

**CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

September 9, 2019

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

The minutes of the August 26, 2019 Council Meeting were presented. Mr. Kirsch motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

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

Daniel Zilch, 3510 McRoberts Road – noted the agenda item for a Grove Road Truck Restriction Study and discussed problems with tractor trailers and tri-axels getting stuck at the corner of Grove Road and McRoberts Road when trying to make turns. Mr. Zilch would like to eliminate these types of vehicles on Grove Road.

The public comment section was closed.

**Real Estate Tax Collector:** Ms. O'Malley reported August collections of \$41,233.04. Total collections for 2019 are \$3,353,261.42, which is a 93% collection rate. Delinquent notices will be mailed this month.

**Council Committee Reports:**

**Building & Grounds/Public Works** – Mr. Oates reported that Bob Ausman and Chip Myrah are attending a seminar in Rochester, Indiana to investigate sewer camera equipment. Mr. Hartswick added that the current equipment is outdated. The newer equipment can have a lateral lens with flash drive capability for viewing the lines.

**Public Safety** – Chief Truver stated that traffic problems exist at the intersection of Grove Road and McRoberts Road when a low boy flat bed, eighteen-wheeler or large triaxle trucks get stuck due to the grade of the road. In order to restrict traffic, an engineering study is required. Trans Associates submitted a proposal for traffic engineering services to prepare a study evaluating the impact and possible restriction/prohibition of truck traffic on Grove Road between Library Road and McRoberts Road including appropriate signage for restrictions. Ms. Randazzo motioned to accept the proposal by Trans Associates with a cost not to exceed \$3,450.00; Mr. Warhold seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

The CSRC Fall Festival is September 14<sup>th</sup> on Willow Avenue; however, road construction will continue throughout October in the downtown area. Along with flag people from Port Authority and the contractor, the police will have an officer posted for traffic control.

On Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> the Castle Shannon Police Department, Medical Rescue Team South and Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department will have a static display at the fireman's lot in memory of 9/11.

Chief Truver's 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary with the borough was today, and he thanked borough council for the employment opportunity. Ms. Kovach thanked Chief Truver for his service and noted he is doing a very fine job.

**Finance** – Mr. Swisher reviewed check registers from August 29<sup>th</sup> and September 6<sup>th</sup> with no questions. Mr. Swisher motioned to pay the bills; Mr. Warhold seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

**Community Activities/Planning & Codes** – Mr. Warhold noted an agreement in the agenda for Property Registration Champions, LLC. Mr. Vietmeier stated the agreement is for services to register vacant, abandoned and foreclosed properties so that the community can properly address violations of the property maintenance codes. Mr. Warhold motioned to authorize the appropriate officials to execute the agreement with Property Registration Champions, LLC; Mr. Kirsch seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mr. Warhold discussed the CSRC Fall Festival planned for September 14<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. The event will feature children's games, food trucks, music and farm produce.

On September 13<sup>th</sup>, the Bethel Park Chamber of Commerce (serving Bethel Park, Castle Shannon and South Park) will host a Sapphire Gala to honor local businesses. Five out of twelve businesses to be honored are from Castle Shannon.

The CSRC Golf Outing will be held September 20<sup>th</sup>. Over 50 sponsors and 100 players are registered. This is the annual major fundraiser for the revitalization corporation.

**Library** – Friends of the Library Book Sale is scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup>.

The "Love Your Library" program matches donations received to the library from 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 met and formally voted to accept the resignation of Heather Weleski as Children's Librarian. Christina Walters (Miss Christy) was hired to fill the position.

A part-time library assistant position is available at the library with minimal hours. Please contact the library for more information.

The library board will accept the strategic plan for the Allegheny County Library Association. The ACLA executive director plans to attend the October board meeting.

Library representatives will be attending the State Representative Dan Miller Senior Fair on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

**MRTSA** – Mr. Swisher stated that MRTSA is conducting multiple meetings for management restructuring.

**SHACOG** – The SHACOG monthly board meeting will be hosted by Baldwin Township on September 19<sup>th</sup>. An award ceremony is planned for October 17<sup>th</sup> at Bethel Park to honor the Tree of Life responders.

**Manager:** Mr. Hartswick presented Resolution #675 to apply for a grant from the Gaming Economic Development Funds through the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County (RAAC) for \$500,000.00. State Representative Dan Miller assisted with the grant which will be used for streetscape improvements along Castle Shannon Boulevard. Mr. Kirsch motioned to adopt Resolution #675; Mr. Oates seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mr. Warhold explained that the original streetscape plan was too encompassing and had to be sectioned into phases in order to receive grant funding. Funding was received for Phase II. Ms. Kovach added that multimodal grant funds can only be used for designated projects, such as streetscape plans.

The CONNECT Executive Committee Meeting will be hosted by Castle Shannon on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Mayor:** Mayor Baumgarten asked Chief Truver to discuss traffic signalization improvements. PennDot is working on updating traffic signals on Route 88. Along with pole replacements, radio antennas will be placed on poles to synchronize traffic lights from Finleyville to Route 51. The receivers will also have a blinking white light that will alert drivers to yield to emergency vehicles.

A radar camera will be installed by Santoro's Pizza on Willow Avenue to assist with traffic flow. The existing cones and signs to "Stop Here to Change Signal" will no longer be needed.

**Public Comment:**

Sherri Suppa, 3409 Lockridge Drive – questioned the status of a tree ordinance that was previously submitted to borough council in 2018. The ordinance was vetoed by Mayor Baumgarten, and the motion to override the veto was not passed. Ms. Suppa had concerns regarding clear cutting of trees on five acres of land on Hamilton Road that is being auctioned. Ms. Suppa also referenced Allegheny County Land Slide Task Force and Steep Slope Ordinance that municipalities are encouraged to adopt to protect areas from landslides. Mr. Warhold referenced a transit-oriented development tree ordinance he had reviewed.

Ms. Suppa reported a rat problem occurring in her neighborhood from construction of the St. Francis Property. She hired an exterminator for her property which was very costly. Mr. Vietmeier stated that many areas of the borough are experiencing rat infestations. Mr. Hartswick advised that the borough can only bait public areas.

Kayce Berdine, 1270 Havelock – would like to see sidewalks installed on McRoberts Road for pedestrian safety. Ms. Berdine referenced the Connectivity Study being distributed and noted her concerns about walking the street to the park with her children.

In addition, many children are now waiting at the corner school bus stop on McRoberts Road and Havelock Street. There is not a safe place for the children to wait. Sidewalks would provide a safer place. Mayor Baumgarten discussed the fact that installation and maintenance of sidewalks are the homeowner's responsibility.

Janell Filson, 3251 Waverly Street – stated that the homeowners on Myrtle Avenue did not pay for the recently installed sidewalk. Mayor Baumgarten explained that the sidewalk installation was part of a settlement agreement with the paving contractor.

Ms. Filson has concerns that the focus and grant funding are only for the downtown area streetscape and connectivity to the downtown area. Mr. Hartswick explained that current grant funding for multimodal improvements are restricted to specific designated projects. Ms. Filson would like to see grants obtained for recreational improvements to the municipal center park and residential sidewalks for access to the park. Mr. Kirsch stated that funding park improvements at this time would have to come from tax dollars, as grants are not currently available.

Daniel Zilch, 3510 McRoberts Road – referenced the five acres of land for auction on Hamilton Road that is zoned R3 and was also concerned that clear cutting of trees could occur for construction and apartment buildings. Mr. Zilch believes the community is getting over developed. Ms. Suppa added that the property is in a landslide danger zone.

Mr. Zilch also discussed the fact that vehicles cross over Grove Road instead of adhering to the right turn only sign.

Ms. Kovach closed the public comment section.

**Other:** Mr. Warhold questioned if the transcript from the last zoning hearing board was available for the resident. Mr. Biondo advised that the resident would have to order the transcript from the court reporter.

Ms. Randazzo thanked Ms. Kovach for presiding over the meeting this evening, while Ms. Randazzo was feeling under the weather. Mr. Kirsch also thanked Ms. Kovach.

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

Approved as presented this 23rd day of September 2019.

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Thomas C. Hartswick  
Borough Manager

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Mark J. Heckmann  
President