

CHESWICK BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

March 12, 2024

A meeting of Cheswick Borough Council was held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at the Cheswick Borough Building, 220 S. Atlantic Avenue, Cheswick, Pennsylvania. Brad Yaksich called the meeting to order at 7:01PM.

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

There were 3 residents or reporters in attendance.

Frank Stanish and Adis Halimic – candidates to be appointed and sworn in to fill 2 vacancies on Council at the regular meeting of Council on March 19, 2024.

Gary Taylor attended as the Borough’s AVJSA representative and to provide monthly report.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

MINUTES:

Council had no comment on the February 13, 2024, Caucus and February 20,2024 Council meeting minutes.

AVJSA REPORT:

Gary Taylor delivered the monthly AVJSA Report. The authority was cited for 2 overflows. The revenue audit went very well, and rates will be published in April. Related to the plant upgrade, Gary informed Council that Greenland Construction still had work to complete at Rachel Carson Park after the lines are installed. In addition, he acknowledged the poor condition of Duquesne Ave. and the demolition of the Duquesne Ave. pump house which will also be cleaned up by Greenland Construction.

Brad Yaksich questioned if once the pump house is demolished if the area could be used as a parking lot for Rachel Carson Park.

AVRPD REPORT:

A report of the Allegheny Valley Regional Police Department was delivered highlighting 148 events, no arrests. The department needs new vehicles. Related to hiring, Council was informed that they are having a challenging time getting applicants.

MAYORS REPORT:

Mayor Dan Carroll referred to the AVRPD report.

ZONING OFFICER'S/ INSPECTOR'S REPORT:

None

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Frank Meledandri provided update on the Borough's positive cash flow and informed Council that all reserve funds from the American Rescue Plan Act must be used this year and to be mindful of the unexpected cost that water breaks are costing the Borough this year.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

None

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

CharLee Rosini commented or updated on the following:

- Awaiting direction from Council on the short-term rental ordinances drafted.
- Investigated options on regulating marijuana growers/sellers in the Borough and is awaiting direction from Council.
- Reviewed the nuisance ordinance in anticipation of updates and is awaiting direction from Council.
- Planning to represent the Borough at the Magistrate hearing, on the complaint filed by Jan Bosak regarding the denial of an occupancy permit and delay resulting in lost rental payments.
- Ongoing litigation on the Bastin v. Cheswick Borough et.al complaint
- Awaiting direction from Council on the drafted Social Media policy.
- Continue work with staff regarding Right to Know requests as needed.
- Awaiting instruction from Springdale Township/Harmar Township Solicitor on the Fire Department Merger agreement.

It was recommended that an ordinance be drafted for the marijuana growers/sellers and having one public hearing to include the ordinance on short-term rentals.

COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Council reviewed bill due list #03.24 (Bills posted 02/14/2024-03/12/2024) and had no comment or question.

Frank Meledandri highlighted that the water leak was costing the Borough approximately \$60/day.

FACILITIES:

None

GENERAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION:

Council was asked to consider the hiring of Kathi Pater to fill in the last week of March to cover staff vacation.

Jaime Varshine updated Council on the status of hiring additional/clerical help in the office.

GRANTS:

None

PERSONNEL:

Council confirmed receipt of Bill Kuzmirek's resignation from Council effective 3/1/2024. The Borough received 5 qualified applicants to fill the two vacancies and the decision to select Frank Stanish and Adis Halimic was unanimous and plan to appoint and swear in at the regular meeting of Council scheduled for 3/19/2024.

PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & UTILITIES:

Council reviewed and opened discussion on the renewal of the Comcast Franchise agreement negotiated through AVNCOG.

It was brought to Council's attention that the West Penn Power contact/liaison with the Borough has retired, and rebates are available.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Vandalism at the tennis courts was discussed. The suspected water leak continues, a leak detection service was called in and unsuccessful in locating the leak. Frank proposed finding a service that uses data loggers.

Also, it was noted that the newly installed RAFA system has failed a few times, and we may need to pursue the manufacturer.

Lastly, as part of the planned water meter replacement project, moving forward with phase one to replace 300 meters.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

Karen Matisz confirmed the dates for the 4 pop-up markets scheduled.

RECREATION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Shawna Ecker indicated that they continue to work on the street sign project design for co-stars, public works agreed to install the signs in phases. Public Works is installing new swings at MacLean Parklet,

finishing touches on the gazebo and purchasing lids for the trash cans and scheduling street sweeping in the Borough.

Related to planning the Strawberry Festival, the need to restore power to the pole on Spruce Street was discussed and an individual has volunteered to do the work at no cost to the Borough.

Karen Matisz suggested that the Borough consider installing touch pads to access the bathrooms at MacLean Parklet and the Brough Building.

Lastly, Shawna Ecker shared the events planned by the Borough and/or the Recreation Board.

COMMUNICATIONS

ZONING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT:

COG:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion to enter executive session made by Shawna Ecker at 8:46 PM to discuss personnel or potential litigation issues. Motion seconded by Karen Matisz and carried.

Motion to adjourn executive session made by Karen Matisz at 8:56 PM. Motion seconded by Shawna Ecker and carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Karen Matisz to adjourn at 8:56 PM, motion seconded by George White and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Zebrine, Secretary

* Minutes transcribed from notes taken by Jaime Varshine.