

**CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

June 14, 2021

The following elected officials were present: M. Heckmann; M. Randazzo; R. Astor; N. Kovach; J. Maloney; B. Oates; D. Swisher; D. Baumgarten. Tax Collector E. O'Malley was absent. 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; J. Stanton, Borough Engineer.

The minutes of the May 24, 2021 Council Meeting were presented. Ms. Randazzo motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Maloney seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Public Comment – Agenda Items: Mr. Heckmann opened the public comment for agenda items.

Michael Warhold, Middleboro Road - addressed council regarding the streetscape design and presented compelling information in support of the sustainability of pavers versus a hybrid design. Mr. Warhold presented letters of recommendation from other communities that are using pavers, as well as information from the International Masonry Institute and studies from the University of Pittsburgh and CMU. In summary, brick pavers provide a safe, cost-effective sidewalk surface that provides a unique streetscape that will have a positive impact on business district values.

Marv Levin, Corbett Drive – stated that as chairman of the Castle Shannon Revitalization Corporation (CSRC) Design Committee, the committee devoted many hours to selecting colors and designs for the streetscape program. He noted that many communities use the color black for streetscape furniture. Mr. Levin believes the color should be green as originally presented by the design committee to reflect Castle Shannon's standard color. Ms. Kovach added that the fire trucks are also green.

John Seekings, Mary Place – President of the CSRC stated that the streetscape project has been a long journey for their committee and borough council. The CSRC is committed to partnering with the borough on paver maintenance moving forward. Mr. Seekings stated he moved his business from the downtown area because the downtown area did not reflect who he wanted to be as a business. Mr. Seekings wanted to stress the consistency of the streetscape and the integration of pavers to create a natural walking path. This is CSRC's opportunity to work with council, to continue to advocate for people to come downtown, to retain the businesses, and create a showcase where we can be the envy of the South Hills.

Engineer: Jason Stanton, P.E. of Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering Inc. presented council with a draft copy of the Six Parks Plan for the parks steering committee to review.

Mr. Stanton stated that the borough approved a resolution to file a grant application with the Commonwealth Financing Authority's Watershed Protection Program for a pollution reduction plan. The borough's project is to remove non-native material and install plantings for stream restoration along 255 linear feet of Saw Mill Run from Canal Street to James Street. A secondary funding source was identified through DEP's Growing Greener Program. The DEP's watershed manager's response was very favorable regarding funding for the project. A landowner letter of commitment is required from

eight private property owners along this section of the stream. Since public funding will be used for this project, it would be the borough's responsibility to operate and maintain the project area.

Mr. Heckmann stated the project is mandated by the state, and the DEP's grant program is a great funding opportunity for the borough. Council agreed to make the PRP project improvements public. Mr. Maloney motioned to alert the public that the borough is interested in pursuing DEP's funding opportunity for the stream bank restoration, and council's intent is to make those improvements public for the borough to operate and maintain; Mr. Oates seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mr. Stanton also reported that a schedule has been requested from the contractor for the 2021 Road Improvement Program.

Council Committee Reports:

Public Relations/Communications – Mr. Heckmann noted that the following changes were made to the borough's website: official council member emails were posted; the 2021 annual budget was posted; and following CDC guidelines, new public meeting rules limiting in-person attendance were listed. A ZOOM link is available for the public to view the meeting while in session.

Mr. Heckmann stated that the borough is the recipient of COVID-19 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. The borough has applied through DCED to receive the funds which must be expended by 2024. The funds are restricted for uses listed by the act. This is an unbudgeted revenue for 2021.

Information is available on the borough website regarding the 2021 Summer Recreation Program at Hamilton Park. Fifty-one children are currently registered. New equipment is being purchased to provide additional activities for the children. Registrations will be accepted through the first week of camp.

Building & Grounds/Public Works – Mr. Maloney reported that public works will be completing a painting project at Upper Hamilton Park and painting doors at the police station and borough garage. Tree removal is planned along Killarney and Spring Street. The hillside at the municipal center is scheduled for cutting. Public works will continue to water planters in town and the community garden as needed.

Mr. Swisher motioned to approve the hiring of Michael Brining for the public works department starting June 21, 2021; Mr. Maloney seconded; all in favor; motion carried. Mr. Heckmann noted that Mr. Brining is a resident of the borough.

Chief Truver commended Bob Ausman for his dedication and for being out in the recent storms to clean catch basins to alleviate flooding. Mr. Heckmann reported that the waterproofing project for the front of the municipal center mitigated any water damage from the storm, although much of the mulch was washed away.

Public Safety – Mr. Astor stated that the CSVFD Truck Committee is continuing their endeavors for the purchase of a new rescue pumper. They will be selling a surplus pumper.

Tickets for the car raffle are being distributed by mail instead of in-person. Some residents have sold and turned in their tickets.

The CSVFD president has requested time to attend and address council at their next meeting.

Chief Truver noted that Katherine Ralston has submitted a letter of resignation from her part-time position as crossing guard at Columbia and Lindenwood. Mayor Baumgarten read a proclamation recognizing Ms. Ralston for her thirty years of dedicated service to generations of children in Castle Shannon. Council also thanked Ms. Ralston for her service to the borough.

Finance – Mr. Swisher reviewed the check registers for May 28th, June 4th and June 10th. Mr. Swisher noted a cost from Banksville Printing for the spring newsletter and proposed getting competitive pricing. Mr. Heckmann noted that they have been a long-time vendor for the borough’s newsletter. Ms. Kovach commented that Banksville Printing has always provided reasonable pricing. Mr. Swisher had no further questions. Residents can now elect to receive the newsletter on-line which will reduce printing costs.

Mr. Heckmann presented a contract amendment for David Hohman at KU Resources for additional services for the streetscape project. Mr. Astor motioned to approve the additional services proposal for KU Resources for \$22,340.25; Ms. Randazzo seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Community Activities/Planning and Codes – Ms. Kovach announced that the Summer Recreation Program will start June 21st.

Chief Reffner is coordinating a site location with Pyrotecnico for a fireworks display on July 31st. Ms. Kovach is booking bands for entertainment.

Mr. Vietmeier reported two new business openings: Madsen Donuts in the Sherwin Williams plaza and a pizza shop in Stoner Center.

A zoning hearing board meeting is scheduled for June 16th at 7:00 p.m. for Mindful Brewing’s inflatable structure.

Ms. Kovach noted that council received emails from Annie Shaw regarding a request to amend the urban agriculture ordinance.

Mr. Heckmann noted that two facades in town were recently painted, i.e., Anthos Bakery & Café and Santoro’s pizza.

Library – Ms. Randazzo welcomed the Children and Youth Coordinator Ms. Amber who started June 7th.

The Summer Reading Program is June 14th through August 13th for all ages. Sign ups begin today. Ms. Randazzo encourages children to pick up their youth reading logs, and every registered child aged 3-12 will receive a bag of goodies with their registration.

An adult summer reading program is also available.

The library board met on June 3rd. The trustees evaluated annual goals, the mission statement, and the strategic plan.

The library website has a “core values at our library” posted in the form of a Word Cloud. Ms. Randazzo thanked Ms. Myrah for her creativity.

The 2020 library audit was submitted to the Allegheny County Library Association in June.

An adult book discussion is planned for June 24th at 7:00 p.m. It is readers' choice.

MRTSA will be completing CPR and AED training for library staff on June 18th at 10:30 a.m.

MRTSA – Mr. Heckmann announced that a job listing will be posted for an executive director position.

SHACOG – Mr. Oates plans to attend the SHACOG Board of Directors meeting on June 17th which will be held both in person and virtually.

The agenda contained the announcement for the 34th annual golf outing.

ACBA – Ms. Kovach noted that the quarterly meeting was cancelled due to the virtual conference held June 7th & 8th.

ALOM – Mr. Astor and Ms. Kovach will be attending the annual conference June 17th to June 20th.

Police/Non-Uniformed Pension: The agenda contained the 2020 financial statements. Ms. Miller noted a good rate of return on both plans.

Manager: Mr. Heckmann reported that council is in the process of determining next steps for a manager search.

Mr. Heckmann reported that finalizing the streetscape design features is on the agenda. Mr. Heckmann thanked all volunteers and participants who contributed to the multi-year plan. The latest design plan was submitted via video, and public feedback was received. Changes to the proposed design were made to remove a parklet and retain four parking spaces by Gracious Living.

The sidewalk design material was discussed. As a second option, a hybrid paver and exposed aggregate design was proposed in place of pavers in the original design. Council has heard this evening and over the last few weeks, that the CSRC, neighbors and businesses expressed a strong demand for the aesthetic look and durability of sidewalk pavers. The biggest concern regarding pavers was maintenance. Mr. Astor asked if these were clay pavers or concrete. Mr. Heckmann responded the pavers are clay.

The borough and CSRC have a “handshake” agreement to enter into a shared maintenance agreement to fund repairs for the pavers which require maintenance that is unrelated to construction or utility projects. Mr. Seekings agreed that the CSRC has a mutual interest in entering into a maintenance agreement. The fund will allow a trained and credentialed third party to complete repairs. Mr. Swisher questioned if a dollar amount was included in the agreement with the CSRC. Mr. Heckmann responded that he proposed \$5,000 a year from each entity. Mr. Seekings confirmed that the CSRC board discussed the annual funding amount of \$5,000 and was initially comfortable with the amount.

Mr. Swisher asked Mr. Biondo if he was comfortable with the streetscape design project being approved without the shared maintenance contract completed. Mr. Biondo responded that this is a council decision. Although the details of the contract need to be finalized, the two items do not need to be linked together. Mr. Heckmann confirmed that in his interactions with Mr. Seekings he is confident there is a need and interest on both sides to have an agreeable outcome. Mr. Seekings added that anything outside

the purview of the fund for maintenance (brushes, equipment) would be the responsibility of the CSRC/business owners.

Mr. Heckmann addressed the color and furniture selection. Mr. Hohman, our project engineer, agreed that the bench design is from the original CSRC plan. Mr. Hohman recommended deviating the color from green because the color will fade to a lighter or different color over time. Although black also fades, it does not change color. Black is easier to use to paint repairs of chips or dents instead of trying to color match a green that has aged. For residents who like the community's standard of green, there are still ample opportunities to use that color in featured places such as banners, wayfinding signage or kiosks for community maps.

Mr. Levin asked if the color of green was approved by council four years ago, why are we revisiting that color choice. Mr. Heckmann answered that council now has the benefit of new design choices, new materials, and new preferences of the community. Council reviewed comments in the feedback forms relating to color, and there seemed to be widespread approval of the color scheme.

Ms. Randazzo motioned to approve the streetscape design features as proposed in the original presentation with the exception of removing four parking spaces by Gracious Living for a parklet; Ms. Kovach seconded. Mr. Swisher requested a roll call vote: Mr. Astor–yes, Ms. Kovach–yes, Mr. Maloney–yes, Mr. Oates–yes, Mr. Swisher–no, Ms. Randazzo–yes, Mr. Heckmann–yes. Motion carried six to one. Mr. Hohman will be contacted to prepare bidding documents, and Mr. Heckmann will contact Mr. Seekings to discuss the agreement.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Baumgarten presented Resolution #699 declaring the COVID emergency abated.

Mayor Baumgarten referenced an article in the June 13th Pittsburgh Post-Gazette regarding the number of deaths caused by fentanyl. An incredibly potent pain killer, if a person quits taking it, they can die. The drug can come in pill or liquid form. A single dose the size of a pinch of salt can kill a person. The rate of deaths in Allegheny County from fentanyl has been soaring – nearly three times higher than the national average. Mayor Baumgarten hopes that our residents have read the article and are aware of the dangers and tragedies caused by fentanyl.

Public Comment:

Mr. Heckmann reviewed the online public comment submissions:

Margo Zamaitis, Elm Street – asked if the traffic light at Route 88 and Grove Road could be reconfigured to allow a longer green light on the Memorial Hall side. Mr. Heckmann responded by stating that PennDOT made recent light changing software improvements to the entire corridor along Route 88 and that enhancement was engineered to favor the highest traversed corridor (Route 88). Chief Truver advised that the PennDOT engineer is working with the subcontractor and reviewing to monitor for changes. Chief Truver advised that pedestrian crossings can also delay the light timing.

Marv Levin – asked for an update on the Shannon Transit Village project. Mr. Heckmann answered that the project was deemed not tenable as of January/February of this year. Port Authority plans to budget for new site planning in 2022.

Other:

Mr. Maloney stated that CSYA is planning a golf outing this year on October 9th at Victory Hills. Information is available at castleshannonsports.com.

July will be a busy month at the municipal building with tournaments for 10U boys, 10U girls slow pitch softball and 12U team tournaments.

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

Approved as presented this 28th day of June 2021.

Loretta J. Miller
Acting Manager

Mark J. Heckmann
President