

CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

October 26, 2020

The October 26, 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; M. Randazzo; D. Swisher; D. Baumgarten; E. O'Malley. Council Member B. Oates was absent. 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 October 12, 2020 Council Meeting were presented. Mr. Astor 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.

Bid Openings: Mr. Hartswick presented the bid opening results for the Connor Road/South McCully Road Sanitary Sewer Maintenance and Repair Program. Ms. Kovach motioned to accept the bid from Insight Pipe Contracting for \$394,515.50; Ms. Randazzo seconded; all in favor; motion carried. The project will be funded from two grants. Mr. Heckmann publicly thanked Senator Wayne Fontana and State Representative Dan Miller for their support of the project.

Public Hearings: Council welcomed Abby Lyda, who accepted her position as Junior Council Member. Mayor Baumgarten proceeded to present Ms. Lyda with her oath of office. Ms. Lyda is a junior at Keystone Oaks High School and plans to pursue a major in physics in college. Currently, Ms. Lyda is an Ambassador of Girl Scouts, Captain of the Color Guard and Marching Band, member of Odyssey of the Mind, and participates in the school musical.

Mr. Heckmann yielded the meeting to Mayor Donald Baumgarten, who read and presented a proclamation honoring Police Officer Tom Yonek for twenty-five years of service to the Borough of Castle Shannon. The proclamation described Officer Yonek's professionalism and dedication to the safety of our community. Then, Chief Truver related an amusing incident in which Officer Yonek was instrumental as a back-up officer on a domestic call before presenting Officer Yonek with his retirement credentials. Council, and all in attendance, applauded Officer Yonek and thanked him for his dedication to Castle Shannon Borough. Officer Yonek stated that it has been an honor serving Castle Shannon.

Council Committee Reports:

Public Relations/Communications: Mr. Heckmann thanked Chief Bill Reffner and the Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department for hosting this council meeting.

Chief Reffner discussed the history of Light-Up Night that started in 1983. The location was moved to the Port Authority lot numerous years ago. Although live trees were planted for many years, they did not last. The fire department then provided cut trees for several years before a steel tree was purchased in light of a proposed development at that site. With the support of local businesses, donations are received to fund the event, which costs between \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00 annually. Children always look forward to seeing Santa arrive on a fire truck. Light-Up Night will be held on Sunday, December 6th at 6:30 p.m.

Chief Reffner commended council on their support of Trick-or-Treat for children in the borough and for providing safety recommendations.

Mr. Heckmann advised that the redesigned borough newsletter will be distributed soon in both print and digital formats.

On the topic of COVID-19, council continues to monitor the appropriateness of meeting in small and medium sized groups for board and committee meetings.

Building & Ground/Public Works – Mr. Maloney reported that the pothole patching project with Allegheny Asphalt Services was completed. Public works will address a few intermittent sections.

In addition to crack sealing, Public Works will be completing leaf removal this week and preparing the plows for winter road maintenance.

Public Safety – A Drug Take Back day was held at the borough building and at Asti's Pharmacy on October 24th. This program provides a safe and effective way to dispose of prescription medicine and helps get drugs off the street.

Finance – Mr. Swisher reviewed the check registers for October 16th and October 22nd and had no further questions. Mr. Swisher motioned to approve the October expenses; Mr. Maloney seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mr. Heckmann stated that the budget committee is actively preparing the 2021 budget.

Community Activities/Planning and Codes – Ms. Kovach reported that the library hosted a Halloween event on October 25th.

The Saw Mill Run Stream Clean-up was held October 24th and had 25 volunteers participate, despite the inclement weather. The amount of debris and materials (a bicycle, tires, chunks of metal, etc.) removed from the stream filled one dump truck. Pictures are posted on the website.

Library – Ms. Randazzo reported that the library is officially open for patrons. The Friends of the Library Book Sale continues at \$5.00 a bag.

Ms. Randazzo thanked Ms. Christy, Mrs. Mayausky, and Police Officer Platt for attending the library's Halloween event. Congressman Conor Lamb, Senator Wayne Fontana and State Representative Dan Miller were also present. The children were very happy and excited.

MRTSA – The facility is undergoing maintenance projects.

ACBA – Ms. Kovach announced that the quarterly meeting will be held November 5th, and the annual banquet is December 3rd. Mr. Bob Astor was appointed as alternate delegate to the ACBA board.

Manager's Report: Mr. Hartswick presented the following resolutions relating to a demolition project. Mr. Astor motioned to adopt Resolution #690 - a demolition slums and blight resolution for 1488 Blossom Hill Road and 3133 May Street; Ms. Randazzo seconded; all in favor; motion carried. Ms. Kovach motioned to adopt Resolution #691 – a concurring resolution applying for CDBG funds in the amount of \$29,750.00; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mr. Hartswick presented the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's 5 Year Winter Traffic Services Agreement and Resolution. Mr. Swisher requested a copy of Exhibit A of the agreement. Ms. Randazzo motioned to authorize the appropriate officials to execute the agreement; Ms. Kovach seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

MS4: Mr. Hartswick and Mr. Ausman attended the virtual Western Pennsylvania Storm Water Conference for MS4 training.

Planning Commission: The agenda contained the minutes of the September 21, 2020 meeting.

Keystone Oaks: The student schedule has been adjusted to include in-class instruction on Wednesdays. Ms. Lyda added that the hybrid-learning students are happy for the schedule change.

Public Comment:

Annie Shaw, 528 Glenn Shannon Drive – thanked council for continuing to explore the urban agricultural ordinance as requested by several constituents.

Other: Nothing to report.

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

Approved as presented this 9th day of November 2020.

Thomas C. Hartswick
Borough Manager

Mark J. Heckmann
President