

**CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

May 13, 2019

The following elected officials were present: T. Kirsch; N. Kovach; B. Oates; M. Randazzo; D. Swisher; M. Warhold; D. Baumgarten; E. O'Malley. Council President M. Heckmann was 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 22, 2019 Council Meeting were presented. Mr. Kirsch motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Ms. Randazzo opened the public comment section for agenda items.

Tom Beck, President of the Castle Shannon Youth Association - addressed council regarding support of renaming the Municipal Center Ballfield as Matt Morrow Field. Borough Council has received letters of support from the CSYA. Mr. Beck stated that Matt Morrow was involved in the CSYA for ten to fifteen years, even when his children were not participants. This season ends mid-July and he would like to have a ceremony before the end of this season. There are two requests before council, i.e. renaming the field with a sign and posting a plaque outside of the concession stand. Ms. Randazzo stated that at this time council will require additional time to give this matter due consideration.

Mayor Baumgarten read a proclamation naming May 12-18, 2018 as National Police Week and May 15th as Peace Officer Memorial Day in honor of the sacrifice of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty while protecting our communities. Chief Truver shared the 2019 Honor Roll of Heroes with forty-two line of duty deaths this year.

Mayor Baumgarten recognized May 4th as International Firefighters Day and thanked the members of the Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department for their service to the community. Ms. Randazzo also added her gratitude to the police officers and firefighters for their dedication to the community.

The public comment section was closed.

Bid Openings: Mr. Hartswick presented the results of the bid opening for the 2019 Road Improvement Project – Liquid Fuels bid opening. Ms. Kovach motioned to award the bid to the lowest acceptable bidder – A. Folino Construction, Inc. for \$409,842.04; Mr. Warhold seconded; all in favor; motion carried. Mr. Warhold added that an end date for construction completion should be included in the contract, and Mr. Swisher confirmed that date was included.

Mr. Hartswick also presented the Public Works Department Summer 2019 Road Material Tabulation results through the SHACOG bidding process. Mr. Warhold motioned to accept the tabulation report; Ms. Kovach seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Real Estate Tax Collector: Ms. O'Malley reported April collections of \$1,881,606.65 and year to date collections of \$3,107,588.59. This is an 87% collection rate for 2019.

Council Committee Reports:

Public Safety/Fire – Chief Truver presented a two-year Memorandum of Understanding Agreement between Keystone Oaks School District and the Castle Shannon Police Department for incidents that happen on school grounds, school buses, etc. Ms. Kovach motioned to authorize Chief Truver to execute the agreement; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Chief Truver acknowledged the resignation of substitute crossing guard John Guthrie and stated that the police department needs additional substitute crossing guards. A notice will be placed on Facebook.

Finance – Mr. Swisher reviewed check registers for April 23rd and May 3rd and had no further questions.

Community Activities/Planning & Codes – Mr. Warhold reported that the Spring 2019 Saw Mill Run Stream Clean-up was a very successful event with Bettina Jones and Economic Development South. A full dump truck of trash and debris was removed from the stream. Unfortunately, trash continues to accumulate, especially at the transit stops.

A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday with volunteers for the Community Garden on Library Road and planter boxes in the downtown district. In addition, a CSRC meeting is planned for Wednesday evening.

Mr. Warhold announced the following dates and events: May 25th – Shred Event at firehall; May 26th – Castle Shannon Community Day (still seeking volunteers to sell beverage tickets and drive golf carts); May 27th – Memorial Day Parade.

Mr. Warhold stated that Castle Shannon was the first community in Allegheny County to start a soldier banner program which is now in its 10th year. Many of the original banners are getting faded/deteriorating and need replaced. One hundred twenty banners will be replaced this year with an additional 200 next year. A projected cost for the banner replacements is \$11,000. A Castle Shannon Solider Banner Fund has been created with a Paypal account for donations. In addition, an adopt a banner program will be started to replace banners of the soldiers without family contacts, so that their memory can still be honored. Please consider donating to this worthy cause.

Ms. Kovach reported that window clings and stickers for the borough's 100th Year Anniversary have been received and will be distributed at Community Day, and the Party-on-Park events. Historical boards prepared by Paul Dudjak, the borough's local historian, will be on display at the events. In addition, 100th Anniversary T shirts are available for sale at the borough building.

Library – Ms. Randazzo reported that the board held a lengthy meeting on May 2nd. The ice cream social was held on May 9th at Myrtle Avenue Elementary. All students attended. Flyers regarding library services and events were distributed to the students.

For summer reading, the library is considering having the Book Mobile at Alvern Gardens. The children's summer reading program begins in June, and the adult summer reading program starts in July.

MRTSA - The next board meeting will be held May 22nd.

SHACOG – Mr. Oates will attend the board meeting on May 9th in Moon Township.

ACBA – Ms. Kovach plans to attend the board meeting on June 6th.

Police Pension/Non-Uniformed Pension: Both plans showed a robust first quarter for 2019.

Manager: Mr. Hartswick presented Resolution #671 requesting a \$130,570 grant for Greenways, Trails and Recreation Grant through the Commonwealth Financing Authority. The borough will fund 15% of the grant. Mr. Warhold motioned to adopt Resolution #671; Ms. Kovach seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

The borough was awarded a DCNR grant of \$370,000 to be used for renovating Terrace Drive, the main entrance to the park, rehabilitation to the walking trail, parking lot paving and retaining wall stabilization.

An Active Allegheny kick off meeting will be held May 21st for a \$42,500 planning grant to integrate the population of a transit-oriented development into the current built environments. The TOD is still in the planning stages with possible new developers.

Mayor: Mayor Baumgarten noted that the Commonwealth Financing Authority is comprised of a seven-member committee from all over the commonwealth, and this committee must agree on the projects. The borough was very fortunate to get funding for the streetscape project.

Mayor Baumgarten stated that it is gratifying to see on the weekly police report the variety and number of arrests that occur on a weekly basis. The police department does a great job in keeping our community safe. The borough has earned a reputation as “Don’t drink and drive in Castle Shannon” due to our DUI enforcements.

The police surveillance cameras installed in our main intersections, along with many cameras from businesses, have provided good pictures of the Dollar Bank perpetrator to assist the police department in this investigation.

Mayor Baumgarten requested that council consider planting pine trees in Hamilton Park along the basketball court because of the steep hillside and children playing in the area.

Allegheny County Council proposed an ordinance to create a county over-site committee comprised of citizens to investigate citizen complaints against police officers. Mayor Baumgarten and Chief Truver, along with most police departments, would opt out of this program due to the extensive training, safeguards and policies in place with our police department.

Solicitor: Mr. Biondo presented a Restoration Settlement Agreement for 911 Edgewood Avenue from the Oakdale landslide project. Ms. Kovach motioned to authorize the appropriate officials to execute the agreement; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mr. Biondo also presented information regarding a quiet title action regarding South Passage Drive, an abandoned paper street in the borough. Ms. Kovach noted that historically the borough has consented ownership to adjacent property owners when a paper street has been abandoned. Mr. Oates motioned to authorize the solicitor to execute the consent order to clarify ownership rights; Ms. Kovach seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Ms. Randazzo presented a request from a girl scout troop to install a “Little Free Library” at Hamilton Park. Mr. Warhold motioned to approve the request; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried. Ms. Kovach suggested the troop work with Bob Ausman, Public Works Foreman, regarding placement due to the renovation project at Hamilton Park.

Public Comment:

Trinette Kern, 1037 Francis Road – stated that she cannot get her mobility scooter into Hamilton Park for Community Day, and asked council to continue to review accessibility for residents with disabilities and mobility issues when planning community events. Ms. Randazzo thanked Ms. Kern for bringing this to council’s attention.

In addition, Ms. Kern noted that many raccoons have been sited in the Francis Road, Thornwood Drive, Hastie Road area.

Ms. Randazzo closed the public comment section.

Other: Mr. Warhold mentioned that the borough has the opportunity to work with TreeVitalize or Tree Pittsburgh for obtaining trees for Hamilton Park. Trees also need planted along the first baseline.

Ms. Kovach questioned the status of Elm Street stabilization. Mr. Biondo stated the railroad is denying responsibility as the slope is on borough property. Mr. Hartswick also stated that the borough is waiting on the line of credit closing which should occur this month.

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

Approved as presented this 10th day of June 2019.

Thomas C. Hartswick
Borough Manager

Mark J. Heckmann
President