

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, July 27, 2016

SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING

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

ALSO PRESENT: Richard J. Manfredi, Borough Manager

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Public Meeting of the Conshohocken Borough Council duly advertised, was held at Conshohocken Borough Hall, 400 Fayette Street, Conshohocken, PA. Mr. James Griffin, Council President, called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Manfredi explained that the meeting is a non-voting work session focusing on goal setting. He also shared an alphabetical listing of the goals that the present members of Council provided for consideration in the 2017 budget and explained that a number of items on the 2017 listing would require further Council discussion that evening. He requested that Council rank the level of priority that they believed each of the 2017 goals had on the forms that he provided and that the forms be returned to him following that evening's meeting so that they could move forward with the goal-setting process.

DISCUSSION OF GOALS

Mr. Manfredi began by reviewing a listing of the 2016 goals that include:

Community Center at the Fellowship House - programs to attract residents of all ages; Develop a Capital Improvements Plan at Parks and Recreation Facilities; Develop a Facility and Maintenance position; Erect a new border fence at the A-Field; Expand a summer basketball league; Expand kids and seniors programming; Funfest on Fayette Street; Increase landscape screening for aesthetic purposes as the Borough undergoes development; Install new and updated parks equipment; Systematically improve corner storm water management access and egress at select intersections; Increase property maintenance enforcement through Ward 1 and the entire Borough; Determine reuse of Leeland Manor; Address traffic issues in the Borough and analyze condition options; and Consider alternatives for pedestrian crossing safety on Fayette Street.

Council asked whether some of the projects that were planned for 2016 would be completed in 2016 or if they will be pushed into 2017 and Mr. Manfredi explained each 2016 goal's present status for Council. Council discussed in depth what improvements were planned for parks and

Mr. Manfredi inquired if Ms. Tutino would like to move forward with installing new playground equipment at Haines and Salvati or if she would prefer to look at other alternatives since that park was recently discussed at a Council meeting. Ms. Tutino suggested researching playground equipment that incorporates several different pieces of equipment into one unit because there is not much space there. Following discussion on options for the park, Council decided to research re-design options for several parks in 2017 including Haines and Salvati, Mary H. Wood, and Sutcliffe.

Mr. Manfredi also updated Council on the A-Field Wall replacement project. Ms. Leonard shared that residents would like the wall to incorporate brick columns with stone in the center and Mr. Manfredi commented that he would move forward with the project. Mr. Stokley updated Council by sharing that the summer basketball league goal has been accomplished and the program is well organized.

Mr. Manfredi shared his idea for a campaign to encourage pedestrians to cross at signalized intersections as a solution to improve safety on Fayette Street, which Council was supportive of. Council also discussed the necessity of the signs at other crosswalks on Fayette Street and determined to remove those not at signalized intersections. Mr. Griffin also asked Mr. Manfredi to order "We Support our Police" signs, which Mr. Manfredi confirmed had already been ordered.

Before moving on to the discussion of the 2017 goals, Ms. Leonard expressed her concerns about the July 21st zoning hearing board meeting on the 1109-1201 Fayette Street proposed convenience store with gasoline sales. Council discussed what action they could take if they took issue with any aspects of the hearing and the timelines for doing so.

Mr. Manfredi then reviewed the listing of the 2017 goals for discussion which include:

A-Field Basketball Courts; A-Field Track; Address traffic and transportation issues in the Borough and analyze condition options; B-Field Ice Rink; Beach volleyball at Sutcliffe; Consider alternatives for pedestrian crossing safety on Fayette Street; Consider creating small pocket parking lots; Consider creating small pocket parks and improve Sutcliffe park; Construct a dog park at the end of West 7th Avenue on Borough land; Create three pocket parks; Expand a Summer Basketball League; Fayette Street Road Diet Study; Fund Leeland Mansion Reuse; Install new and updated parks equipment; Maintain alleys within the Borough; Prioritize Park equipment upgrades; Repair curbing within the Borough at Borough Expense; Resolve drainage issues at Sutcliffe; Rowing Center - Boat Ramp for Public Access; Systematically improve corner storm water management access and egress at select intersections; Trail to Haines and Salvati and Haines and Salvati Upgrade; YMCA Partnership: Fitness Center et al; Skate Park; and Mary Wood Park Equipment and Improvements.

Mr. Manfredi shared that he had estimates available on the costs to undertake initiatives that Council had suggested in their 2017 goals such as taking over responsibility for the alleys and making improvements to various Borough parks. He provided figures for improvements and Council commented and inquired about each of the 2017 goals before Mr. Manfredi introduced his Manager Matters.

MANAGER MATTERS

Mr. Manfredi shared that the Environmental Advisory Council has asked him to reach out to Council about conducting a resident survey about the possibility of creating a mini-park. Council determined that they are not interested in placing a park at the location they proposed at this time and asked Mr. Manfredi to communicate that to the Environmental Advisory Council.

Mr. Manfredi also shared that three ordinances would be included on the agenda for August 17th; they would include an update to the Borough's Open Container Ordinance, Peddling and Soliciting Ordinance, and Traffic Ordinance. He reviewed the changes associated with each ordinance amendment and provided the full text of each to Council to review.

Finally, Mr. Manfredi provided an update on the Inside Out Program kick-off, Council discussed making appointments to the Mary Wood Park Commission as well as the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, and considered other matters related to consultants and zoning.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment shared.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi,
Borough Secretary