

CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

September 28, 2020

The September 28, 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; Pam Rose, Court Reporter.

The minutes of the September 14, 2020 Council Meeting were presented. Ms. Randazzo motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Public Hearing: This public hearing is a continuation of conditional use public hearings held on September 14th for Genesis Outdoor Advertising. Mr. Heckmann noted that council accepted the minutes of the August 17, 2020 Planning Commission relating to this hearing. Ms. Rose, Court Reporter, attended the meeting to take detailed minutes of this proceeding and swear in the participant.

Mr. Heckmann opened the public hearing for Genesis Outdoor Advertising.

Thomas Cregan, Genesis Outdoor Advertising – requested the approval of a conditional use for a billboard sign located at the intersection of Route 88 and Connor Road. Mr. Heckmann stated that the planning commission has formally rendered a recommendation to council. Mr. Cregan stated that no changes have been made to the application submitted to the planning commission. Council members had no questions. Mr. Biondo suggested that all transcripts of prior hearings before the planning commission and council be made part of the record, as well as the application of Mr. Cregan for Genesis Outdoor Advertising. Mr. Heckmann closed the public hearing.

A roll call vote was taken to approve the conditional use application for Genesis Outdoor Advertising. Robert Astor – yes; Nancy Kovach – no; Jason Maloney – yes; William Oates – yes; Marian Randazzo – yes; Daniel Swisher – yes; Mark Heckmann – yes. Approval passed six to one. The borough will provide Mr. Cregan with a written decision containing appropriate code stipulations.

Ms. Kovach suggested that Mr. Oates should have recused himself from the vote since he works for the owner of the property for the proposed billboard. Mr. Biondo stated there does not appear to be a connection between Genesis Outdoor Advertising and any council member; therefore, each council member should determine if they need to recuse himself/herself.

Council Committee Reports

Public Relations/Communications: Mr. Heckmann reported that safety recommendations for Halloween Trick-or-Treat have been published on the police website and borough website.

Mr. Heckmann thanked council members and borough staff who contributed to the newsletter which is currently in the design stage.

Building & Ground/Public Works – Mr. Maloney spoke with Bob Ausman, Public Works Foreman and will be meeting in person later this week to discuss operations. Sewer televising work has been completed to date. The public works crew was cleaning the parks today.

Public Safety/Fire – Mr. Astor reported two traffic enforcement grants were closed out in September, i.e. Buckle Up PA and Child Safety Restraint Grant for a total of \$3,600.00.

A FEMA grant reimbursement for COVID-19 supplies was presented in the amount of \$3,089.03. Ms. Randazzo motioned to authorize the appropriate officials to execute the grant documents; Mr. Maloney seconded; all in favor; motion carried. An additional reimbursement request for \$2,400 was submitted for hand sanitizers, masks and other COVID-19 supplies.

Ms. Kovach motioned to approve engineering changes for PennDOT’s adaptive signalization changes along several intersections in Castle Shannon; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Finance – Mr. Swisher requested that a budget committee meeting be scheduled in early October. Mr. Hartswick has started populating the general fund budget.

Mr. Swisher reviewed the check register for September 17th and questioned an invoice for labor counsel. Mr. Hartswick answered the invoice was incurred in preparation for a new police collective bargaining contract. Mr. Swisher also reviewed the check register for September 25th and had no further questions. Mr. Swisher then motioned to approve the check registers for September; Ms. Kovach seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Community Activities/Planning and Codes – Ms. Kovach deferred to Mr. Vietmeier, who reported that Sandy Holifield is opening Mobility Plus at 4136 Library Road. The business sells electric wheelchairs, scooters and other medical equipment.

Library – Ms. Randazzo reported the Love Your Library campaign wraps up on Wednesday. Staff wore red Love Your Library shirts and masks on September 16th.

The book give-a-way tent has earned over \$1,035.00.

Ms. Randazzo and Heather Myrah attended via BlueJeans video conferencing a training session entitled “Unleash Your Board Superpowers”. This is a three-part educational series.

Ms. Randazzo noted that the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette had an excellent article on libraries and looking toward a new era post-pandemic.

The library will be hiring for new part-time staff soon. The hours will vary, and evenings/weekends will be required.

MRTSA – Mr. Heckmann reported that the board agreed to a slate of investments. Financing was closed to allow significant improvements to the facilities, fleet and organization. Community assessments will be finalized. Mr. Swisher added that a significant portion of the financing is for computerization, a new roof and parking lot, and wall and bay repairs.

SHACOG – Mr. Oates attended the monthly meeting hosted by Baldwin Township. The 2021 budget was passed. Next meeting will be held October 15th in Upper Saint Clair.

Police Pension/Non-Uniformed Pension – Mr. Hartswick presented the 2021 Minimum Municipal Obligations for the police and non-uniformed pension plans. Ms. Kovach motioned to approve the MMO's for inclusion in the 2021 budget; Mr. Oates seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Manager's Report: Mr. Hartswick presented a proposal from Integra Realty Advisors to provide appraisal reports (valuations) of three downtown areas. Cost of the proposal is \$2,400.00. The valuations would be used to match funding for a Regional Assistance Capital Program grant to complete the streetscape project. Mr. Astor motioned to approval the proposal; Ms. Kovach seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Baumgarten read a letter of appreciation from Becky Corwin in support of the Castle Shannon Police Department.

Mayor Baumgarten stated that his dedication to public safety started forty-five years ago when he began his tenure on the board for Medical Rescue Team South. The ambulance service started with one vehicle and nine people.

Mayor Baumgarten referred to a letter written several months ago in support of the Castle Shannon Police Department. The letter was signed by all members of borough council.

Keystone Oaks: Mr. Hartswick stated the Junior Council Person job description has been posted on the borough's website and forwarded to the Keystone Oaks High School principal.

Public Comment:

Diane Falgiani, 930 Chestnut Street, Anthony Pollice, 875 Killarney Drive, and Barbara Johnston, 825 Killarney Drive – requested speed bumps to slow traffic. The police department monitors residential roads with speed traps and signage. Chief Truver will respond to these residents about speed control options.

Barbara Johnston, 825 Killarney Drive – requested policy changes relating to high grass and weeds along with trash piled in yards. Mr. Heckmann responded saying although there is only one dedicated professional for code enforcement, additional code enforcement would be worthy with the Quality of Life Ordinance we have in place.

Coleen Mcgurgan, 3810 Prospect Avenue – questioned plans for Prospect Park. Mr. Heckman stated that six of the borough parks (including Prospect Park) are being inventoried and assessed to create a master plan for all parks.

Other:

Ms. Randazzo requested that Mr. Heckmann schedule an executive session for personnel matters. Mr. Heckmann noted that council held an executive session on September 21st for personnel matters, and council will meet in executive session following tonight's meeting for personnel business.

Mr. Swisher requested additional information on the DROP pension plan and post-retirement benefits.

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

Approved as presented this 12th day of October 2020.

Thomas C. Hartswick
Borough Manager

Mark J. Heckmann
President