

**CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

August 12, 2019

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

The minutes of the July 22, 2019 Council Meeting were presented. Ms. Randazzo motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Kirsch seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mr. Heckmann opened the public comment section for agenda items. Being none, the public comment section was closed.

**Bid Openings:** Ms. Kovach motioned to accept the rock salt bid from Cargill Inc. for \$82.24 per ton for the 2019-2020 year as advertised through SHACOG; Mr. Kirsch seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

**Civil Service Commission:** Chief Truver discussed the police candidate entry level testing results through SHACOG. Sixty-one candidates applied. Fourteen applicants did not appear. Forty-seven candidates were tested for physical agility and written exams.

**Real Estate Tax Collector:** Ms. O'Malley reported collections of \$26,131.85 for the month of July. Total collections for 2019 were \$3,310,963.32 which is a 92% collection rate. Discount period for school taxes is August 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Council Committee Reports:**

**Public Relations/Communications** – Council acknowledged the resignation of Russell McKibben from the Planning Commission and as Act 32 Representative for earned income tax collection. The borough will be seeking volunteers for these positions.

The Future's Forum meeting for neighborhood connections was productive and well attended. A survey is available at <https://connectingcastleshannon.mindmixer.com> to obtain feedback from residents. Many residents expressed the need for certain amenities such as some form of water recreation.

**Building & Grounds** – Mr. Oates reported that public works has been assisting with flooding concerns and televising sewer lines in the Killarney area.

**Public Safety** – Chief Truver stated that our police department has been utilizing body worn cameras since 2017 for transparency and accountability. The cost is part of the recurring budget; however, an application will be submitted to receive grant funding of \$10,000 for 2019 and \$10,000 for 2020. Ms. Kovach motioned to authorize the appropriate officials to execute the grant application; Mr. Oates seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

For traffic information, PennDot will be replacing concrete on Castle Shannon Boulevard on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Traffic restrictions will be posted on social media.

In addition, Port Authority plans to work on the LRT on September 6<sup>th</sup> at Cooke Lane and September 20<sup>th</sup> at Mt. Lebanon Boulevard. Detours will be posted on social media.

Eight arrests have been made regarding theft from vehicles with the assistance of residents calling in suspicious activity and video surveillance. Please lock your cars at all times.

CSPD has been notified that some residents have received fraud calls from a scammer/spammer claiming to be Duquesne Light. The typical call involves a threat to shut off your power unless you make a payment immediately by credit card or debit card. The call appears to be from Duquesne Light and even provides the real Duquesne Light call back number. Please do not fall for this scam.

Ms. Kovach stated the Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department carnival was very successful, and she thanked everyone who took the time to volunteer.

**Finance** – Ms. Kovach motioned to approve the July treasurer’s report; Mr. Warhold seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

**Community Activities/Planning & Codes** – Ms. Kovach discussed Bark on Park on August 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Music will be provided by the School of Rock and an acoustic group. Camp Bow Wow will participate along with Pet Supplies Plus and South Hills Pet Rescue. The library will provide a craft. There will be a pet cooling station, pet t-shirts and bandanas and a historical walking tour.

The CSRC Fall Festival will be held September 14<sup>th</sup> from 11:00-3:00. A reggae group, vendors, food trucks and fall produce will be available.

The CSRC Golf Outing will be held September 20<sup>th</sup> at Scenic Valley.

Mr. Warhold will be meeting with Lisa Brown of Economic Development South to schedule the fall Saw Mill Run Stream Clean-up. This project has prevented many areas in the borough from flooding during heavy rainfalls.

The Castle Shannon Youth Association Golf Outing will be September 21<sup>st</sup> at Victory Hills in Elizabeth Township. More information can be found on the Castle Shannon Youth Association website.

**Library** – Ms. Randazzo announced that Christina Walters has been hired as Children’s Librarian starting today.

The children’s summer reading program is winding down, and the Keystone Oaks free lunch program will continue until August 24<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Randazzo thanked Christina Morrow for volunteering her time and talents to keep the library’s website updated while waiting for a new hire.

**SHACOG** – The October 17<sup>th</sup> SHACOG meeting at the Bethel Park Community Center will honor the first responders to the Tree of Life shooting.

**Police/Non-uniformed Pension** – The agenda contained the second quarter statements for 2019.

**Manager:** Mr. Hartswick received notification from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) that the Hamilton Park Improvement project plan was approved to rebuild Terrace Drive and renovate the Hamilton Park upper walking trail.

Mr. Vietmeier and Mr. Hartswick will meet with Allegheny County representatives to identify the parsonage property for a demolition project on Myrtle Avenue.

A. Folino Construction will be working on the 2019 road paving project throughout the borough.

**Mayor:** Mayor Baumgarten stated the Elm Street partial road collapse has existed for two years. The borough is awaiting permits from the railroad. Mayor Baumgarten believes the street constitutes an emergency because it is a public safety issue. Mr. Hartswick will discuss the situation with the borough solicitor.

Lt. McKeown presented an informative and impressive session at Pennsylvania State Mayors Association conference on the extensive technology employed by the Castle Shannon Police Department. The Mayor would like Lt. McKeown to present this information to council at a future date.

**Public Comment:**

Bryan Gigliotti, 3534 Poplar Avenue – stated that Castle Shannon Youth Association had a great season and great tournaments. Many positive comments were received on the field, facilities and concession stand. Mr. Gigliotti did suggest that a bocce court, volleyball court or other form of activity would be appreciated by families waiting for games at the municipal center. Mr. Gigliotti added that Hamilton Park needs additional recreational activities and amenities to attract residents. In conclusion, Mr. Gigliotti thanked council for their partnership with CSYA this year.

Mr. Warhold suggested that an area by Hamilton Park tennis court could be extended to provide for street hockey, volleyball or another activity. Mr. Heckmann explained that a strategic planning grant is pending for park assessments and rehabilitations to determine best uses of the existing park system. The annual budget has \$100,000 for discretionary expenditures; therefore, grants and new revenue is needed for major recreational investments.

Janell Filson, 3251 Waverly Street – was disappointed in the Futures Forum connectivity discussion since it does not include the Waverly/Sleepy Hollow areas. Ms. Filson suggested the borough purchase land owned by Kossmans' adjacent to the borough building for park improvements.

Ms. Filson also reported that a pothole on Waverly needs filled. Public Works will be notified.

Scott Bruce, 981 Pine Avenue – reported speeding traffic on Pine Avenue in the mornings and evenings to the Mt. Lebanon Golf Course.

**Other:** Ms. O'Malley asked members of the CSYA to keep the circle in front of the municipal center open for residents to pay taxes on Wednesday evenings.

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

Approved as presented this 26th day of August 2019.

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Thomas C. Hartswick  
Borough Manager

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Mark J. Heckmann  
President