

CHESWICK BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

August 15, 2023

A meeting of Cheswick Borough Council was held on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at the Cheswick Borough Building, 220 S. Atlantic Avenue, Cheswick, Pennsylvania. Frank Meledandri called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

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

There was 1 residence in attendance.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Mr. Sharkins was in attendance to continue discussion and follow-up on action regarding beekeeping in the Borough.

MINUTES:

- Brad Yaksich motioned to approve the July 11, 2023 Council meeting minutes sent via Council via email August 3rd. Motion seconded by Karen Matisz and carried.

AVJSA REPORT:

Brad Yaksich reported that the number of overflows were few. Related to the plant upgrade, Greenland is working from Rachael Carson Park to Colfax Street while Mele is working on the Cheswick Pump station.

AVRPD REPORT:

Brad Yaksich reviewed AVRPD's monthly report of the number of calls, EMS, incidents, and arrests for July. The board authorized the addition of a full-time officer to replace the resignation of a part-time officer and the budget will be finalized in September.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Dan Carroll raised his concern regarding potholes on Spruce Street.

ZONING OFFICER'S/ INSPECTOR'S REPORT:

None

TREASURER'S REPORT:

None

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Matt Pitsch provided Council with an update on the work in getting the Borough's mapping current and getting steps to get it digitized with the coordinates possibly tied into MuniLink. The cost of the proposed system, a mobile platform that uploads immediately to a cloud server and parcel the data. He also indicated that grants may be available. System quoted \$3,300 one-time set up and \$500/year.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

CharLee Rosini reported on her work on the following:

- In the process of reviewing an Intergovernmental Agreement regarding the Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan
- An assessment of the law related to the referendum process, to address questions to potentially to remove the tax.
- An assessment of the law and options regarding short-term rentals
- Responded to request of DeLuzio and Company related to the 2022 audit letter.
- Update on request of the property owner at 200 ½ Allegheny Avenue for lost rental revenue due to occupancy permit denial. A meeting was requested.
- Awaiting instruction regarding the Fire Department merger agreement from the solicitor.

COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

- Brad Yaksich motioned to approve bill due list #08.23, bills posted 07/12/23 – 08/15/23. Motion seconded by George White and carried.

Tabled were the agenda items to present the midyear review of the Borough's finances and the action to approve a resolution updating the Financial Limits of Authority.

Karen Matisz shared with Council her conversation with Brian Clark regarding the houses behind Pizza Hut and was looking for consensus of Council to look into the possibility of acquiring them.

FACILITIES:

George White updated Council on the proposed date demolition of the Boiler Building at the former Cheswick Power Plant, September 22nd and that he and the Mayor, Dan Carroll will represent Cheswick in meetings with the contractors.

George White also provided an update on the work at the salt shed.

GENERAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION:

- Kathy Gillard motioned to approve the short-term hire of Kathi Pater effective 7/27/23 at a rate of \$15.00/ hour not to exceed 15 hours/week. Motion seconded by Brad Yaksich and carried.

GRANTS:

- Brad Yaksich motioned to approve resolution #2023-9, notice to be included in the Allegheny County Community Development Block Grant and Home Investment Partnerships programs for three program years, 2024, 2025 and 2026. Motion seconded by Karen Matisz.

Matt Pitsch updated on the progress of projects using grant funds, the traffic signals and Hill Avenue water line replacement.

PERSONNEL:

None

PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & UTILITIES:

Discussion on the Lower Valley Ambulance proposal, requesting \$20,000 per municipality was countered as they previously requested \$16,400 from the Borough. It was recommended that the Borough should support the service and suggested \$3,750/quarter (a percentage of the Borough's population) or \$15,000 until they provide visibility to their books.

Also, it was discussed the need for a Council member to sit on the LVAS board.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Council was updated on the conversations with Springdale Township regarding the water interconnections with the Borough, there is no investment and in connecting will yield savings and may alleviate the need for the booster pumps.

In addition, the mutual assistance agreement with Springdale Township work at the salt shed, winter maintenance and a partnership for the storing and purchasing of bin materials was discussed. Equipment will be shared and Springdale Township will incur the cost for paving at the salt shed.

- Brad Yaksich motioned to award the Salt Shed Renovations, base bid to the lowest bidder Hosey Excavation Services, LLC at \$24,271.40. Motion seconded by George White and carried.
- Brad Yaksich motioned to award the Salt Shed Renovations ‘Add Item #2’, to replace shed siding and shed painting to the lowest bidder Hosey Excavation Services LLC at 15,123.20, with the lowest base bid. Motion seconded by Bill Kuzmirek and carried.
- Kathy Gillard motioned to award the Salt Shed Renovations ‘Add Item #1’, paving of parking a garage apron to the lowest bidder Hosey Excavation Services, LLC at \$25,380.00. Motion seconded by Brad Yaksich and after discussion, rejected.

RECREATION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Shawna also commented on the following:

- ✓ The success of the Stars and Stripes Parade and would like to schedule as an annual event.
- ✓ Springdale public library expressed interest in collaborating with the Borough on future events
- ✓ The need for the gazebo in memorial park to be painted
- ✓ Update on the 2nd draft of a letter intended to be issued to the businesses to support the “Cheswick Community Enhancement Project” to be reviewed first by the solicitor and then to the zoning officer for the addition/reference to code.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

Karen Matisz updated Council on the success of the August Pop-up Markets and the commitments for the event scheduled for the 2nd Sunday in September. Funds from the pop-up events will be used towards the Murder Mystery dinner is scheduled for October 14th at the Acme Club. Lastly, a global tasting party at Thanksgiving time is in the planning stages.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & SERVICES

Bill Kuzmirek indicated that he was still waiting on a quote for cameras at Rachel Carson Park, while Brad Yaksich suggested that there is also a need for cameras at the salt shed. Lastly, he is still working on the emails for Council.

ZONING & CODE ENFORCEMENT:

COG:

OLD BUSINESS:

Concern relating to short term rentals was reviewed under the solicitor’s report. Also brought up was the new DEP requirement to inventory all water connections to homes/businesses for lead by October 2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

Frank Meledandri informed council the sewage rates will be increased next year to recover a \$24K shortfall in 2023. Also refuse rates will increase to cover increase by provider.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Karen Matisz to adjourn at 9:45 PM, motion seconded by George White and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Zebrine, Secretary

(Meeting notes taken by Jaime Varshine and transcribed by Lorraine Zebrine)