

**CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

June 12, 2023

The following elected officials were present: J. Maloney; R. Astor; N. Kovach; B. Oates; M. Randazzo; D. Baumgarten; E. O'Malley. Council President M. Heckmann and Council Member D. Swisher were absent. The following appointed officials were present: K. Truver, Police Chief; P. Vietmeier, Codes Official; D. Biondo, Solicitor.

Minutes: The minutes of the May 22, 2023 council meeting were presented. Ms. Randazzo motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Oates seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

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

Civil Service Commission: The agenda contained the certified entry level police test results.

Real Estate Tax Collector: Ms. O'Malley reported May collections of \$65,752.35. The year-to-date total collected is \$3,536,504.25. Ms. O'Malley announced that the next due date for real estate taxes at face amount is June 15th.

Council Committee Reports

Building & Grounds/Public Works – Mr. Maloney stated that sod was laid at the library today, and shade sails are to be installed.

Chestnut Park also had sod installed; however, some cracked concrete in the pavilion area will need replaced. Boulders will be installed along the outside of the park.

Construction work on Prospect Park should be completed this week.

Duquesne Light was to de-energize Hamilton Park, which has held up demolition of the current buildings in Lower Hamilton Park.

Public Safety/Fire: Mr. Astor reported that the Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department responded to 22 calls through May 23rd. Seventeen of the calls were in our borough with one call in Baldwin Township. Two calls were for mutual aid.

CSVFD member training continues to maintain the high state of readiness for responses.

Chief Truver stated that SHACOG tested for entry level police officers on May 13th for several municipalities. The written exams results were received, and oral boards were offered to three candidates on June 3rd. The list was certified by the Civil Service Commission. Ms. Kovach motioned to authorize the appropriate borough officials to make a conditional offer of employment to recommended entry level police officer candidate Gavin Rebholz. The

conditions are based on passing a background investigation, physical and psychological exam, the state certification exam for Act 120, and obtain an MPOETC certification number by the end of July. Mr. Astor seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

Chief Truver requested a motion to set market values and sell two surplus police vehicles to another local government. Mr. Astor motioned to set the market value for surplus police vehicles #71 (2017 Ford Explorer) and #74 (2017 Ford Taurus) at \$16,500 and \$15,000 respectively and to sell said vehicles to Greensburg City if approved by their local government. Ms. Randazzo seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

Finance: Ms. Kovach reviewed the check registers and had no further comments.

Community Activities/Planning and Codes – Mr. Vietmeier reported that the Planning Commission will be meeting next week for a change in use at 1003 Castle Shannon Boulevard. The new business is owned by Lorrie Ober and will be a vintage home décor resale shop.

Library – Ms. Randazzo reported that the library board, staff, and patrons are very excited about the library renovations and look forward to having the shade sails in the front yard for people to be able to read outside and enjoy the weather.

The Board of Trustees met on June 1st. The board updated and approved the mission and vision statement. This was the last meeting for this school year, and meetings will resume in September.

Ms. Myrah, Library Director, has received a grant through ACLA (Allegheny County Library Association) for a communities' award that will assist in purchasing materials for a display of different cultures, languages, and customs. This will fit in well with our immigrant community in Castle Shannon. The total grant awarded was \$3,050.00.

The library staff will have a table at the Castle Shannon Community Fair on Saturday, July 29th from 4 pm to 9 pm. and will be sharing information and programs.

SHACOG – Mr. Oates plans to attend the Board of Directors meeting on June 15th at Elizabeth Township.

PSAB - Ms. Kovach attended the annual conference in Hershey. A briefing was held with representatives from PennDOT, DCED, DCNR, DEP agencies. Governor Shapiro has emphasized putting more funding towards those programs. The process for PennDOT permits is being streamlined to expedite project completions. Sessions were also held on electric vehicles, a summary of initiatives in Pennsylvania with a focus on incentives available for municipalities, and legislative updates from the PSAB lobbyists. PSAB is looking for increased funding for fire departments and emergency services.

Congratulations to Mark O'Brien of Bethel Park who received the Outstanding Council Member of the Year award at the conference.

Manager: Mr. Maloney stated that the borough's former manager has resigned, and council members have reviewed proposals from two firms for interim management services. Ms. Kovach motioned to authorize the appropriate officials to enter into a contract for Interim Management Services with Strategic Solutions LLC and to appoint John K. Trant Jr. as Interim Manager. Ms. Randazzo seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

Mr. Astor motioned to approve Change Order #2 for Contract No. 23-PK1 (Phase I Library Improvements) for exposed aggregate concrete in the sitting area in the front of the library in lieu of plan concrete. The change order increases the costs of \$3,700.00. Ms. Randazzo added that this change was the recommendation of the borough engineer. Ms. Randazzo seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

Mr. Oates motioned to approve a Service Order Authorization for a sanitary sewer extension on Frank Street. Mr. Astor seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Mr. Astor motioned to adopt Resolution #730 to apply for an ALCOSAN GROW grant for the 2023 Killarney and Hamilton Operation and Maintenance Repairs. Mr. Astor noted that the borough has committed funding for the program, and funding received would offset the borough's costs. Mr. Oates seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

MS4: Mr. Astor reported that the contractor is working on the pollution reduction project on Saw Mill Run, and completion is expected in the next two weeks.

Public Comment:

Jerry Coombs, Belleville Street – wanted to recognize Castle Shannon police officers Lt. Lane and Officer Platt for assisting with pedestrian access on the bottom of Grove Road where the pedestrian sign was completely covered by a tree.

Mr. Coombs made a personal request for something in writing from the borough's lawyers as to how and why the new logo is not a violation of the separation of state and church, and why it is not a religious or spiritual symbol. Mr. Coombs disagrees with this new logo going up throughout the borough. All information he has researched indicates that the new symbol is a Celtic knot, which is religious and spiritual.

John Forest Little, Willow Avenue – stated he is a new resident to Castle Shannon and appreciates the beautiful downtown renovation and the good school district. Mr. Little explained that he purchased his home remotely and loves his beautiful brick home; however, the trolley tracks run behind his home. Perhaps there was no noise study completed when the homes were built in the 1950's, and now there are three different lines running both directions. From a decibel reading standpoint, there are two or three sections of tracks or joints that are disturbing. Mr. Little researched Liberty Tire Recycling that can produce a product from recycled tires that may be able to be applied to the tracks for noise reduction. Mr. Biondo advised that unless borough property is involved, the borough could not make a change to the tracks; however, council could contact the PRT. Mr. Little will direct correspondence about his research to Mr. John Trant, Interim Manager about the situation and/or suggested resolution.

Richard Goff, Killarney Drive – stated that he has been remiss in not attending council meeting but may start coming more often, particularly because of the new logo. Mr. Goff does not like the new Celtic knot logo and does not know how it came about or whose idea it was. Mr. Goff wondered why council would take a castle logo that is recognizable and honorable and change to a squiggle. Mr. Goff noted that the castle logo in council chambers looks great on the wall and should be on the signage driving through Castle Shannon.

Jerry Coombs – discussed the vandalism of mail boxes at the Castle Shannon Post Office and added that he was one of the victims of fraud. Ms. Randazzo added that she too was a victim from this incident and believes the post office should have advised the mail carriers to inform residents of this crime. Mr. Coombs noted that the design and placement of the mail boxes at the post office have changed to prevent future incidents.

Mr. Maloney closed the public comment section.

Other Business: Ms. Randazzo took a minute to recognize Ms. Amber from the library who was instrumental in assisting with writing the ACLA grant that was approved.

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

Approved as presented this 26th day of June 2023.

John K. Trant Jr.
Interim Manager

Mark J. Heckmann
Council President