**CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

March 27, 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. Stringent, Borough Manager; K. Truver, Police Chief; P. Vietmeier, Codes Official; D. Biondo, Solicitor.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the March 13, 2023 council meeting were presented. Mr. Astor 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. Heckmann announced that the borough was awarded two grants. Ms. Stringent reported that the borough received a Local Share Grant through the Commonwealth Financing Authority for $215,000 for Phase II of the Wayfinding Project for street signs, park signs, and entryway signs. These expenditures were previously budgeted as part of the bond issuance, and there is no match for the grant.

Ms. Stringent explained that the borough also received a $159,000 multimodal grant through the DCED Commonwealth Financing Authority for improvements on the Smith Street Bridge and Sleepy Hollow sidewalks. The original application requested $359,000. The opinion of probable costs will be reviewed to determine the scope for this grant. The grant does not require a funding match by the borough.

Ms. Stringent thanked Representative Miller’s office for sending letters of support for these two grants, and she noted that the borough is in excess of $750,000 in grant awards that will offset expenditures that were part of the bond issue.

Mr. Maloney reported that the public works crew has been removing items from lower Hamilton Park in preparation for the park renovation this year.

Mr. Maloney also reported that there was a sewer issue on Lindenwood Drive.

**Public Safety** – Fire Chief Bill Reffner presented the incident report for March. The CSVFD responded to sixteen calls – eleven were in Castle Shannon. A notable incident occurred on March 22nd where the firemen were dispatched to McCully Road for smoke in a basement at a group home due to a bad ballast in a light fixture.

In-house fire training was held on March 13th for self-contained breathing apparatus and March 20th for the annual certified hazardous awareness class through CCAC. Both classes were well attended with an average of 16 members participating in both courses.

One firefighter has started Mod 3 of the Essentials of Firefighting, and four people were interviewed for new membership: 1 associate member, 1 junior firefighter, and 2 interior firefighters.

Chief Reffner noted that the spring newsletter will contain an article offering a free smoke detector to residents (through a Columbia Gas grant) with free installation being offered by a member of the fire department.

Chief Truver stated that the police department is very close to receiving accreditation status. Lt. Lane attended the law enforcement accreditation conference. A virtual mock assessment was held with good results, and actual assessors will be visiting the agency the first week in May.

Chief Truver announced that the intersection of Grove Road at Willow Avenue will be closed this weekend for LRT repairs from Friday at 11 pm to Saturday at 11 pm.

Mr. Heckmann presented Resolution #727 to establish a fee for review and disclosure of audio and visual recordings made by the borough’s police department for future requests. Mr. Astor motioned to adopt Resolution #727. Ms. Kovach seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

**Finance:** Mr. Swisher reviewed the check registers for March 3rd and March 16th and had no further questions. Mr. Swisher also reviewed the check registers for March 17th and March 24th and noted payments to the Bank of New York for $750 on each register. Ms. Stringent explained that the expenditures were for fiscal agent fees for borough bonds. Ms. Randazzo motioned to approve the check registers for March. Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

**Community Activities/Planning and Codes** – Mr. Vietmeier reported that three new businesses were presented to the planning commission at the March 20th meeting as follows. John Leonard would like to open a shop at 3744 Willow Avenue that re-purposes old wood and could offer paint classes. Truitt Miller submitted a request to open an indoor golf simulator at 1116 Castle Shannon Boulevard. Edward Thimons discussed the feasibility of opening a laundromat at 325 Mt. Lebanon Blvd.

**Library –** Ms. Randazzo encouraged residents to visit the library’s website and Facebook pages to explore the many programs and activities available.

This evening the Dress for Success mobile unit is at the library to provide free clothing, accessories, and personal care items to women, in addition to providing assistance with a resume or interviewing.

An interesting Pittsburgh presentation by local author Edward Bonner is scheduled for April 3rd at 7 pm.

Friends of the Library Flea Market will be held April 15th from 9 am to 2 pm.

A library satisfaction survey is available on their website to obtain ideas to engage patrons, strengthen the community, and obtain ideas for programs.

**MRTSA** – Mr. Swisher stated that numerous personnel issues are being resolved.

**SHACOG** – Mr. Oates attended the Board of Directors Meeting in Heidelberg. Spring commodities bids were discussed. In addition, the 2023 SHACOG Joint Police Test will be held Saturday, May 13th. The April board meeting will be held in South Fayette where Mark Patrick will discuss the creation of a redevelopment authority.

**PSAB** – Ms. Kovach presented the PSAB Advocacy Action Alert 2023 Update. The legislative priorities are:

1) to raise compensation schedules and rates for elected officials which have not been raised in over 25 years

2) amend Section 1141 of the Borough Code to add the ability of council to appoint a person, partnership, association, or corporation as the borough manager

3) correct unintended consequences in the Right-to-Know Law including allowing boroughs to charge for commercial requests; allowing a 10-day response time; clarifying that bank numbers and passwords are private; and seeking relief from burdensome requests

4) allowing the option for municipalities to electronically publish meeting notices on the website to comply with the Sunshine Law

5) amend the PA State Highway Law to mandate PennDOT maintain all stormwater infrastructure servicing state roads in borough communities

6) supporting legislation to allow boroughs to assess fees for stormwater management activities without the need to establish a municipal authority

7) allow the use of radar by municipal police and other speed timing technology

8) amend the Prevailing Wage Law to exempt roadway milling maintenance on local roads

9) remove the Civil Service mandates when hiring borough police officers

10) reform the policemen and firemen collective bargaining-Act 111-and split the cost of arbitration between parties to level the playing field in contract negotiations

Mr. Heckmann thanked Ms. Kovach for her report.

**Manager:** Ms. Stringent presented a discussion on the 2023 roadway improvement program. Thirty-one roads were reviewed and cross-referenced with the borough’s last Roadbotics report. Ms. Stringent proposed that the capital projects program ($250,000) include sections of Maplewood Drive, Lindenwood Drive, and Waverly Street. Ms. Stringent also proposed that the liquid fuels program ($226,000) include sections of Broadway Avenue, Highland Villa Drive, and Magnolia Drive. All sections have not been repaved in over ten years.

In order to seek economies of scale and potential cost savings, the repaving part of the park plan will be bid at this time. This includes library parking lot line striping for ADA parking, lower Hamilton parking lot, pickleball/tennis courts, and basketball courts.

Mr. Maloney motioned to authorize the preparation of bid packages for the 2023 Capital Projects Roadway Improvement Program, the 2023 Liquid Fuels Roadway Improvement Program, and the Parks Improvements as listed above. Mr. Swisher seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Ms. Stringent stated that PA American Water has budgeted $3.7 million in water line improvements and will be working on Glen Shannon Drive, Kerry Hill Drive, Hoodridge Drive, James Street, Willow Avenue, Castle Shannon Blvd., and Corbett Drive. Columbia Gas will also be working on Willow Avenue from Connor Road to the T Station. These utilities companies will be responsible for road restoration. Brick road restoration is being completed on Poplar Avenue, and Castle Road is currently waiting for road restoration from a utility project last year.

Ms. Kovach motioned to award the sale of a 2013 Ford F450 Dump Truck for $33,910 as listed on Municibid. Mr. Maloney seconded; all in favor; motion carried. Mr. Heckmann noted that on sales through Municibid, the buyer pays the fees.

Mr. Astor motioned to approve the Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department Warehouse Sublease Renewal with Christopher J. Pfanstiel Holdings, Inc DBA Koala Insulation of Pittsburgh. Mr. Oates seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Ms. Randazzo motioned to ratify the Municipal Building Cleaning Services Contract with Coverall of Pittsburgh, subject to a completed background check of personnel on property. Mr. Maloney seconded; all in favor; motion carried. Ms. Stringent thanked the public works department for providing cleaning services in the interim. Ms. Kovach questioned if other cleaning companies were considered. Ms. Stringent discussed cleaning services with other companies and was most pleased with Coverall’s performance and services.

**Mayor’s Report:** Mayor Baumgarten noted that legislation for local police use of radar never seems to get passed by the House of Representatives.

The Mayor was pleased to see several recent newspaper articles to make the public aware of the dangers of fentanyl. This drug is now being mixed with cocaine and is extremely dangerous.

**Planning Commission:** The agenda contained the minutes of the December 19, 2022 meeting.

**Public Comment:** Raymond Earnest Marsh, Greenbriar Court, South Park – related an incident wherein his minivan rear-ended another vehicle in the tunnel of the Mr. Magic Car Wash on Castle Shannon Boulevard. Mr. Marsh believes the collision occurred due to the fault of an employee at Mr. Magic and requested that the borough start tracking vehicle incidents at this business. Mr. Marsh believes that someone altered the resolution and removed audio from the video recording of his accident at this business. On February 27th, Mr. Marsh reported the incident to a Castle Shannon police officer and has requested a copy of this video. Mr. Marsh reiterated that he would like the borough to track accidents at this establishment.

David Seiler, Arch Avenue – asked that the following statement be part of the minutes in its entirety.

“I’ve been a resident of Castle Shannon for over 40 years. I submitted my petition to the county to be placed on the ballot for the upcoming primary election in May. I unintentionally overlooked submitting a form to the borough. Subsequently, a challenge to my petition was filed by another potential candidate. A hearing was held, and the challenge was upheld. Perhaps a better way to have handled this situation would have been to confirm that all of the new candidates were made aware of and understood the entire filing process. My objective was to give back to the borough that I have lived in for two-thirds of my life. All I wanted to do is to serve on council. I have currently been denied this opportunity, as well as the residents of Castle Shannon being denied a choice of candidates.”

Bryan Gigliotti, Poplar Avenue – announced that the Castle Shannon Youth Association Kick-Off Party will be on April 1st. Over 100 people have responded to attend.

Summer Recreation Program sign-ups will be held May 13th from 10 am to noon at the Castle Shannon Municipal Center and Community Library of Castle Shannon. Information will be posted on social media sites. Opportunities are available for counselor-in-training and counselor positions for high school students.

Castle Shannon Youth Association practices will start April 1st. The organization is planning an opening day event in late April.

Mr. Heckmann closed the public comment section.

**Other Business**: Nothing to report.

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

Approved as presented this 10th day of April 2023.

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Katie M. Stringent Mark J. Heckmann

Borough Manager Council President