

**CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

July 26, 2021

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

The minutes of the July 12, 2021, Council Meeting were presented. Ms. Randazzo motioned to approve the minutes; Ms. Kovach seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Public Comment – Agenda Items: Mr. Heckmann opened the comment section. Being none, the comment section was closed.

Mr. Heckmann introduced Bob Sutton, President of the Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Sutton thanked borough council, Chief Truver, the Castle Shannon Police Department and the Castle Shannon Public Works Department for their assistance with the COVID-19 clinic held at the fire hall this year. The COVID clinic evolved at light speed with hourly changes, and Mr. Sutton was the coordinator for the project. Mr. Sutton was very impressed how each organization came together to support the fire department in this effort.

Mr. Sutton announced that the CSVFD Food Truck Festival and Car Raffle Drawing will be held July 31st. Festivities include games, entertainment, and fireworks. Mr. Sutton encouraged residents to attend and support the fire department. Mr. Heckmann thanked Ms. Kovach for coordinating the bands and fireworks for this event.

Real Estate Tax Collector: Ms. O'Malley announced that Keystone Oaks School District taxes were mailed July 23rd. Christina Morrow will be available on Wednesday, July 28th to receive tax payments from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Mr. Heckmann added that data sharing for the increase in school taxes caused delays in the mailings; therefore, the discount period for payments will end September 15th.

Council Committee Reports:

Public Relations/Communications – Mr. Heckmann announced that the borough manager search is proceeding, and information has been shared on the borough's website and Facebook pages, along with being marketed widely by our recruitment firm. A new website with Castle Shannon background information was created at <https://castleshannon.work>. Mr. Heckmann encouraged all interested parties to apply.

A public meeting was held at the library on July 21st to discuss parking options in the downtown business district. The meeting was streamed via ZOOM. Council wishes to move forward with additional parking along Willow Avenue with sixteen total parking spaces. One block of the road will be posted one-way. These changes were proposed to enhance parking inventory and are pending a formal engineer's review.

Bids for the streetscape project will be advertised this week.

The Parks Master Plan Committee met to review the engineer's draft plan for the Six Parks Master Plan. The formal report will be forthcoming and furnished to the public in the next few months.

This is the last week of the Summer Recreation Program. The program succeeded under the leadership of Director Brian Gigliotti and Assistant Director Alexis Shandor. Mr. Heckmann thanked council for their approval to enhance the supply of recreational activities, and public works for maintaining the parks and assisting with storage.

Building & Grounds/Public Works – Mr. Maloney stated that a swing set was purchased for Prospect Park and will be installed by public works next week. Public works is also cutting tree limbs and addressing outer areas of the parks.

Mr. Maloney noted that Jeffrey Schumacher will be retiring from the Public Works Department next month.

Public Safety – Chief Truver announced that the SHACOG Joint Police Test will be held August 7th at the fire hall.

Chief Truver has applied for a Community Oriented Policing Services Hiring grant.

Mr. Swisher, who retired from his position with Allegheny County in early December 2020, discussed a fraud case. He received a call asking why he applied for unemployment compensation. A county police detective and Castle Shannon police officer are investigating this case. Mr. Swisher thanked Chief Truver for his quick response.

Finance – Mr. Swisher reviewed the check registers for July 16th and July 23rd. Mr. Swisher questioned one expenditure which was addressed by Ms. Miller. With no further questions, Mr. Swisher motioned to pay the July check registers; Mr. Maloney seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Community Activities/Planning and Codes – Ms. Kovach stated that the CSVFD Food Truck event will be held July 31st. The School of Rock will start the entertainment at 5:00 p.m. with The Evan Dean Band playing from 6:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. followed by the car raffle drawing and fireworks. Ms. Kovach stated that council is pleased to be partnering with the fire department on this event.

Ms. Kovach has been coordinating a Party-on-Park event for Bark-on-Park for our four-legged friends. The event is scheduled for August 20th. The Evan Dean Band will be providing entertainment. Castle Shannon Youth Association will be selling food and beverages. Local businesses, veterinarians and pet stores have expressed an interest in participating.

Mr. Vietmeier stated that the Ansul fire suppression system inspection is next Monday for Madsen Donuts.

Mr. Vietmeier thanked Ms. Christina Morrow and Mr. Dennis Biondo for attending the planning commission meeting of July 19th in his absence.

Library – Ms. Randazzo reported that the Friends of the Library provided funding for a new tent for a book give-a-way.

Business is picking up with the summer reading program. Bingo is available for the children.

Ms. Amber has a redesigned youth department webpage under construction that is linked to the borough's website.

Although June attendance at the library was slow, attendance has increased in July.

Ms. Amber attended an outreach at the Summer Recreation Program. Forty children and ten adults participated resulting in many new program sign ups.

The library board will meet in September. Letters of interest are being accepted for a board vacancy.

MRTSA – MRTSA is seeking an executive director for the organization.

SHACOG – Mr. Oates reported that the annual golf outing was held last week. Mr. Heckmann expressed regret that the borough could not participate in the event this year.

Mr. Oates plans to attend the next board meeting in person on August 19th in Elizabeth Township.

ACBA/ALOM – The next ACBA board meeting will be held in September. Many training opportunities are provided by these organizations.

MS4 – The borough is waiting for information regarding grant funding for the Saw Mill Run project.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Baumgarten attended the Pennsylvania State Mayor's Association Conference and reported the agenda contained many educational sessions. One program was presented by two FBI agents on domestic terrorism. This is a real threat. Most of these types of threats are coming from Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran. The agents provided this catch phrase "If you see something, say something." Residents should be aware of what is going on in their community.

Another interesting session presented by David Hickton, a former U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania, was about ransomware - a type of malicious software designed to block access to a computer system until a sum of money is paid. Most ransomware threats originate in Russia. Mayor Baumgarten advised that for example, if someone hacked into the borough's computer system, they could effectively shut the borough down. Mr. Heckmann noted that the borough has security parameters in place.

The conference also had a discussion on the well documented increase in drug overdoses, specifically fentanyl. This drug has been flooding the county.

All of these topics are things our residents should be aware of that are going on in our country and are possible hazards to the community with our proximity to the City of Pittsburgh.

Planning Commission: - Mr. Biondo advised that two items were discussed at the planning commission meeting that will be presented for council's future action: 1) A consolidation plan for McRoberts Road; and 2) Installation of an ATM machine on the fire department's property. A conditional use hearing and public hearing will be required for the ATM installation. The planning commission approved the installation with conditions. No action was needed this evening.

Keystone Oaks: - August 26th is a Meet the Teacher day with a food truck round up. August 30th is the first day of school.

Public Comment: Janell Filson, Waverly Road – was unable to attend the public meeting on the downtown parking discussion and requested the ZOOM presentation. Ms. Miller will send her a link.

Other Business: Mr. Maloney announced the CSYA’s 12U team will be hosting tournaments starting this evening and continuing through the weekend.

The CSYA Golf Outing will be October 9th at Victory Hills. Information can be found at <https://www.castleshannonsports.com>.

Ms. Kovach questioned if Ms. Abby Lyda was a senior this year. Ms. Miller answered Ms. Lyda was a junior and has been unavailable for recent council meetings due to her acceptance in an astrophysics science program in June and July.

Ms. Randazzo stated that a resume has been received for a vacant position on the library board. The board will review the resume at their next meeting.

Mr. Heckmann advised neighbors to be aware of the rise in COVID cases with the Delta variant. Hospitals are opening the COVID wards again. Many cases are mild due to the fact that patients were vaccinated. If a resident is unsure if a vaccination is right for you or your family, please ask your doctor.

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

Approved as presented this 9th day of August 2021.

Loretta J. Miller
Acting Manager

Mark J. Heckmann
President