

CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

March 28, 2022

The March 28, 2022, meeting of the Castle Shannon Borough Council was held in person.

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

The minutes of the March 14, 2022, council meeting were presented. Ms. Randazzo motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Maloney seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Public Comment – Agenda Items: Eileen O'Malley – addressed council representing residents that wish to keep the current castle logo on parts of the wayfinding signage. Ms. O'Malley stated that the castle is part of our history and should be retained. The petition in favor of keeping the castle logo had over 250 signatures from residents, business owners, people who work in the borough, members of the Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department, members of borough council, former council members, and Mayor Baumgarten. The petition also included signatures from people who used to live in the borough and visitors to the borough. Ms. O'Malley noted that at the end of the last council meeting, Mr. Heckmann stated council would be willing to compromise by retaining the castle on the fire trucks, police cars and badges, public works vehicles, the letterhead logo, the sign in council chambers, and the logo on the municipal center façade. Ms. O'Malley does not believe these are compromises since these areas/locations were not included in the logo change proposed in the beginning of the wayfinding project.

The petition is requesting a compromise that the castle logo be displayed on four major entrance signs welcoming people to Castle Shannon in addition to the large sign proposed for Route 88 by Martin Auto Gallery. The petitioners do not believe the castle logo needs to be on the street signs or on the directional signs. By combining the two logos on the wayfinding plan, the petitioners feel that this compromise would be a fair middle ground.

Ms. O'Malley continued stating that when she was talking with residents, people asked if we don't have bigger fish to fry in Castle Shannon than the logo. Her response to those people was yes; but since the fish is already on the fire, I will contest this topic to the end. Many people say that Ms. O'Malley is a lot like her father, former Mayor Tom O'Malley, and she agrees stating that the thing that she witnessed for most of her life was their passion for Castle Shannon. Her parents always wanted to make the borough a better place to live. Ms. O'Malley affirmed that she knows what their vote would be on the signage.

Ms. O'Malley asked council to take into consideration the voice of the people when voting this evening on whether to keep the castle or not. Ms. O'Malley thanked council for their time. Mr. Heckmann thanked Ms. O'Malley for her remarks. This topic will be continued in the Manager's Report later this evening.

With no further comments, the public comment section was closed.

Mr. Heckmann turned the meeting over to Mayor Baumgarten who presented a proclamation for National Library Week April 3-9, 2022. America is celebrating National Library Week including April 5th as National Library Workers' Day and the immeasurable contributions made by library workers; April 6th as National Outreach Day showing library services are not limited to their physical locations; and April 7th as Take Action for Libraries Day encouraging community support for libraries. Mayor Baumgarten encourages all residents to visit the library and explore all that they offer to help move PA Forward™. Ms. Randazzo added that the Honorary Chair of National Library Week is Molly Shannon of Saturday Night Live fame whose mother was a librarian. Part of the promotion for National Library Week is a chance to win a \$100 VISA gift card for participating in “#MyLibrary connects me to...” on the website ilovelibraries.org.

Ms. Randazzo added that National Library Week is very important because libraries do so much good for our community, and there is such a connection between strong communities having strong libraries. Our community is very fortunate to have such a wonderful library as well as the helpful staff. Ms. Randazzo was honored to recognize and introduce Heather Myrah, Library Director; Janet Montgomery, who has given many years of service on the library board; and Donna Phillips, Secretary/Treasurer for the library board. Ms. Montgomery thanked the library board members both past and present for letting her serve with them. Ms. Montgomery also thanked the library staff and added that the library is the gem of this community. Ms. Randazzo stated that Ms. Phillips and I have been learning so much from each other, and she feels blessed to work with her. Ms. Phillips stated that she truly enjoys her role on the library board and enjoys working with Ms. Randazzo. Ms. Randazzo thanked Ms. Phillips for providing free tutoring during the month of March to local students. Ms. Phillips stated that part of her intention in this effort was to inspire families and children to visit the library.

Ms. Myrah thanked the borough for supporting the library and invited everyone to a Tiny Art Show on Tuesday, April 6th from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Over seventy painting kits were supplied to patrons of the library for the event. The artwork will be on display throughout the week. Ms. Myrah noted libraries are more than just books and that the library is available 24-7 through e-resources which are funded through RAD, in addition to the tiny libraries in the borough. Residents can contact Ms. Myrah to suggest additions to the library for books, collections, etc. Last month alone, the library ordered 184 new adult books.

Mayor Baumgarten reminisced recalling the very first library board meeting and when the library building was first constructed. The library was started in 1949 by a group of Castle Shannon women led by Hazel Bost. Through many trials and tribulations throughout the years, the library has become a top flight library. Mayor Baumgarten noted that when Mt. Lebanon's library was temporarily closed, many of their patrons came to Castle Shannon and kept returning. Ms. Kovach thanked Mayor Baumgarten who spearheaded the proposal to dedicate part of the borough's real estate millage to help successfully fund the library.

Ms. Randazzo thanked the staff members of the library: Amber Morgan-Opitz - Children and Youth Services Coordinator; Donelle Mayausky – Library Assistant/Clerical; Lynn Jennings – Weekend Supervisor; Library Assistants – Erin Anderson, Maria Connell, Rebecca Enright, Lauren Metz, and Margaret Platte; and David Zivkovich – Custodian. Ms. Randazzo also publicly thanked Arla Muha, who recently resigned, but was very dedicated and served for many, many years on the library board.

Mr. Swisher spoke as former library board member and added that Ms. Muha and Ms. Montgomery were very gracious to work with, and he thanked them for their support. Mr. Heckmann thanked his colleagues on council for supporting the Parks Master Plan which has a material effect on the library with significant

changes to outdoor areas. Council gladly continues to invest in the library and thanked the library representatives for their service to the community.

Public Hearings – Mr. Heckmann recognized Fire Chief William Reffner who updated council on their training efforts. Inhouse fire schools have been well attended with an average of 13 firefighters attending. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus recertification training was completed in February. The members reviewed new Mine Safety Appliance training (provided through a PEMA grant) for gas meters. They also trained on supply line, hydrant hookups, and humat valves. The second Monday of the month was dedicated to reviewing placement scenarios for ground ladders. The team plans to focus on high rise evolutions in April by visiting the Chateauguay Apartments.

Two new firefighters have completed mode 3 of essentials of fire training, and their training should be completed this fall thereby providing two new interior fire fighters. A Hazmat technician completed forty hours of training in March.

Also in April, four fire fighters will be attending Westmoreland Fire Academy for joint training with Mt. Lebanon, Bethel Park, and Dormont. SHACOG will be hosting an engine company operations April 9th and 10th at our fire house with instructors from New York City. This training will have over 250 attendees.

Three officers will be attending the FDIC conference April 27th - 30th. This conference covers a variety of topics via workshop and classroom training.

CSVFD Open House will be May 22nd from noon to 4:00 p.m. in celebrating 100 years of service to the community of Castle Shannon. Mt. Lebanon will bring their fire prevention trailer for children. Some fire related demonstrations are planned. Everyone is invited to attend.

On the dispatching end, as of April 1st, run cars will be upgraded, adding an engine company, and a truck company to the initial first alarm. Residents will see red, green, and white vehicles arriving for initial fire/smoke responses.

Chief Reffner stated that 30% of the calls attended this year were for mutual aid to Mt. Lebanon, Whitehall, and Dormont.

Mr. Heckmann thanked Chief Reffner and CSVFD President Bob Sutton for attending.

Real Estate Tax Collector: Ms. O'Malley discussed the redistricting with Senator Wayne Fontana, who advised he advocated for keeping Castle Shannon and Baldwin Township in his district; however, his attempts were unsuccessful. Senator Fontana stated he will continue to assist residents in these districts and facilitate introductions to Senator Jim Brewster. Mr. Heckmann stated that through redistricting the borough has lost Senator Wayne Fontana as our legislator; however, State Representative Dan Miller will still be representing Castle Shannon.

Council Committee Reports

Public Relations/Communications: Mr. Heckmann advised that Community Day, Memorial Day Parade, and streetscape opening events are in the planning mode.

Building & Grounds/Public Works – Mr. Maloney stated public works will be preparing grass cutting equipment for this spring and clearing debris from the parks.

The crack sealing program was delayed due to a mechanical issue that has been resolved. After crack sealing has been completed, public works plans to schedule the cleaning of storm catch basins throughout the borough.

Public Safety/Fire – Mr. Astor reported that the one-way traffic flow change of Scott Way and Willow Avenue seems to be working well. Additional signage is being evaluated.

The streetscape construction at Willow and Poplar Avenues is continuing. There has been good cooperation between the builders and local businesses; however, there are some on-going issues with the parking location of construction vehicles.

Housekeeping items for emergency management will be presented at the next council meeting as well as an officer recognition from MRTSA.

Finance – Mr. Swisher reviewed the check registers for March 18th and March 25th and had no further questions. Mr. Astor motioned to approve the March expenditures. Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Community Activities/Planning and Codes – The Zoning Hearing Board will meet March 29th at 7:00 p.m. to consider a non-conforming use for 900 Sleepy Hollow Road for a mini mart.

The Zoning Hearing Board is also meeting April 4th at 6:00 p.m. for a non-conforming use requested by Bethany Christian Services at the former St. Anne School property. Ms. Kovach questioned what type of business is going into St. Annes that requires rezoning. Mr. Vietmeier responded this is a non-conforming use for a transitional service – not a state licensed school.

Library – Ms. Randazzo stated that the Library Board will meet on April 7th, and all programming is back to in-person. Due to covid, many things have changed; but perhaps some changes have happened in a good way as the library still offers curbside and lobby pick up services thereby making the library even bigger and better.

MRTSA – The authority took receipt of additional ambulances with the new configuration and new logo. The new ambulances are incredibly functional. Non-medical personnel can take for granted how much science and how much true medical care can happen in the back of an ambulance. Mr. Heckmann was pleased to say that our residents have the best provision of ambulance care in the state.

Mr. Heckmann noted a mailing error from MRTSA for second notices for ambulance subscriptions. Residents can call MRTSA at 412-343-5111 to verify if their subscription has been received.

MRTSA welcomed two new board members that were appointed from Green Tree Borough and Dormont Borough.

Associations –

SHACOG – Mr. Oates reported Castle Shannon hosted the March Board of Director’s Meeting this month at the municipal center. Mr. Oates and Ms. Kovach attended. The Springs Commodity bid is active at SHACOG. The solid waste collection contract is expiring and the new contract does not contain a fuel surcharge clause.

ACBA – Ms. Kovach announced that she will be attending the Spring Conference from April 7th through 10th.

Mr. Heckmann thanked Ms. Stringent for attending the PELRAS Conference in State College.

Manager’s Report: Ms. Stringent yielded her time to Mr. Heckmann for the Parks, Streetscape and Wayfinding Updates.

Parks: Mr. Heckmann stated that a hot topic on the Parks Master Plan was the installation of a turf field at Hamilton Park at a cost of \$1.5 million. The cost for installation of a stone base, underdrain and curbing (\$475,000) were included in each alternative. Ms. Kovach questioned if the field base would have to be built up for each proposal. Mr. Swisher answered yes. The projected cost for a sod surface field is under \$900,000. The proposed cost for a planted grass field is under \$600,000; however, the field would not be accessible to the public for two years in order to establish a sustainable root system. Mr. Heckmann stated that this option would disrupt the Summer Recreation Program, CSYA activities, Community Day events, and park rentals. The cost difference between turf and sod is approximately \$600,000; but the turf field allows for wet play, the ability to wear well over time, the ability to potentially drive vehicles on it, and other play related issues that may be considered.

In April of this year, council plans to move the Parks Master Plan project to the bidding stage. Mr. Swisher requested that council have the opportunity to review the engineer’s specifications before the project goes out for bid. No action was taken on the field alternatives at this time.

Streetscape: Mr. Heckmann noted that the streetscape project is in the beginning of the second week of construction. Mr. Heckmann encouraged residents to continue to patronize local businesses in the construction area. Every business is accessible. The street being functionally blocked off during construction allows patrons to park on a nearby street and still access those properties. Mr. Heckmann applauded Michael Facchiano Construction for creating ramps to the business and immediately moving construction vehicles as needed for business deliveries. Although the construction is disruptive, Mr. Heckmann again urged shoppers to support the local businesses. The streetscape project is making good progress. The first section from Poplar to Park Avenue is expected to take 4-6 weeks.

Wayfinding: Mr. Heckmann gave an in-depth discussion on the wayfinding project and presented slides of the signage project in case people are not aware of what is being contemplated and to indicate how we got to this point. The borough has funded and invested in the design process and will soon be in construction and installation of a brand-new wayfinding system throughout the borough. Wayfinding is really important. It helps our community for both its residents and its neighbors/visitors to navigate and enjoy the fact that they are seeing a community that invests in how it looks, how it is branded, and how it facilitates people’s ease of use of our community. Council has been reviewing this project for a while. The first contract was approved with our signage vendor for just under \$20,000 in April of last year by a unanimous vote of council. Council received the first designs and

began the design stages in July of 2021. The contract for bidding and construction administration (not the design) was approved for our vendor unanimously on September 13th. Once there was a design that came out of the proof, council had the first public meeting which was held October 20, 2021. That meeting was held at the library and was recorded. People can visit the borough's YouTube channel and watch the entirety of that presentation. With some edits, on March 2, 2022 the second public meeting was held. Mr. Heckmann thanked those who attended either virtually or in-person. That meeting was also held at the library and that recording is available on the YouTube channel. Mr. Heckmann said that this has been a long process because we want to make sure we are doing our diligence here, and it is intended that we will have the final approval of the design this evening.

Slides of the proposed signs were presented for gateway signs (which would welcome people from different directions traveling on Route 88), and another welcome sign for smaller entryways into the borough, i.e., from Whitehall on Grove Road, from Whitehall onto McRoberts Road, Sleepy Hollow from Mt. Lebanon, etc. What is prominently featured is a new symbol being contemplated for the borough – the stylized Celtic knot. Celtic knots have a very rich history of being communal, being friendly, being interwoven as a community, and encouraging togetherness. This is a really nice edition to a new wayfinding system which demonstrates that the borough is investing in new and interesting ways in the community. There are smaller formats of signage as well that leverage that icon and that design: directional signs to help people navigate to borough locations like the library, landmark location signs for the borough building and parks, directional signage for parking locations which do not include the icon, and street signs with a laser cutting of the knot design. This is a really nice design polish within the community to demonstrate that this is consistent, and this is woven into what we do and where we are.

Council agreed to keep the classic gold and green colors for signage. There were multiple designs provided to council from our original vendor. This design felt closest to what felt like a good celebration of our community, still embraces the history, yet also introduces some new and stylistic elements. Mr. Heckmann noted that people may have driven through towns where municipalities have made an investment in wayfinding which indicates that they want to be a destination. They want to attract new community members and new businesses. Often times, that is what is driving the motivation to making the investment.

Mr. Heckmann wants residents to understand the engagement that was received. From April 2021, council has been discussing the wayfinding system for almost one year. There have been twenty-three council meetings in that time along with three public presentations, i.e., two on the wayfinding topic with the parks plan specifically and one on the streetscape which included conversations about wayfinding. All of those presentations were uploaded onto YouTube and had over 1,400 views, which for a borough of 8,216 residents is very significant. The videos were long in duration; however, people watched and paid attention and made sure they knew what was going on. For our public meetings in person, the special presentations had over 60 attendees either in person or digitally via Zoom. Mr. Heckmann had asked Ms. Stringent about comments received from the borough relating to feedback on the presentations, which is done so that council can hear from the constituents. The borough received no comments via phone calls and no comments via form submissions and no comments at council meetings from the public on this topic.

Mr. Heckmann wanted to introduce some new information. After the last public meeting there was increasingly some interest in really understanding if there was format where the historical design of the castle would be an appropriate substitution for the Celtic knot. Mr. Heckmann noted that experts were

consulted to get their feedback. While most people believe this is just a style question, it is actually one about manufacturing and if the design change is possible. The borough has hired Keystone Ridge Designs as a subcontractor for the streetscape design. A slide showing the original design for a bike rack was displayed. The castle design was sent to the vendor, and their response was that the castle design was way too intricate for laser cutting, and the knot would look better and be more readily identifiable. The vendor stated that it would be physically impossible to create the castle image for that portion of the streetscape design plan. Ms. Stringent confirmed that the vendor stated due to the level of intricacy in the castle design, it would be too difficult to create that image in a way that could be identified and the level of design necessary for what we were attempting to do on the bike rack. Mr. Heckmann continued stating that it is important to note too that while the castle image in council chambers is very recognizable to the people in the borough, the third parties contacted who do this by trade are assessing the castle image as too “muddy”, too realistic, and too intricate. Mr. Heckmann stated the selected image should be identifiable to everyone that comes through the borough. Therefore, the use of the castle presents a structural constraint, as stated by an expert that is working on our streetscape.

In addition, a member from KMA Designs provided his feedback that the castle does not translate into a signage format. It is a muddy image and not clear visually. The castle is also not translatable at the rate of speed for transit. The sign would have to be exponentially larger to effectively read the logo which unfortunately would require a zoning change for a bigger sign. Again, even if someone would like the castle logo on signs based upon a preference, we are dealing with structural, design, and fabrication issues that we cannot circumvent. Mr. Heckmann advised that the factfinding for use of the castle was not instigated with an answer in mind; but it was initiated to have experts advise if the castle image was even possible, and this is the feedback we received. One expert and his team came to us and said that the castle image is untenable on a bike rack. Ms. Stringent added that they were looking for a high-resolution image which we do not have. Mr. Heckmann continued stating that the hard part here, and what is being proposed this evening for council to take action on, is that if you are advocating for the castle what you are going to find out is that you are advocating for a solution that, even if the vote did not pass tonight, it will not pass next time either. The reason why is that it is not technically feasible. It breaks the rules of what a signage company would be comfortable installing. We also do not question experts that do this everyday such as our engineering team and our public safety circles. We would not take something fundamental around those things and say let’s just throw caution to the wind because we like something better. We listen to our experts and embrace their opinions, certainly when there are feasibility issues.

Mr. Heckmann said that the design portion of this work cost just under \$20,000. If the vote this evening were not to pass and council did not adopt the wayfinding system, we are still going to have to adopt a wayfinding system. We have just established that the technical experts agree that we cannot use the castle in its current form. We have already shown other castle designs that were not palatable to the group, and so we are now at a point where a vote against the wayfinding system is a vote to start over, which would be all new images, all new designs, maybe a new consultant which would certainly come with additional costs. With the streetscape progress that is happening now, we would absolutely miss the necessary deadlines for the streetscape to open with the wayfinding system in place.

Therefore, we have a very attractive design in the Celtic knot that does not break the structural rules of having a manufacturer make the signs. What has been put on the table, is that for those who appreciate the castle in its current form, we asked ourselves – what is a way to preserve it but put it in a format that doesn’t break the rules of wayfinding. So, this proposal was put together, and as Ms. O’Malley

foreshadowed it with her earlier remarks, and the proposal is to pass the wayfinding system with these conditions: the castle icon would be preserved on all borough vehicles, police patches, the municipal center façade, the borough seal which is on the borough letterhead, and the sign in council chambers. The castle logo would be preserved digitally on the header and footer of the borough website. The volunteer fire department will continue to embrace their image of the castle, as they should, as it is a wonderful history to preserve. Staff apparel will continue to display the castle.

Mr. Heckmann added that people should think about the context in which people see the castle logo, and the above locations suggested for the image are highly visible. Every time you see one of our people working, when you see people at our facilities, if anyone visits our website online, you are going to see that castle, and it is because we want you to see it. We want you to embrace it. We want it to be celebrated as part of our history. We are just up against a structural impediment for wayfinding that we cannot get around using a hyper-realistic, muddy, very busy logo. The intention this evening is for a council member to make a motion to approve the wayfinding system as designed in the power point with the provisions listed above for retaining the castle to celebrate the legacy of that image throughout the borough.

Mr. Heckmann stated this is a hot button issue and opened the conversation up to his colleagues to comment.

Mr. Swisher stated that no one who wants to keep the castle cares about what image can fit on the bike racks. That is a tiny little area. The issue is the big signs entering into the borough plus the one downtown across from Martins. There is no reason that the signs cannot be exactly what was presented with the castle logo on the left by sliding everything over to the right. It would be very simple, and we have never seen that option. Mr. Heckmann responded that there are impediments to that. This is not an opinion question. This is a question of whether someone can fabricate a sign that merges that logo.

Ms. Kovach stated that Mr. Heckmann is talking about the laser cut, that the sign company cannot fabricate a laser cut. Mr. Oates stated that the design for the Celtic knot was the only design presented. Mr. Heckmann confirmed that the laser cutting is related to the bike rack, which is an example of a structural impediment, however the feedback from experts reported that muddiness and visibility of the castle logo are also drawbacks. Mr. Oates stated that it is only because we do not have a high-resolution image of the castle. Mr. Heckmann responded that the current image is as high-resolution as we could get. Mr. Oates stated that we never tried to have someone recreate the image.

Mr. Heckmann reiterated that the castle image is not visible at high speed. Ms. Kovach added that no image is visible at high speed, and people should watch their driving. Mr. Heckmann stated the question is do we want to listen to experts or not. If we choose not to, then there is a whole host of other items that the borough votes on at our meetings that we are also saying we just don't trust the people that do this every day; and we are throwing this asunder basically for an opinion of people who do not do this type of work. So, when are we going to be honest about practitioners flagging structural constraints.

Mr. Swisher stated that he does not believe the designer was ever instructed to place a castle on the left side and sliding the lettering over – period. Let's see how it looks versus what is being proposed. Mr. Heckmann answered that the gentleman does not need to see it with the logo on the left and the language on the right because the constraints are still there. It doesn't matter about the configuration.

The configuration is independent of the feedback that the castle design is not capable. Mr. Swisher disagreed and said he is not buying it. Mr. Heckmann responded saying you don't have to buy it because this is what an expert tells us. Mr. Heckmann noted that the vote to hire a design company was approved by a unanimous vote of council.

Ms. Kovach noted that she often questions other vendors often on what they have presented, so she does not think it is unusual to question experts. She knows many graphic designers. If we requested from the company what we want to see, they will come up with a design even if they do not think it is exactly what they like. A design company should at least present the castle option for us to see. We have never seen this.

Mr. Heckmann declared that this company takes pride in their work and does this every day. These folks aren't graphic designers. They fabricate wayfinding systems and design them. Ms. Kovach suggested that perhaps they need a graphic designer on their team. Mr. Heckmann confirmed that they do have graphic designers on their team, but that is the next level up of sophistication. He would be the first to say that if we wanted to pay a graphic designer to recreate the castle logo in a higher definition logo, we can do that. It does not make it a less muddy design for this purpose.

Mr. Swisher suggested reviewing a castle option that was submitted with a shadow on it. Mr. Heckmann displayed the requested image and noted council had asked the designer to create a signage with a knot and castle upon Mr. Swisher's request. There are sixteen renderings with this type of castle. The feedback received was that people do not want a new castle and wanted to retain the original image. Feedback also included the comments that the new castle design was said to look like it came from a miniature golf course, and "that is not our castle." If council wanted to make a motion to approve this new castle design, Mr. Heckmann believes the motion would fail.

Mr. Swisher again suggested using a castle design placed to the left of the lettering on the major signs. Mr. Heckmann answered that configuration still does not address the feedback. Ms. O'Malley questioned who created the rendering of the alternative castle. Mr. Heckmann answered it was our same vendor, KMA Designs. Mr. Heckmann also said that if council wants to scrap the investment made and lose the timing for streetscape installation, a vote against the wayfinding design is a vote to spend another \$20,000 to do it again. That is not something Mr. Heckmann is willing to do especially when the public strongly resonated and strongly enjoys the design direction we have.

Ms. Kovach stated that she strongly disagrees that the public strongly approves the knot design. This is based on the feedback she receives from people in general, i.e., citizens, friends, and neighbors. Mr. Swisher noted that Ms. O'Malley has hundreds of signatures on a petition to keep the castle logo. Mr. Heckmann responded that there have been thousands of views on the videos, and the borough has received no negative feedback. Mr. Heckmann would like to see the petition. Ms. Kovach said that just because someone viewed the video does not mean they liked it. Mr. Heckmann believes that if someone disliked the design they would have responded accordingly. Mr. Oates answered that we are hearing from them now. Mr. Heckmann asked if anyone at this meeting signed the petition. Several council members answered yes.

Mr. Oates said that only one version of the signage design was presented on the YouTube video. Other design options were not presented. Mr. Heckmann stated that at the one meeting both a castle version and a Celtic knot version were presented. Ms. Kovach said that an acceptable castle image was not

presented. Mr. Heckmann said that if you were at the meeting, you will agree that a castle was presented that was the same rendering as he displayed this evening.

Mr. Swisher stated that the knot was taken off and replaced with a small castle image. That is no compromise. Mr. Heckmann displayed additional slides of sign images and added the reason why the image is so small is because it had to be the same scale. Enlarging the image would require the sign size to be to be exponentially enlarged. The same rendering of the castle is the same dimension to the pixels as the design at the bottom. Ms. O'Malley noted the signs could be wider by not having the knot on the top or bottom and increasing the size of the castle logo. Mr. Heckmann answered the question remains of whether we can increase the size of the castle so significantly that it would pass the muster of people who design wayfinding systems. The experts say you cannot do it. Ms. O'Malley responded that it is not up to the vendor to make that decision. Mr. Heckmann questioned whether it is up to our engineers to decide how to build sewers. Council has to trust the opinions of experts.

Ms. Kovach stated that the vendor builds the signs but doesn't necessarily build the design. Council has to approve the design. Mr. Heckmann answered that council does have to approve it, however if we do not hire experts, then we are giving up on expertise. Ms. Kovach disagrees.

Mr. Oates questioned whether KMA Designs was asked to recreate the original castle. Mr. Heckmann responded they were presented with the highest resolution castle image available in a jpeg format and asked if the logo could be made into a workable sign. Mr. Oates stated the image would need to be created in a format that can be scaled. Mr. Heckmann said that KMA received the original logo image which was sufficient resolution to decide if it would or would not be suitable for wayfinding signage. Mr. Oates added that no one was ever asked to recreate that image in a format that could be used. Mr. Heckmann answered that the question is did we pay them to recreate the castle image in a scalable format beyond what was provided to them, and the answer is - we did not pay them to do that because we can trust their discretion as designers to say that even if we paid them additional money to invest hours in recreating the castle, it would be money wasted. Mr. Heckmann added that spending \$20,000 to start over would be wasting public dollars.

Ms. Kovach stated that the borough spent dollars in engineering fees to start over on the streetscape that was designed a number of years ago. She believes Mr. Heckmann's point of spending additional funds to create an acceptable castle logo is a shallow argument.

Mr. Swisher discussed the lettering on the signage and again suggesting putting the castle on the proposed style of sign. Mr. Heckmann reiterated that the experts agree that the castle image is not a viable option. Mr. Swisher disagrees and has worked with architects and designers that say they are willing to provide anything the customer wants. Mr. Heckmann noted that none of these contractors were proficient in building wayfinding systems.

Mr. Heckmann declared that he is not in favor of starting over or paying more money to start over. He is not in favor of missing the deadline for the streetscape. The proposed compromises of retaining the castle logo are reasonable ways of celebrating and preserving the borough's history. If council would not like to accept the compromises, that is their prerogative; however, Mr. Heckmann stated that this is his comfort level because he wants the castle to be here and to preserve the history. Mr. Swisher added, however, that Mr. Heckmann does not want the castle on the \$100,000 being spent on the signs that does not have a castle on it at all, and we can't even see a rendition of it.

Ms. Kovach stated that Mr. Heckmann has been dragging his feet on this topic for three months now. Early on, council had asked to see different proposals and to see a different image for the signs, and now council is being pressured with a deadline. Mr. Swisher does not believe there is a deadline, and signs can be installed at the end of the project. Mr. Heckmann explained that the contractor has to source the material, choose the fabricator, pick the site selections, dig the holes, check for utilities, etc.

Mr. Swisher suggesting having three separate votes for approval: 1) for the entrance/gateway signs; 2) for directional signs; and 3) for street signs. Mr. Heckmann replied that Mr. Swisher is welcome to make the motion; however, this is a wayfinding system and is not intended to have different signs and pictures at different signage locations. Mr. Swisher made the motion to split the vote for approval of the wayfinding system into three sections based on signage type and location. Ms. Kovach seconded. Mr. Heckmann stated a yes vote would be in favor of dividing the wayfinding approvals; and a no vote for considering the wayfinding system as a whole program. Mr. Swisher asked for a roll call vote on his motion: J. Maloney – no; R. Astor – no; N. Kovach - yes; W. Oates – yes; M. Randazzo – no; D. Swisher – yes; M. Heckmann – no. Mr. Heckmann noted that results were four votes against and three votes in favor. Motion did not pass.

Mr. Heckmann asked for a motion to approve the wayfinding system completely by accepting the design as proposed for the whole wayfinding system and to preserve the castle logo in these locations: borough vehicles, police patches, the municipal center façade, the borough seal which is on the borough letterhead, the sign in council chambers, digitally on the header and footer of the borough website, the volunteer fire department, and staff apparel.

Ms. Kovach wished to amend the motion so that the current welcome signs with the castle remain in place and the wayfinding signage be limited to the streetscape. Mr. Swisher agreed that the current signs are attractive. Support to amend the motion was not received and did not pass.

Mr. Heckmann returned to the motion to approve the wayfinding system with the Celtic knot and with the logo preserved in said locations. Mr. Astor made the motion. Ms. Randazzo seconded. Mr. Heckmann asked for a roll call vote – yes to approve the wayfinding system and no against approving the wayfinding: J. Maloney – yes; R. Astor – yes; N. Kovach – no; W. Oates – no; M. Randazzo – yes; D. Swisher – no; M. Heckmann – yes. Motion passed 4-3. Mr. Heckmann stated that council can now put this chapter behind us and embrace the new image while still embracing our legacy image. Mr. Heckmann thanked everyone for their feedback on this process. Mr. Heckmann added that the approved design has changed quite a bit from the original renderings. Mr. Swisher stated that he hopes that all members of the board will be happy that this decision was made without seeing a different rendering.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Baumgarten noted that the borough (through the police department) are still dealing with fentanyl and a drug epidemic. Hundreds of thousands of people are dying from drugs coming into this county from Mexico and China. Unfortunately, Narcan is not always effective as a resuscitator. Mayor Baumgarten added that this drug epidemic is one of the biggest problems we have that has affected or will affect each and every family at some point.

Solicitor: Mr. Biondo reported that the WetGo project is still proceeding, and he has been working on finalizing the developer's agreement.

Public Comment: Paul Salvayon, Vice President of Castle Shannon Revitalization Corporation – submitted a letter to council proposing a project to raise funds to install a street clock in the downtown area, perhaps in the triangle area of Castle Shannon Boulevard/Willow Avenue/Park Avenue. The CSRC will work with the borough to provide a suitable site location with a power source. The clock will be between 10-15 feet and will have four faces. Size and pricing will be determined based on site location. Ms. Kovach added that a fund was started by Kevin Brannon and David Lane several years ago to honor WWII veterans, and the CSRC plans to have the veterans’ names installed on the base of the clock. Mr. Salvayon added that the CSRC looks forward to working with the borough on future endeavors.

Brian Gigliotti, Poplar Avenue – stated that the banners are up for CSYA’s season. CSYA board members and coaches are looking forward to a good season with numerous tournaments lined up for July with additional new teams. Sign ups have increased which means more children are participating.

The CSYA Kick-off Party will be held April 9th at the fire department’s small hall. The public is welcome, and cost is \$15 at the door, which includes refreshments, food, games, and music.

Mr. Gigliotti expressed his interest in again serving as director of the borough’s summer recreation program and wants to continue to invite representatives from the library and MRTSA to visit.

Regarding the proposals for Hamilton Park’s field of turf versus sod versus grass, Mr. Gigliotti believes that turf is the best option. In 2021, numerous days were lost for summer recreation activities because the field was too wet. Use of the wet field involves risks of destroying the field surface, damaging the children’s clothes, and ruining their shoes. If a turf field were installed, activities could continue. The field could be used practically year-round, depending on weather. Mr. Gigliotti added that a turf field would be an investment for everyone, not just the youth; however, animal lovers should be aware that it is not meant to be used as a dog park.

Mr. Gigliotti addressed comments about the wayfinding signage and questioned why people are not at the meetings if they want their voice to be heard. Mr. Gigliotti has a family, volunteers for organizations, and yet makes time to attend council meetings. Residents need to come to council meetings and personally address the board with their concerns instead of making complaints to others. This is how the topics get misinterpreted. Ms. Kovach responded saying that the borough has many senior citizens who come to council members with their concerns. Many have transportation issues that prevent them from appearing in person; and even if they cannot appear in person, they still have a voice. Mr. Gigliotti thinks the new wayfinding signage design is a great idea and asserted that the castle logo is not going to go away.

Mr. Swisher asked Mr. Gigliotti if there would be enough use for a \$1.5 million investment in Hamilton Park Field. Mr. Gigliotti said the turf field would allow for additional CSYA teams to utilize the field, and local tournaments would increase patrons for local businesses. CSYA advertises all of their sponsors through banners and the television in the CSYA room. Many organizations from other areas are seeking field time for games and practices. Mr. Gigliotti noted that Peters Township’s and Mt. Lebanon’s turf fields are in high demand. Mr. Maloney added that Pleasant Hills has the same type of turf field that is being proposed; and it is so busy that you cannot buy time on the field.

Mr. Gigliotti thanked everyone on council for their time. Being no further comments, the public comment section was closed.

Other:

Ms. Kovach asked about the 311 app for See/Click/Fix. Ms. Stringent replied that the program is in the final development stage and will be going live in late April/early May. Ms. Kovach noted that the original investment was \$3,600 and believes the date we started on this program was June 30, 2021; however, we have already been billed \$8,000 for 2022, and the system is not in operation. Ms. Stringent replied the cost is for the licenses, and staff is practicing on the software now. Mr. Heckmann stated that staff is going through training and the app needs to be in development at that time for staff to make changes. Mr. Heckmann added that the new manager search took precedence in 2021 that delayed the progression of this project. When Ms. Stringent was hired, the app was almost fully configured; however, staff was not trained, and the marketing group behind it wasn't developed. In addition, the program needed to be sent to the app store to complete the process of approval for Android and iOS.

Mr. Heckmann ended by saying that 98% of the work that council undertakes involves no disagreement, and he takes no enjoyment in harder topics that create uncomfortable conversations. As Mr. Gigliotti alluded, this debate, like similar ones previously held (for instance removing parking spaces on Willow Avenue), always has the issue of what the intent is and what is talked about that can balloon into a life of its own. Mr. Heckmann thanked everyone here and everyone who disagreed this evening because he would rather see people caring and taking time to sign a petition and show up at the public library meeting. That is better for us than an empty boardroom. Mr. Heckmann stated that one could argue that this meeting was real government, and we should be pleased about it, and we should file it away because we are OK. Whatever side you are on, we are OK, and the community is going to be fantastic.

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

Approved as presented this 11th day of April 2022.

Katie M. Stringent
Borough Manager

Mark J. Heckmann
Council President