borough Secretary

