

**CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

October 11, 2021

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

The minutes of the September 27, 2021 Council Meeting were presented. Ms. Randazzo motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Astor seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Public Comment – Agenda items: No comments were received.

Real Estate Tax Collector: Ms. O'Malley reported September collections of \$33,585.46 which brings the year-to-date total to \$3,746,892.05.

Council Committee Reports:

Public Relations/Communications – Mr. Heckmann reported that the streetscape contractor has advised that due to construction calendar, weather, supply chain issues and labor shortages, the project will commence next spring, most likely between March to July of 2022.

The removal of glass recycling from trash collection has prompted the council to collaborate with the Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department and Pennsylvania Resource Council to host a permanent glass recycling facility in the CSVFD parking lot. The facility will be installed in the coming months.

Katie Stringent will be starting her employment as borough manager on October 18th.

A public meeting entitled Community Conversation: Park Improvements and Wayfinding is scheduled for October 20th at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Library of Castle Shannon. Please register online for in-person attendance. The meeting will be available by ZOOM for public participation. Ms. Kovach questioned if the logo for wayfinding would be discussed. Mr. Heckmann answered that exhibits will be shared for participants to consider.

Building & Grounds/Public Works – Mr. Maloney reported that Mr. Ausman will be meeting with borough engineers regarding a sanitary sewage project on Lindenwood.

Public works is awaiting bids for top dressing the borough's baseball fields at the municipal center, Riehl Park and Hamilton Park.

The crew will be out patching potholes in anticipation of winter weather and preparing for leaf removal in the parks.

Public Safety/Fire: Mr. Astor motioned to appoint Alexa Siweckyj as probationary police officer; Ms. Randazzo seconded; all in favor; motion carried. Ms. Siweckyj was a police officer in the City of Pittsburgh for several years and came highly recommended as our number one ranked candidate.

Finance: Mr. Swisher questioned expenses for announcement postcards. Ms. Miller explained the costs were for printing and mailing announcements for leaf collections and Halloween events. Mr. Swisher also noted an expense for a variance/JP Morgan ATM. Mr. Biondo responded that the cost was for Mr. Janoscsko's solicitor services for the zoning hearing board for the ATM at the fire hall.

Community Activities/Planning & Codes: Mr. Vietmeier stated that an application for the building permit for the ATM at the firehall was received.

An application for a permit was provided to potentially install a barber shop in Stoner Center.

Ms. Kovach reported that the Fall Saw Mill Run Stream Clean-up is scheduled for October 23rd. Volunteers will meet at 9 a.m. on James Street.

Library – Ms. Randazzo stated that the Love Your Library campaign wrapped up on September 30th and raised \$3,336.00.

The library has 3 Rivers Savings cards for sale for \$20.00. Each purchase provides the library with \$10.00. This card is similar to the Enjoy books.

Interviews for two library board positions will be held October 21st.

Three important members of the Carnegie Library system announced their retirement this year: Marilyn Jenkins of Allegheny County Library Association; Rebecca Serey of eiNetwork; and Mary Francis Cooper of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Ms. Randazzo saluted these ladies for their hard work and diligence and thanked them for a fabulous job.

Friends of the Library Flea Market will be held October 16th.

On October 24th at 1:00 p.m. the library will hold a "Trunk or Treat" in the back parking lot with the Halloween parade starting at 2:00 p.m. Contests are planned for costumes, literary pumpkin, and best decorated table.

MRTSA – Mr. Heckmann announced that the board welcomed Jeff Kelly as the new executive director.

Associations:

SHACOG – Mr. Oates attended the board meeting of September 16th in Moon Township. The next meeting will be the annual dinner. Mr. Swisher asked Mr. Oates if the police testing was completed through SHACOG. Mr. Oates answered yes. Mr. Swisher commented that Castle Shannon is very lucky to be hiring the number one candidate.

ACBA – Ms. Kovach noted that the election of officers will be held November 4th.

PSAB – Mr. Astor attended the conference in Erie and reported on the abundance of educational information presented regarding engineering and human resources/personnel. The conference was very well attended. Mr. Swisher asked if MS4 information was provided as many small communities are unaware of this mandate. Mr. Astor answered that although some MS4 information was provided, the borough engineers keep council well informed on this process.

Manager’s Report: Mr. Heckmann presented Resolution #702 to authorize the filing of a formal application and business plan with the RACP for a \$771,428 grant for streetscape improvements for Park Avenue, Castle Shannon Boulevard, and possibly the triangle property by Mr. Magic. Ms. Kovach motioned to adopt Resolution #702. Mr. Maloney seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mr. Heckmann also presented Resolution #703 – a concurring resolution requesting a \$300,000 grant from the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County (RAAC) for Saw Mill Run Stream Improvements. Mr. Heckmann noted that the borough has two additional grants pending for this project to reduce inflow and pollutants in Saw Mill Run for an MS4 endeavor. Mr. Swisher motioned to adopt Resolution #703. Ms. Kovach seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Ms. Randazzo motioned to approve the Service Order Authorization #253-105-21 – Phase 2 Consent Order and Agreement (COA) Tasks with Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering. Mr. Oates seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mayor: Mayor Baumgarten extended Chief Truver’s thanks for the appointment of Alexa Siweckyj.

Mayor Baumgarten also expressed his belief that the legislation to approve the use of radar for local police departments will most likely not be passed.

Solicitor’s Report – Mr. Biondo advised that the planning commission will meet on a continuing conditional use hearing for WetGo. He noted that the applicants have submitted a request to consolidate the lots. The planning commission will review this request next Monday.

Keystone Oaks: Mr. Heckmann was in contact with Janelle Filson, who is potentially planning a “Trunk or Treat” event to benefit the PFO.

Public Comment Period –

Annie Shaw, Glen Shannon Drive – submitted written questions to council regarding the urban agriculture ordinance and fees. Ms. Shaw believes the initial zoning permit of \$50.00 and \$25.00 chicken/beehive permit were too high when compared to other fees for an accessory structure. There is also a subsequent annual renewal fee of \$25.00 that is not required for other structures. The only structure that exceeds the \$75.00 is for an inground pool. Ms. Shaw stated she thought the borough’s transparency in this whole process was abysmal and a disservice to the community. Ms. Shaw asked council to repeal the last fee structure, review the fees the borough currently charges for other permits, and set the urban agriculture fees accordingly.

Mr. Heckmann noted that the biggest distinction is the risk of creating a spillover effect because of agriculture. Properly permitted, properly inspected, properly delivered on, council does not believe the current configuration of the ordinance would create any problems for neighbors. Unlike a pool that is inspected when installed, things like noise and smell are concerns not related to other structures.

Ms. Shaw stated that a pool is not as innocuous as believed. She noted that many people drain their pools, and they should install a dechlorinating filter due to MS4 regulations for draining into the city water. The chlorine kills the fish. Mr. Vietmeier stated that regarding MS4 he does issue citations to residents draining their pool water into the storm water system as opposed to the sanitary system.

The borough ordinance was created and submitted to the Allegheny County Conservation District, who receives issues reported from communities and makes recommendations for urban agriculture ordinances. Mr. Vietmeier discussed the need for frequent inspections on chicken coops. Code officials in Baldwin Borough and Bethel Park reported many complaint problems from residents due to neighboring chicken coops.

Mr. Heckmann discussed the pace of getting the ordinance passed and stated he was shocked how slow things moved at the county level. He does not believe there was any point where council did not move as quickly as the process permitted once council was permitted to take action. Ms. Kovach questioned if council could revisit and compare fees with other SHACOG communities. Mr. Vietmeier responded he will provide council with the fee structures he used as comparisons.

In summary, Mr. Heckmann thanked Ms. Shaw for her information and advised that she would receive a written response to her concerns.

Other Business – Ms. Kovach reported that at the September 22nd meeting of the Castle Shannon Revitalization Corporation John Seekings resigned as president and Lisa Goodyear was appointed as interim president. The board is awaiting a formal resignation letter from Mr. Seekings.

Mr. Maloney thanked all those who attended and supported the CSYA annual golf outing. It was a smashing success.

Following the council meeting, council recessed to executive session to discuss a legal matter.

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

Approved as presented this 25th day of October 2021.

Katie M. Stringent
Borough Manager

Mark J. Heckmann
President