

**CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

June 22, 2020

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; D. Biondo, Solicitor; P. Vietmeier, Codes Official.

The minutes of the June 8, 2020 Council Meeting were presented. Mr. Maloney motioned to approve the minutes; Ms. Randazzo seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mr. Heckmann asked for public comments on the agenda. Being none, the public comment section was closed.

Public Hearings: Ashley DeGregorio, Environmental Program Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Resource Council, addressed council on the subject of glass recycling. The PRC has services for a traveling glass bin, permanent sites, and pop-up events. Mr. Heckmann stated that Castle Shannon residents would be very interested in participating. Ms. Kovach suggested that Ms. DeGregorio contact SHACOG to initiate a collaboration program between neighboring communities for cost sharing.

Mr. Biondo noted that two public hearings were advertised for conditional uses by two billboard companies. The planning commission raised several questions that the applicants need to answer; therefore, the public hearings were cancelled at the request of the applicants.

Council Committee Reports:

Public Relations/Communications – Mr. Heckmann stated that borough council is reviewing a revised tree ordinance as it relates to new development opportunities. Changes include requiring a review process anytime a developer is interested in clearing present trees, as well as rulings about new planting of trees (i.e. irrigation systems, buffer zones) and maintaining the existing tree canopy. The policy is currently under review.

Building & Grounds/Public Works – Council has authorized contracting with an engineer to proceed with the streetscape project. This is a \$2,000,000 renovation of the downtown area largely funded with a PennDOT grant. Ms. Kovach stated that this is a joint project between the borough and the Castle Shannon Revitalization Corporation.

Public Safety – Chief Truver stated that the borough's municipal building will be opening July 6th. Appropriate signage is posted for COVID 19 best practices. The same signage has been posted at borough parks prior to their opening.

Finance – Mr. Swisher approved the check register for June 12th and questioned an expenditure on the June 18th list. Chief Truver identified the expense, and Mr. Swisher approved the list. Mr. Swisher motioned to approve the bills; Mr. Astor seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Community Activities/Planning and Codes – The annual Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department Carnival has been cancelled. A food truck event and raffle drawing will be held on August 1st.

Library – Curbside and lobby pickup has resumed at the library as of June 15th. Patrons can call the library to request materials. Materials that are returned are quarantined for 72 hours.

Library staff is returning to regularly scheduled hours at the building as of this week. The library is still closed to the public at this time.

The children’s virtual summer reading event started with the theme “Imagine Your Story”. In addition, the adult virtual summer reading program can be accessed through beanstack.org at the Carnegie Library.

Mr. Heckmann noted that the library has provided bags of take-home crafts for patrons. Mr. Heckmann and Ms. Randazzo agreed that it is impressive the way the staff is thinking outside the box for ways to engage the community.

MRTSA: Technical computer upgrades have been accomplished, and a substantial capital program is being considered.

SHACOG: Mr. Oates reported Pleasant Hills Borough hosted the SHACOG meeting on June 18th.

ACBA: Ms. Kovach reported the board met at an outside pavilion in Greentree on June 18th. A discussion was held on how municipalities are complying with CDC guidelines for the pandemic.

Police Pension Plan: Mr. Hartswick presented the 2019 financial statements for the police pension plan. The ending balance was \$5,604,742.

Non-Uniformed Plan: Mr. Hartswick also presented the 2019 financial statements for the non-uniformed pension plan. Ending balance was \$1,485,904.

Mayor: Mayor Baumgarten noted that with the relaxation of COVID 19 restrictions, the police department has noted increased traffic volume on roadways with a resulting increase in traffic violations and DUI arrests.

Planning Commission: Council accepted the minutes of the January 20, 2020 meeting.

Public Comment:

Bryan Gigliotti, 3534 Poplar Avenue – discussed a growing rat problem in his neighborhood and believes the Elm Street stabilization project disrupted the rat’s habitat. The Public Works Department can bait the sewers, but not private property. The codes department recommends the following to deter rats: remove dog feces from yards, refrain from feeding wild animals and birds, place garbage in sealed containers, cut tall grass, and remove compost piles and wood debris.

Mr. Gigliotti confirmed that the 2020 CSYA summer/fall season was cancelled due to COVID 19 safety concerns for the children. Plans are being explored to host a golf outing on September 12th as a fundraiser for a local child with cancer. Mr. Gigliotti asked for council's help in promoting the event.

The public comment section was closed.

Other: Mr. Heckmann extended council's condolences to the family of Jefferson Hills Police Officer Dale Provins who passed away June 13, 2020 due to extensive injuries incurred during an on-duty traffic collision.

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

Approved as presented this 13th day of July 2020.

Thomas C. Hartswick
Borough Manager

Mark J. Heckmann
President