

CHESWICK BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
September 12, 2023

A meeting of Cheswick Borough Council was held on Tuesday, September 12, 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	Matthew Pitsch, Engineer
Kathy Gillard	Lorraine Zebrine, Secretary
Shawna Ecker	
George White	
Brad Yaksich	
Karen Matisz	
Bill Kuzmirek	
CharLee Rosini, Solicitor	
Jaimie Varshine, Assistant to the Secretary	

There was 1 residence in attendance and representative from Lower Valley Ambulance Service.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Resident at 139 Duquesne Ave. addressed Council concerning the overgrowth of weeds and excessive trash in her neighbor's yard, 200 Murrayhill Avenue.

MINUTES:

Council was asked to review the August 15, 2023 Council meeting.

AVJSA REPORT:

None

AVRPD REPORT:

Brad Yaksich reviewed AVRPD's monthly report of the number of calls, EMS, incidents, and arrests for August. Part-time officer Dalton Vanwhy will be moved to full-time status and there are plans to add an additional full-time officer. Neighboring communities all have full-time officers, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to staff part-time officers. Council was informed to anticipate an estimated increase of \$20K in the AVRPD 2024 budget to cover the increase in salaries.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Dan Carroll raised his concerns that residents are not keeping lawns mowed and questioned if the Borough is doing enough to enforce the code. He suggested the Borough hire a service to cut the grass and charge the homeowner, Frank countered with the work be done by Public Works so that there is no incremental cost to the Borough.

The solicitor reminded Council that the resident will first need to be notified by letter of the Borough's intentions before the Borough can act. Dan Carroll will work on the process and present it to Council for the next meeting.

Dan Carroll also discussed the planned September 22<sup>nd</sup> implosion of the boiler building at the power plant and indicated that he and Michael Naviglia will go door-to-door to talk with the affected Cheswick residents.

ZONING OFFICER'S/ INSPECTOR'S REPORT:

None

TREASURER'S REPORT:

None

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

None

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

None

COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Council was asked to review the bill due list #09.23, bills posted 8/16/23-9/12/23.

Frank Meledandri reviewed the schedule for completing the 2024 Budget. He asked Council to provide their input by October 27<sup>th</sup>. A preliminary budget will be completed by November 6<sup>th</sup> and ready for review on November 11<sup>th</sup> with a target to finalize the budget November 21<sup>st</sup> advertise and post for comments and approve in December.

Frank Meledandri discussed with Council the short notice of the renewal of the Borough's insurance policies effective 9/1/23 and received from the agent on 8/28/23 with request to bind without prior review or competitive quotes. In response, Karen Matisz suggested that the Borough should get quotes every 3 years and discuss them in the next meeting.

### FACILITIES:

George White updated Council on his discussions with the engineer, Matt Pitsch and the DEP in regard to the DEP's new rules/regulation and reporting of Copper Lead water lines. He indicated the solicitor must be involved in aiding Council in understanding the Lead-Copper rule. And made Council aware of the clerical efforts to update a spreadsheet (DEP Template) by location by October 2024.

### GENERAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION:

### GRANTS:

Brad Yaksich provided an update on the progress of the Cheswick Comprehensive Plan. Shawna Ecker raised concerns related to the source of the grant, the Heinz Foundation, and its contingencies. Frank mediated the discussion and reminded Council that the work is merely a study, there is no requirement for Cheswick to commit and can opt out at any time. By consensus Brad Yaksich will continue to participate and represent Cheswick on the committee.

### PERSONNEL:

Karen Matisz informed Council of Steve Sekaras' letter of resignation from the Zoning Hearing Board. Frank suggested the opening be published on the Borough's website, Facebook, and Savvy Citizen.

### PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & UTILITIES:

Brad Yaksich led the discussion on the Borough's proposal to fund the Lower Valley Ambulance Service and notified by letter. The LVAS representative, Assistant Director, in attendance was not aware of the letter and a copy was provided for him to take back to his board.

### PUBLIC WORKS:

### RECREATION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Shawna also commented on the following:

- ✓ Public Works currently working to paint and repair the gazebo at Memorial Park
- ✓ Public Works power washed the benches at MacLean Park
- ✓ Members of the Recreation Board are saving shrubbery from Rachel Carson Park to be replanted when the park reopens.
- ✓ Expressed a need for new swings at MacLean Park, new street signs and stop signs, highlighting that some stop signs are not in compliance with PA DOT standards.
- ✓ Poor condition of sidewalks in the Borough.
- ✓ Shrubbery is not being trimmed and needs code to be enforced.

On the Community Enhancement Project, the letter drafted and approved by the Solicitor is pending with the Zoning Officer for updates to reference to code.

Regarding the open issue on beekeeping in the Borough, Karen Matisz contacted Bonnie Hall, PA State beekeeper inspector regarding Mr. Sharkins' neighbor. She was able to confirm that Mr. Marron is a registered beekeeper, and he will move his hives in the fall. He is completely compliant with PA state regulations.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

Karen Matisz updated Council on the success of the Pop-up Markets and the proceeds will fund the planned Murder Mystery dinner event.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & SERVICES

Council reviewed the quotes received for cameras at Rachel Carson (\$8,998.00) and MacLean (\$7,233) Parks. By consensus of Council, it was agreed not to proceed.

ZONING & CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Dan Carroll with discuss with Jeff Curti, the need to enforce code by sending Notice of Violations to residents not complying with grass/weed regulations.

COG:

OLD BUSINESS:

Council discussed the need to define and adopt an ordinance on short-term rentals in the Borough as concerns/complaints are being received concerning the behavior of the short-term tenants. The solicitor, CharLee Rosini, agreed to draft an ordinance to Council for consideration to adopt.

NEW BUSINESS:

Karen Matisz shared her conversations with the owners of the former Ace Hardware store and Pizza Hut asking for consideration to purchase for the conversion to a Community Center to be uses for community events, office for AVRPD and to hold public meetings, citing the presence will be on the main street.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Kathy Gillard to adjourn at 9:30 PM, motion seconded by Brad Yaksich and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Zebrine, Secretary

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