

# CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

June 28, 2021

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: D. Biondo, Solicitor. K. Truver, Police Chief; P. Vietmeier, Codes Official; L Miller, Acting Manager and A. Lyda, Junior Council Representative were absent.

The minutes of the June 14, 2021 Council Meeting were presented. Ms. Randazzo motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

**Public Comment – Agenda Items:** Mr. Heckmann noted that Bob Sutton, President of the Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department was listed on the agenda, but unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Heckmann noted that this evening's council meeting is available on the ZOOM platform for viewing only. Residents can register on the borough's website to attend the meeting to address council.

**Brian Gigliotti, Poplar Avenue** – provided council with an update on the Summer Recreation Program. The first week was very successful with eighty-eight children being registered. The children had a great water day on Friday. Kona Ice will visit the program on four different weeks and provide refreshments for \$2 a cup. CSYA will donate one day of free Kona Ice for all participants. Mr. Gigliotti started a Facebook page – Castle Shannon Summer Recreation - to provide information and pictures to the parents. Mr. Gigliotti is exploring the option of providing pizza on two Fridays. This Friday will be a cookout day with hotdogs and chips. A different theme is planned for each Friday.

Mr. Gigliotti is planning visitors to the park. The children's librarian, Ms. Amber, will be visiting the camp to meet the children and present a program about the library. MRTSA was asked to provide a varied program geared to the different age groups. Mr. Gigliotti also plans to include the fire department for a visit to the park.

The last day for the Summer Recreation Program will be July 30<sup>th</sup>. Activities will include a waterslide, and food/snacks will be provided. Mr. Gigliotti thanked Linda Karlovich and Lori Miller along with borough council for their assistance in enhancing the program this year. Mr. Gigliotti hopes to continue in his role as director for many years to come. Mr. Heckmann stated that under Mr. Gigliotti's leadership the program has more structure and a variety of new equipment to provide additional activities to meet the varied interests of the children.

**Real Estate Tax Collector:** Ms. O'Malley reported that Keystone Oaks School tax bills should be received in her office after July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mailings to residents will occur within 10 days after receipt. Mr. Heckmann noted that the real estate valuation for Castle Shannon has decreased by approximately \$217,000 since the first of the year. With the effects of COVID, many commercial retailers are applying for reassessments.

## **Council Committee Reports:**

**Public Relations/Communications** – MRTSA has published a listing for an executive director position. Information is available on the MRTSA website.

**Building & Grounds/Public Works** – Mr. Maloney reported that Mr. Ausman has been working with Mr. Gigliotti. A Four-Square game has been painted by the pavilions at Hamilton Park.

Public Works has been cutting grass where needed and watering the community garden and planters in the downtown area.

Mr. Ausman would like to sell an excavator due to lack of use.

Mayor Baumgarten noted a section of weeds at Hamilton Park that should be cut at the top corner of the path.

**Public Safety** – Mr. Astor stated that the police department has been accepted into a culture shifting program on police accountability and officer wellness - the ABLE project which stands for Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement. An instructor will conduct in-house training. The program will make officers understand their accountability for other officer's actions and to ensure that officers act in the best interest of the community and the force.

The fire department's truck committee is moving forward to acquire a new rescue pumper and sell a used piece of apparatus.

**Finance** – Mr. Swisher reviewed the check registers for June 18<sup>th</sup> and June 25<sup>th</sup> and had no further questions. Ms. Randazzo motioned to pay the bills; Mr. Astor seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

**Community Activities/Planning and Codes** – Ms. Kovach reported that no date has been confirmed for a fireworks display this year. One band is confirmed for the July 31<sup>st</sup> fire department event.

Mr. Heckmann added that as we near July 4<sup>th</sup> residents that wish to display fireworks should not set them off on public property and urged residents to do so safely.

**Library** – Ms. Randazzo announced that the summer reading program started June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Amber is now doing in-person programs for children starting this week with story time and a slime session for older students.

The library will be closed July 3<sup>rd</sup> to July 5<sup>th</sup> for the holiday.

The library is seeking a Castle Shannon resident or business owner to serve on the Board of Trustees. Interested applicants should submit a resume and cover letter to the library in care of the Board of Trustees.

Ms. Randazzo thanked Mr. Gigliotti for his enthusiasm and efforts with the Summer Recreation Program.

**MRTSA** – Mr. Heckmann stated the new operations chief has started. MRTSA is focusing on metrics relating to service levels, shoot times (getting into the vehicle and on the call), and response times.

Mr. Swisher added that the various construction projects are culminating with good results.

**SHACOG** – Mr. Oates attended the board meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup>. The annual golf outing is scheduled for July 15<sup>th</sup>.

**ALOM** – Ms. Kovach reported that the annual ALOM conference was very intense with a lot of information, many vendors, and good networking. Mr. Heckmann thanked Ms. Kovach and Mr. Astor for attending the conference.

**Manager:** Mr. Heckmann reported that council is in receipt of three proposals to conduct a search for the manager hiring. Ms. Kovach motioned to authorize the appropriate officials to execute the agreement with Bradley Partnerships for a manager search; Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

**MS4** – Mr. Heckmann noted that in the June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, Mr. Jason Stanton of Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering addressed council regarding a possible funding source for the Saw Mill Run pollution reduction plan project. Borough representatives are working on obtaining signatures from the affected property owners to apply for the grant. If awarded, the project would be fully funded with grant dollars.

**Mayor's Report:** Mayor Baumgarten noted an email from Attorney General Josh Shapiro regarding a shortage of police officers throughout the state of Pennsylvania. SHACOG has scheduled joint police officer testing on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Baumgarten hopes that when the borough needs a new hire, there will be sufficient qualified applicants available. Mr. Heckmann noted that the letter provided some recommendations, such as offering signing bonuses for new recruits and providing continuing education or additional degree programs.

**Planning Commission:** The agenda contained the minutes of the April 19, 2021 meeting.

**Solicitor's Report:** Mr. Biondo reported that Mindful Brewing withdrew their variance request at the Zoning Hearing Board; therefore, no action was needed from the board.

**Keystone Oaks:** The lunch program is continuing through the summer at several borough locations. The program is providing daily lunches at the Summer Recreation Program at Hamilton Park.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Gigliotti gave an update on the CSYA. Tournament season is starting next week. Three tournaments will be held at the municipal center field. 12U fast pitch team will have a tournament in Bethel Park. CSYA representatives receive many compliments on the municipal center field and facilities. Mr. Maloney commented on the good condition of bathroom facilities here as opposed to other communities.

The CSYA Annual Golf Outing will be held October 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Other Business:** None.

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

Approved as presented this 12th day of July 2021.

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Loretta J. Miller  
Acting Manager

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Mark J. Heckmann  
President