

CHESWICK BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

October 10, 2023

A meeting of Cheswick Borough Council was held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at the Cheswick Borough Building, 220 S. Atlantic Avenue, Cheswick, Pennsylvania. Frank Meledandri called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

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

There were no residents or reporters in attendance.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

MINUTES:

Council was asked to review the September 12th Caucus and September 19th 2023 Council meeting minutes sent by email on September 26th.

AVJSA REPORT:

Brad Yaksich reported that a 3% increase in operational cost is to be expected in 2024. Construction at Reid's property is on track.

AVRPD REPORT:

Brad Yaksich reviewed AVRPD's monthly report of the number of calls, EMS, incidents, citations, events, traffic collisions and arrests for September overall, a decrease of 57 calls.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Dan Carroll discussed AVRPD coverage of the Borough for Halloween, the department plans on 5 full-time and 3 part-time officers on duty and covers all 3 communities, with the AVFC trolling Cheswick, Springdale, and Harmar Townships. Mr. Carroll questioned if this was adequate and suggested the possibility of hiring auxiliary police paid for by the Borough. After discussion, Council felt the planned staffing for Halloween night was adequate.

Related to the power plant demolition, Dan Carroll indicated that he has not been informed of an updated plan nor date to implode the structure.

ZONING OFFICER'S/ INSPECTOR'S REPORT:

None

TREASURER'S REPORT:

None

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Frank Meledandri reminded Council of Senate Engineering to merge with LSSE and application for grants for Highland Avenue and water meter replacement.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Charlee Rosini reported on the following activities:

- Review of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Ordinance draft regarding the Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan and is awaiting direction on revision the ordinance.
- Reviewed the DEP's Lead and Copper Rule for direction on establishing inventory.
- Assessed the law and options on short-term rentals and provided sample/draft ordinances for Council review.
- Updated Council on the permit denial at 200 ½ Allegheny Avenue.
- Municipal lien drafted for emergency tree removal on vacant land.
- Fire Department Merger Agreement pending with solicitor from Harmar/Springdale Twp.

COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Council was asked to review the bill due list #10.23, bills posted 9/13/23-10/10/23.

Frank Meledandri recommended that new Council members consider attending a "boot camp" for newly elected officials.

Brad Yaksich presented and led the discussion on 'hard' projects identified for 2024.

The agenda item for Shawna Ecker to present and discuss 2024 'soft' projects was tabled due to her absence from the meeting.

FACILITIES:

George White updated Council on his discussions with Jane at the DEP on learning of possible grants through PennVest. George also expressed the need to meet with the Engineer, the solicitor, representative from Harmar Water Authority and Jake (Rugged Utility) to understand costs to implement.

GENERAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION:

Kathy Gillard referred Council to the Secretary's Report sent via email and asked if anyone had questions/concerns. She also indicated that Kathi Pater's temporary assignment in the office was completed. Regarding budgeting, Jaime Varshine has expressed interest in additional training related to her role.

GRANTS:

PERSONNEL:

PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & UTILITIES:

Brad Yaksich informed Council of the 2023 state aid allocation to support the Volunteer Fire Relief Associations in the amount of \$9,563.68 and 100% of the allocation was paid to Allegheny Valley Fire Company Relief Association as it was in the prior year.

Lorraine Zebrine reported on the status of the Q3 water billing, 3.2% of Q3 billing unpaid but collection efforts were underway.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Frank Meledandri led the discussion on the benefits of implementing the ARCGIS online system at the quoted cost of \$4,511.00 and asked for their approval to be made through motion at the next scheduled meeting of Council, 10/17/23.

Frank also asked Council to consider for approval by motion of Council at the next scheduled meeting (10/17/23) to hire Joseph Driscoll and Samuel Thurber as substitute snow-plow drivers and to appoint Codi Newcamp as a seasonal public works winter road maintenance laborer for 20 weeks.

RECREATION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & SERVICES

ZONING & CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Dan Carroll indicated that the Zoning Officer received responses from the Notice of Violations issued and the owners committed, verbally, to take corrective action.

Dan Carroll also commented that he continues to hear from residents about grass/weeds growing up through streets and curbs and the lack of maintenance, i.e., tarring cracks in pavement. Frank Meledandri agreed to meet with Jeff Armstrong to develop a plan to address the concern.

COG:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Council was informed of the action to sell the 1998 Chevrolet pickup truck through Muncibid.

Dan Carroll dispelled rumors that he made comment to disband the AVRPD, he assured Council that he never made such comments and fully supports the AVRPD.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Kathy Gillard to adjourn at 8:11 PM, motion seconded by Brad Yaksich and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Zebrine, Secretary