

CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

February 22, 2021

The February 22, 2021 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: M. Heckmann; M. Randazzo; R. Astor; N. Kovach; J. Maloney; B. Oates; D. Swisher; D. Baumgarten; E. O'Malley. The following appointed officials were present: K. Truver, Police Chief; D. Biondo, Solicitor; P. Vietmeier, Codes Official; A. Lyda, Junior Council Representative; L. Miller, Acting Manager.

The minutes of the February 8, 2021 Council Meeting were presented. Ms. Randazzo motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Public Comment: Peter F. Davin, Esquire representing homeowners Rose and Henry Weisner addressed council regarding a petition for the borough to assert a claim against the Senterra Building and Development, Inc's subdivision bond for Ellison Place Townhouse Project. Mr. and Mrs. Weisner have been borough residents for 47 years and purchased the property in the Ellison Place development as a retirement home. Mr. Davin asserted that 1) a sanitary sewer manhole was installed 4.5 feet south of the approved placement; 2) the manhole was discovered buried 24" below grade below the driveway; and 3) the driveway is inverted. These large deviations from the approved plans and discovery of a raised sewer manhole in their driveway have substantially diminished the value of their property.

John Linkosky, Esquire addressed council as representative for Senterra Building and Development Inc. Mr. Linkosky submitted 1) an approved construction plan for a manhole location at lot 104E; 2) a revised recorded plan for lot 104CR; and 3) as built plan indicating the manhole location at lot 104CR. Mr. Linkosky stated that the manhole is not on the Weisner property. Moving the manhole would affect the entire sanitary and storm water systems. Mr. Linkosky affirmed that the manhole was installed in accordance with approved plans and believes that the burden of proof lies with the Weisner's to prove the property value is diminished due to the manhole location.

Mr. Heckmann stated that council has been supplied with documentation from both parties, and council will take under advisement.

Chief Bill Reffner and President Bob Sutton - Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department were scheduled to address council. Mr. Astor stated that members of the CSVFD are participating in CPR training and evaluations; therefore, they regrettably cannot participate in the council meeting this evening.

Bid Openings: Mr. Astor motioned to approve the private sale of a 2011 Ford Sewer Van to Soli Construction for \$10,500; Mr. Oates seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Real Estate Tax Collector: Ms. O'Malley stated that the borough's 2021 real estate tax bills were mailed. Ms. O'Malley has reported data/technical issues to Allegheny County Treasurer John Weinstein and advised that our software provider Logitech has been extremely helpful in providing resolutions.

Council Committee Reports

Public Relations/Communications – Mr. Heckmann thanked the CSVFD for working with Allegheny County to bring a COVID vaccination clinic to our neighborhood. The first week was very successful. Once the supply issues are resolved, it is anticipated that 500-700 people will be vaccinated each day. While Castle Shannon is the host community for the clinic, the borough is involved in a strictly supportive role for providing public safety and traffic for the CSVFD event. Mr. Heckmann thanked all who have worked with the fire department and with county personnel, EMS and the health department to bring this program to our borough.

In light of the pandemic continuing to have impacts on public health, borough council is contacting neighboring boroughs to partner in providing pool access and recreational programs/amenities for Castle Shannon residents. Dormont does plan to open their pool this year.

Building & Grounds/Public Works – Mr. Maloney reported that the public works department has been very busy with continuing snowfalls and icy roads this year. They have done a great job.

Currently, the public works crews are completing painting projects in the municipal center's administrative offices. The lower level hallway and bathrooms will be painted next week.

Public Works will be resuming televising sanitary sewer lines and crack sealing municipal roadways in the next few weeks.

Mr. Heckmann noted that this year will be a very busy construction spring/summer with a variety of projects: five streets on the road improvement project; streetscape improvements on Willow and Castle Shannon Boulevard; and utility company road restoration and line improvements on seven streets.

Public Safety – Mr. Astor reported that Allegheny County received approximately 7,000 additional doses of the Moderna vaccine. Approximately 4,700 are designated as first doses with 2,300 set aside for second doses. The county will work with Kevin's Pharmacy to provide second doses for eligible individuals. Mr. Heckmann added that we are fierce advocates for our staff and neighbors in the community to get the public health they need; however, we have very little control over what is occurring with supplies, scheduling and logistics. Chief Truver added that the CSVFD clinic will run from Tuesday to Friday this week.

Finance – Mr. Swisher reviewed the check registers for February 11th and February 19th and had no further questions. Mr. Heckmann and Ms. Miller met to review 2021 year-to-date financial reports. Ms. Kovach motioned to approve the February financial reports; Mr. Maloney seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Community Activities/Planning and Codes – Mr. Vietmeier reported a Greek bakery has received their building permit for renovations.

Library – Ms. Randazzo reported that three part-time library assistants were hired: Lauren Metz; Lynne Jennings; and Rebecca Enright. The board will also be hiring a full-time children and youth coordinator.

The library continues to offer curbside and lobby pickup, computer appointments, take-and-make activities, and virtual programming.

The virtual book discussion program will be held Thursday via ZOOM. The book selection is entitled “In Five Years”.

Ms. Myrah will submit the state report by March 12th. Ms. Randazzo thanked Ms. Miller for providing information for the report.

In the month of February, staff added over one hundred adult books to the collection. During the COVID library closure, staff worked on weeding the book sections to make the material more accessible.

Ms. Myrah and Ms. Randazzo are reviewing appropriate time frames for reopening the library to patrons and asked for council’s input. Mr. Heckmann stated that the staff has been very creative in assisting patrons with various programs and using safety protocols for limited public access. Chief Truver will discuss with Ms. Myrah and suggested monitoring when other libraries open to the public.

MRTSA – Board members will meet on February 24th, and the Building & Grounds Committee will be meeting February 23rd.

SHACOG – Mr. Oates attended the SHACOG Board of Directors meeting virtually on February 18th. Jim Johnson of the Allegheny County Economic Development discussed PA Act 152 regarding funding for blighted properties.

ACBA – The board meeting will be March 4th.

Manager: Ms. Miller provided updates on the Pollution Reduction Program, an emergency sewer spot repair on Orr Drive, the status of our rock salt order for the 2020-2021 season, ALCOSAN’s 2021 flow isolation study of two manholes, and receipt of three trunk transfer agreements with ALCOSAN.

Mr. Heckmann added that he and Ms. Miller have taken meetings on pending/active grants with DCNR for the Hamilton Park Terrace Drive project and Six Parks Master Plan. Correspondence was received on the RACP grant application process, and we have been working with David Hohman on the streetscape multi-modal project. A digital public meeting on the proposed streetscape is being proposed for mid-March.

Mayor’s Report: Mayor Baumgarten commented that the decision to reopen the borough building and library should lie with borough officials to decide based on safety protocols for the staff and public.

Planning Commission: The February meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Junior Council Member: Ms. Lyda reported that the teachers' strike had no resolution, and the teachers may strike again before the end of the school year.

The school board is discussing a hybrid schedule of four days in class and with one day virtual each week. In addition, an outdoor prom is being proposed for juniors and seniors, and a safe graduation plan is being reviewed for the seniors.

Public Comment: Nothing to report.

Other: Ms. Randazzo stated that the Personnel Committee has started interviewing candidates for the borough manager position.

Mr. Astor mentioned that a resident questioned when the borough meetings would be available for public viewing. Mr. Heckmann has investigated options and stated that a format is available on ZOOM that would allow for a more open session with limited speakers at an additional cost. In our current format, if a resident would like to sit in on the meeting, we can share the meeting link.

Mr. Maloney announced that CSYA sign-ups end this Saturday for spring softball and baseball. More information is available on the website at castleshannonsports.com.

Council will recess to executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

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

Approved as presented this 8th day of March 2021.

Loretta J. Miller
Acting Manager

Mark J. Heckmann
President