

CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

August 26, 2019

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

The minutes of the August 12, 2019 Council Meeting were presented. Ms. Randazzo motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Oates seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

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

Engineer's Report: Mr. Stanton conducted MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) annual training for elected officials. The borough is mandated to reduce the amount of storm water discharged into the system of the Commonwealth. The borough's MS4 permit was renewed to 2023, and stream bank improvements are planned for Saw Mill Run Creek between Canal Street and James Street by widening the channel, creating low flow channels with flora and fauna, and revegetating sides of the stream bank with a cost of approximately \$300,000. The borough is in compliance with all requirements of the MS4 permit.

Mr. Stanton discussed the Futures Forum held to discuss the Active Allegheny Grant. The planning grant will provide improved walkability and connectivity within three defined neighborhoods of the borough. Approximately forty people attended the meeting, and seventy online surveys have been completed. Paper surveys will be available for residents at the library and municipal center with a deadline extension until September 20th.

Mr. Stanton reported on ALCOSAN's sanitary sewer regionalization efforts. The main trunk line from Sixth Street to Connor Road belongs to ALCOSAN. Federal government mandates require ALCOSAN to adopt additional sewer lines. Sanitary sewers ten inches or more with two or more multi-municipal connections are eligible to be transferred to ALCOSAN. The borough currently has eight lines that meet the criteria. Castle Shannon Borough has performed requested repairs and continues to work with ALCOSAN on this project.

Mr. Heckmann discussed the Allegheny Land Trust's proposed acquisition of a former industrial property in Bethel Park at Connor Road. The area will be used as green space with trails paid for through grant funding and community contributions. The relevance to Castle Shannon is that the borough is downstream from the site, and the project will prevent construction which could release industrial pollutants into the borough's storm system.

Public Hearings: Mr. Hartswick presented Ordinance #920 amending the non-uniformed pension Ordinance #877. The ordinance reduces the final average salary period from 60 months to 48 months and increases participant contributions to 4.25% beginning January 1, 2020. Mr. Heckmann opened the public hearing. No comments were received; therefore, the public hearing was closed. Mr. Kirsch

motioned to adopt Ordinance #920 at its first reading; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Civil Service Commission: Chief Truver stated that eighteen police officer candidates are available for interviews through the SHACOG multi-municipal testing.

Council Committee Reports:

Building & Grounds/Public Works – Mr. Oates reported that public works has been working on the borough’s sewer system and manhole rehabilitation.

Public Safety – Chief Truver presented Regina Theobald’s resignation as school crossing guard. Ms. Theobald served the borough for two decades in this position, and council thanked her for her dedicated service. Mr. Swisher motioned to accept the resignation; Mr. Warhold seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Port Authority plans to work on the LRT the weekend of September 6th. Cooke Lane will be closed. Mt. Lebanon Boulevard will be closed at Cooke Lane the weekend of September 20th. Detours will be posted on social media and the police department’s website.

Finance – Mr. Swisher reviewed check registers from July 25th, August 2nd, August 9th, August 16th, and August 22nd with no questions. Ms. Randazzo motioned to pay the bills; Mr. Oates seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Community Activities/Planning & Codes – Mr. Hartswick discussed a grant funding opportunity to develop plans and policies to enhance the built environment and expand opportunities for physical activity. Mr. Warhold motioned to approve the grant application submittal to WalkWorks for \$20,000; Ms. Randazzo seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mr. Warhold presented information for an implementation grant for \$10,000 from DCED with a match of \$10,000 from Dollar Bank for Castle Shannon Revitalization Corporation activities. The grant is only awarded to municipalities with a Keystone Community designation, and no borough funding is required for this grant. Mr. Heckmann thanked Bettina Jones for her leadership in this endeavor. Mr. Warhold motioned to submit the grant application; Ms. Randazzo seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Final preparations for the CSRC Fall Festival will be discussed at a committee meeting on Thursday. The event will take place on September 14th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Willow Avenue.

Plans are being finalized for the CSRC Golf Outing to be held September 20th at Scenic Valley.

Mr. Heckmann noted a successful event sponsored by the downtown business owners entitled “Willow Walk” that was held on Sunday. Mr. Warhold added that the Myrtle Avenue PFO Food Truck event on August 22nd was also successful and well attended.

Library – Ms. Randazzo discussed the “Love Your Library” program that starts in September. Donations of up to \$500 made to the library are matched by a pro-rated pool of funds from the Jack Buncher Foundation. Ms. Randazzo encouraged residents to support the library during this event.

The library board will be meeting September 5th.

Friends of the Library Book Sale is scheduled for September 12th through 14th.

Ms. Randazzo discussed RADical Days that provides free events sponsored by the regional asset distribution tax. Information on the schedule of events can be found at <https://www.radworkshere.org/pages/radical-days-2019>.

MRTSA – Budget committee will meet August 27th, and the board of directors meeting is August 28th.

SHACOG – Mr. Oates reported that the future of recycling continues to be the major topic of discussion at the SHACOG board meetings.

Police/Non-uniformed Pension – The Minimum Municipal Funding Obligation worksheets were presented for the 2020 pension plans. Mr. Kirsch motioned to approve the MMO's for 2020; Ms. Randazzo seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Manager: Mr. Hartswick stated that Castle Shannon may be in line to receive funds from the Gaming Economic Development Fund. Mr. Hartswick proposed that the money be used for Streetscape plan, section C for sidewalk and streetlight improvements along Castle Shannon Boulevard. Mr. Warhold motioned to approve the application; Ms. Randazzo seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mr. Hartswick presented Resolution #674 to request a Multimodal Transportation Fund from PennDot for \$1,595,562 for mobility and accessibility improvements along the light rail transit stations. Mr. Kirsch motioned to adopt Resolution #674; Mr. Warhold seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mayor: At a meeting of local mayors, Mayor Baumgarten reported that the mayors discussed the number of DUI arrests. The comment was made, "If you are drinking, don't drive through Castle Shannon." Mayor Baumgarten is very proud of the aggressive DUI enforcement conducted by the Castle Shannon Police Department.

Public Comment:

Shannon Tiernan, 3699 Grant Street – discussed a fence that was erected on the property line. A variance was submitted to the zoning hearing board and was denied due to lack of hardship. The solid stockade fence borders a paper street that was abandoned, and Ms. Tiernan would like to see an amendment of Ordinance #773 and/or zoning Ordinance #891. Mr. Biondo advised that Ms. Tiernan's legal options are to: 1) appeal the zoning hearing board's decision to the Court of Common Pleas, or 2) proceed with a quiet title action to gain property ownership of a portion of the abandoned street. Mr. Heckmann also noted the Tiernan's could change the fence to be 50% open or move the fence.

Bryan Gigliotti, 3534 Poplar Avenue – stated that he received a letter mandating the debris in his alleyway be removed due to a rat infestation. Mr. Gigliotti insists that his neighbors are not maintaining their land, and he believes that the responsibility for maintenance and liability of paper streets should be reviewed.

Janell Filson, 3251 Waverly Street – suggested that sidewalks would be beneficial on McRoberts Road due to the number of pedestrians that walk on the road. She would also like to have a better basketball hoop at the municipal center. Ms. Filson also noted a pothole that needs patched on Waverly Street.

Vicki Bruce, 981 Pine Avenue – gave kudos to Chief Truver for installing the speed trailer to slow traffic to and from the Mt. Lebanon Golf Course.

Mr. Heckmann closed the public comment section.

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

Approved as presented this 9th day of September 2019.

Thomas C. Hartswick
Borough Manager

Mark J. Heckmann
President