

CHESWICK BOROUGH CAUCUS MEETING
March 14, 2023

A meeting of Cheswick Borough Council was held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at the Cheswick Borough Building, 220 S. Atlantic Avenue, Cheswick, Pennsylvania. Vice President Frank Meledandri called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

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

There was one visitor in attendance.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Mary Ellen Ecker requested to speak on the matter of Friends of the Riverfront. She expressed her concerns and suggested that the Council be aware of grant stipulations.

MINUTES:

- Motion was made by George White to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2023 Caucus meeting. Motion seconded by Karen Matisz and carried.

AVJSA REPORT:

At the time of the meeting, the AVJSA representative had not submitted a report. Brad commented that more digging is planned at Rachel Carson Park.

AVRPD REPORT:

Brad Yaksich referred to the monthly AVRPD report highlighting the department's monthly statistics by category.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Citing having received complaints concerning the police department, the Mayor expressed interest in becoming a member of the AVRPD Board.

ZONING OFFICER'S/ INSPECTOR'S REPORT:

The need for a fire inspector was raised and suggested that Jeff Curti be asked if he can act as fire inspector and if so, would he be interested in being appointed by the Borough.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Frank Meledandri, on behalf of Lorraine Zebrine, delivered the report summarizing revenues, expenses, and bank balances, and cash flow highlighting the transfer of funds to new money market accounts and CDs opened for better return on interest.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Michael DeLorenzo, on behalf of CharLee Rosini, reported on the following activities:

- Finalized the sale of the 2014 Rosenbauer pumper.
- Research ability to lien property on N. Highland if work to repair collapsed sewer line is not completed per Borough Code.
- Responded to Right-to-Know request.

COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

- Karen Matisz motioned to approve bill due list #03.23. Bills posted 02/15/23 – 03/14/23. Motion seconded by George White and carried.

FACILITIES:

George White met with Public Works Coordinator on moving forward with placing the improvements to the salt shed out to bid as well as working with West Penn Power to remove the dead power line at the salt shed and a power box on Spruce Street.

GENERAL OFFICE:

- Karen Matisz motioned appointing Jaime Varshine to the position of Assistant Administrator/Water Clerk at a rate of \$17.00/hr. not to exceed 32 hours per week. Motion seconded by George White and carried.

Council discussed the need to draft a job procedure manual for the office.

GRANTS:

Brad Yaksich discussed the grant opportunities to fund the cost of a redesign of Rachel Carson Park to facilitate the location of restrooms, concession stand, kayak launch etc.

PERSONNEL:

- Karen Matisz motioned to accept the resignation of Michael Girardi from Council effective 3/14/2023. Motion seconded by George White and carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & UTILITIES:

Brad Yaksich informed the Council that Lower Valley Ambulance Service was re-working their budget.

Council agreed that an updated agreement between the municipalities serviced by Allegheny Valley Volunteer Fire Company should be updated to include the Borough of Cheswick (currently it only includes Springdale and Harmar Twps.). Workman's Compensation will be allocated by population, but fuel and insurance cost equally divided by the three communities served to include an annual stipend to be determined, however the Borough should realize a cost benefit.

- Brad Yaksich motioned to read, in title and summary, Ordinance 807-C, the implementation of Act 93 of 1994 relating to the fire escrow in the Borough. Motion seconded by George White and carried.

Ordinance 807-C read by Michael DiLorenzo

- Brad Yaksich motioned to adopt Ordinance 807-C, the implementation of Act 93 of 1994 in the Borough of Cheswick. Motion seconded by George White and carried.

Brad Yaksich also raised discussion on the possibility of increasing the police officer wages.

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 details on the activities of the department.

Council discussed the need to replace obsolete telemeter and interconnect systems which monitor water tank levels and metered water at the entry point.

- Brad Yaksich motioned to upgrade the telemeter and interconnect with a SCADA system at an estimated cost of \$19K for both. Motion seconded by Karen Matisz and carried.

Frank Meledandri updated Council on the work being done by Rugged Utility including the possible plan for replacing lead pipes per new DEP Regulations.

RECREATION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- Shawna Ecker motioned to approve Resolution 2023-4, establishing the Cheswick Community Development Committee. Motion seconded by George White and carried.

Shawna Ecker asked for volunteers to help clear and clean up the kayak launch area scheduled for March 25th.

On behalf of the Recreation Board, Shawn relayed their desire to have a weatherproof outdoor event sign installed on the rest room building at MacLean Parklet.

ZONING & CODE ENFORCEMENT:

- Karen Matisz motioned to read in title and summary Ordinance 806-C amending the Borough's official zoning map to rezone parcel 530-S-137 from R-3 Residential to C-1 Community Development. Motion seconded by Brad Yaksich and passed.

Ordinance 806-C read by Michael DiLorenzo

- Karen Matisz motioned to adopt Ordinance 806-C amending the Borough's official zoning map to rezone parcel 530-S-137 from R-3 Residential to C-1 Community Development. Motion seconded by George White and passed.

COG:

Frank Meledandri discussed the following COG Initiatives:

- Using the Borough's Appeals Board for all COG members.
- Opportunity to participate in the Joint Paving Program at a cost of \$500/year. The program covers training for Public Works and equipment can be delivered to the Borough.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion and action on a phone notification system to be tabled until April's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Community Development Committee is looking into the possibility of renting/buying the former Ace Hardware building, owned by Nick Mulone, as a Community Center.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

- Kathy Gillard motioned to adjourn at 9:00 pm, motion seconded by George White and carried.

Meeting notes taken by Kathy Gillard and Shawn Ecker and transcribed by Lorraine Zebrine, Secretary.