

CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

August 10, 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.

The minutes of the July 27, 2020 Council Meeting were presented. Ms. Randazzo motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Maloney seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

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 July 2020 collections of \$33,665.77. Year to date total collections are \$3,590,126.29. This is a 93% collection rate which is a 1% increase from last year.

Council Committee Reports:

Public Relations/Communications – Mr. Heckmann stated that Krista Mosher, Keystone Community Coordinator, is exploring options for an alternative type of newsletter that can be distributed digitally as well as in printed copy.

Building & Grounds/Public Works – Mr. Oates reported that the public works employees have been televising and cleaning sewers on Sleepy Hollow Road, along with removing root infiltrations in other areas. Restroom and kitchen parks are being sanitized after rentals. The municipal building, although closed to the public, is open by appointment and continues to be sanitized weekly.

Public Safety – Chief Truver reported on the SHACOG police entry level exams. Fifty-three candidates completed the physical agility and written exam. Test scores will be received in three weeks, and interviews will be conducted in September.

Finance – Mr. Swisher reviewed the check register for July 28th and August 7th and had no further questions.

Mr. Heckmann added that the budget committee continues to monitor the budget in light of changes caused by the COVID pandemic.

Library – Library staff has installed 2020 census signs in the borough. It is disappointing that only 74.8% of Castle Shannon residents have completed the census. The census is very important because it is used for planning and funding purposes. Residents are encouraged to complete the information.

Staff continues to remove surplus books from the shelves. The free books are available on tables outside the library, and donations are encouraged. The library received \$300 in donations in three days of this project.

The Cares Act will provide funds through the Allegheny County Library Association to supplement the decreases in Regional Asset Distribution (RAD) funds to libraries.

The Bhutanese Community Association of Pittsburgh and the Squirrel Hill Health Center provided free COVID-19 testing at the library this morning.

Ms. Randazzo participated in the Diversity Forum sessional hosted by the University of Pittsburgh, which was very educational.

MRTSA – Mr. Heckmann reported that MRTSA is in the final stages of a borrowing process. Two MRTSA employees have potentially been exposed to COVID-19. Parameters are in place to shelter them from other staff members.

SHACOG – Mr. Oates reported that National Incident Management System (NIMS) training sessions will be held September 2nd and December 2nd via Microsoft Teams for elected officials and agency administrators. Chief Truver advised that newly elected officials should participate in the course as it could affect grant funding in the event of an emergency.

Police Pension/Non-Uniformed Pension – Mr. Hartswick reported that both 2nd quarter 2020 statements indicated strong investment gains.

Manager's Report: Mr. Hartswick reported that PennDOT has reviewed and approved the streetscape multimodal grant. A notice to proceed with KU Resources as engineer will be executed. Ms. Kovach motioned to authorize the appropriate officials to execute the agreement with KU Resources; Mr. Astor seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Senator Fontana assisted with obtaining a RACP grant in the state budget. The grant application for Phase I of the streetscape project was submitted.

Castle Court has submitted a request for a bond reduction. The borough engineers recommend approving the request. Ms. Randazzo motioned to approve the bond reduction request from Castle Shannon Apartments, LLC of \$115,852.00; Ms. Kovach seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Ms. Kovach questioned how the landscaping contractor was performing. Mr. Hartswick answered that they are doing a good job for the borough.

Ms. Kovach questioned about the possibility of obtaining a grant for renovating the municipal center gym. Mr. Hartswick continues to look for grant opportunities. Ms. Kovach suggested that a facility rehabilitation grant may be available through DCNR for next year.

Ms. Kovach requested that pricing options be obtained for new carpeting in council chambers.

Mr. Hartswick reported that pricing was obtained for nine manhole risers, and public works will install same when the weather cools.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Biondo advised that the August 24th council agenda will reflect the continuance of two conditional use hearings for billboards.

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

Other: Ms. Kovach commented that the new ordinance adopted for billboards reflects regulations reviewed and recommended by experienced professionals, and she opposes granting exceptions to that ordinance.

Mr. Heckmann thanked Councilman Maloney for volunteering to serve as liaison to the Keystone Oaks School representatives. A virtual meeting is scheduled for August 11th. Ms. Randazzo added that school will begin via a virtual platform until September 14th when teaching plans will be reevaluated.

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

Approved as presented this 24th day of August 2020.

Thomas C. Hartswick
Borough Manager

Mark J. Heckmann
President