

CHESWICK BOROUGH CAUCUS MEETING
April 11, 2023

A meeting of Cheswick Borough Council was held on Tuesday, April 11, 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	Kathy Gillard
Dan Carroll, Mayor	Matthew Pitsch, Engineer
Karen Matisz	Jeffrey Curti, Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer
Shawna Ecker	
George White	
Brad Yaksich	
CharLee Rosini, Solicitor	
Lorraine Zebrine, Secretary	

There were 3 visitors in attendance, and no reporters.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Bill Kuzmirek introduced himself to Council and expressed his interest in filling the vacant seat.

GENERAL:

Acting President Frank Meledandri asked that Council prepare to vote on a new Council President at the next scheduled meeting.

MINUTES:

Council was asked to review the 03/14/2023 Caucus Meeting minutes distributed to Council by email on 4/7/2023.

AVJSA REPORT:

Gary Taylor, the Borough's AVJSA representative, attended the meeting and presented to Council. His presentation was intended to ensure an understanding of the authority's role in the communities it represents, the wastewater process, the financial aspect, and the plant upgrade project and its association with the DEP.

AVRPD REPORT:

Brad Yaksich referred to the monthly AVRPD report highlighting the department's March statistics by category and specifically mentioned an on-going investigation relative to an arrest in Cheswick,

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Dan Carroll echoed the comments of Brad Yaksich's AVRPD report and added concern of a group of teens harassing visitors at MacLean Parklet and the increase in graffiti to the park property.

ZONING OFFICER'S/ INSPECTOR'S REPORT:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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 to account for decreases in cash balances.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

CharLee Rosini, reported on the following activities:

- Rezoning Ordinance, rezoning a vacant R-3 parcel to C-1 was sent to the County after adoption.
- Guidance on the process to vacate an alley in the Borough.

COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Council was asked to review the bill due list #04.23, bills posted 3/15/23 – 04/11/23.

Frank Meledandri reminded Council of COG's role in representing its communities regarding the Comcast franchise renewal process.

Frank Meledandri expounded on the benefits of moving money into higher interest yielding accounts.

FACILITIES:

George White work on renovation of the salt shed is moving along.

GENERAL 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. He made council aware of other grants available for public parks with a 15% match.

PERSONNEL:

Bill Kuzmirek introduced himself to Council and expressed his interest in the position and fielded questions from Council.

Frank asked if there were any other resumes or letters of interest to be considered, Karen Matisz indicated there was one other, but it was withdrawn. Dan Carroll recommended Mr. Kuzmirek, as he has been a good neighbor and resident of the community for the past 7 years.

- Karen Matisz motioned to appoint Bill Kuzmirek to fill the vacant seat on Council. Motion seconded by George White and carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & UTILITIES:

Brad Yaksich reported on the following:

- Related to the Lower Valley Ambulance Service, there was nothing new to report. He participated in a call, facilitated by the DCED. It was made clear the LVAS doesn't want assistance from the DCED nor was the state aware that Oakmont resigned from the LVAS.
- On the proposed demolition of the Power Plant smokestacks, Council was informed of a meeting to be held April 17th with the plant project management team to understand how the plan affects the Borough.
- The need to update the agreement between the Allegheny Valley Volunteer Fire Company to include the Borough with Springdale and Harmar Townships was discussed and agreed upon.

Lorraine Zebrine presented a report of outstanding water utility balances.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Frank Meledandri asked Council to refer to the monthly report prepared by Public Works Coordinator Jeff Armstrong and emailed on the activities of the department. He indicated that the SCADA system was ordered, reiterated work being done on planning for renovations on the salt shed and lastly the cooperation with Springdale Township to assist the Borough and conversely the Borough to assist the Springdale Township when needed.

RECREATION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Shawna Ecker discussed the benefits of subscribing to the Vacant Property Recovery Program sponsored by Allegheny County Economic Development and asked for Council's consideration to join the program.

Shawna Ecker provided an update on the planned and scheduled activities for the Strawberry Festival, work that the Community Development Committee has planned will be presented in the May Caucus meeting and lastly asked that Council be prepared to vote to subscribe to Savvy Citizen in the April 18th meeting.

ZONING & CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Mayor Dan Carroll has plans to schedule with the zoning officer, Jeff Curti to ride through the community.

COG:

Frank Meledandri reported the COG will pay expenses related to the UCC Board, but the meetings will be held in Cheswick.

OLD BUSINESS:

Karen Matisz asked if there was an update to the drafting of a standard operating procedure manual for the office, Frank referred her to Kathy Gillard as the Committee Chair for the office.

NEW BUSINESS:

Brad Yaksich discussed the possibility of securing a bond for infrastructure projects.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

- Kathy Gillard motioned to adjourn at 9:23 pm, motion seconded by George White and carried.