

**CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

October 14, 2019

The following elected officials were present: M. Heckmann, T. Kirsch; N. Kovach B. Oates; M. Randazzo; D. Swisher; D. Baumgarten. Council Member M. Warhold 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.

The minutes of the September 23, 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.

Bid Openings: Ms. Kovach motioned to award the Willow Avenue Curb Replacement Project to the lowest bidder Soli Construction for \$20,475.00; Mr. Kirsch seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Ms. Kovach motioned to award the Hamilton Park Improvements Project to the lowest bidder, Gary Metzinger Cement Contractor Inc., for the base bid of \$311,540.00; Ms. Randazzo seconded; all in favor; motion carried. The project will include stabilizing the Terrace Drive slope and rehabilitating the trails.

Real Estate Tax Collector: The agenda contained the September collection report.

Council Committee Reports:

Public Relations/Communications – Mr. Heckmann urged residents to participate by voting in the local primary on November 5th.

Building & Grounds/Public Works – Mr. Oates reported that the public works department's crack sealing program has been completed.

Public Safety – Ms. Kovach motioned to hire Robert Parks as a crossing guard at Canal Street; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried. Ms. Kovach noted that borough residency is not a requirement for a crossing guard position, and Chief Truver added that the police department is taking applications for substitute crossing guard positions.

Council authorized the solicitor to draft an ordinance restricting truck traffic on Grove Road pursuant to the Trans Associates traffic study.

Council also authorized the solicitor to prepare a resolution to include a fee for video right-to-know requests.

Chief Truver reported on a sobriety checkpoint on October 11th from 11:00 p.m. to October 12th at 3:00 a.m. Forty-seven vehicles were processed which resulted in 11 arrests: 9 DUI and 2 possession of marijuana. In addition, 7 traffic citations were issued with 8 written warnings.

Chief Truver noted the following accolades to his staff. October 17th Office Kiefer will be recognized as a tactical operator at the Tree of Life shooting. Officer Kiefer will also receive a Top Gun Award on October 24th for his proactive DUI enforcement. Lt. McKeown will be recognized by Amen Corner on November 1st for his investigative work. Mayor Baumgarten and Chief Truver will also attend a AAA Community Traffic Safety Awards.

Ms. Kovach noted that the Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department's banquet was a nice affair.

Finance – Mr. Swisher reviewed check registers from September 27th, October 4th and October 14th. Mr. Oates motioned to approve the bills; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Community Activities/Planning & Codes – Ms. Kovach announced that Saw Mill Run Fall Stream Clean-up will be held October 26th from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Ms. Bettina Jones stated that Small Business Saturday for the downtown businesses is scheduled for Saturday, November 30th. In addition, a holiday event in Lebanon Shops is planned for early December.

Library – Ms. Randazzo reported that the Library Board met on October 3rd, and a part-time position is open as a library assistant.

Ms. Randazzo thanked Madison Morrow for working on a library logo. Ms. Myrah is working on the annual budget.

Friends of the Library Flea Market will be held October 19th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Friends of the Library Book Sale made \$1,300.00.

The library Halloween Parade is scheduled for October 27th at 2:00 p.m. Chief Truver advised that an officer riding the new police bicycle will be in the parade.

MRTSA – The board meeting will be held October 23rd.

Associations – Mr. Swisher reported on the Allegheny County and Western Pennsylvania Association of Township Commissioners conference. The sessions were very current and informative on MS4 compliance, regulating wireless in your municipal right-of-way, regulating firearms, air bed and breakfast rentals, and condemning properties.

Mayor: Mayor Baumgarten commented on the high number of vehicles that were processed from the DUI checkpoint, along only one side of the road in a small four-hour time period. The number of violations is alarming.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Biondo received a petition to quiet title from Michael and Shannon Tiernan to acquire title to a paper street. Ms. Kovach motioned to authorize the solicitor to accept service of the Complaint to Quiet Title on behalf of the borough and to let the petitioner know that the borough takes no position with regard to their request; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Public Comment:

Melissa Spencer, 3401 Lockridge Road – presented photographs and information to borough council regarding a landslide from June of this year that resulted from a broken sewer pipe. Ms. Spencer had professional soil testing conducted which indicated that there was sewage in the dirt that was caused from the landslide. The sewer pipe was repaired. Ms. Spencer is seeking stabilization of the hillside and clean-up of contaminated soil. A discussion was held on the cost of the resident’s engineering report. Mr. Hartswick stated that all information has been submitted to EMC Insurance, and he had spoken with insurance representatives on October 10th. Mr. Heckman advised that the incident is subject to insurance coverage, and Ms. Spencer should be contacted by an insurance investigator in the near future. The borough will await the insurance company’s report before taking any action.

Rob Broman, 1478 Blossom Hill – stated he sympathized with the resident that would like to have sidewalks throughout the borough; however, it would not be fiscally practical. In addition, sidewalks may put a burden on some residents to maintain (shovel snow) the sidewalks.

Mr. Broman questioned the outcome of a parcel of land on Hamilton Road that was recently auctioned. This is the third time the property has been auctioned. Council has no further information. Mr. Broman noted the Bethel Park green area and suggested he would like to see the same program of trails or park area across from the apartment complex.

Mr. Broman also thanked council for his appointment to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Heckmann closed the public comment section.

Other: Mr. Heckmann has accepted a position on ALCOSAN’s Municipal Advisory Board to give the borough a more active role in the regionalization of the sanitary system.

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

Approved as presented this 28th day of October 2019.

Thomas C. Hartswick
Borough Manager

Mark J. Heckmann
President