

**CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

April 22, 2019

The following elected officials were present: M. Heckmann; T. Kirsch; N. Kovach; M. Randazzo; D. Swisher; M. Warhold; D. Baumgarten. Council Member B. Oates and Tax Collector E. O'Malley were absent. The following appointed officials were present: T. Hartswick, Borough Manager; D. Biondo, Solicitor; K. Truver, Police Chief; P. Vietmeier, Codes Official.

The minutes of the April 6, 2019 Council Meeting were presented. Ms. Randazzo motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mr. Heckmann opened the public comment section for agenda items. Being none, the section was closed.

Council Committee Reports:

Public Relations/Communications – The spring newsletter is being reviewed for final edits. The 100th year anniversary events are featured.

Mr. Heckmann discussed social media chatter about blight and blight remediation in the borough. The borough continues to address blighted properties, and an article is available in the newsletter on this subject.

Building & Grounds/Public Works – Staff has been preparing the parks for the season and refurbishing park equipment.

A recent council decision permits dogs in the parks, and dog waste bags are available along the trails. Leash laws still apply.

Mr. Kirsch motioned to advertise the sale of a 2012 Ford F-450 Dump Truck; Ms. Kovach seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Public Safety/Fire – The police department received a \$1,900 grant from Buckle Up PA for the Click It or Ticket program. Enforcement dates run from May 14th to June 7th.

Mayor Baumgarten will have a proclamation regarding Police Memorial Week for the May 13th meeting.

Chief Truver has a good article in the upcoming newsletter about locking vehicles to prevent thefts, and Mayor Baumgarten has an informative article on telephone scams.

Finance – Mr. Swisher reviewed check registers for April 12th and April 18th and had no further questions.

Community Activities/Planning & Codes – Mr. Heckmann stated that staff is working on Community Day enhancements with additional food trucks and an expanded fireworks display. Fundraising efforts are going well; however, volunteers are needed for the event.

The UCC Board of Appeals will be meeting on April 29th at 7:00 p.m. at the municipal center for lack of renovation progress at 3141 McRoberts Road.

The Eggstravaganza event had great weather and was a huge success with numerous children attending.

Mr. Warhold, Ms. Goodyear and Ms. Jones attended Advocacy Day in Harrisburg and spoke with Senator Fontana and Representative Miller about funding for Pennsylvania Downtown Center programs.

Castle Shannon will be highlighted on Bethel Park's local television show to be aired in May. Mayor Baumgarten, Ms. Jones, and Chief Truver were featured. The program will be available for viewing on the borough's Facebook page and website.

Economic Development South and local volunteers will be participating in the Saw Mill Run Stream Clean-up this Saturday from 9:00 to noon.

Christie Yerger, Economic Development Consultant of PA DCED visited Castle Shannon and met with local business owners to discuss façade programs.

Mr. Warhold reported that the Soldier Banner Program is 10 years old and over 200 banners need replaced. Lt. David Lane and Mr. Warhold plan to coordinate a fundraising program for the replacements over the next year.

Library – Ms. Randazzo announced that the library was awarded the PA Forward Gold Star status, and the plaque was recently received.

The library audit was conducted with no findings.

Heather Myrah, Library Director, was accepted into the 2019 PA Library Association's Leadership Academy. Ms. Myrah will be networking with other librarians and library leaders across the state.

The library appointed a new trustee to fill the current board vacancy.

The library is working with Keystone Oaks School District to provide increased engagement with the immigrant community through library programs to make them more successful with literacy. In this vein, an ice cream social is planned on May 9th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. with an interpreter.

ACBA – Ms. Kovach stated that ACBA is scheduling meetings in various districts. Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and District Attorney Stephen Zappala have been invited to attend the District 2 meeting, along with various state and federal legislators. Our borough is located in District 3.

Manager: Mr. Hartswick presented Resolution #670 in support of Restore Pennsylvania to invest in critical infrastructure needs that are funded from a severance tax on natural gas. Mr. Heckmann noted that Pennsylvania is the only state with fracking that does not have a severance tax. Ms. Kovach motioned to adopt Resolution #670; Mr. Warhold seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

MS4: A project is being planned for stream bank restoration behind McMinn's Pub toward the commercial business district. The project will provide for removing debris, widening the stream, and removing toxins, heavy metals and pollutants. MS4 projects are mandated by DEP and EPA requirements.

Mayor: Mayor Baumgarten congratulated Chief Truver on providing Castle Shannon with the Neighborhood App for the RING network, which is a great crime prevention tool to pinpoint suspicious activities in our community. Mr. Heckmann noted that more information can be found on WPXI's website.

Public Comment:

John Welch, 957 Pine Avenue – was pleased that the borough is installing sidewalks along Myrtle Avenue and suggested the placement of the sidewalk be closer to the roadway to prevent parking along and/or on the new sidewalk. The sidewalk placement will be reviewed, and the police department will enforce no parking regulations.

Bryan Munnell, 909 Edgewood Avenue – asked for an update on the Oakdale Wall project. Mr. Hartswick stated that according to the contractor restoration and fence work will be completed soon.

Janell Filson, 3251 Waverly Street – discussed squatters with a fire pit living at the end of Havelock Street. Mr. Heckmann noted that the parcel behind the dress shop on Route 88 was purchased, and the property was illegally excavated. In addition, a tarp was fashioned around a tree as an inappropriate structure. Ms. Wilson stated that the area is being used by adults as a sweat lodge. Mr. Vietmeier and Chief Truver discussed borough regulations with the property owner. Mr. Vietmeier issued a stop work order and additional code violations will be reviewed.

The public comment section was closed.

Other: Ms. Randazzo wished to publicly thank Castle Shannon Revitalization Corporation, specifically Ms. Kovach, Mr. Warhold and Ms. Jones, for organizing the Easter egg hunt event. It was a wonderful event and was very well attended by borough residents and neighboring community children. Ms. Randazzo also thanked the local businesses for participating.

Ms. Kovach motioned to adjourn; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Approved as presented this 13th day of May 2019.

Thomas C. Hartswick
Borough Manager

Mark J. Heckmann
President