

CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

November 23, 2020

The November 23, 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; A. Lyda, Junior Council Representative.

The minutes of the November 9, 2020 Council Meeting were presented. Ms. Randazzo motioned to approve the minutes with a correction. Mr. Astor seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Bid Openings: Mr. Hartswick presented the Killarney Drive Inlet Additions bid results. Ms. Kovach motioned to approve the bid to Soli Construction for \$53,400.00; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried. The project will be funded by a grant of \$45,900.00 and borough funds of \$7,500.00.

Civil Service Commission: Mr. Astor motioned to ratify the terms of office of the appointed members of the Borough's Civil Service Commission as follows; Mr. Maloney seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

The term of Laurie B. Miller expires on December 31, 2021, filling an unexpired term of a previous member.

The term of Robert E. Meyers expires on December 31, 2023.

The term of Paul J. Coffey expires on December 31, 2025.

Real Estate Tax Collector: Ms. O'Malley reported delinquent letters for borough real estate taxes are being sent. Reassessments are being processed as home sales continue, and Keystone Oaks School District has been successful in recent appeals.

Council Committee Reports

Public Relations/Communications: Mr. Heckmann announced that the Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department has cancelled Light-Up Night due to the recent increase in COVID-19 cases.

Building & Ground/Public Works – Mr. Maloney reported that the public works department has removed the soldier banners for the winter and will be installing the holiday decorations in town. Leaf pickup for the Vermont/Hoodridge area has concluded for 2020. Duke Roots will be retreating several sanitary lines with root infiltrations in compliance with their warranty.

Mr. Hartswick noted a significant sanitary sewer back-up at Calabria's Restaurant due to an obstruction. Mr. Stanton has designated this as an emergency repair which will include a possible excavation project into the sidewalk.

Public Safety/Fire – Mr. Astor reported that the fire department volunteers are completing maintenance on the station and equipment. Revisions were made to their SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response) grant. CSVFD board elections were held this week, with one change to a committee chair.

Finance – Mr. Swisher reviewed the check registers for November 13th and November 19th and had no further questions. Mr. Swisher motioned to approve the November check registers; Ms. Randazzo seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mr. Heckmann thanked the finance committee, council members and staff for their work on the 2021 budget. Mr. Heckmann presented the 2021 budgets and tax levy ordinance and encouraged council members and residents to review the proposed budget. Council has taken precautionary measures in view of the pandemic and taken advantage of funding opportunities in order to bolster first responders. The 2020 road program was deferred to an expanded program for 2021. The budget is available for review at the municipal center.

Mr. Heckmann noted that there is no tax increase for 2021; however, there will be a 7% increase in sewage rates. Mr. Hartswick discussed possible transition of multi-municipal lines to ALCOSAN, and Mr. Heckmann noted that, as a member of the ALCOSAN municipal board, cost containment is an active topic of the board.

Mr. Maloney motioned to advertise the proposed 2021 budget and tax levy ordinance; Ms. Kovach seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Community Activities/Planning and Codes – Ms. Kovach stated that unfortunately as COVID-19 rages through the country, no activities are being planned; however, it is positive that businesses are still moving into Castle Shannon. Mr. Vietmeier added that he completed an inspection for a new restaurant that will be opening in December located at 300 Mt. Lebanon Boulevard.

Library – Ms. Randazzo regretfully reported that the library is closed to patrons due to the pandemic. Curbside, lobby pick-up and virtual programming is available.

A board meeting is planned for December 3rd.

MRTSA – Mr. Heckmann stated it is important to note the impact of the pandemic for first responders in responding to residential calls. This includes police officers, fire department volunteers and paramedics.

Mr. Swisher reported that construction projects are underway for the MRTSA building, i.e. roof, parking lot, back wall and bay area.

SHACOG – Mr. Oates reported that the November meeting was cancelled due to a positive COVID-19 case in the Whitehall municipal building. Meetings may be resuming on a virtual platform.

ACBA – Ms. Kovach reported the board met on November 5th, and new delegates were selected. Reservations are due today for the general membership meeting scheduled for December 3rd. Toy donations will be accepted for Presents from Police.

Manager: Mr. Hartswick noted that engineering estimates for the 2021 Road Improvement Program were received from the borough's engineer. Ms. Kovach motioned to proceed with preparation of bidding documents; Mr. Oates seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mayor: Mayor Baumgarten was happy to report that the Castle Shannon Police Department has remained COVID-19 free, and we hope the increased PPE equipment and procedures will keep them safe.

Planning Commission: The agenda contained the meeting minutes of October 19, 2020. A draft of the urban agriculture ordinance will be reviewed by council and Allegheny County.

Junior Council Member: Ms. Lyda reported that the school district has reported 6 cases of COVID-19. Classes will be held virtually starting the week of December 1st.

On a brighter note, extra curriculums throughout the district were reinstated, i.e. clubs, National Honor Society, senior and junior class presidents, etc.

Public Comment: There were no online comments received.

Other: Council members debated the benefits of having the public works foreman attend council meetings.

Mr. Heckmann encouraged residents to abide by Allegheny County safety recommendations and wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Council will meet in executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

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

Approved as presented this 14th day of December 2020.

Thomas C. Hartswick
Borough Manager

Mark J. Heckmann
President