

**CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

June 10, 2019

The following elected officials were present: M. Heckmann; T. Kirsch; N. Kovach; B. Oates; M. Randazzo; D. Swisher; M. Warhold; D. Baumgarten; E. O'Malley. 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 May 13, 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.

Mayor Baumgarten introduced Cailyn Lockhart, winner of the DARE essay contest. The Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program was initiated in the elementary schools many years ago. Recently Officer Christine Platt and Officer Michael Kalas reintroduced the program at the 5th grade level. Ms. Lockhart read her outstanding essay to the audience about the dangers and health risks associated with tobacco and alcohol, in addition to refraining from the various forms of bullying. Council congratulated Ms. Lockhart on her essay.

The public comment section was closed.

Bid Openings: Mr. Hartswick presented the results of the bid opening for a 2012 Ford F-450 dump truck. Ms. Kovach motioned to award the bid to the only bidder, Soli Construction for \$30,010.00; Mr. Oates seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Real Estate Tax Collector: Ms. O'Malley reported May collections of \$42,742.31 and year to date collections of \$3,150,330.90. Taxes at face value are due June 15th. This is an 88% collection rate for 2019.

Mr. Warhold motioned to adopt Resolution #672 authorizing the disposition of certain records of the tax collector from 1992-1999; Mr. Kirsch seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Council Committee Reports:

Public Relations/Communications – Mr. Heckmann thanked everyone for attending and organizing Community Day. It was a great event.

Building & Grounds/Public Works – Mr. Oates reported that public works is involved in several storm sewer repairs.

Landscaping/grass cutting of borough parks and cart ways continues to be a priority.

In addition, the Tom O'Malley memorial tree had to be removed from the library due to its deterioration. This tree will be replaced.

Public Safety/Fire – Chief Truver presented a handicapped parking ordinance outlining application requirements, standards for review of application, violations and penalties. Fashioned after the City of Philadelphia ordinance and reviewed by our solicitor, this ordinance would provide approval/review of handicap parking spaces by council. Mr. Warhold questioned if existing handicapped spaces are reviewed. Chief Truver explained that the ordinance provides for an annual review; and noted that parking spaces are not designated to a resident but are available for anyone with the handicapped criteria. Mr. Heckmann suggested that an inventory of handicapped parking spaces could be undertaken by an intern. The data may be available from a former inventory sign study conducted by Kristie Munson. Mr. Kirsch noted that the application is quite lengthy. Ms. Kovach motioned to advertise the ordinance; Mr. Oates seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Finance – Mr. Swisher reviewed check registers for May 17th, May 23rd and May 30th and had no further questions. Mr. Swisher motioned to approve the bills, Mr. Warhold seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Community Activities/Planning & Codes – Mr. Warhold reported that the 2019 Shred Event was very successful.

The 2019 Community Day went well, and Mr. Warhold thanked everyone who worked on the event. The event hosted an assortment of food vendors, a good variety of bands, and good weather. Ms. Kovach and Mr. Hartswick echoed that statement that all comments received were positive. Mr. Heckmann noted that having the Hamilton Park upper lot open was a nice amenity for additional parking. Mr. Heckmann also thanked Bettina Jones for attending the entire event.

The Memorial Day Parade went smoothly, and retired Army Colonel Stephen Rash did a great job as speaker.

Mr. Warhold, Ms. Kovach and Ms. Jones attended the Pennsylvania Downtown Center conference last week. Castle Shannon was rated 9th in the state for its Main Street Program and revitalization activities. Ms. Jones noted that this conference was very valuable, and the membership with the PA Downtown Center is a worthwhile opportunity for sharing ideas and networking.

Ms. Kovach described the Party-on-Park summer events. A Historical Scavenger Hunt will be going on this summer, and it is a very educational and creative walking tour. On June 21st the first event will be held with a historical 100th year theme. A band will play selections from the 1920's through 1970's. In addition, the Bhutanese community may organize a folk dance.

Picnic on Park is scheduled for July 19th with the Evan Dean Band, a corn roast, and Touch-a-Truck display.

Mr. Warhold described the “Adopt a Banner” program to replace deteriorating soldier banners. One hundred twenty banners were replaced this year. Ninety-seven letters were mailed to soldiers’ families. Donations are slowly being received, and Mr. Warhold expressed his appreciation for all the people that participated.

Library – Ms. Randazzo reported that the library board met June 6th, and the next meeting will be in September.

The free lunch program began today for students 18 and under. Food must be eaten on the premises.

The children's summer reading program kickoff was June 8th with "A Universe of Stories" theme. The adult summer reading program starts July 1st.

Khara Timsina, the Executive Director of the Bhutanese Community Association of Pittsburgh (BCAP) attended a meeting with library representatives and Ms. Jones. Quite a bit of progress was made in obtaining ideas to engage the immigrant community. It was suggested that an informational session could be planned on a Saturday with council members, police officers, fire department members, and codes enforcement personnel to assist the immigrants with information on the community.

MRTSA – Mr. Swisher stated that on May 22nd, MRTSA honored Mayor Baumgarten for being a founding member of the organization and serving on the board since 1975. State Representative Dan Miller attended and read a proclamation. Mr. Swisher thanked Chief Truver, Mr. Hartswick, and Mr. Heckmann for preparing the proclamation from Castle Shannon Borough.

SHACOG – Mr. Oates attended the May 16th board meeting in Moon Township where the main topic discussed was long term viability of recycling programs.

In October, the board members of SHACOG will be recognizing the officers who responded to the Tree of Life shooting. The borough has a tactical operator who responded.

Police Pension/Non-Uniformed Pension: Mr. Bittner held an open meeting on May 31st with members of the police and non-uniformed pension plans.

Manager: Mr. Hartswick reported the Active Allegheny Connector Project kickoff meeting went very well. A steering committee has been organized which will meet June 20th to discuss transit-oriented development and integration into the existing community.

SHACOG sent confirmation that approval was granted for CD45 for \$20,000 for the demolition of three vacant, dilapidated structures in the borough, i.e. 1214 Prospect Avenue, 1215 Prospect Avenue, and 3750 Myrtle Avenue (parsonage house). Allegheny County has agreed to fund asbestos removal costs. Ms. Randazzo motioned to approve the allocation and proceed with the demolitions; Ms. Kovach seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

MS4: In order to address storm water flooding on Killarney, Baldwin Township representatives agreed to install pyramid grates, and Castle Shannon Borough representatives agreed to install additional inlets. Mr. Warhold motioned to authorize the borough engineers to proceed with the inlet project; Ms. Kovach seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mayor: Mayor Baumgarten thanked Mr. Swisher for his kind words regarding the MRTSA recognition and the borough's proclamation.

Mayor Baumgarten commended the police department for their enforcement work and special recognition to Dixon, the police department K-9. He also thanked Officer Platt and Officer Kalas for presenting the DARE program to the borough's elementary students.

Mayor Baumgarten agreed that Community Day went well; however he believes the rain forecasted kept attendance slightly lower than in previous years.

Public Comment: No comments were received; therefore, the public comment was closed.

Other: Mr. Kirsch noted that a swing set purchased in 2018 for Hamilton Park has not been installed. Mr. Hartswick stated that it is on the public works schedule.

Ms. Randazzo noticed that a new “Little Free Library” was installed at Myrtle Avenue Elementary School, but she has not received information regarding one for Hamilton Park to be installed by the local girl scout troop.

Ms. Kovach questioned the status of Prospect Park improvements. Mr. Heckmann stated that this project redesign will be tethered with a park master plan for grant opportunities.

The Summer Recreation Program at Hamilton Park will begin June 17th.

Mr. Warhold stated that Castle Shannon receiving designation as 9th in the state of Pennsylvania is especially significant since the CSRC was operating without a Main Street Manager for most of 2018. Special thanks were given to Lori Miller for working with the PA Downtown Center to obtain the National Accreditation Status and DCED for façade grant reimbursements.

Mayor Baumgarten reiterated his concern about installing trees at Hamilton Park by the basketball court to provide a safety barrier. Mr. Ausman will obtain a cost estimate.

Mr. Heckmann stated that council will meet in executive session after this meeting to discuss personnel matters.

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

Approved as presented this 24th day of June 2019.

Thomas C. Hartswick
Borough Manager

Mark J. Heckmann
President