

**CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

April 23, 2018

The following elected officials were present: M. Heckmann; N. Kovach; T. Kirsch; 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; N. Mastandrea, Junior Council Member.

The minutes of the April 9, 2018 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 public comment section was closed.

Council Committee Reports:

Public Relations/Communications – Mr. Heckmann noted that the CSRC hosted a nice stream clean up event on Saturday.

The new borough website will be launched in mid-May.

The borough's public storm water session held at the Community Library of Castle Shannon was reasonably well attended. A second meeting will be scheduled in late May.

Building & Grounds/Public Works – Mr. Hartswick reported that the borough's storm water inlets were evaluated for repairs. Public Works will undertake some cleaning/repairs; however a list of more extensive repairs will be prepared for contractor bidding.

Public Safety/Fire – Ms. Kovach stated that Keystone Oaks will host a School Safety Forum on May 1st. Myrtle Avenue Elementary will review security procedures in preparation for a lock down drill on April 26th and 27th.

The Castle Shannon Police Department was the recipient of a traffic safety grant from mid-May to early June.

Finance – Mr. Swisher reviewed and approved the check registers for April 16th and April 20th.

Community Activities/Planning & Codes – A contractor is securing financing to build a home at 951 Arch Avenue, where a former house was demolished.

Mr. Vietmeier and Mr. Kirsch attended a GRB Law workshop entitled Prosecuting Ordinance Violations: Start to Finish.

On April 26th, Building Inspectors Underwriters is sponsoring a training session that both Mr. Vietmeier and Mr. Kirsch will attend. Mr. Kirsch commended Mr. Vietmeier on his experience and knowledge in the codes department field. Ms. Kovach discussed the ticketing program for minor violations that the borough is implementing.

Ms. Jessica Routzahn has been hired for the codes department through the Local Government Academy Intern Program. Ms. Routzahn will start on May 15th and will be working on various code ordinance updates.

Mr. Ken Mandrier has been rehired as a codes assistant for the 2018 season.

A Community Day Committee meeting is scheduled for April 25th.

The Pennsylvania Downtown Center representatives will discuss the Keystone Communities Program with borough council on April 30th at 6:00 p.m.

As a reminder, the Castle Shannon Revitalization Committee's annual shred event will be Saturday, May 26th from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department parking lot.

Mr. Warhold discussed the Saw Mill Run Stream Clean-up event held on April 21st. The CSRC, along with Economic Development South, had over forty volunteers. The volunteers cut out impediments in the stream, and filled a public works dump truck with debris and trash. Mr. Heckmann's volunteer group worked from James Street to Rockwood Avenue. The stream was filled with debris from recent storms. Three volunteers were civil engineers who stated that the stream is very clean and the quality of water is good. Chief Truver joined a group wading in two to three feet of water by Killarney Drive, and he plans to work with PennDOT regarding the hillsides along Route 88 that abut the stream. All of the teams worked hard and cooperatively. The Public Works Department's assistance was appreciated. Mr. Warhold said that the event was a lot of fun and displayed photographs of the cleanup project on the projection screen. In addition, Mr. Warhold thanked everyone involved, including the Society of Women Environmental Professionals. The children who attended enjoyed seeing the ducks and fish in the stream.

Library – Ms. Randazzo announced that the Library Board will meet May 10th, and the librarians are gearing up for the summer reading programs. In addition, the Library Board will be undergoing trustee training.

SHACOG – Mayor Baumgarten, Mr. Heckmann and Chief Truver attended the annual SHACOG dinner at Nevillewood.

Police/Non-Uniformed Pension: The agenda contained the 1st Quarter 2018 Statement of Accounts. Pension administrators from Univest will be at the municipal center in May to discuss the plans with participants and council representatives.

Junior Council Person – Mr. Mastandrea reported that students have six Mondays of school left for this school year. A Mr. K.O. contest was held last Friday.

Students against Destructive Decisions mock funeral will be held on April 25th.

Manager's Report: Mr. Hartswick discussed the federal unfunded mandate with Senator Costa that requires the borough to make storm water and sediment reductions. Legislation is pending to allow boroughs the ability to establish a storm water fee without forming an authority. Mr. Warhold also discussed this legislation with Senator Reschenthaler.

Mr. Heckmann addressed the Oakdale landslide situation. Core borings were completed last week, and the results will be forthcoming. Since the site was reported as an emergency situation, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency officials will visit and inspect the site this week. The borough is seeking federal or state funding to assist with repairs.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Baumgarten received letters from residents with the following concerns:

1. A resident would like Port Authority bus service on Hoodridge to the T stop. Port Authority discontinued bus service due to financial reasons. Mr. Heckmann volunteered to answer this resident's letter. Ms. Kovach suggested the resident contact their apartment management company to initiate a shuttle service.
2. A resident complained about a neighbor's trash being placed in front of the home, well in advance of the collection date. Mr. Vietmeier will address this.

Ms. Kovach suggested that the borough's newsletter or other mailings could list the fact that the ordinance requires garbage to be curbside after 6:00 p.m. the evening before collection.

Planning Commission: The Comprehensive Plan will be presented at the May 14th council meeting.

Public Comment:

Mark Wetmiller, 904 Oakdale Avenue – asked for guidance and questioned if funding is available for an individual homeowner for a landslide situation. Chief Truver will ask the PEMA officials for information.

In addition, Mr. Wetmiller stated that the sewer line is blocked and sewage has been draining onto his property for two months. He requested an immediate temporary fix. In addition, he stated the ground is saturated with sewage and is smelly.

Mike and Elizabeth Wozniak, 911 Edgewood Avenue – stated that the machinery used by Pennsylvania Soil and Rock to conduct the Oakdale core borings has damaged their driveway. Loose pieces of asphalt and new craters are evident. Mr. Heckmann will schedule a meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Wozniak this week to review their photographic evidence. Ms. Wozniak discussed communication problems.

Trinette Kern, 1037 Francis Road – stated that handicapped and elderly residents may have trouble adhering to the rule to put garbage out after 6:00 p.m. the evening prior to collection. Many residents must rely on home care workers, caretakers, friends or neighbors to put out the trash.

Mr. Heckmann closed the public comment period.

Other: Ms. Kovach stated that residents have expressed their desire to have additional office hours for the real estate tax collector.

A Party-on-Park meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 30th at 1:00 p.m. for the Great Castle Shannon Bank Robbery Reenactment.

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

Approved as presented this 14th day of May, 2018.

Thomas C. Hartswick
Borough Manager

Mark J. Heckmann
President