

CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

July 27, 2020

The July 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; P. Vietmeier, Codes Official; Jeanne Manko, Court Reporter.

The minutes of the July 13, 2020 Council Meeting were presented. Ms. Randazzo motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Astor seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Public Comments:

Chief Truver introduced Jamie Davis. Mayor Baumgarten presented Ms. Davis with a Good Samaritan Award and read a proclamation commending the actions of Ms. Davis, who rescued an unattended minor child that was running down a busy street towards Route 88. Ms. Davis stopped and protected the child from the imminent danger of moving traffic. Responding Castle Shannon Police officers reported that due to Ms. Davis's astute observations and quick intervention, a tragedy was most certainly avoided. Council commended Ms. Davis for her actions.

Chief Truver recognized Lt. David Lane for achieving the FBI's Law Enforcement Executive Development Association's (LEEDA) Trilogy Award. Lt. Lane successfully completed the Supervisor Leadership Institute, Command Leadership Institute, and Executive Leadership Institute training. Council congratulated Lt. Lane on achieving this prestigious award.

Public Hearing: Mr. Biondo stated that this public hearing is a continuation of a conditional use public hearing held on July 13th for Summit Locations. Ms. Manko, Court Reporter, attended the meeting to take detailed minutes of this proceeding. Transcriptions of the June 15th and July 20th planning commission minutes will be made part of the minutes. On July 20, 2020 the planning commission denied the request due to Changeable Copy (Ordinance #701-I) required to advertise only onsite goods and services and Sign Definitions-FF – Off Premises Sign which advertises an establishment, merchandise, service or entertainment which is not on that premises. Mr. Heckmann opened the public hearing.

Forest Runnels, Summit Locations – described the size, type and placement of the sign which will be placed by Martin's Auto at 1130 Castle Shannon Boulevard. Mr. Runnels requested a waiver of the aforementioned requirements. The current Martin's Auto sign will be removed. Mr. Runnels stated that the businesses promotes family friendly businesses and would be willing to advertise public emergencies and events for the borough. Small businesses comprise 90% of Summit Locations clientele.

Ms. Kovach had concerns regarding a changeable billboard sign with the proximity of traffic. Mr. Runnels stated the sign will be set back 52 feet from the intersection, and brightness of the sign can be dimmed in the evening. Mr. Astor questioned if the reduced brightness was automatic. Mr. Runnels answered yes.

Mr. Swisher noted that another billboard by Lebanon Shops advertises off-premises businesses. Mr. Biondo advised that the noted billboard preceded the current ordinance. Mr. Biondo added that the July 20th planning commission minutes have not been approved; therefore, he recommended that the public hearing be continued until the August 24th council meeting. Mr. Maloney motioned to continue the hearing to the August 24th council meeting; Ms. Kovach seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mr. Biondo stated that the borough received a request from Genesis Outdoor Advertising for a continuance of their conditional use hearing until August 24th. Ms. Randazzo motioned to continue the Genesis Outdoor Advertising public hearing before borough council to August 24th; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Real Estate Tax Collector: Ms. O'Malley reported 2020 collections for real estate taxes are ahead of the 2019 collections for the January to June time frame.

Council Committee Reports:

Public Safety – SHACOG will hold joint police testing on August 8th at the Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Hall.

Ms. Kovach motioned to accept the resignation of Police Officer Thomas Yonek effective December 1, 2020; Mr. Oates seconded; all in favor; motion carried. Officer Yonek will reach his 25th anniversary on December 1st and has been a valued employee of the borough.

Ms. Kovach motioned to approve advertising of a 2015 Ford Explorer; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried. Mr. Astor motioned to set the minimum bid at \$5,000.00; Ms. Kovach seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Chief Truver reported that the K-9 team of Officer Majors and K-9 Dixon made a traffic stop on Route 88 and discovered 350 packets of heroine in the vehicle.

Mr. Swisher congratulated Officer Thomas Yonek, Officer Christine Platt, and Sergeant Fleckenstein on recent commendations for exemplary performance of duties.

Finance – Mr. Swisher reviewed the check register for July 16th and July 23rd. He questioned two invoices that Mr. Hartswick clarified. Mr. Swisher motioned to approve the check registers; Ms. Randazzo seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mr. Heckmann reported on a budget committee meeting that reviewed the year-to-date 2020 budget to identify and monitor line items that have a high degree of uncertainty in both revenues and expenditures.

Community Activities/Planning and Codes – Mr. Vietmeier reported that many home sales are occurring in the borough. Ms. Kovach added that Dormont has a similar pattern of sales.

Library – Ms. Randazzo reported that the library building is closed to the public until the end of August, however they continue to offer many more services. Printing and tax services will be available August 17th for curbside and lobby pickup. Computer use will be available August 31st by appointment only with 30-minute sessions and sanitizing completed after each use.

Leah Hummerich has resigned as Library Assistant effective July 31st.

Staff is clearing out surplus books to make room for new arrivals. The discards will be available for residents to obtain with an outside tent at the library.

Ms. Myrah and library board members will attend a diversity forum on July 28-30 hosted by the University of Pittsburgh.

Libraries are constantly needed to learn and evolve to supply programs to the communities in challenging times. Not only is Allegheny County Library Association working on diversification of activities, they also voted to amend the RAD distribution formula to increase funding to libraries serving at risk populations throughout Allegheny County.

MRTSA – Mr. Heckmann stated MRTSA is updating their systems to provide services to their communities.

SHACOG – Mr. Oates plans to attend the August meeting being hosted by South Park Township.

Manager's Report: Mr. Hartswick discussed the 2020 proposed road program that consists of eight possible intersection repairs along with several manhole repairs. The engineering proposal was estimated at \$95,290. Based on COVID 19 and income uncertainties, Mr. Hartswick proposed deferring the program to 2021 to include a more robust road improvement program. The Public Works Department will crack seal roadways that have been paved in the past five years, and designated manholes will be addressed with installation of a heated manhole riser. Mr. Swisher requested that the 2021 Road Improvement Program be ready for a bid opening in late March 2021. Ms. Kovach proposed that the borough contact the paving companies working for utilities to explore the option of extending their paving scope. Mr. Biondo advised that any amount over \$25,000 would require bidding. Ms. Randazzo listed concerns about a portion of Willow Avenue that the water company did not excavate for line replacement and will not be paved. Mr. Hartswick advised that a utility company paving repair process may be different than the borough's paving standards.

Mr. Heckmann stated that the budget committee recommends tabling the proposed 2020 Road Improvement Program until 2021. A list would be prepared for early 2021. Mr. Hartswick will obtain costs for the manhole repairs for 2020.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Baumgarten stated that there were 500 drug overdose deaths last year in Allegheny County. The war on drugs continues to be fought, but this seems to be a losing battle. The mayor is extremely concerned about the number of young people involved in drugs and thanked the police department for their recent drug arrest.

Planning Commission: The agenda contained the minutes of the June 5, 2020 meeting.

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

Other:

Ms. Kovach questioned when council may resume public meetings with appropriate social distancing. Mr. Heckmann noted that 6' distancing would not be possible with public participation. In addition, the increased number of coronavirus cases in Allegheny County is alarming. Therefore, Zoom meetings will continue through August. Residents can submit comments or questions for council at <https://castleshannon.typeform.com/to/ChjRXq>.

Mr. Heckmann was disheartened to hear that Keystone Oaks School District will be hiring a private security firm for the school. Good communication from their leadership to the municipalities did not occur. Ms. Randazzo shares Mr. Heckmann's sentiment and added that their decision is not the best for the students or the communities. Mayor Baumgarten was also disappointed in their decision. Chief Truver discussed the hiring with the superintendent and expressed the fact that all three municipal police departments were not advised of the plan and disappointed in the outcome. Mr. Maloney attended the Zoom meeting and advised that the security firm has a one-year contract with an option for a second year.

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

Approved as presented this 27th day of July 2020.

Thomas C. Hartswick
Borough Manager

Mark J. Heckmann
President