**CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

January 9, 2023

The following elected officials were present: M. Heckmann; J. Maloney; R. Astor; N. Kovach; W. Oates; M. Randazzo; D. Swisher; D. Baumgarten; E. O’Malley. The following appointed officials were present: K. Truver, Police Chief; P. Vietmeier, Codes Official; D. Biondo, Solicitor. Borough Manager K. Stringent and Junior Council Member C. Aziner were absent.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the December 12, 2022 council meeting were presented. Ms. Kovach motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. Randazzo seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

**Public Comment – Agenda Items:** No comments were received; therefore, the public comment section was closed.

**Council Committee Reports**

**Buildings & Grounds/Public Works** – Mr. Maloney reported that the public works department is conducting preliminary sewer work for this year’s Hamilton Park renovation project.

The crew has been patching potholes and preparing for the next winter storm.

**Public Safety/Fire** – Mr. Astor presented the December Incident Call Report from the Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department. There were thirty-six total calls, many of which were related to broken pipes from the cold weather. Estimated damages to residences and businesses is $100,000.

The CSVFD members participated in annual hydraulic training along with Dormont and Mt. Lebanon fire departments.

Chief Truver presented the Annual Certification Report for the Equitable Sharing Agreement. Mr. Astor motioned to authorize the appropriate officials to execute the document. Mr. Maloney seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mr. Heckmann stated that the MRTSA board was questioning whether police departments would return to being first responders on med calls. During COVID, the police departments yielded to MRTSA on non-emergency calls. Chief Truver answered that the police department triages those calls and responds to emergencies regarding life safety.

**Finance** – Mr. Swisher reviewed the check registers for December 16th and 30th and had no further questions. Mr. Heckmann thanked Mr. Swisher for his review.

**Community Activities/Planning and Codes** – Mr. Vietmeier reported that Christina Morrow has been sending out registration renewals for rental units, portable signs, and amusement permits.

**Library –** Ms. Randazzo stated that the library board met last week. Terms for board members Diane Fabry and Donece Janiak were renewed. Ms. Amber attended to discuss the children’s programming.

Ms. Randazzo was proud to announce that the library achieved Gold Star Status from PA Forward for promoting literacy in our community.

Our library is partnering with ACLA and Keystone Oaks along with Dormont and Green Tree public libraries on an initiative to ensure that every student in our school district receives a library card. The library card allows students to check out material from any library in the county.

**MRTSA** – Executive Director Jeff Kelly has moved on from his employment position. Operation Chief Worth is doing great work and assisting in this interim.

**SHACOG** – Mr. Oates plans to attend the board meeting at Baldwin Borough.

**ALOM** – Ms. Kovach and Mr. Astor plans to attend the legislative reception on January 19th.

**ACBA** – The annual banquet is scheduled for February 4th.

**Manager:** Mr. Heckmann presented Ordinance #934 amending the borough’s traffic ordinance prohibiting vehicles from making a left turn from Grove Road to enter the driveway of 3423 Library Road and prohibiting traffic exiting the driveway of 3423 Library Road from making a left turn onto Grove Road. A traffic study was completed recommending these turning restrictions for vehicles entering/exiting the St. Vincent DePaul property. Mr. Heckmann opened the public hearing on Ordinance #934. No comments were received; therefore, the public hearing was closed. Mr. Oates motion to adopt Ordinance #934. Mr. Maloney seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

The agenda contained an authorization to file a property tax exemption for property that was donated to the borough, i.e., lot and block 140-R-166 on Sleepy Hollow Road. Ms. Kovach motioned to authorize the appropriate officials to execute and file the document. Ms. Kovach seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

**Mayor’s Report:** Mayor Baumgarten commended both the public works department and police departments for being out in the community and working throughout the recent frigid temperatures experienced in the latest winter storm. Mayor Baumgarten continues to get favorable comments from non-residents regarding the well-maintained roadways in the winter in Castle Shannon. Mr. Heckmann added his thanks to the fire department volunteers who assisted residents and businesses during this storm event.

**Planning Commission:** The agenda contained the minutes of the September 29, 2022 meeting.

**Public Comment:** Bryan Gigliotti, Poplar Avenue – commented that as a resident, he feels that the holiday decorations in the downtown area looked very nice, festive, and well-lit this year. He also commented that the public works crew is fantastic, and they are doing a great job on winter road maintenance.

As Director of the Summer Recreation Program, Mr. Gigliotti has been in contact with Ms. Stringent regarding the 2023 program. The venue will most likely be Riehl Park due to the impending renovation of Hamilton Park this year. Some challenges with the venue are being discussed with the borough manager.

CSYA registration has opened as of January 1st and 65 registrations have been received. Information is available on PeachJar and Facebook. April 1st is the Kick-Off Event at the fire hall starting at 6 pm. Mr. Gigliotti suggested exploring library participation at CSYA events and during the summer recreation program.

The CSYA Golf Outing will be held the first weekend in October at Butler’s Golf Course. The CSYA board is looking for greater participation. More information on this event will be available in March.

Mr. Heckmann closed the public comment section.

**Other Business**: Ms. Kovach questioned the status of the street signs in the downtown area. Mr. Heckmann explained that PennDOT changed their requirements for signage districts. Breakaway poles and sign face reflectivity are required. These changes can be completed with a change order at a cost of approximately $5,000. Other PennDOT requirements for their right-of-way may require minor sign relocations with off-premises permits. New signage installation is estimated at 60 days.

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

Approved as presented this 23rd day of January 2023.

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Katie M. Stringent Mark J. Heckmann

Borough Manager Council President