

**CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

April 8, 2019

The following elected officials were present: M. Heckmann; T. Kirsch; N. Kovach; B. Oates; M. Randazzo; D. Swisher; E. O'Malley. Council Member M. Warhold and Mayor D. Baumgarten 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 March 25, 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.

Mr. Heckman proceeded to read a proclamation for 2019 National Library Week and encouraged all residents to visit the library and explore the many programs available. Ms. Randazzo thanked Heather Myrah, Library Director and Donna Phillips, Library Board Member, for attending the council meeting. Ms. Randazzo stated that we are very fortunate to have a strong library with EIN networking through Allegheny County, and she also noted that the library personnel are well informed, take an interest in and are dedicated to assisting the patrons. The library a crown jewel of our community.

**Real Estate Tax Collector:** Ms. O'Malley reported March collections of \$922,779.93 and year-to-date collections of \$1,225,981.94.

**Council Committee Reports:**

**Public Relations/Communications** – Staff and council met with the Castle Shannon Youth Association Board to discuss improvements through the borough parks. Mr. Heckmann stated that a six-figure investment is budgeted for the park system this year. Mr. Heckmann also thanked the youth association for their dedication to the youth of the community.

**Public Safety/Fire** – Chief Truver noted correspondence for participating in the 2019 Joint Police Testing through SHACOG. Ms. Kovach authorized borough representatives to proceed with the joint police testing; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Chief Truver also noted that many burglaries are occurring with unlocked vehicles throughout the borough. Five arrests have been made in the past six months. Chief Truver urged residents to lock their cars.

**Finance** – Mr. Swisher reviewed check registers for March 28<sup>th</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup> and had no further questions. Mr. Oates motioned to approve the bill list; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried. Ms. Kovach motioned to ratify the March treasurer's report; Mr. Kirsch seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

**Community Activities/Planning & Codes** – Ms. Kovach noted that Mr. Warhold was in Harrisburg to advocate for increased funding in the state budget for Pennsylvania Downtown Center programs.

The Eggstravaganza is scheduled in the downtown area for April 13<sup>th</sup> from noon to 3:00 p.m. Local businesses will have Easter eggs in stores, and the Easter Bunny will be attending.

Ms. Kovach reported that the first 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary event – Castle Shannon Night at the Grove was a fun kickoff event.

A historical scavenger hunt is planned for June 1<sup>st</sup>. Participants will collect history facts from 15 prominent sites in the downtown area. Winners will be drawn at each of the Third Friday events planned throughout the summer.

Ms. Kovach received a nice thank you note from Linda Book, Whitehall Council Person. Ms. Kovach won a free 2019 PSAB conference registration; and since Castle Shannon representatives could not attend this year, Ms. Kovach donated the prize to Ms. Book, who was nominated for second vice president to the PSAB board.

Mr. Vietmeier will be meeting with 911 representatives to review borough addresses for emergency services.

Graeters Ice Cream held their grand opening last week.

**Library** – Ms. Randazzo noted the various programming events listed in council mail.

Friends of the Library Flea Market will be April 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Ms. Myrah added that this organization provides funding for many children's programs.

Ms. Myrah provided council with a listing of 2018 highlights for the library which included statistics on registered patrons, total circulation, number of cataloged items, number of programs held and number of visitors to the library. Ms. Myrah also stated that Heather Weleski, Children's Librarian, will be holding story time for children at Alvern Gardens and Myrtle Parklet. An artisan bread making class is being planned for adults on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Free apps are available with your library card for downloading books and music. Ms. Myrah thanked council for their support.

**MRTSA** – Mr. Heckmann was appointed to finance committee, and Mr. Swisher was appointed to building and grounds committee.

**ALOM** – Mr. Heckmann attended the spring conference and will share pertinent information with staff.

**Manager:** Mr. Hartswick presented Resolution #1 from the Allegheny County Southwest Tax Collection District opposing House Resolution #291 of 2017-18 to conduct a feasibility study regarding the replacement of local earned income tax collection methods by local taxing committees with a statewide collection method within the Department of Revenue. Ms. Hartswick stated that Jordan Tax Service is doing a great job and a state-wide form of collection might prove to be more inefficient. Ms. Kovach noted that the Allegheny County Borough's Association also strongly opposes a statewide collection system. Ms. Kovach motioned to send a letter of support to the ACSTCD for their resolution; Ms. Randazzo seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mr. Moury, Council President of Bethel Park Borough, requested a letter of support from Castle Shannon for a DCED grant application to purchase property for greenspace. Mr. Heckmann noted that if this

property is excavated, the health and safety of our stream could be impacted with runoff. Mr. Oates motioned to send a letter of support regarding the Allegheny Land Trust's mission to acquire the Pittsburgh Terminal (Gutman) property in Bethel Park to protect greenspace; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

**Public Comment:** Mr. Heckmann opened the public comment. Being none, the public comment section was closed.

**Other:** Mr. Heckmann stated that council will meet in executive session to discuss a legal matter and a personnel matter.

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

Approved as presented this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2019.

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Thomas C. Hartswick  
Borough Manager

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Mark J. Heckmann  
President