

CHESWICK BOROUGH CAUCUS MEETING

February 14, 2023

A meeting of Cheswick Borough Council was held on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at the Cheswick Borough Building, 220 S. Atlantic Avenue, Cheswick, Pennsylvania. Vice President Frank Meledandri called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Frank Meledandri, Vice President	Michael Girardi, President
Kathy Gillard	Dan Carroll, Mayor
Karen Matisz	Matthew Pitsch, Engineer
Brad Yaksich	Jeffrey Curti, Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer
Shawna Ecker	
George White	
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 Brad Yaksich to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2023 Caucus meeting. Motion seconded by Kathy Gillard and carried.

AVJSA REPORT:

Brad Yaksich updated Council on the condition of Rachel Carson and the fact that the contractor has more work to complete at the park. At Blockdale Street, the contractor was hitting buried concrete which created delays. Currently it is estimated that the plant upgrade project will be completed within 1 ½ years. Lastly, the pump houses are still operational.

AVRPD REPORT:

Brad Yaksich informed Council that the AVRPD Board accepted Michael Girardi's resignation from its board and provided the January statistics of AVRPD activity on events, incidents, arrests, traffic collisions, citations, and EMS calls.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

None

ZONING OFFICER'S/ INSPECTOR'S REPORT:

None

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Frank Meledandri, on behalf of Lorraine Zebrine referred to the financials that he maintains and indicated that the Borough is in good shape, estimated a positive cash flow of \$70K.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

CharLee Rosini reported on the following activities:

- Work on a rezoning ordinance to rezone the former Pizza Hut property.
- Correspondence with the bidder of the 2014 Rosenbauer pumper
- Drafting of an ordinance to pass Act 93 relating to fire escrow.
- Confirmed Borough requirements to provide emergency services.

COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

- Motion was made by Kathy Gillard to approve bill due list #02.23. Bills posted 01/11/23 – 02/14/23 and seconded by Shawna Eckard and carried.

The results of the State Audit on the Borough's pension plans (Police and Non-Uniformed) were provided, the Borough passed both without issue.

FACILITIES:

George White questioned if he needed to respond to West Penn Power in reference to their response on moving a wire at the salt shed, Frank Meledandri suggested that he should. This led to discussion on upgrades to the salt shed, Frank Meledandri asked Mr. White to work with the Public Works Coordinator and present a plan and scope of project to move forward.

GENERAL OFFICE:

None.

GRANTS:

Brad Yaksich reference work on getting grants from the government.

PERSONNEL:

- Karen Matisz motioned to appoint Zach Ireland to the position of Temporary – Part Tim Public Works Laborer at a rate of \$19.00/hour and not to exceed 32 hours per week. During his non-regular hours, he will be appointed Winter Maintenance lead and paid at a rate of \$37.00/hour. His employee status will expire on April 30, 2023. Motion seconded by Brad Yaksich and carried.
- Karen Matisz motioned to appoint Deborah Kuhns to the position of Temporary Clerk for Borough Office at a rate of \$16 per hour and not to exceed 20 hours per week. Her employee status will expire on April 30, 2023, or at which time a permanent replacement is hired. Motion seconded by Kathy Gillard and carried.

- Karen Matisz motioned to advertise to backfill the vacancy created by the resignation of Deborah Guntrum. Motion seconded by Kathy Gillard and carried.

The resignation of Michael Girardi from Council on 1/31/2023 was discussed and the action to accept was tabled until the next meeting of Council.

The resignation of Michael Girardi from the AVRPD Commission on 1/31/2023 was discussed relative to the impact the vacancy created for the Borough.

- Kathy Gillard motioned to appoint a Borough representative to the AVRPD Commission to replace the vacancy created by the resignation of Michael Girardi. Motion seconded by George White and carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & UTILITIES:

Lorraine Zebrine provided report on the 2023 Q1 Water billing. Billed 910 accounts \$199,356 on 2/5/23. As of 2/14/2023, 272 accounts paid in full leaving an unpaid total balance of \$132,360.

Act 93 of 1994 was discussed, the act relates to fire escrow. Council recognized the benefit the Act had to the borough and was receptive to initiating the process to pass the ordinance implementing it.

- Brad Yaksich motioned to authorize the secretary to advertise Ordinance 807-C, adopting Act 93 of 1994. Motion seconded by George White and carried.

The delay in proceeding with the delivery of the Rosenbauer pumper to the highest bidder, Command Fire Apparatus was discussed. CFA believed the pumper to include all accessory items, e.g., hand tools and ladders which were not acquired by the Borough

- Karen Matisz motioned to amend the agenda to authorize the secretary and solicitor to contact the 2nd bidder of the 2014 Rosenbauer Pumper to understand if they are still interested in the vehicle. If so, inform Command Fire Apparatus (CFA) to withdraw their bid due to the misunderstanding by CFA as to what was included with the pumper. Motion seconded by George White and carried.
- Karen Matisz motioned to authorize the secretary and solicitor to contact the 2nd bidder of the 2014 Rosenbauer Pumper to understand if they are still interested in the vehicle. If so, inform Command Fire Apparatus (CFA) to withdraw their bid due to the misunderstanding by CFA as to what was included with the pumper and proceed with delivery to Brindlee Mountain. Motion seconded by Shawn Ecker and carried.

Brad Yaksich updated council on the status of the Lower Valley Ambulance's proposal for municipal funding, requesting \$82K (\$50 per capita) from the Borough. In preparation for the response required from LVAS on 3/1/2023 and representing the Borough, Brad had a meeting planned with Foxwell EMS on 2/16/2023 if the Borough would be without emergency medical service.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Council was asked to refer to the monthly report prepared by Public Works Coordinator Jeff Armstrong, and emailed the Mayor and Council, for detail on the activities of the department.

RECREATION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Shawna Ecker discussed the signage used by business and compliance to the Borough's code.

The trash placed in the space where a dumpster would be placed behind the former Pizza Hut was discussed. Borough secretary asked to contact owner to properly dispose of.

ZONING & CODE ENFORCEMENT:

- Brad Yaksich motioned to authorize the secretary to advertise an ordinance, 806-C, amending the Borough's official zoning map to rezone parcel number 530-S-137 from R-3 Residential to C-1 Community Business District. Motion seconded by George White and carried.

COG:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion on a mass communication/alert system was facilitated by Shawna Ecker. Requested that Council review "Savvy Citizen" at a cost of \$759/year. Compared to Nixle which was at a higher cost. Council was also asked to look at other.

NEW BUSINESS:

George White raised his concern relative to the sink hole on Highland Avenue and at the end of Beech Street. The secretary was asked to relate the concern to Jeff Armstrong.

- Karen Matisz motioned to amend the agenda to approve concurring Resolution 2023-5 which designates the director of the AVNCOG, Robert Frank as the official to file all documents between the Borough and Allegheny County Economic Development related to the grant for the Cheswick Traffic signal at N. Highland and Pittsburgh St. due to potential for the cancellation of the regular meeting of Council on 2/21/23 and need to expedite. Motion seconded by Kathy Gillard and carried.
- Kathy Gillard motioned to approve Concurring Resolution 2023-5 designating Robert Frank, AVNCOG Director to file all application, documents and forms between the Borough and Allegheny County Economic Development related to the grant in the amount of \$100,000 for the traffic light at Pittsburgh St. and N. Highland Avenue. Motion seconded by George White and carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

- Brad Yaksich motioned to adjourn at 8:38 pm, motion seconded by George White and carried.