

CHESWICK BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
April 18, 2023

A meeting of Cheswick Borough Council was held on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at the Cheswick Borough Building, 220 S. Atlantic Avenue, Cheswick, Pennsylvania. Kathy Gillard called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

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

There were 3 visitors in attendance, Bruno Moretti and Zachery Wilhelm representing Allegheny Valley Regional Emergency Management Agency to field questions related to the demolition of the smokestacks at the Cheswick Power Plant and Mandy Steele, PA State Representative.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

MINUTES:

- Brad Yaksich motioned to approve 03/14/2023 Caucus meeting minutes sent via Council via email 4/7/2023. Motion seconded by George White and carried.

ZONING OFFICER'S/ INSPECTOR'S REPORT:

None

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Matt Pitsch reported on the following:

- Water breaks on Blockdale Street resulting from the work being performed by Greenland Construction on the sewage upgrade project.
- Recent power surges damaged the booster pump panel VFD preventing the pumps from operating and requiring manual function. Requested quotes for repair.
- Preliminary discussions have started with Springdale Twp. and the possibility to install a two-way interconnect for emergency use.

COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

- Brad Yaksich motioned to approve bill due list #04.23, bills posted 03/15/23 – 04/11/23. Motion seconded by George White and carried.
- Brad Yaksich motioned to authorized acting President of Council and Borough Secretary to enter into an agreement with the attorney hired to represent the Borough in the negotiation process with Comcast for the renewal of the franchise agreement in an amount not to exceed \$8K. (Payment is not expected until next year and can be budgeted). Motion seconded by Kathy Gillard and carried.

GRANTS:

Mandy Steele commented on having a multi-municipal Comprehensive plan opens opportunities for grants and funding for parks, green space etc. and suggested that Cheswick, Springdale Township and Springdale Borough work together on one.

- Brad Yaksich motioned to authorize Matt Pitsch, Borough Engineer, to prepare and apply for a DCED grant for a study on the redevelopment of Rachel Carson Park not to exceed \$2,000.00. (Deadline for the grant is May 31, 2023). Motion seconded by George White and carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & UTILITIES:

Bruno Moretti took the opportunity to remind the new members of Council the need to take the required ACES EMA Training course to keep compliant with NIMS. His contact information was shared.

- Brad Yaksich motioned to authorize the Borough's solicitor to work with her peers in Harmar and Springdale Twps. to draft an updated agreement between the participating municipalities and the Allegheny Valley Volunteer Fire Company. Motion seconded by Bill Kuzmirek and carried.

RECREATION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- Shawna Ecker motioned to approve resolution 2023-6 authorizing the Borough participation in the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County's Vacant Property Recovery Program subject to certain requirements. Motion seconded by Brad Yaksich and carried.
- Shawna Ecker motioned to enter into a Cooperation Agreement for the Allegheny Vacant Property Recovery Program between the redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County and the Borough of Cheswick. Motion seconded by Brad Yaksich and carried.

- Shawna Ecker motioned for the Borough of Cheswick to enter a yearly contract with Savvy Citizen for the community communication system not to exceed the amount of \$2,000.00 per year and because the subscription was not in the 2023 budget, the funding will come from the projected 2023 surplus and to be charged to account 400.310. Motion seconded by Brad Yaksich and carried.

ZONING & CODE ENFORCEMENT:

- Brad Yaksich motioned to amend the agenda to authorize the advertisement of the Public Hearing and Ordinance to vacate a 15' alley off S. Atlantic Avenue to comply with advertising lead time requirements. Motion seconded by Kathy Gillard and carried.
- Brad Yaksich motioned to authorize the Secretary to advertise the notice of a Public Hearing and the associated Ordinance drafted to vacate a 15' alley off S. Atlantic Avenue. Motion seconded by Shawn Ecker and carried.

Mayor Dan Carroll indicated his continued efforts to work with the Zoning officer for a “spring clean-up” activity.

OLD BUSINESS:

Shawna Ecker asked that the letter addressed to Council from the owners of riverfront property in the Borough dated April 3rd be addressed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dan Carroll recommended the installation of cameras at MacLean Park to deter vandalism and aggressive behaviors.

Dan Carroll also briefed Council on the April 17th meeting with the project management team hired to demolish the Cheswick Power Plant, specifically related to the impact the explosion of the smokestacks will have on the Borough.

Karen Matisz updated Council on the Community Development Committee’s plans to have a pop-up farmers market the 2nd Sunday of July, August and September and asked for guidance on the accounting of funds received from the vendors for their participation.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Brad Yaksich to adjourn at 7:52 PM, motion seconded by George White and passed.