

**CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

April 27, 2020

The April 27, 2020 meeting of the Castle Shannon Borough Council was held as a virtual meeting using Zoom Meeting technology in compliance with the disaster emergency proclamation of the Governor of Pennsylvania related to the coronavirus pandemic, including the closure of non-essential businesses, stay-at-home order and social distancing directives.

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

Mr. Heckmann stated that Governor Wolf signed Act 15 of 2020 to allow for teleconferencing of government meetings during the COVID 19 pandemic.

The minutes of the April 13, 2020 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. Mr. Heckmann will address the online public comments received at the second public comment section of the meeting.

Real Estate Tax Collector: Ms. O'Malley reported that real estate tax collections are proceeding at the normal rate of revenue.

Although the tax office remains closed for walk-in payments, an exterior drop box is available at the municipal center for payments.

Council Committee Reports:

Public Relations/Communications – Mr. Heckmann noted that the municipal events for Community Day and the Memorial Day Parade have been cancelled. Information was posted on social media sites. The borough is awaiting further guidance regarding the possibility of opening the Summer Recreation Program.

Between the police department, borough website, CSRC and Facebook pages, good information sharing is available on how to support local business and keep updated with local news. Mr. Heckmann urged residents to check out these resources.

Building & Grounds/Public Works – Mr. Oates reported that the Public Works crew have been working on landscaping efforts like installing new mulch, and they continue grass cutting borough areas until the contractor begins in May.

In addition, the crew has been cleaning and evaluating catch basins.

Mr. Ausman is obtaining pricing for trees at Hamilton Park to buffer the zone between the park and apartment buildings.

Mr. Heckmann advised that the public works department will be undertaking a borough cleaning, televising and jetting sewer project this year.

Public Safety – For the month of March, the police department went into a reactive mode from the coronavirus distancing restrictions and were patrolling alleys, checking residences and businesses. Traffic and parking enforcement will restart effective May 1st. Although traffic is lighter, many motorists are driving carelessly.

The Police Department received a \$1,750 grant from Buckle-Up Pennsylvania and enforcement will begin the last two weeks in May. This coincides with National Police Week from May 10th through May 16th.

Chief Truver has applied for a PEMA grant for personal protective and sanitizing equipment purchased due to the pandemic.

Ms. Kovach reported that fire department parking lot revenues were down, and the status of the 2020 Carnival is unknown. Ms. Kovach also thanked the police officers, fire department volunteers, paramedics and health care workers for their assistance during this pandemic.

Finance – Mr. Swisher had minor questions on the check registers for April 7th, April 16th and April 23rd. Ms. Miller provided the information. Mr. Astor motioned to approve the check registers as presented; Ms. Randazzo seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Community Activities/Planning and Codes – Ms. Kovach announced that the Annual Shred Event for May is cancelled. The Summer Recreation Program and Party-on-Park events are pending state opening recommendations from Governor Wolf.

Library – North America Library Giving Day was held last Thursday. Ms. Randazzo thanked all the supports who donated.

The CARES Act designated \$50 million in coronavirus response funding to The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The emergency investment allocated to IMLS will enable libraries and museums to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, including by expanding digital network access, purchasing Internet accessible devices, and providing technical support services to their communities.

American Library Association and County Library Association have many advocacy efforts going on. In addition, Ms. Randazzo continues to contact our legislators to request their support the emergency library funding initiative for \$2 million.

National Library Week will be April 19th – 25th. Many of the activities planned were postponed or cancelled. The theme has changed from “Find Your Place in the Library” to “Find the Library at Your Place”.

The children's program for this summer will be held virtually.

ACLA is mapping out a reopening plan to provide appropriate safety procedures for libraries.

Mr. Heckmann applauded Donelle Mayausky for providing books on carts outside the library to make reading material available to the public.

MRTSA – Mr. Heckmann noted that the board meeting was held last week. It is a very dangerous time for paramedics to be entering homes, and there are many administrative challenges presented in providing protocol for paramedic's safety. MRTSA has not had anyone afflicted with COVID 19. Allegheny County reports eight first responder cases between the police, fire and ambulance services.

Mr. Heckmann thanked all the MRTSA communities for submitting their annual allotment for ambulance service.

SHACOG – The annual dinner meeting was cancelled, and no future meeting dates have been scheduled.

Police/Non-Uniformed Pensions – Due to the current economy, both pension plans experienced losses for the first quarter of this year.

Manager's Report: Mr. Hartswick presented Resolution #668 requesting a Greenways, Rails and Recreation Program grant in the amount to \$117,000 from DCED for the Hamilton Park Lower Trail Rehabilitation. Ms. Kovach motioned to adopt Resolution #668; Mr. Maloney seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Baumgarten presented a proclamation for Bells Across Pennsylvania for Sunday, May 3, 2020.

Mayor Baumgarten also commented on the multitude of people that flocked to South Park last Saturday.

Fencing by the batting cage for Hamilton Park was discussed.

Public Comment: Mr. Heckmann received two public comment submissions from the website.

Linda Daube, 3520 Rosalia – was interested in forming a community health organization to provide resident support services. Interested parties can contact borough administration for further communication.

Sara Pellegrini, 1313 McCully Road – has stormwater flooding concerns from a neighbor's property. Appropriate borough administrative representatives will respond.

Other: Mr. Swisher questioned if the contractor for the Hamilton Park/Terrace Drive project was notified to resume work. Mr. Hartswick will discuss with our engineers.

Chief Truver noted that the KOSD Community Support Program is available to match services with needs of food, supplies, personal connections, or other types of assistance. Residents can complete a form at <https://www.kosd.org/protected/ArticleView.aspx?iid=6G0GUYB&dasi=303I> or email welch@kosd.org to volunteer or request assistance.

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

Approved as presented this 11th day of May 2020.

Thomas C. Hartswick
Borough Manager

Mark J. Heckmann
President