

**CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

July 13, 2020

The July 13, 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; D. Biondo, Solicitor; P. Vietmeier, Codes Official.

The minutes of the June 22, 2020 Council Meeting were presented. Ms. Randazzo motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mr. Heckmann will address the online public comments received at the second public comment section of the meeting.

Public Hearing: Mr. Heckmann presented Ordinance #924 – Amending the Borough of Castle Shannon subdivision and land development ordinance to provide regulations governing the proposed removal and protection of trees in major and minor land developments and for review of all applications for permits for activities that would impact trees whether on public or private property. Mr. Heckmann added that this ordinance sets standards for inventory of trees, removal plans of trees, planting of trees and maintenance of plantings for slopes and buffer zones. A certified forester from the Penn State Extension Office was consulted on this ordinance. The ordinance will assist in maintaining greenery and tree canopy in the borough. Mr. Heckmann opened the public hearing.

Mayor Baumgarten stated that he believes the ordinance is not necessary, since only one large parcel of property exists in the borough for development. In addition, the ordinance was created to satisfy a few residents that were against the Hamilton Place development, which is a multi-million dollar development that benefited the majority of people in the borough. Mayor Baumgarten noted that the planning commission and zoning officer have addressed landscaping plans for developments in the past. In addition, Mayor Baumgarten stated that he would not veto the ordinance, nor sign it.

Mr. Astor understands the mayor's concerns but believes that council needs to address this ordinance for future developments. Mr. Astor motioned to adopt Ordinance #924; Mr. Maloney seconded. Mr. Heckmann asked for a roll call vote: Mr. Astor – yes; Mr. Heckmann – yes; Ms. Kovach – yes; Mr. Maloney – yes; Mr. Oates – yes; Ms. Randazzo – yes; Mr. Swisher – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Real Estate Tax Collector: Ms. O'Malley reported June collections of \$155,720.95. Year to date collections are \$3,541,197.65, which is an 91% collection rate. Taxes for the Keystone Oaks School District were mailed on Thursday, July 9th.

Council Committee Reports:

Public Relations/Communications – Mr. Heckmann stated that the borough is syndicating public safety information as needed, and the police department has done a great job in encouraging CDC recommendations for private parties in the borough parks.

Public Safety – Ms. Kovach noted that State Representative Dan Miller provided COVID 19 grant information available to fire departments and emergency management services.

Finance – Mr. Swisher reviewed the check registers for June 26th, July 2nd and July 9th and had no further questions.

Ms. Kovach asked Mr. Hartswick to obtain bid quotes for a 2020 Road Improvement Program for several intersection paving sections and manhole repairs. Mr. Swisher listed concerns regarding timing of this construction project. Council agreed to proceed with obtaining bids from the engineers.

Community Activities/Planning and Codes – Ms. Kovach reported that the Castle Shannon Revitalization Corporation will not be hosting street events this year. The historical walk signs and information will be reinstated next year.

The Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department will be holding a food truck rally (take out only) on August 1st to coincide with the car raffle drawing. The event will take place in the fire department's parking lot.

Mr. Heckman was heartened to see our community coming together to support a local child and his family who received a difficult medical prognosis.

Mr. Vietmeier reported that Hamilton Place Building 300 has received their final inspection. The development has a waiting list of proposed tenants. Construction on the final building has started. Ms. Kovach asked about walkability from the development to the transit station. Neither the borough nor development has received complaints regarding a pedestrian problem. Mayor Baumgarten believes pedestrian access should be created for the Hamilton Place tenants to access Hamilton Park.

Library – Ms. Randazzo reported that although the library building is closed, the catalogue is now available for patrons to order materials. Hours have been extended for curbside and lobby pickup.

Ms. Randazzo thanked the library staff for their extra efforts behind the scenes and for hosting online programs. Ms. Christy hosts an online Lunch Brunch story time on Mondays and Wednesdays for children. The library website and Facebook pages list the various programs available.

MRTSA – Mr. Heckmann stated that executive and finance committees have been meeting. New investments are happening while balancing the load of COVID and safety.

Associations – Chief Truver will attend a virtual webinar sponsored by PELRAS since the annual conference was cancelled.

Manager's Report: Mr. Hartswick reported that a preconstruction meeting will be scheduled with Continental Construction and Demolition to proceed with the CD-45 demolition project.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Baumgarten discussed the proposed installation of a volleyball court at the municipal center and believes that Hamilton Park would be a better place for the amenity. Hamilton Park is the borough's main park and is utilized by more people. The mayor listed the advantages to having the court installed at Hamilton Park. Mayor Baumgarten performed many weddings in the former gazebo that provided a very picturesque setting. He would like to see a gazebo re-installed to keep the area as a green space. Mr. Heckmann responded stating that the Park Master Plan will be completed and reviewed before any new amenities are installed in borough parks. Mayor Baumgarten added that he would like to address the steering committee to relay his concerns.

Public Comment: No public comments were submitted from the website.

Other: Mr. Swisher stated that he has not received his stimulus check which is based on 2018 information. After multiple telephone conversations, he was advised that stimulus checks were stopped for couples that lost their spouses in 2018. Mr. Swisher should receive his check in December.

Ms. Kovach questioned correspondence received from a constituent about employment diversity and community indecisiveness. Mr. Heckmann has provided his personal response to the constituent.

Mr. Maloney regretfully reported that the Castle Shannon Youth Association Golf Outing planned for September has been cancelled due to COVID 19 issues.

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

Approved as presented this 27th day of July 2020.

Thomas C. Hartswick
Borough Manager

Mark J. Heckmann
President