

CHESWICK BOROUGH CAUCUS MEETING
December 13, 2022

A meeting of Cheswick Borough Council was held on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at the Cheswick Borough Building, 220 S. Atlantic Avenue, Cheswick, Pennsylvania. President Michael Girardi called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Michael Girardi, President	George White
Frank Meledandri, Vice President	Jeffrey Curti, Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer
Dan Carroll, Mayor	Matthew Pitsch, Engineer
Kathy Gillard	
Brad Yaksich	
Shawna Ecker	
Karen Matisz	
CharLee Rosini, Solicitor	
Lorraine Zebrine, Secretary	

There were no residents/visitors and no reporters in attendance.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

MINUTES:

- Motion was made by Frank Meledandri to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2022 Council meeting. Motion seconded by Brad Yaksich and carried.

AVJSA REPORT:

None.

AVRPD REPORT:

Brad Yaksich reported on the number of calls responded to by type, events, incidents, arrests, traffic collisions, citations, and EMS for the month.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

None

ZONING OFFICER'S/ INSPECTOR'S REPORT:

None

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Lorraine Zebrine delivered the report for November, positive cash flow and cash in banks has Borough in good financial position.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

CharLee Rosini reported on the following:

- Work with Borough staff in the preparation of the public hearing for the request/application to rezone the vacant parcel ID 530-S-137 on MacLean Ave. from r-3 residential to C-1 Community Business Development.
- Drafting of a resolution to be approved by Council for Act 57 of 2022.
- Related to the Borough's desire to sell the Rosenbauer pumper, a review of applicable laws was conducted and alternatives to bidding requirements. Council was advised that placing the sale of the pumper out to bid was the best option and subsequently worked with the Borough secretary to prepare the advertisement.
- Work in assisting with the drafting of the amendment to the fire department ordinance.
- Review and suggestions of additional language for the Agan Park Land Use Agreement.
- Research on signs placed on public property and actions that can be considered to prevent it.

COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

- Motion was made by Frank Meledandri to approve bill due list #12.22. Bills posted 11/15/22 – 12/13/22 and seconded by Kathy Gillard and carried.
- Motion was made by Frank Meledandri, after receiving confirmation that there were no public comments received, to approve the 2023 proposed budget advertised on 11/22/2020 for \$2,430,160.50 and modified by \$10,458.19 to \$2,440,618.69 due to an increase in the unemployment compensation rate from 2.85% to 7.45%. Motion seconded by Karen Matisz and carried.
- Motion was made by Frank Meledandri to bring before Council and read in summary Resolution 2022-24, fixing the tax rate for the year 2023 for general revenue purposes to be set at 5.60 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation and tax rate for the library referendum to be set at 0.25 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation. Motion seconded by Brad Yaksich and carried.

Resolution 2022-24 was read in summary by Michael Girardi

- Motioned was made by Frank Meledandri to approve Resolution 2022-24, fixing the tax rate for the year 2023 for general revenue purposes to be set at 5.60 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation and tax rate for the library referendum to be set at 0.25 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation. Motion seconded by Brad Yaksich and carried.
- Motion was made by Frank Meledandri to approve Resolution 2022-23, to implement the property tax penalty waiver provisions of Act 57 of 2022, directing the tax collector to comply with the penalty waiver provisions of Act 57 of 2022 for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2023. Motion seconded by Brad Yaksich and carried.

- Motion was made by Frank Meledandri to bring Resolution 2022-25, setting water, sewage, and refuse rates for the 2023 calendar year before council and read in its entirety. Motion seconded by Brad Yaksich and carried.

Resolution 2022-25 was read in summary by Michael Girardi who informed Council that there were no changes from prior year, 2022.

- Motion was made by Frank Meledandri to approve Resolution 2022-25, setting water, sewage, and refuse rates for the 2023 calendar year. Motion seconded by Brad Yaksich and carried.

FACILITIES:

Michael Girardi led a discussion on behalf of George White on the status of raising the power lines at the salt shed. West Penn Power has now stated that they are not willing to move the lines.

GENERAL OFFICE:

None

GRANTS:

- Motion was made by Brad Yaksich to approve Resolution 2022-22, designating Michael Girardi and Lorraine Zebrine as the officials to execute all documents and agreements between the Borough and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant (PA Small Water and Sewer). Motion seconded by Kathy Gillard and carried.

PERSONNEL:

Karen Matisz reported that current members on the Zoning Hearing Board, Planning Commission, UCC/IMPC Appeals Board, Recreation Board and Agan Park Joint Recreation Board and whose terms are expiring on 12/31/2022 have been contacted with 2 exceptions (Guila Holtman and Tiffany Lehman) and all have expressed their desire to be reappointed for another term in their respective positions. Karen will continue to follow up with the two referenced exceptions.

Also discussed was a safety manual the Councilman George White presented for adoption by public works, it was in Karen's opinion that some sections were not applicable to the Borough, therefore she will edit, and present for approval.

PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & UTILITIES:

- Motion was made by Brad Yaksich to read in title and summary Ordinance 805-C, amending chapter 21 ("Firemen") to add section 22-4 (Volunteer Fire Companies Recognized) and section 22-5 (Control of equipment and Funds). Motion seconded by Frank Meledandri and carried.

Ordinance 805-C was read in title and summary by Michael Girardi.

- Motion was made by Brad Yaksich to adopt Ordinance 805-C, amending chapter 21 ("Firemen") to add section 22-4 (Volunteer Fire Companies Recognized) and section 22-5 (Control of equipment and Funds). Motion seconded by Frank Meledandri and carried.

Michael Girardi opened discussion on the letter received on November 30th from Lower Valley Ambulance Service requesting financial aid. Frank Meledandri indicated that the topic was on AVN COG meeting scheduled for 12/14/2022.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- Motion was made by Frank Meledandri to place an order for a new Ford F250 pickup truck at a cost of \$62,189.78. After some discussion on financing vs. cash purchase (which it was determined could wait until closer to delivery), the motion was seconded by Brad Yaksich and carried.

Michael Girardi reviewed the report of Public Works activity for the month of November.

Frank Meledandri opened discussion on water billing and curb box issues. As a result, Lorraine Zebrine was asked to review the current ordinance on water billing and draft a proposal to eliminate or reduce that additional 30 days afforded to past due accounts.

RECREATION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Shawna Ecker indicated that she is working on a winter newsletter and asked that Council members submit items to be included. She plans on working on the formation of the Community Development Committee in January.

ZONING & CODE ENFORCEMENT:

None.

COG:

Frank Meledandri reported that Harmar Township is leaving the North Allegheny COG to join the North Hills COG.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Frank Meledandri inquired if any progress was made in forming a committee to build a Community Center at Rachel Carson Park.

Brad Yaksich informed Council that Greenland Construction had completed their work at Rachel Carson Park. Although the park is a mess now, but Greenland will be reconstructing the park to the condition it was in prior to the construction. He also commented on dumping at Agan Park and the good condition of the road.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

Kathy Gillard motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 PM. Motion seconded by Brad Yaksich and carried.