

**CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

January 27, 2020

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

The minutes of the January 13, 2020 Council Meeting were presented. Mr. Swisher motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Oates seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mr. Heckmann opened the public comment section for agenda items.

Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department Chief Bill Reffner introduced Bob Sutton as President of the Board of Directors of the CSVFD. Mr. Sutton is a life-long resident of the borough and a member of the CSVFD for over 40 years. Mr. Sutton stated the department has a large number of personnel attending training classes, and the board is working toward a more positive outlook working together for the safety of the community.

Fire Chief Reffner was re-elected as chief, and he is excited to be working with the new line officers. The annual ISO report should be forthcoming, and we are hoping to maintain a #3 level of service, which is quite an accomplishment. The fire department plans to have paid daylight fire drivers. Three new volunteers have applied, and fundraising demands will be reduced for volunteers. Formal reports for year end 2019 are being compiled for council. The fire department responds to 250-270 calls per year for various types of emergencies.

On a personal note, Chief Reffner was sad to report that seven volunteer firemen passed away last year.

The various community events went well last year, such as Light-Up Night, Memorial Day and Community Day. A new Garrison flag is being purchased with donations from Kenny Ross and FNB.

Chief Reffner is looking forward to a good year working cooperatively with Chief Truver, MRTSA and the Public Works Department. In addition, Chief Reffner thanked council for their support.

The public comment section was closed.

Civil Service Commission: Ms. Randazzo motioned to accept the minutes of the January 6, 2020 meeting; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Real Estate Tax Collector: Mr. Oates motioned to exonerate the tax collector for the 2019 list of delinquent taxes; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Council Committee Reports:

Building & Grounds/Public Works – Mr. Oates reported that the Public Works crew attended confined space training, and all members are certified.

Public Safety – A Hazardous Mitigation Planning Team Kick-off meeting will be held February 12th, and Lt. McKeown, Paul Vietmeier and Bob Ausman will attend.

A recent prowler was caught on a Ring camera on Canal Street. Chief Truver urged residents to call 911 if they see or hear suspicious activity on their property.

Finance – Mr. Swisher reviewed the check registers from January 16th and 24th and had no further questions. Ms. Randazzo motioned to pay the bills; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Community Activities/Planning & Codes – Mr. Heckmann stated that he is excited about proposed programs for the downtown area. In addition, the library is hosting programs for first time home buyer workshops.

Library – Ms. Randazzo encouraged residents to visit the library's website to view the multi programs that are available. A census hiring event is scheduled for February 4th, and a Valentine's Day program for children will be held February 4th.

There is currently an open position on the library board. Please contact the library for more information.

MRTSA – Mr. Swisher attended the third meeting in January, and another meeting is scheduled next week. The board is moving in the right direction in its reorganization activities. Mr. Heckmann noted that the service is stellar.

Manager's Report: An Active Allegheny Stakeholders Committee meeting is scheduled for January 29th regarding community connectivity.

Mr. Hartswick will participate in a Standard & Poor's conference call regarding the borough's bond rating – currently A+.

We are moving forward on the Killarney/Armstrong Park project with Baldwin Township to address flooding concerns.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Baumgarten congratulated Mr. Sutton on his election as CSVFD Board President.

Mayor Baumgarten read a proclamation naming January 26 to February 1, 2020 as School Choice Week.

Mr. Heckmann regretfully reported that St. Anne School will be closing at the end of this school year.

Planning Commission: Council accepted the minutes of the October 18, 2019 meeting.

Public Comment: Mr. Heckmann opened the public comment.

Charles Eberenz, 919 Baldwin Street – stated that a parking permit is required by ordinance for on-street parking for his street. He was denied a parking permit since he has a driveway available. Mr. Eberenz explained he cannot utilize his driveway because the steep grade damages his vehicle. Mr. Eberenz would like a modification or exemption from the ordinance to be able to park on the street at the bottom of his driveway which would not impact the on-street parking. Council will take this request under advisement.

Mr. Heckmann closed the public comment section.

Other: Council will recess to executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

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

Approved as presented this 10th day of February 2020.

Thomas C. Hartswick
Borough Manager

Mark J. Heckmann
President