

**CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

September 10, 2018

The following elected officials were present: N. Kovach; B. Oates; M. Randazzo; D. Swisher; D. Baumgarten; E. O'Malley. Council Members M. Heckmann, T. Kirsch, and M. Warhold were absent. The following appointed officials were present: T. Hartswick, Borough Manager; D. Biondo, Solicitor; K. Truver, Police Chief; P. Vietmeier, Codes Official. K. Simms Strnisa of Simms Strnisa Court Reporting was present to record the public hearing section of the meeting.

The minutes of the August 27, 2018 Council Meeting were presented. Mr. Swisher motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Oates seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

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

Robert Broman, 1478 Blossom Hill Drive- stated he is a proponent of chicken and bee keeping in the borough and appreciates council's consideration of an ordinance for same. Mr. Broman would also like less stringent area requirements for the number of chickens allowed. Mr. Broman plans to submit additional information to council. Mr. Biondo stated that this ordinance is not on this evening's agenda; however, it will be on council's agenda at a future date.

The public comment section was closed.

Ms. Randazzo congratulated Heather Weleski, Children's Librarian for the Community Library of Castle Shannon, for receiving a \$1,000 award from Penguin Random House for recognizing public libraries with innovative programs connecting the library with the community. Ms. Weleski also received \$1,000 worth of books which were distributed through the Feed Your Mind program that provides lower income families with books. Forty-nine children in the Alvern Garden's area received books, and the program will continue next summer with weekly distributions. Ms. Weleski plans to apply for a 50% matching grant from Osbourne Books for \$500.00 to further increase funding for the program. Ms. Weleski thanked council for their continued support. Ms. Randazzo again congratulated Ms. Weleski and stated that the community is blessed to have a strong library with such dedicated staff.

Ms. Kovach discussed a program in Whitehall that busses children from the community to the library. Ms. Kovach plans to provide Ms. Weleski with further information.

**Public Hearings:** Ms. Randazzo opened the continued public hearing of August 13<sup>th</sup> for a conditional use for Steel City Billboards. Mr. Biondo noted that at the last hearing the compliment of council was different; however, the hearing can move forward. Dwight Ferguson, Esquire for Steel City Billboards, discussed the electronic billboard with static images that change periodically. Sign space will be provided to the borough for community events, police alerts, and announcements at no cost to the municipality.

Michael Brooks, 4228 Willow Avenue – asked for the location of the billboard. The site is currently occupied by Dean's Auto Bath on Route 88 across from Burger King.

Ms. Kovach motioned to approve the conditional use for Steel City Billboards subject to:

1. compliance with all applicable requirements of the Borough zoning and building codes and regulations, including but not limited to §503.31 of the Borough Zoning Ordinance, and
2. compliance with all provisions and representations of the Applicant as set forth in the Conditional Use Application and narrative statement dated June 22, 2018, and
3. compliance with all statements and representations of the Applicant set forth on the record during the conditional use hearings held on August 13, 2018 and September 10, 2018, including but not limited to the letter from the Applicant dated August 31, 2018 related to digital showings and surveillance cameras.

Mr. Oates seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Ms. Randazzo presented Ordinance #914 – Quality of Life providing establishment of a ticket process for certain violations as follows: accumulation and disposal of waste, garbage and rubbish; parking on grass; accumulation of gravel, dirt, mud or grass clippings on the street; prohibiting the storage of unregistered, unlicensed, inoperative or disassembled motor vehicles; prohibiting the outdoor placement of indoor furniture; prohibiting the parking of recreational vehicles, trailers, and boats before the front line of the building; feeding of wild animals; prohibiting certain operation of food carts or vending carts; requiring the cutting of high weeds, firewood storage; grass or vegetation; requiring the timely removal of snow and ice from sidewalks; requiring proper storage containers for waste and garbage; requiring the proper storage of recyclables and hazardous materials; providing for enforcement of violations of this ordinance, including abatement of the violation, assessment of direct and indirect costs of cleanup and fines. Ms. Kovach motioned to adopt Ordinance #914 at its first reading; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

**Real Estate:** Ms. O'Malley reported August collections of \$20,232.63 with total 2018 collections at \$3,031,895.64.

### **Council Committee Reports:**

**Public Safety/Fire** – Ms. Kovach attended the Allegheny County Boroughs Association meeting and the consensus was reached that there is no need for an Allegheny County Citizens Review Board for local police departments. The current policies and procedures in place in the local police departments are satisfactory.

**Finance** – Mr. Swisher reviewed the check registers for August 9<sup>th</sup>, August 16<sup>th</sup>, August 24<sup>th</sup>, August 31<sup>st</sup>, and September 7<sup>th</sup> and had no further questions.

**Community Activities/Planning & Codes** – Ms. Kovach reported the Castle Shannon Revitalization Corporation Fall Festival will be held on September 15<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. In addition, the golf outing fundraiser is scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup>.

The committee will be meeting for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary plans on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Library** – Ms. Randazzo reported the board meeting was held September 6<sup>th</sup>.

The third annual Love Your Library Campaign also begins in September. This is a program to promote and support our local library. Any monetary donation (up to \$500) made in September is matched by the Buncher Foundation.

Radical Days information is available at the borough offices and library. This program provides free admission on select days and times for programs throughout the Pittsburgh region that are funded by state tax dollars.

Trustee applications are being accepted at the library for a board vacancy.

**MRTSA** – Mr. Swisher noted that the next board meeting is September 26<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Baumgarten added that many local emergency medical service departments are struggling financially to maintain operations. MRTSA is one of the top EMS establishments in the state, and Mayor Baumgarten is very proud to be part of this organization.

**ACBA** – Ms. Kovach attended the board meeting.

**Manager:** Mr. Hartswick presented the 2019 Minimum Municipal Obligation forms for the police and non-uniformed pensions.

**MS4** - Mr. Hartswick and Mr. Vietmeier met with Shawn Wingrove of Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering. Mandatory staff training is scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

**Mayor:** Mayor Baumgarten commended Chief Truver and his department for solving several crimes by utilizing the latest technology available. Council also thanked Chief Truver and his staff for keeping the community safe.

**Public Comment:**

Michael Stout, 4223 Willow Avenue – thanked council for solving a garbage problem at the Smith Road trolley stop and thanked the police department for their assistance in locating a lost relative. Mr. Stout requested a contact name at the gas company for property restoration on Willow Avenue. Mr. Stout also had concerns about gravel and rock in his driveway after heavy rains due to the gas replacement project. Mr. Hartswick will provide that information.

Mr. Stout stated there is a severe drainage/water problem between Smith Road and Hastie Road on Willow Avenue. The resident at 4225 Willow Avenue has had basement flooding multiple times. Mr. Stout believes the road was not graded properly when paved in 2015. In addition, surface water from Hastie Road is washing under the pavement and depositing stone, rock and broken blacktop on Willow Avenue. Mayor Baumgarten noted that the utility companies are required to repave roadways curb to curb after street openings, and perhaps the borough engineer could be contacted to insure proper grading for drainage.

Mr. Stout, as a citizen and member of the conservation group named Isaac Walton League, is very concerned about the recycling problem in the United States and stated that massive amounts of plastics are being dumped into the ocean. Beginning January 1, 2019, glass and several grades of plastic will no longer be recycled. Mr. Stout urged council to work with the Isaac Walton League to find a solution to the recycling dilemma.

Michael Brooks – stated that additional catch basins should be installed on Willow Avenue to alleviate the drainage problem. The gas company advised Mr. Brooks that they will repave the roadway; however they will not install additional catch basins.

Mr. Brooks questioned why the rubbish fee is not separated from the real estate tax bill. Mr. Hartswick answered that although some municipalities bill trash collection separately, historically the rubbish collection is included in the real estate tax bill. The rubbish is billed to the borough by tonnage and not by number of residents or households.

Mr. Brooks asked why the ACBA board feels the police review board is not necessary. Ms. Kovach answered that each borough has a police review board. Mayor Baumgarten added that the borough has well-trained officers and best policies in place.

Mr. Brooks noted that his sewage bills keep increasing and questioned why. Mr. Hartswick described the Administrative Consent Order requirements, and Ms. Kovach noted it is due to federally unfunded mandates to upgrade sewer lines.

In February 2016 Mr. Brooks addressed council regarding snow removal and provided photographs of snow left on the roadway. He noted that the road should be plowed curb to curb. Mr. Hartswick will address this concern with the public works department.

Tom Gallagher, 120 Castle Road – questioned the borough’s ordinance on Air B&B properties. Mr. Vietmeier answered that the codes department is working on an ordinance to address these properties. Since an occupancy inspection is required for any tenant change with our current ordinance, some property owners might find it unprofitable to run this type of rental.

Russell Graves, 778 Killarney Drive – discussed parking problems with residents parking on-street. One portion of Killarney has no parking on both sides of the street, and the other section allows parking on one side. Mr. Graves stated that cars parking on the street are unsafe, and the situation backs up traffic. This situation has been discussed with Chief Truver and Mayor Baumgarten. Mr. Stout agreed with Mr. Graves that residential parking on-street on Killarney Drive is unsafe. Chief Truver will review parking.

Mr. Graves also stated that during heavy rains with flooding, some residents take it upon themselves to block the street with their cars. In addition, Mr. Graves reported that the surface flooding on Killarney Drive has created a void (hole) from water draining under his driveway.

Ms. Randazzo announced the Friends of the Library Book Sale will be held this week: September 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

No other comments were received; therefore the public comment section was closed. Mr. Oates motioned to adjourn; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Approved as presented this 24th day of September, 2018.

---

Thomas C. Hartswick  
Borough Manager

---

Mark J. Heckmann  
President