

CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

October 12, 2020

The October 12, 2020 meeting of the Castle Shannon Borough Council was held as an in-person meeting for Borough Council Members and staff but, due to space limitations and in compliance with the disaster emergency proclamation of the Governor of Pennsylvania related to the coronavirus pandemic, including business restrictions, social distancing directives, etc., in-person public attendance was not possible. The meeting agenda was posted and made available in advance, and public participation and comment was possible via email and written and telephonic communications received prior to the meeting.

The following elected officials were present: R. Astor; M. Heckmann; N. Kovach; J. Maloney; B. Oates; M. Randazzo; D. Swisher; D. Baumgarten. Tax Collector E. O'Malley was absent. The following appointed officials were present: T. Hartswick, Borough Manager; K. Truver, Police Chief; D. Biondo, Solicitor; P. Vietmeier, Codes Official.

Mr. Heckmann advised that in order to protect the staff, the borough building remains closed to foot traffic; however, the offices are open by appointment. The police department is open to walk-in traffic as needed.

The minutes of the September 28, 2020 Council Meeting were presented. Mr. Astor motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Oates seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

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

Civil Service Commission: Council received a letter of interest for appointment to the Civil Service Commission from Laurie Miller. Chief Truver stated that he has known the candidate and her family for many years, and Ms. Miller has credentials that would fit the position. Ms. Kovach motioned to appoint Laurie Miller to the commission; Mr. Maloney seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Real Estate Tax Collector: The agenda contained the September collection report listing collections of \$9,015.48 for a year-to-date total of \$3,624,630.74.

Council Committee Reports

Public Relations/Communications: Mr. Heckmann reported that the fall/winter community newsletter is being prepared with a new format including a digital format.

Building & Ground/Public Works – Mr. Maloney reviewed a demonstration with Bob Ausman, Public Works Foreman, on pothole patching with a sprayed tar and chip material. A proposal was submitted by Allegheny Asphalt Services for \$1,600.00. The project will keep the roads level for better plowing this winter.

Grass cutting equipment will be stored, and equipment will be prepared for winter services.

Mr. Heckmann advised that the borough is working with Roadbotics to assess road conditions in preparation for an expanded 2021 road improvement project.

Public Safety/Fire – Mr. Astor reported that the Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department is pursuing interest in leasing the parking lot area for commercial development. The fire department board has serious concerns about fundraising shortfalls this year due to the pandemic.

Chief Truver responded to Ms. Falgiana and Ms. Johnston regarding their concerns about speeding traffic on borough streets and provided a weblink regarding police responses in the area.

Mr. Astor noted that the borough has met its final obligations regarding the Allegheny County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr. Hartswick added that the borough applied for a hazard mitigation grant.

Mr. Heckmann spoke with Fire Chief Reffner, who advised that the fire department is pursuing a funding stream to hire paid daytime staff.

Finance – Mr. Swisher reviewed the check registers for September 30th and October 8th and had no further questions.

Mr. Heckmann noted that council has started budget preparation, and a proposed 2021 budget will be presented in November with options for public participation being explored.

Community Activities/Planning and Codes – Ms. Kovach regretfully reported that Castle Shannon Revitalization Corporation activities had to be suspended due to the pandemic.

Mr. Vietmeier stated that the codes department has noted many home sales in the borough.

Library – Ms. Randazzo reported that the book give-a-way tent has earned over \$1,061.00. The project has been moved to the community room indoors with varied hours from Monday to Friday. Books and other media materials are being accepted.

Curbside and lobby pickup is available with computer use by appointment. The library will officially reopen in November.

A Halloween celebration is planned for October 25th on the front lawn from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Online registrations are required by October 22nd.

Mr. Heckmann added that safety recommendations for Halloween Trick-or-Treat have been published on the police website and borough website.

Ms. Randazzo and Heather Myrah have continued participating in the educational series entitled “Unleash Your Board Superpowers” that provides innovative ideas for library improvements.

MRTSA – Mr. Heckmann stated that revised rates were approved by the board. Improvements to the service include a new fleet of trucks and all new hydraulic lifts.

SHACOG – Mr. Oates noted that the monthly board meeting will be held this week in Upper St. Clair Township.

PSAB – Ms. Kovach reported that a free virtual conference is available for member municipalities from October 19th to October 22nd. The webinars are held in the evenings and cover a variety of topics relating to current events. Tom Ridge will be the keynote speaker at the annual conference scheduled for June 6-9, 2021.

ACBA – The general membership meeting is December 3rd. The annual banquet is February 6, 2021.

Manager's Report: Mr. Hartswick presented information for the sale of 2011 Ford E-250 sewer van as advertised through auction. Ms. Kovach motioned to accept the sale price of \$20,500; Mr. Oates seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

MS4: Mr. Hartswick and Mr. Ausman will attend the Western Pennsylvania Storm Water Conference held virtually on October 20th and 21st for MS4 training requirement credits.

The borough, along with Penn State students and Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering, continues to move forward with a detention pond project.

Mr. Heckmann discussed ALCOSAN's acceptance of infrastructure from municipalities. Mr. Biondo advised that the finalization of the agreement is still pending.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Baumgarten stated that many utility companies have required street openings in their projects. Those street sections will be repaved next year. The borough should have an inventory of the utility street repairs to incorporate into our road improvement project for 2021.

Mayor Baumgarten relayed that the CSVFD's primary concern is that the parking lot income may never return since so many people are working from home, and parking is free at the Port Authority parking lot.

Solicitor: Mr. Biondo advised that a lawsuit is pending regarding a manhole in a resident's driveway in Ellison Place.

Keystone Oaks: A KOSD student has accepted the offer of the Junior Council Member position. Ms. Randazzo noted that the superintendent is self-quarantining for 14 days from a COVID-19 contact.

Public Comment:

Bryan Gigliotti, 3545 Poplar Avenue – submitted a request for a traffic mirror for the Race/Poplar intersection. Chief Truver will contact him regarding the parking/traffic situation.

Other:

Ms. Kovach requested an update on the urban agriculture issue. Mr. Vietmeier stated that this subject was discussed at the planning commission meeting.

Mr. Heckmann noted discussions on Facebook regarding O'Brien Field and responded that the borough has not received any proposed development plans.

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

Approved as presented this 26th day of October 2020.

Thomas C. Hartswick
Borough Manager

Mark J. Heckmann
President