

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: Colleen Leonard, Council President
Tina Sokolowski, Council Vice-President
Anita Barton, Council Member
Stacy Ellam, Council Member
Kathleen Kingsley, Council Member
Adrian Serna, Council Member
Karen Tutino, Council Member
Yaniv Aronson, Mayor

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON CDBG APPLICATION

Chris Stetler, Community Development and Grant Coordinator, opened the second public hearing on the 2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application. Ms. Stetler shared that the Borough is eligible to receive \$153,141.00 in federal funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). She recommended that the available funding for community development activities be utilized for the construction of curb ramps on the east side of the Borough. She listed the proposed curb ramp locations. She reviewed program costs for administration and construction. There was no public comment.

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. Leonard, Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Leonard announced that an Executive Session was held immediately prior to the regularly scheduled public meeting on personnel, property, and legal matters.

PRESENTATIONS

a.) PA State Mayor's Association 2023 Mayor of the Year Award, Jim Nowalk and Scot Funk

Mayor Aronson was presented with the Pennsylvania State Mayor's Association (PSMA) 2023 Mayor of the Year Award.

Representative Greg Scott, on behalf of the House of Representatives, recognized Mayor Aronson for receiving the PSMA 2023 Mayor of the Year Award.

b.) 2024 Conshohocken Bike Race Presentation, Joseph Secoges, Simon's Heart

Joseph Secoges shared that Simon's Heart in conjunction with QCW Cycling would like to host a bike race in Conshohocken. Jennifer Parrado, Executive Director of Simon's Heart, explained that Simon's Heart is a local charity dedicated to preventing sudden cardiac arrest and death in children, teens and young adults. Mike Black, QCW Board Member, provided an overview of the USA Cycling affiliated club in Southeastern PA.

Mr. Secoges explained that a criterium is a multi-lap bike race contested on a closed course where laps are typically a mile long and include 2-6 corners while avoiding any significant hills. In order to facilitate the event, he requested assistance from Borough emergency management personnel for course management and EMS for rider safety.

He discussed the proposed course which would start and finish on Spring Mill Avenue and would include Fayette Street, East First Avenue, East Elm Street and Apple Street. He explained that the proposed course was selected for safety reasons as there is a need to control speed of a criterium race. Ms. Cecco added that the overall event and proposed course has been vetted by Borough administration and emergency personnel, local business owners, and race organizers.

Council Member Serna inquired about street closures. Mr. Secoges stated that vehicles would need to be cleared from the entire course. He added that there would be pedestrian access and crossings throughout the course. Mr. Black explained that the entire race, including set up and breakdown, would take place in one day. Ms. Cecco added that over the last several years the Borough has invested in emergency response resources to be able to navigate in and around the proposed course.

Mr. Secoges shared that the proposed event date is Sunday, August 18, 2024. Ms. Cecco added that the date is tentative.

LAND USE MATTERS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES

a.) Discuss an ordinance accepting the dedication and opening of Oak Street

Mr. Peters explained that the proposed ordinance would open the Oak Street Crossing as a public road. He stated that this is part of the requirement that the Public Utility Commission (PUC) is imposing on the opening of the road. He explained that the appropriate property owners will be notified and that the proposed ordinance will be advertised once the legal descriptions are finalized.

b.) Discuss an amendment to the Borough's Parking Ordinance

Mr. Peters reviewed the proposed ordinance amendments. He stated that the proposed ordinance authorizes the Borough's Fire Marshal to enforce parking restrictions in fire lanes. He explained that the proposed ordinance establishes a new one-way street on Walnut Street and new stop intersections on Hallowell Street at Twelfth Avenue and West First Avenue at Forrest Street. The ordinance creates new no-parking zones, special-purpose parking zones, and tow-away zones and amends the regulations regarding expiration of Residential Parking Permits. Mr. Peters explained that the ordinance prohibits overnight parking of certain trucks, trailers, vehicles, and equipment on the basis of weight, size, or type. He also explained that the ordinance amends and clarifies the metered parking zones in the Borough, and amends the regulations related to on-street and off-street metered parking, particularly as needed to permit use of an application/web-based payment system, and clarifies the hourly rates/hourly restrictions for such parking.

c.) Discuss a resolution to establish residential permit parking on East Eighth Avenue between Fayette Street and Harry Street

Mr. Peters explained that in anticipation of the opening of the pocket park on the grounds of the Fritz Lodge, Borough Administration is recommending that Council consider establishing residential permit parking on East Eighth Avenue between Fayette Street and Harry Street.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

a.) Conduct an interview for a vacancy on the Friends of Conshohocken Parks

Ms. Leonard introduced Adrian Kurtz who was present to interview for a vacancy on the Friends of Conshohocken Parks. Mr. Kurtz expressed his interest in serving on the Board and discussed the role of the Friends of Conshohocken Parks. He discussed his relevant experience with non-profit organizations, as an owner and volunteer.

b.) Consider interviews for Board and Commission reappointments

Ms. Leonard introduced Jane Flanagan who was present to interview for reappointment to the Mary Wood Park Commission. Ms. Flanagan expressed her passion for the Mary Wood Park House. She shared some historical background about Mary Wood and the Park House.

Ms. Leonard introduced Tim Beckel who was present to interview for reappointment to the EAC. Mr. Beckel expressed his excitement to continue working on EAC initiatives and events, such as Greenfest and community clean ups. Mr. Serna recognized Tim for his leadership skills, specifically during the onboarding of new members.

MANAGER MATTERS

a.) Discuss the Borough's 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligations (MMO)

Ms. Cecco explained that the Borough is required to annually satisfy Minimum Municipal Obligations (MMO) for its pension plans. She reviewed the financial requirement for Police, Fire and Non-Uniform pension plans. She stated that the MMO values will be included in the FY2024 budget.

b.) Consider approving change order no. 1 for the 2023 Liquid Fuels Program

Ms. Cecco explained that the change order includes additional work to repair two (2) sink holes and balances the original contract quantities in the base bid to equal the actual field measured quantities. She stated that there is no net charge for the change order.

Mr. Serna made a motion to approve change order no. 1 for the 2023 Liquid Fuels Road Program, seconded by Ms. Kingsley. The motion carried 7-0.

c.) Consider approving payment certificate no. 2 for the 2023 Liquid Fuels Program

Ms. Cecco stated that work on the 2023 Liquid Fuels Road Program is nearing completion, and the contractor is requesting payment certificate no. 2 for the project in the amount of \$304,631.82.

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve payment certificate no. 2 for the 2023 Liquid Fuels Road Program to Scott Contractors Inc. in the amount of \$304,631.82, seconded by Ms. Ellam. The motion carried 7-0.

d.) Consider approving a tuition reimbursement for Officer Hall for the 2023 fall semester

Ms. Kingsley made a motion to approve a tuition reimbursement for Officer Hall for the 2023 fall semester in the amount of \$1,860.00 plus the cost of books per the Police CBA, seconded by Mr. Serna. The motion carried 7-0.

e.) Consider approving financial security escrow release no. 2 for 124 West First Avenue in the amount of \$18,203.00

Ms. Kingsley made a motion to approve the financial security escrow release no. 2 for 124 West First Avenue in the amount of \$18,203.00, seconded by Mr. Serna. The motion carried 7-0.

f.) Consider authorizing advertisement of bid documents for the 2022 CDBG Curb Ramp Project

Ms. Cecco discussed the 2022 CDBG Curb Ramp Project. She stated that the project includes the replacement of ADA curb ramps at East 5th Avenue between Harry and Fayette Streets; West 4th Avenue and Wood Street; Wood Street between West 6th and West 7th Avenues; West 10th Avenue between Wood and Maple Streets; West 11th Avenue between Wood and Maple Streets; and Freedley Street between West 10th and West 11th Avenues. Ms. Cecco asked for Council’s approval to bid the project for construction.

Ms. Barton made a motion to authorize advertisement of bid documents for the 2022 CDBG Curb Ramp Project, seconded by Ms. Ellam. The motion carried 7-0.

g.) Consider approving a block party request for the 400 block of East Twelfth Avenue

Ms. Cecco shared that the Borough received a block party request for the 400 block of East Twelfth Avenue on October 22, 2023, from 10:00am to 6:00pm. Ms. Cecco stated that the event has been approved by Whitemarsh Township since a portion of the East Twelfth Avenue is located in Whitemarsh Township.

Ms. Kingsley made a motion to approve a block party request for the 400 block of East 12th Avenue contingent upon final administrative review and approval, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.

h.) Consider approving payment application no. 2 for Lenni Electric Corp., Inc., for the Fayette Street Pedestrian Crossings Project

Mr. Serna made a motion to approve payment application no. 2 for Lenni Electric Corp., for installation of the Fayette Street Pedestrian Crossing Project in the amount of \$177,477.34, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.

DEPARTMENT MATTERS

There were no department matters.

LEGAL MATTERS

There were no legal matters.

COUNCIL MEMBER AND MAYOR MATTERS

Ms. Tutino shared information about several events that support local businesses, including the Conshohocken Farmer’s Market and Restaurant Week.

Ms. Leonard, on behalf of Mayor Aronson, thanked everyone who has supported him as Mayor of Conshohocken.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary