

CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

February 14, 2022

The February 14, 2022, meeting of the Castle Shannon Borough Council was held in a hybrid format both virtually utilizing Zoom Meeting technology, due to an increase in cases related to the coronavirus pandemic, and in person.

The following elected officials were present: M. Heckmann; M. Randazzo; R. Astor; J. Maloney; B. Oates; D. Swisher; N. Kovach; D. Baumgarten; E. O'Malley (via Zoom). The following appointed officials were present: K. Truver, Police Chief; D. Biondo, Solicitor; P. Vietmeier, Codes Official; K. Stringent, Borough Manager; L. Miller, Assistant Manager.

Mr. Heckmann noted that the public is invited to participate via Zoom in both the first and second public comment periods.

The minutes of the January 24, 2022, 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. The public comment section was closed.

Real Estate Tax Collector: Ms. O'Malley stated that the borough's real estate tax bills were mailed last Friday.

Council Committee Reports

Public Relations/Communications: Mr. Heckmann stated that the Parks Master Plan update will be held Wednesday, March 2nd at 6:00 p.m. at the library. A registration form will be available for pre-registration for residents to appear in person. The meeting will also be available to the public to comment via Zoom. Borough Council has approved a bond issuance to fund the Parks Master Plan.

Building & Grounds/Public Works – Mr. Maloney discussed the sale of a public works vehicle that was advertised via Municibid. It was listed for \$45,500; however, the highest bid received was \$44,000. Ms. Kovach motioned to accept the bid and approve the sale. Mr. Oates seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

The public works crew has been busy with snow removal and vehicle maintenance.

The new sewer truck was given a road test last week.

Public Safety/Fire – Mr. Astor attended a SHACOG sponsored event with Bob Sutton, President of the CSVFD, and Bill Reffner Jr., Fire Chief, regarding ways to encourage local volunteer fire companies to better communicate with their borough council and political entities. This was a very timely meeting. The borough has seen an improvement in information flow from the volunteers. Both firemen found the latest information and ideas presented very informative.

Finance – Mr. Swisher reviewed the check register for January 27th with no further questions. Mr. Swisher questioned a payment for MRTSA listed as a 2021 Community Assessment, which was actually for 2022 on the February 3rd check register. On the February 11th check register, Mr. Swisher questioned an invoice for the See Click Fix annual license of \$8,000 for a 311 app. Mr. Heckmann stated that this is an annual subscription for an app that will be launched this spring. Mr. Swisher also noted an expense for a 2022 ALPR subscription for the police department.

Mr. Heckmann noted that council has approved to move forward to a bond issuance up to \$10 million. Due to interest rate fluctuations, the borough will receive \$9.6 million to underwrite the Parks Master Plan.

Community Activities/Planning and Codes – Mr. Heckmann stated staff members are meeting internally to prepare for the return of the 2022 Community Day Event and Memorial Day Parade. Ms. Stringent is doing a nice job coordinating with staff.

Ms. Kovach questioned the status of the previously discussed Creative Crawl for the downtown area. Ms. Stringent answered that this event has been postponed.

Mr. Vietmeier announced that the February 23rd variance hearing for the U-Haul at 900 Sleepy Hollow Road has been postponed to March 29th. In addition, a new Asian grocery store has opened at 300 Mt. Lebanon Blvd.

Library – Ms. Randazzo stated that the Library Board met on February 10th. Ms. Myrah is hiring a new part-time library page starting February 15th.

A limited supply of tax forms have been received and are available at the library.

The library leased a new upgraded printer.

The winter bingo reading challenge is taking place until the end of February.

The library will be closed for Presidents' Day.

Book bundles are available for sale for \$5 each, and Enjoy books are available for sale.

Programming will continue to be held virtually until the end of this month.

MRTSA – Mr. Heckmann noted that the borough paid the annual assessment/subscription, and he encouraged residents to renew their subscriptions. MRTSA provides a great service to our community.

Associations –

SHACOG – Mr. Oates will attend the February meeting in Whitehall Borough.

Ms. Stringent presented Resolution #710 to participate in the 2023 Joint Bid for Solid Waste Collection. Mr. Oates motioned to adopt Resolution #710; Ms. Kovach seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

ACBA – Ms. Kovach, Chief Truver and Mayor Baumgarten attended the annual meeting on February 5th. The event was well attended. The regular board meeting will be held March 3rd.

Manager's Report: Ms. Stringent presented a Pricing Agreement SEC Post-Issuance Compliance and Repository Services for the bond issuance through DAC Bond. Mr. Astor motioned to authorize the appropriate official to execute the agreement. Ms. Kovach seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Pursuant to PennDOT requirements, Ms. Stringent presented a Highway Occupancy Permit with the borough as the applicant on behalf of the developer for the Giant Eagle WetGo project. All of the maintenance responsibilities will belong to the developer. Ms. Randazzo motioned to authorize Ms. Stringent to execute the agreement. Mr. Maloney seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mr. Swisher motioned to approve Change Order No. 3 from Insight Pipe Contracting LLC for the 2019 Operation and Maintenance Repair Program (Connor Road and South McCully Road) for a 60- day time extension for scope of work changes associated with temporary water service coordination. Ms. Kovach seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Ms. Kovach motioned to approve Change Order No. 4 from Insight Pipe Contracting, LLC for the 2019 Operation and Maintenance Repair Program (Connor Road and South McCully Road) to adjust the contract amount based on the request for temporary water service of ten residences required for the addition of lining Maple Avenue. Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried. The change order contained an increase of \$15,055. Mr. Swisher questioned if temporary water service would be standard operating procedure for these types of projects. Ms. Stringent answered that the close proximity of the sewer line to the water line required temporary water service to residents to prevent water line damage when digging.

Ms. Stringent noted that PAWC's Spring Waterline Replacement Program will include Poplar Avenue, Lebanon Avenue, Union Street, Scott Lane, and Walnut Street. If required, Chief Truver will coordinate any road closures with PAWC.

MS4: Mr. Heckmann announced that the borough has been awarded a GEDTF grant for \$150,000 and a PA DEP Growing Greener grant for \$108,000 to help fund the Saw Mill Run Pollution Reduction Plan. Mr. Heckmann thanked Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering for applying for those grants.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Baumgarten is genuinely concerned about the country's drug epidemic. In 2021, the border patrol and DEA confiscated over six tons of fentanyl. Throughout the nation, this is affecting millions of people.

Mayor Baumgarten also noted the high rate of crimes throughout the country.

Solicitors Report: Mr. Biondo stated that Bethany Christian Services has applied for a variance on the former St. Anne School property. The zoning hearing board will be meeting March 3rd.

Public Comment: Robert Sims, Belleville Street – introduced himself as the newly elected constable for Castle Shannon. As constable, Mr. Sims will be working mostly with the local magisterial district serving paper documents. This position requires certification by the state through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. Mr. Sims was licensed in this position when he resided in

Connecticut. Mr. Sims looks forward to participating in council meetings and working with Chief Truver and the CSPD.

The public comment section was closed.

Other: Ms. Kovach questioned proposed dates for the streetscape. Ms. Stringent stated that a preconstruction meeting will be scheduled for the end of February. Construction is slated to begin in early April with substantial completion in September 2022.

Ms. Randazzo thanked Ms. Miller for completing the state report for the library.

Ms. Randazzo added to the mayor's comments regarding the drug epidemic and has recently discovered information that drugs of that magnitude are coming into this country from China with a vision toward causing destruction in our nation. The information is very disturbing.

Mr. Maloney stated that spring CSYA registrations have increased by 30 children. CSYA is planning on four girls' softball teams instead of one. The annual kick-off party/fundraiser is tentatively set for April 9th. Mr. Astor plans to discuss a possible program for a March Madness event with Mr. Maloney.

Mayor Baumgarten added to his former comments regarding the drug situation and stated that in 2021 the amount of drugs confiscated was twice the amount of 2020. In addition, the amount confiscated in 2020 was twice the amount from 2019. This is a profoundly serious problem.

The PSAB Conference will be held at the Hershey Lodge May 22-25, 2022.

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

Approved as presented this 28th day of February 2022.

Katie M. Stringent
Borough Manager

Mark J. Heckmann
President