

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: Colleen Leonard, Council President
Jane Flanagan, Council Vice-President
Robert Stokley, Senior Council Member
Anita Barton, Council Member
Tina Sokolowski, Council Member
Karen Tutino, Council Member
Yaniv Aronson, Mayor

ALSO PRESENT: Stephanie Cecco, Borough Manager
Michael E. Peters, Borough Solicitor

CALL TO ORDER

The Public Meeting of the Conshohocken Borough Council duly advertised, was held at the Conshohocken Borough Hall, 400 Fayette Street, Conshohocken, PA. Ms. Colleen Leonard, Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PRAYER FOR COUNCIL

Ms. Barton read a Prayer for Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Leonard announced that an Executive Session was held immediately prior to the meeting regarding personnel and legal matters.

PRESENTATIONS

a.) Recognition of 20 Years of Service, Francis Perry Jr., Public Services

Ray Sokolowski, Executive Director of Operations, recognized Frank Perry for 20 years of service in the Public Services Department. Mr. Perry was presented with a gift for his dedication and contribution to the Borough.

b.) Swearing in of Steve Young as Deputy Fire Marshal

Mayor Aronson swore in Steve Young as Deputy Fire Marshal.

c.) Consider granting conditional use approval for Matson Mill

Mr. Peters explained that the applicant is seeking conditional use to approval to permit a multifamily residential use in the SP-3 Zoning District. He reviewed a list of proposed conditions. Mr. Stokley requested a status update on the new SEPTA train station, which Michael Sencindiver, representative of the legal property owner, provided.

Mr. Stokley made a motion to grant Conditional Use approval for Matson Mill per the proposed conditions read into record on November 20, 2019, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 6-0. (Griffin absent)

d.) Consider approving preliminary/final minor subdivision and land development for Matson Mill

Mr. Peters reviewed the conditions set forth in the proposed resolution, which would approve preliminary/final minor subdivision and land development for Matson Mill.

Ms. Flanagan made a motion to approve preliminary/final minor subdivision and land development for Matson Mill, seconded by Ms. Sokolowski. Ms. Tutino opposed. The motion carried 5-1. (Griffin absent)

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Cecco read and reviewed the items included on the consent agenda.

- a.) **Approve and adopt the September 25 Special Meeting Minutes, and the October 2 and October 16 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- b.) **Accept the October-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$441,407.71.**

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve and adopt the September 25 Special Meeting Minutes, and the October 2 and October 16 Regular Meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Leonard. The motion carried 6-0. (Griffin absent)

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to approve the October-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$441,407.71, seconded by Ms. Tutino. The motion carried 6-0. (Griffin absent)

NEW BUSINESS

- a.) **Consider an agreement with PFM for financial advisor services related to the sewer system**

Ms. Cecco provided a brief overview of the proposed agreement.

Mr. Stokley made a motion to approve an agreement with PFM for financial advisor services related to the sewer system, seconded by Ms. Flanagan. The motion carried 6-0. (Griffin absent)

- b.) **Consider approving Resolution 2019-25 adopting a fire stipend program**

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-25 adopting a fire stipend program, seconded by Ms. Flanagan. The motion carried 6-0. (Griffin absent)

- c.) **Consider awarding a bid for towing services**

Ms. Cecco stated that the Borough received proposals from EVB Towing and Janeway Towing for towing services through an RFP process. She explained that Administration recommends that the Borough contract with EVB Towing for a three (3) year period starting on January 1, 2020.

Ms. Tutino made a motion to award a bid for towing services to EVB Towing for three (3) years starting on January 1, 2020, seconded by Ms. Sokolowski. Ms. Leonard recused herself. The motion carried 5-0. (Griffin absent)

- d.) **Consider awarding a bid for Police consulting services**

Ms. Cecco explained that the Borough received (1) one proposal from Matrix Consulting Group for Police consulting services through an RFP process. She reviewed the scope of services to be provided to the Borough at a not to exceed cost of \$33,400.00.

Mr. Stokley made a motion to award a bid for Police consulting services to Matrix Consulting Group at a price of \$33,400.00, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 6-0. (Griffin absent)

- e.) **Consider authorizing advertisement of Ordinance 08-2019 amending Chapter 11 of the Borough Ordinance to include installation and maintenance of rear house numbers for residential rental properties**

Ms. Cecco discussed how Administration plans to communicate this new requirement to residents. She explained that adding the requirement of rear house numbers would ensure the efficient identification of

properties for emergency personnel. She mentioned that a requirement for non-rental properties would be considered in the future.

Ms. Barton made a motion to authorize advertisement of Ordinance 08-2019 amending Chapter 11 of the Borough Ordinance to include installation and maintenance of rear house numbers for residential rental properties, seconded by Ms. Flanagan. The motion carried 6-0. (Griffin absent)

f.) Approve the FY2020 Proposed Budget and advertise the same as duly required

Ms. Cecco stated that two (2) budget options were presented at the Special Budget Meeting on November 6, 2019. She explained that FY2020 Budget Option A proposes no tax increase, and Budget Option B proposes a 1-mill tax increase that would result in an estimated \$664,000.00 being allocated specifically to debt service.

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to approve FY2020 Proposed Budget Option B with a proposed 1-mill tax increase and advertise same as duly required, seconded by Ms. Flanagan. Mr. Stokley opposed. The motion carried 5-1. (Griffin absent)

g.) Authorize advertisement of Ordinance 07-2019 to levy real estate tax for 2020

Ms. Flanagan made a motion to authorize advertisement of Ordinance 07-2019 to levy real estate tax for 2020 at 4.5-mills, seconded by Ms. Leonard. Mr. Stokley opposed. The motion carried 5-1. (Griffin absent)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a.) Consider approving 322 East Eighth Avenue financial security release no. 2 in the amount of \$19,794.00

Ms. Cecco confirmed that the Borough Engineer inspected the completed site improvements and is recommending a partial release in the amount of \$19,794.00.

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve 322 East Eighth Avenue financial security release no. 2 in the amount of \$19,794.00, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 6-0. (Griffin absent)

b.) Consider approving Resolution 2019-26 authorizing the submission of the 2019 CDBG Application

Ms. Cecco explained that the available CDBG grant program funds for community development activities would be utilized through a housing rehabilitation program for low and moderate-income households in the Borough. She asked Council to consider approving a resolution, which would authorize the submission of the CDBG application.

Ms. Tutino made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-26 authorizing the submission of the 2019 CDBG Application, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 6-0. (Griffin absent)

c.) Consider requests from the Friends of Conshohocken Parks to utilize funds for the Dog Park Advisory Committee and the Mary Wood Park Commission

Ms. Cecco stated that the Dog Park Advisory Committee is requesting \$387.50 and the Mary Wood Park Commission is requesting \$222.60. She explained that, per the Friends of Conshohocken bylaws, all expenses from the non-profit account require approval of Borough Council.

Ms. Tutino made a motion to authorize the Friends of Conshohocken Parks to utilize funds for the Dog Park Advisory Committee in the amount of \$387.50 and the Mary Wood Park Commission in the amount of \$222.60, seconded by Ms. Sokolowski. The motion carried 6-0. (Griffin absent)

d.) Fire Company Audits Status Update

Mr. Peters provided an update on the status of the audits for Washington Fire Company No. 1 and Conshohocken Fire Company No. 2. He stated that the audit for Conshohocken Fire Company is expected to be complete by the end of 2019. With regard to Washington Fire Company, the Borough received a request for execution of a Confidentiality Agreement from Washington Fire Company. Mr. Peters explained

that the terms of that agreement are still being negotiated, as Borough Council could not legally agree to the original terms requested by Washington Fire Company.

e.) Consider approving an Addendum to the Solid Waste Disposal Agreement with Covanta Plymouth

Ms. Cecco asked Council to consider approving a two (2) year limited agreement with Covanta Plymouth. She mentioned that the two (2) year renewal contract would contain a clause providing for an additional three (3) year extension period, contingent upon review of Covanta's operations over the next two (2) years. She stated that the proposed renewal contract would maintain the same prices as quoted in the 2014 bid submission. Ms. Cecco discussed why administration recommended the short-term renewal. She reviewed alternative options for trash disposal with JP Mascaro, Republic and Waste Management. She explained that all options would require the Borough to increase taxes for trash disposal. Ms. Cecco presented an emergency backup plan to utilize Republic in case Covanta is unable to rectify its operational issues.

Ms. Leonard asked for any public comment on the matter regarding Covanta Plymouth.

Jessica Ram, 138 Sutcliffe Lane, reviewed a Notice of Violation issued by the DEP to Covanta. She explained that Covanta has been subject to several violations relating to reporting, equipment malfunctions and levels of emissions of possible carcinogens.

Mike Makoid, 112 West 9th Avenue, thanked Administration for researching all options and getting quotes from additional trash disposal service providers. He voiced concerns relating to the plant's ability to rectify its operational issues.

Steve Geiger, resident of Plymouth Township, stated that Covanta Plymouth threatens the health of children.

Kathleen Hawk, 132 East 6th Avenue, questioned how a two (2) year renewal maintains the Borough's leverage and interest in Covanta as a stakeholder.

Ms. Flanagan made a motion to approve a two (2) year addendum to the Solid Waste Disposal Agreement with Covanta Plymouth, seconded by Ms. Leonard. A roll call vote was taken. Yes - Tutino, Sokolowski, Barton, Flanagan, Leonard; No - Stokley. The motion carried 5-1. (Griffin absent)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Aronson shared photos from Tree Planting Event at Sutcliffe Park. He reminded everyone that the Christmas Tree Lighting is on November 29th at 5:45pm at the Mary Wood Park House.

Mr. Stokley discussed concerns related to vehicles not stopping at stop signs.

Ms. Sokolowski addressed David Sharp, representative of Covanta Plymouth, who was present in the audience. She stated that the expectation is for Covanta to increase education and communication protocols on emissions from Covanta and to fix its operational issues resulting in malfunctions over the course of 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary