

**CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

May 24, 2021

The May 24, 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; P. Vietmeier, Codes Official; D. Biondo, Solicitor; L. Miller, Acting Manager; A. Lyda, Junior Council Representative.

The minutes of the May 10, 2021 Council Meeting were presented. Ms. Randazzo noted a revision that the library board met on May 6<sup>th</sup>, not May 13<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Kovach believes the minutes should reflect that borough council will have an executive meeting to discuss steps for a borough manager hiring. Mr. Heckmann noted that council will have an executive session next week. Ms. Randazzo motioned to approve the minutes as corrected; Ms. Kovach seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

**Public Comment – Agenda Items:** Mr. Heckmann opened the public comment for agenda items. Being none, the public comment section was closed.

**Public Hearing:** Mr. Heckmann presented Ordinance 926 – amending the zoning ordinance adding definitions, providing for, and regulating urban agriculture (keeping of bees and poultry birds) in residential districts of the borough. Mr. Heckmann thanked residents for their patience while the borough researched this topic and received appropriate approval from Allegheny County. Mr. Heckmann reviewed the terms listed in the ordinance, the permitting process required, and regulations relating to storage of seed, fertilizer and feed. The ordinance prevents keeping or harboring poultry birds that would create an offensive odor, excessive noise or unsanitary conditions which disturbs neighbors or threatens public health. Mr. Heckmann reviewed minimum lot sizes and the number of poultry birds allowed which was recommended by Allegheny County and borough representatives. The ordinance lists regulations on the coop structures and structure locations. Slaughtering of poultry birds and sale of bird parts or eggs is not permitted.

The bee section of the ordinance was reviewed which listed number of beehives permitted regarding square feet of properties. Apiaries must be registered with the Department of Agriculture and the zoning officer. The ordinance lists regulations for beehive locations, ensures that a convenience source of fresh water is available, and provides for a flyway barrier.

Both beehives and chicken coops must be available at all times for an on-site inspection by a borough authorized individual. A fee resolution for the permits will be forthcoming. Mr. Heckmann reviewed the public comment form submissions received via the borough's website regarding the ordinance.

**Annie Shaw, Glen Shannon Drive** – I am asking council to approve the urban agriculture ordinance. As previously stated, most of our neighboring communities have had these ordinances for years. I've pointed out common myths in my previous comments and I hope council recalls and doesn't give in to these

misconceptions. I wish council would have actually posted the ordinance, but I guess beggars can't be choosers. Please approve this ordinance.

Robert Broman, Blossom Hill Road – This message is not a question to council so much as a request for acceptance of Ordinance # 926, as given to the council. I would like it to be known that the proposed ordinance has been carefully composed, based on facts that have been researched over a period of several years. This research has involved information gathering from scientific sources, agricultural-biologists, small local farmsteads, individuals who possess urban chickens or bees and community members who do not own chickens or bees. The proposed ordinance is the best standard that could be agreed upon to allow residents to have such animals while simultaneously working to ensure that owners are responsible with these creatures.

Emily Kammenzind, Belleville Street - I would like to say thank you to Council for your work on the Urban Agricultural Ordinance. Please consider the many benefits of this ordinance during your vote tonight. The community has been asking for this for many years now. Our surrounding communities have successfully implemented similar ordinances for several years now. It's time we do the same.

Maria Coholic, Maplewood Drive - I have seen that one of the topics for tonight's borough meeting is the possibility of allowing residents to have chickens and/or bees. This is something that I feel that residents need to have a say so in. I understand that some residents proposed this, therefore are in favor of residents having bees and chickens, but I am not. I feel that neither should be allowed for safety and hygienic reasons. Chickens are very dirty animals and can be a source of disease, such as salmonella. There are actually many states that are having salmonella outbreaks linked to backyard chickens. Chicken coops also attract rats and snakes, which our beautiful, clean community doesn't want, and chickens can attract fowl ticks. I already have a problem with sweat bees, carpenter bees, and honeybees at my residence. Allowing residents to have honeybees would just add to my problems since honeybees can travel up to two miles from their hives. My husband is highly allergic to bees and does not need the added worry of additional bees. If houses and land in the community were more spread out, chickens and bee's might not be a problem, but houses are just too close to one another here.

Linda Mastandrea, Rebecca Street - I have heard that the council will be voting tonight about whether or not to allow residents to have chickens and bees. I am very concerned about this because of how unsanitary chickens are and their ability to attract rats. I am also concerned about my grandson's safety with the possibility of additional bees in my yard.

Melissa Dojcak, Hamilton Road - If raising chickens is approved for residents, when will the final approval take place? Also, will there be a limit how many?

Mr. Heckmann noted that tonight would be the final approval unless council tables the topic. A minimum lot size of 5,000 square feet allows for two poultry birds. For every additional 1,000 square feet of property the owner is permitted two poultry birds up to a maximum of six.

Mr. Heckmann opened the public hearing on Ordinance #926.

Janell Filson, Waverly Street – was concerned about the ordinance because she is allergic to bees and questioned if neighbors are informed when a coop or hive is installed. Mr. Vietmeier advised that the ordinance does not require notification to adjacent residents; however, he can make this a consideration. Ms. Filson would appreciate it for the bee portion of the ordinance and would like to be informed if someone in her area had bees. Mr. Heckmann noted that if the ordinance passes this evening, people

would be unable to create a coop or hive until they receive a permit. There would still be time if the ordinance passes to add an amendment which defines the area for required notifications such as adjacent parcels next to the applicant.

Annie Shaw, Glen Shannon – was very concerned about the wording in the ordinance limiting two chickens per 5,000 square feet. She spoke to council on this three years ago and advised that chickens need to be in flocks of at least three or four at a minimum. She can provide additional information on this and wondered who was consulted to determine the number. Ms. Shaw believes the limitation puts the well-being of the animals at risk. Ms. Shaw asked that council pass the ordinance and consider an amendment.

Ms. Kovach asked Mr. Vietmeier how the number of chickens was determined. Mr. Vietmeier answered that the number of chickens per square foot was obtained from other communities and from the standard lot sizes in Castle Shannon. Ms. Shaw disagreed stating that model ordinances she previously provided did not have such a small limit for chickens. Mr. Heckmann stated that council had their own draft, but his expectation is that if the county saw a detrimental impact on animals that it would have been flagged in their review. Aside from our local benchmarking against neighboring communities, Allegheny County reviewed the ordinance twice. Ms. Randazzo stated that in light of Ms. Shaw's comments about the well-being of animals, and recommending three or four chickens at a minimum, perhaps the ordinance needs more thought. Mr. Heckmann noted that Ms. Shaw would like the ordinance passed and that council consider an amendment.

Mr. Heckmann closed the public hearing on Ordinance #926. Ms. Kovach motioned to adopt Ordinance #926; Mr. Oates seconded. Mr. Heckmann called for a roll call vote for the approval of Ordinance #926 without amendments. Mr. Astor – yes; Ms. Kovach – yes; Mr. Maloney – yes; Mr. Oates – yes; Mr. Swisher – yes; Ms. Randazzo – yes; Mr. Heckmann – yes. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Heckmann encouraged council and staff to pursue a notification clause to neighboring residents when a permit is issued. Upon receipt of information regarding the well-being of the chickens, council may consider an amendment regarding the minimum number. Mr. Heckmann thanked everyone for their comments.

### **Council Committee Reports:**

**Public Relations/Communications** – Mr. Heckmann was excited to share that the newsletter will be received shortly in the mail. Residents will be able to receive the newsletter via mail or digitally by the end of the week. The newsletter will be posted on the borough's homepage of the website. Residents also have the option of going to the Quick Links tab on the website to submit a form to sign up for a copy via email in lieu of receiving a printed version. This option will save trees and the costs of postage. Mayor Baumgarten asked who was on the editorial staff. Mr. Heckmann replied that Krista Mosher coordinates the submissions and completes some editing to fit the format of the designer. Mayor Baumgarten noted that at one time council had an editorial staff for reviewing the content. Mr. Heckmann noted that an editorial staff could be considered for future publications.

Mr. Heckmann noted that residents have provided form submissions and there have been discussions about when council would resume in-person meetings. In light of changes to CDC guidance, which is loosening restrictions, council would like to migrate back to the normal state of business prior to COVID which is in-person meetings in council chambers starting June 14<sup>th</sup>. Council members may participate via phone if unable to attend in person. Council welcomes neighbors to join in person, however CDC guidance in a mixed (both vaccinated and unvaccinated) crowd may limit capacity. As long as there is a safety parameter regarding number of people in an inside space, we would require people to register

to attend in order to comply with safety requirements for in-person attendance. Once indoor capacity restrictions are lifted, registration would not be required. Mr. Heckmann stated that residents can continue to submit comments and questions via the borough's website.

Mr. Heckmann reported that the next step in the streetscape project is to approve bid packages. In light of continued discussions with residents, business owners and council, the design details have not been finalized; therefore, the draft bid package has not been prepared. Two of the design features have been widely debated. The majority of council is considering the following modifications.

1. Choice of brick pavers versus paved concrete for sidewalk surfaces. Concerns listed about the pavers were heaving over time, maintenance of brick and special types of salt and special equipment for winter maintenance, traversing with strollers and wheelchairs, having a semi-permeable surface that could leak, and construction cost of pavers. Mr. Heckmann stated that the majority of council is in favor of a hybrid design with exposed aggregate concrete with a decorative brick ribbon that would visually indicate that you have arrived in the downtown area and still provide an aesthetic flair. The semi-permeable section (bricks) would be closer to the street to move surface water away from the store fronts.
2. Repurposing of four parking spaces on Willow Avenue outside of Gracious Living. Council members met with business owners and residents last Wednesday to hear the impact that removal of the parking spaces would have on their businesses. Council is responsive to concerns of the business community and want to ensure that those parking spaces are put to the best use. Mr. Heckmann stated that the majority of council members are in favor of retaining the parking spaces and removing the proposed parklet. To maximize customer parking, the current parking permit configuration is being revised to allow off site parking for business owners and employees.

Questions or comments on these two items may be received at the public comment section at the end of this meeting.

**Building & Grounds/Public Works** – Mr. Maloney stated that the public works crew finished pothole patching. Residents may call borough administration to report holes that need filled.

Soli Construction started work on the Connor Road/South McCully sewer project.

Mr. Maloney noted public works installed new gravel pads at the municipal center in the bleacher area and by the newly installed steps to help with routine maintenance. It looks fantastic.

A storm sewer manhole was replaced on Grove Road, and a manhole lid on Waverly will be repaired.

Interviews will be conducted this week for a public works position. Ms. Kovach asked how many applications were received. Mr. Maloney replied fifteen. Ms. Kovach asked how many seasonal applications were received. Ms. Miller confirmed one application was received, and the employee is a rehire from 2020.

**Public Safety** – Mr. Astor conferred with Chief Reffner. The fire department committee is nearing completion on the specifications for a new rescue pumper which will go into service in the fall/winter of 2022.

Chief Reffner will be reaching out to the fireworks committee to find a suitable and safe launching location for a future 2021 event.

Mr. Swisher noted a Castle Shannon Police Department supervisory review report that commended Officer Dan Janeda for his actions on the Parkway East on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Officer Janeda witnessed flames coming out from under a preceding vehicle, activated his emergency signals, and notified dispatch to activate emergency responders thereby preventing a potential tragedy/injury from occurring. Chief Truver stated that Officer Janeda was in the right place at the right time. Kudos to the police department! Mr. Heckmann stated that this is a testament on how ready our police team is to respond to emergencies.

**Finance** – Mr. Swisher reviewed the check registers for May 14<sup>th</sup> and May 21<sup>st</sup> and had no further questions. Ms. Kovach motioned to approve the check registers; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

**Community Activities/Planning and Codes** – Ms. Kovach was pleased to report that the community garden at the intersection of Route 88 and Sixth Street was planted this weekend by the CSRC Clean, Safe & Green Committee. The borough will fund the cost of the plants. CSRC also will be planting flowers and foliage in the decorative planters in the downtown district with the CSRC covering the cost.

Ms. Kovach spoke with Jeremy Emph regarding partnering with the fire department for their July 31<sup>st</sup> food truck rally and car raffle. They were enthused to partner with the borough to provide an enhanced event for our residents. Ms. Kovach contacted Victor at Pyrotecnico Fireworks, and they are available for the scheduled date. Chief Reffner is seeking a location for the fireworks. Both pavilions at Hamilton Park are rented, and most likely the Serbian picnic grounds we utilized in 2019 is unavailable. Possible locations include the borough public works garage, O'Brien Field or the municipal center. Food trucks are scheduled from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Ms. Kovach proposed having one band play from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and a second band play from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. After the car ticket is pulled, the fireworks display would start. Ms. Kovach suggested the entertainment line in the borough's budget could fund the bands along with two Party-on-Park events.

Madsen Donuts will be opening soon in the Sherwin Williams plaza. The company also has had a shop at Geneva-on-the-Lake in Ohio for the past 80 years. They also serve Madsen Donuts signature coffee.

Ms. Kovach reported that numerous residents have asked about installing a splash pad at Hamilton Park. Bethel Park has recently announced the opening of their new splash park. Ms. Kovach asked if council had an interest in pursuing this or is this on the agenda for the master parks plan. Mr. Heckmann stated that committee gave no advice to the consultants either for or against the installation of a splash pad. Of course, when the parks proposal is submitted, the public is welcome to recommend that amenity. Council hopes to receive the master parks plan report by the middle of June.

**Library** – Ms. Randazzo was happy to report that the library will be reopening June 1<sup>st</sup> with new mask requirements per CDC guidelines. Fully vaccinated patrons are not required to wear a mask. Unvaccinated patrons should wear a mask for the safety of themselves and others.

Friends of the Library made \$900 at their spring book sale.

Forty-six paint sets were distributed last Wednesday for an outside activity craft project.

**SHACOG** – Mr. Oates virtually attended the SHACOG Board of Directors meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The board discussed the SHACOG joint police test scheduled for August. Mr. Heckmann noted that the borough is pursuing grant funding to hire a new police officer.

The SHACOG board also discussed the possibility that commercial real estate reassessments could result in a loss of municipal tax revenue.

**Manager:** Ms. Miller presented Resolution #697 – requesting a Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program grant in the amount of \$250,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority for Lower Hamilton Park Pavilion and Site Improvements. This is a 15% match from the borough. Ms. Randazzo motioned to adopt Resolution #697; Ms. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Ms. Miller also presented Resolution #698 – requesting a Watershed Restoration and Protection Program grant in the amount of \$300,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority for the Saw Mill Run Stream Restoration project. The project will keep the borough in compliance with MS4 mandates. The grant requires at 15% match of borough funds. Ms. Kovach motioned to adopt Resolution #698; Mr. Maloney seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Ms. Kovach questioned the status of houses on Willow Avenue that were not connected to the sanitary sewer line. Ms. Miller responded that ALCOSAN replaced 70 feet of sewer line and reconnected the properties. No costs were incurred by the borough.

Mr. Heckmann received requests regarding the status of the Summer Recreation Program. Borough administration is in the final hiring process to staff the program.

**Mayor's Report:** Mayor Baumgarten noted a section of the May 10<sup>th</sup> minutes that stated “Mr. Heckmann noted that the CSRC Board has no formal place in council’s business. The CSRC is a community led organization that can make recommendations on behalf of interested parties.” Regarding the CSRC, Mayor Baumgarten commented that approximately 30 years ago the CSRC board was founded, and Tom O’Malley was part of that group. At that time the CSRC initiated the original streetscape plan with streetlights and pavers. The committee eventually became dormant. After many years, Councilman Mike Warhold walked through the downtown area and discovered all the vacant buildings. Mr. Warhold then resurrected the CSRC and formed a new board as a 501(c)3 with Articles of Incorporation. Mr. Barry Cassidy was hired as a consultant for \$60,000 per year with a five-year contract. The borough provided funds for the position since the CSRC had no financing at that time. Mr. Cassidy submitted a grant to the state multi-modal group for \$2.5 million to revitalize the downtown area. After the grant was approved there was a lot of i’s to dot and t’s to cross to complete the funding process. Mayor Baumgarten added that without that effort by Mike Warhold and the CSRC group, the project would never have happened. Mr. Baumgarten disliked the dismissive remark made by Mr. Heckmann and believes council and the borough should thank Mr. Warhold, who became Councilman of the Year by the Pennsylvania State Borough’s Association because of his revitalization efforts. Mr. Baumgarten added that many people were involved in the initial board such as Nancy Kovach, Lisa Goodyear and Marv Levin; however, Mr. Warhold was the president of the board. It was through Mr. Warhold’s doggedness and Mr. Cassidy’s ability that made this streetscape project happen. We should thank the CSRC for their work in this community.

Mayor Baumgarten commented that over the years he has made many friends and acquaintances such as Tom Forrester, Ed Rendall, Dennis Davin, Dennis Yablonski, Dan Onorato, Jack Wagner, Chelsa Wagner, Rich Fitzgerald, Wayne Fontana, Mike Diven, Ralph Kaiser, Tim Murphy, in addition to

executive directors of Port Authority and ALCOSAN. Everyone of those people have been involved in one way or another in the projects that we have done over the years., i.e., the Grove Road Bridge, the Public Works Salt Shed, the expansion of the Borough Garage, a roof on the library, the upper pavilion at Hamilton Park, etc. All of these things we have done over the years with the help of all of these people.

Mr. Baumgarten reiterated that if it wasn't for Mike Warhold initiating a revitalization, all the discussion for months and days and weeks about the streetscape project design would not have happened. We have to thank one person, Mike Warhold.

Mr. Heckmann added that he too believes that Mike Warhold was the driving force. Mr. Heckmann added that his comment in context was that there was a claim made that CSRC was entitled to their design as they thought it should be. Mr. Heckmann's comment was that while the CSRC are major contributors, as many people are in many different ways to the borough, they do not have a special role to play in the decision of where we spend public money. Mr. Heckmann stated that he has great appreciation and respect for Mike Warhold. Mr. Heckmann continued stating there is no disrespect to Mike or others, it is the statement that small group of taxpayers would have special claim on getting to decide the future of our main street.

Mayor Baumgarten noted that there are members of council who were not elected officials back in those days, and it is important to educate people on how we got to where we are on this project.

**Junior Councilmember:** Ms. Lyda reported that not much has been going on in the past two weeks. Keystone Oaks is slowly coming to the end of the school year which is exciting.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Heckmann reviewed the online public comment submissions:

Carrie Purtill, McRoberts Road - There has been a known sewer issue on McRoberts for years. The current solution of jetting the lines is no longer viable, as this pushes sewer gases into the households on this street, making the entire house reek of raw sewage. Does the borough have any plans in place to address the sewer line issue? If not, I would like to request this to be considered in the near future. Mr. Heckmann stated he was very sorry for that circumstance, and he is aware that public works is routinely doing sewer work on McRoberts Road as it is a difficult segment. Mr. Heckmann will have a staff member contact her regarding any pending work we have expected and if there is a solution.

Robert Broman, Blossom Hill Road - I would like to know when council plans to reconvene council meetings in the borough's municipal building. As a state qualified EMT, I understand the concept of instituting precautionary covid measures, but many adjacent boroughs have long since resumed in-person meetings. I for one would like to attend council meetings in person, as communications are much more succinct. Mr. Heckmann replied that in-person meetings will resume June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Janell Filson, Waverly Road – questioned why Zoom meetings are being recorded if they are not available to the public. She requested the Zoom meeting from last week since she was juggling two virtual meetings at once. She stated her request on Monday was denied. She then filled out a right-to-know request and received a message that she will have a response within 30 days. Ms. Filson questioned since council meetings will be in-person, will the meetings be recorded for public viewing.

Mr. Heckmann thanked Ms. Filson for her concern and was advised that the right-to-know request was submitted. Right-to-know requests are a formal tool that allows any resident to request information that is publicly available. When a right-to-know request is submitted, the care of a request is escalated to a solicitor's review, and the borough is required by law to respond. The required response time is within five days of receipt of the request. Ms. Filson did receive a response that stated the borough is electing to extend for 30 days. The borough is in compliance with the right-to-know process. Mr. Heckmann apologized that the process does take time; however, right-to-know requests require a legal review which the borough prefers since it is tax dollars spent.

In regard to recording meetings in the future, council's preference is to move back to governance pre-Covid. Mr. Heckmann is comfortable continuing with form submittals as it is a useful tool to make meetings more accessible. The choice to record meetings via Zoom is not required by law and was a Covid accommodation. The recordings were made in case of technological issues with the meetings; however, when live meetings resume, that will not happen. When we revert back to live meetings, the recordings will not be a requirement. Ms. Filson commented that surrounding boroughs have their meetings recorded, and the recordings are available to the public within a few days, i.e., Mt. Lebanon, Baldwin, Bethel Park, Upper St. Clair. Ms. Filson continued stating that Castle Shannon is one of the only boroughs not recording and allowing community members to watch the meetings at the borough building. Ms. Filson talked to community members on Tuesday during the primary election, and many of them walk and do not have access to a vehicle. One of their main concerns was that they cannot attend a meeting and cannot walk up Grove Road. Ms. Filson stated she doesn't like walking up Havelock either since there are no sidewalks. Ms. Filson suggested alternating locations between the borough building and the library to enable more community members to have access to the meetings. Mr. Heckmann stated he is open to the suggestion of a rotating location and that it would be a council decision. There are pros and cons to switching the format, and Mr. Heckmann has heard from an equal number of residents that say they cannot get Zoom on a device and would not use it. The borough is required to follow laws which pre-Covid has stated meetings are set with a date and location for people to attend in person, and the borough can give residents an opportunity to submit feedback ahead of time. The borough must follow the standards of the state for how boroughs operate.

Ms. Filson reported that avid bikers asked if Castle Shannon pays to have street cleaners because of gravel on the sides of the roads. Mr. Heckmann responded street cleaners are more effective on level surfaces, and our topography is a problem. Each year the borough borrows equipment from a local municipality to have the downtown area streets cleaned. The borough does not have street cleaning equipment; however public works can be contacted to remove gravel buildup on roadways after heavy rains. Ms. Filson stated she has seen the public works crew cleaning up the sides of roads.

Ms. Filson talked to some senior citizens who were interested in senior programming. The seniors appreciated the programs sponsored at the library. One couple was excited about the RecShare program that their daughter could take advantage of with a discounted purchase of a pool pass to the Dormont pool; however most senior citizens would not sit at Dormont pool. Ms. Filson asked if there were programs being considered for the senior members of our community. Mr. Heckmann noted that there are groups of senior citizens who play cards at the municipal center. The borough is happy to create the RecShare program to provide water recreation for our youth at the Dormont pool. Many municipalities that have senior programming were reticent to start an out-of-community program at this time until Covid restrictions are eased. Mr. Heckmann hopes that in the fall some municipalities may be willing to open their programs to borough residents. Ms. Filson encouraged council to provide activities and programs for the senior citizens. Ms. O'Malley added that the borough did have a senior citizen group that disbanded a few years ago and added that available volunteers would be needed to start a group.



Mr. Heckmann noted that the borough is not at present staffed to provide programming, however any resident interested in taking an active role in senior citizen programming should contact Ms. Miller at the borough office. Ms. Randazzo added that Ms. Myrah at the library welcomes new ideas for programming. Mr. Heckmann added that the librarians are always working to make new programs and ideas possible.

Rebecca Lukens, Willow Avenue – stated she is in the process of buying a property on Willow Avenue for her business. Ms. Lukens is interested in the revitalization program and would like the engineer's presentation of the streetscape plan to be available in a slide format since she had technical problems viewing the video. Mr. Heckmann expressed his thanks for Ms. Lukens locating a business in the borough. Mr. Heckmann restated that Ms. Lukens is requesting the streetscape plan with changes be formatted into a Power Point form without commentary. Ms. Lukens would also like the council meetings to be online and viewable.

Alysha Kronz – stated she was glad council is considering keeping the four parking spaces on Willow Avenue. Many residents and business owners were previously parking in a private parking lot, and they have been asked to remove their vehicles. This will create a bigger issue in the next few months for on-street parking. Mr. Heckmann stated that council is happy to have closure on the topic of the four parking spaces with formal closure at the next meeting, and that the on-street permit parking procedures are being reviewed.

Mike Warhold, Middleboro Road – thanked Mayor Baumgarten for his kind words. Mr. Warhold disagrees with changing the streetscape design from brick pavers and suggested council meet with the project engineer to get educated on the differences between the brick pavers and the proposed hybrid. Mr. Heckmann stated he values an engineer's opinion and that is why the proposed finishes were brick; however, the public has weighed in and council wants to take that into consideration. Mr. Warhold's opinion is that the public is wrong about changing the brick pavers. Mr. Warhold reiterated that council should meet with the project engineer to discuss the public's concerns before making a decision. Mr. Warhold will submit information to Ms. Miller and would like to contact the project engineer personally. Mr. Heckmann stated that council would be happy to get the project manager's opinion; however, it was also the project manager's opinion to remove the parking spaces and install a parklet. Council cannot rest their decisions on only the engineer's design suggestions. Mr. Warhold believes that many of the public's concerns about brick pavers could be alleviated by a meeting with the engineer.

Mr. Warhold stated that in 2009 he recognized that something needed to be done about the blighted condition of the downtown area, but he also found it to be a walkability nightmare. This issue is still a concern today. The original revitalization was a project that reflected the resources and materials available in the 1980's. The latest trend at that time was concrete pavers, but it was a limited product with limited knowledge on installation and long-term durability. Trees were chosen that were not the correct species. Roots pushed up the pavers, and grates were a tripping hazard. A major component of any streetscape plan is meeting all of the ADA guidelines. No funding can be obtained without full ADA compliance. Walkability is a major feature of a streetscape design. The trees in most areas had to be removed to comply with these requirements. There are trees in areas where they could be supported. To try to green the area, planters were installed with colorful flowers, and hanging baskets would adorn the new lampposts.

Mr. Warhold continued stating that he has heard some concerns that the accent sidewalk design uses a paver with a higher compression strength than concrete. This design uses a solid base with a decorative overlay. If utility or construction projects would cause any portion of the sidewalk to be replaced, the

pavers could be removed easily, and the base replaced. If aggregate is used, there would be no way to match the color, texture, etc. Mr. Warhold discussed his concerns about sidewalk repairs with the owner of MARSA, a masonry company that has been in operation for approximately 50 years and the biggest employer in the borough. A small tool with two pins could be used to lift the pavers; and once the repair is made, the pavers can be reinstalled. Any repairs made on stamped and aggregate concrete would never be able to be color matched over time. This will result in patches and mismatched sections that do nothing to beautify the downtown area. Sidewalks in the downtown area are the responsibility of the business owners. When aggregate is exposed to salt and deicers, aggregate becomes corroded and damaged. Aggregate is more susceptible than concrete; however, brick is not affected. Compression strengths of bricks are not compromised by deicers. Mr. Warhold asked Ken Mandrier, Assistant Code Officer, about brick sidewalk maintenance; and he advised that there are no issues. Mr. Mandrier uses a snow blower after heavy storms on his brick sidewalk. Brick can get white residue that can easily be washed off.

Mr. Warhold referenced a project on Willow Avenue. Willow Avenue has a brick street that is approximately 100 years old. The curbing was deteriorating so the brick was lifted and placed beside the street. Once the concrete cured, the street surface would have been discolored if replaced with concrete or asphalt and the old and new would never have matched. Mr. Warhold debated the cost of paving a street several times over a 100-year time period versus the durability of the brick street. The new sidewalks have been designed for durability that will stand the test of time as well as being visually attractive.

Mr. Warhold referenced a Columbia Gas project on Castle Shannon Boulevard and turning up Willow Avenue. If that project is completed after streetscape and concrete aggregate is used, it will be an eyesore in the area that the borough is trying to improve. Brick pavers could be lifted and replaced with no visual change to the area. If the borough needs an unbiased opinion on brick pavers who has worked on projects for several years, Mr. Warhold suggests contacting the project manager.

Mr. Warhold stated the borough received funding approval over three years ago in February; however, PennDOT issues needed to be resolved on the engineering construction maintenance system which would have driven the cost up. After working with PennDOT, a Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) was issued, which saved several hundred thousand dollars on this \$2 million project. At the time, PennDOT costs can take 40% or 25% of the project, wherein the HOP was around \$50,000. In conclusion, Mr. Warhold stated that not using brick pavers would be a detriment to the beauty and longevity of the streetscape project. Mr. Warhold added that the project should have been completed long ago. The plan was professionally developed and vetted by the planning commission, approved by council, and needs to move forward now without delays. The brick pavers are in budget for the project, and the deep red brick will not fade over time.

Mr. Heckmann stated that he agrees with Mr. Warhold and likes the brick pavers; however, council is accountable to the taxpayers and must consider their concerns. In light of Mr. Warhold's recommendations, council will meet next week in executive session to discuss advancing the manager's search and discuss the option of brick pavers. Mr. Heckmann thanked Mr. Warhold for making time to address council this evening. Mr. Warhold added that he loves this community.

Lisa Shartle, Rebecca Street – thanked Ms. Kovach for her efforts to schedule a fireworks display for the community at the Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department event. Ms. Shartle asked about the status of the summer recreation program. Her children have submitted applications for student counselor positions. Mr. Heckmann answered that applications have been received for the leadership positions.

Once those interviews have concluded and directors hired, the student applicants will be contacted. Ms. Shartle questioned if the management support is not there now, would the program be cancelled this summer or would council try to get new applicants to try to make the program a success. Ms. Shartle noted that it is of the utmost importance to try to get the kids out this summer. Mr. Heckmann answered that he wants to avoid a false promise that would prevent parents from enrolling their children in other alternatives. Although it looks encouraging, the program cannot go forward without adequate staffing. Ms. Shartle suggested that perhaps a stay-at-home mother could apply for the director positions if additional staffing is needed.

Ms. Shartle stated she knows the law only has certain requirements for council meetings, however it appears the public would like recorded meetings. Ms. Shartle questioned if the Covid relief funds could be used for communication equipment for borough meetings to allow for recorded meetings. Mr. Heckmann answered that the American Rescue Plan funds have many restrictions, and the borough can investigate to see if those type of costs are eligible. This type of equipment has not been budgeted for this year. Ms. Shartle encouraged council to consider both in-person and zoom related options for more transparency and involvement.

Ms. Shartle questioned if the borough has plans for the American Rescue Plan funds. Mr. Heckmann replied that water infrastructure improvements such as sanitary or storm sewer is the least restrictive use of the funds. Council has not put together a listing of projects for these funds as yet. This is a multi-year outlook that the borough can sync with the fall budgeting requirements.

Ms. Shartle noted chatter on social media on parking. She thought it was great to have so much community interaction. Earlier in the meeting, Mr. Heckmann had discussed the possibility of residents signing up for the newsletter via email. Ms. Shartle advised that some information from the borough is sent to the public (such as road closures) via an email blast and would like information on surveys or major plans, such as the parks plan, relayed to the public in the same manner. Mr. Heckmann stated the impediment is that residents have to elect to receive email notifications. Currently, the notifications residents receive are from a police department alert system in which residents have registered. Mr. Heckmann stated that the borough can explore this option. There is a cost to maintaining and updating an email subscription service.

Ms. Shartle asked how the newsletter would go out via email. Mr. Heckmann replied that it has not happened yet, but residents will be able to elect to receive it digitally. In small numbers, the borough would not need to use a service, but the hope is that hundreds or thousands of residents would elect the digital option. Ms. Shartle believes it would be a minimal cost for involving the community.

Bethany Kovach, Willow Avenue – agreed that council meetings should be continued virtually. Both business owners and residents home with children would appreciate the accommodation. Ms. Kovach thanked council members for meeting with business owners this week. It was a great meeting. The transparency during this process was so important to everyone involved and to the business owners where it can be a matter of their livelihood and a matter of keeping Castle Shannon a place people want to move to. Ms. Kovach gave an update on the support of petitions circulated to keep the four parking spaces on Willow Avenue. The petition was very close to receiving 1,000 signatures on both digital and paper. An overwhelming majority of both businesses and residents supported the petitions. Ms. Kovach thanked council for recognizing the importance of the parking spaces.

Ms. Kovach stated as business owners they also continue to meet with residents. Residents in the downtown area are certainly important to the viability of the area, and business owners continue to talk to residents about parking solutions going forward. Since the meeting with council, more businesses have contacted Ms. Kovach in support of keeping the parking, including the new Greek bakery that will be opening. Ms. Kovach concluded in thanking council for the meeting. Both businesses and residents believe in keeping parking available in this corridor of the business district. Mr. Heckmann responded by stating his colleagues agree that they enjoyed the meeting in town and would love to see that continue.

**Other:** Nothing to report.

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

Approved as presented this 14th day of June 2021.

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Loretta J. Miller  
Acting Manager

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Mark J. Heckmann  
President