

CHESWICK BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

November 14, 2023

A meeting of Cheswick Borough Council was held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at the Cheswick Borough Building, 220 S. Atlantic Avenue, Cheswick, Pennsylvania. Frank Meledandri called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

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

There were no residents or reporters in attendance.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

MINUTES:

- Brad Yaksich motioned to approve the October 10, 2023, Caucus and October 17, 2023 Council meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Bill Kuzmirek and carried.

AVJSA REPORT:

Brad Yaksich had nothing new to report.

AVRPD REPORT:

Brad Yaksich reported that they received the resignation of a part-time officer, responded to 150 events in October, no issues reported on Halloween and that the department is participating in the Toys for Tots drive.

ZONING OFFICER'S/ INSPECTOR'S REPORT:

None

TREASURER'S REPORT:

None

ENGINEER’S REPORT:

On behalf of the engineer, Frank Meledandri reported on the application of grants for the water meter replacement, N. Highland water line replacement and ADA ramps. Also, work in tweaking the RAFA system.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT:

CharLee Rosini delivered the solicitor report commenting on the work with to determine a plan regarding a ‘stolen’ handicap sign and clarification on write-in election results.

She is waiting for direction from the Borough on short-term rentals and the Intergovernmental Agreement. Related to Right to Know requests she is drafting the response received regarding 200 ½ Allegheny Ave. and her willingness to assist in others.

Pending response from the Harmar and Springdale townships regarding the Fire Department Merger agreement and a municipal lien for emergency tree removal on vacant property.

COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

- Brad Yaksich motioned to approve bill due list #11.23, bills posted 10/11/23 – 11/14/23. Motion seconded by Bill Kuzmirek and carried.

Frank Meledandri presented and reviewed the 2024 preliminary budget.

- Karen Matisz motioned to pass the 2024 Preliminary Budget at \$2,675,230.38 and by:

General Fund:	\$1,460,272.84
Water Fund:	\$ 575,579.54
Sewage Fund:	\$ 474,243.00
Refuse Fund:	\$ 165,135.00
Total:	\$2,675,230.38

Motion seconded by Bill Kuzmirek and carried.

- Brad Yaksich motioned to advertise the approval of the 2024 preliminary budget in the newspaper of general circulation and to post the 2024 preliminary budget for public review for 10 business days. Motion seconded by Karen Matisz and carried.

FACILITIES:

GENERAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION:

GRANTS:

Brad Yaksich and Shawna Ecker participated in meetings with Mandy Steele regarding plans for Rachel Carson Park, reporting that “good things coming”

PERSONNEL:

- Brad Yaksich motioned to accept Steve Sekaras' resignation from the Zoning Hearing Board effective 8/31/23. Motion seconded by Bill Kuzmirek and carried.

Karen Matisz reviewed the application received from Rebecca Shearer to fill the vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board.

PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & UTILITIES:

- Brad Yaksich motioned to approve Resolution 2023-12, a concurring resolution confirming the application of CBDG grants for \$28,000 for ADA ramps and designating Robert Frank (AVNCOG Director) to perform the official duties between the Borough and Allegheny County Economic Development. Motion seconded by Karen Matisz and carried.
- Brad Yaksich motioned to approve Resolution 2023-13, a resolution requesting a Statewide Local Share Assessment (LSA) grant of \$176,515 for water meter replacements and designating Council President, Frank Meledandri and Borough Secretary Lorraine Zebrine officials to execute all documents between the Borough and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to assist in obtaining the grant. Motion seconded by Bill Kuzmirek and carried.
- Brad Yaksich motioned to approve Resolution 2023-14, a resolution requesting a Statewide Local Share Assessment (LSA) grant of \$400,605 for the N. Highland Waterline Replacement Project and officials to execute all documents between the Borough and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to assist in obtaining the grant. Motion seconded by Karen Matisz and carried.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Frank Meladandri reviewed with Council the condition and immediate need to replace the inlet at the corner of N. Highland Ave.

- Brad Yaksich motioned to authorize the chair of Public Works to proceed in approving the quote from Bonder Technical Services to replace the inlet at the corner of N. Highland Ave. at a cost of \$15,465 as part of the signal replacement project. Motion seconded by Bill Kuzmirek and carried.
- Brad Yaksich motioned to sell the 1998 Chevy Pickup truck advertised on Muncibid to the highest bidder Scott McGinn at \$4200. Motion seconded by Bill Kuzmirek and carried.

RECREATION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

Accountabilities related to the new Community Relations checking account was discussed. Karen Matisz expressed her opinion to be the only signer on the account for the first year, after which a treasurer could be appointed.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & SERVICES

None

ZONING & CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Mayor Dan Carroll reported that Jeff Curti was not having luck with the district judge when the notices of violations are not resolved and suggested that the Borough Public Works employees mow the grass and line the property.

Karen Matisz requested that Jeff Curti attend a meeting to better understand what issues are preventing action on getting residents to comply with code.

COG:

OLD BUSINESS:

After further review Shawna Ecker, in her opinion, did not think that the Community Enhancement letter drafted with the intention to be sent to the Businesses should not be sent because it states that they have a year to comply. It was agreed that the letter would be sent next year with the intention to enforce compliance.

NEW BUSINESS:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Karen Matisz to adjourn at 9:53 PM, motion seconded by Brad Yaksich and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Zebrine, Secretary

* Minutes issued from notes transcribed by Jaime Varshine.