

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, July 17, 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
James Griffin, 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. Leonard 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 a personnel matter and a legal matter.

PRESENTATIONS

a.) Presentation of Police Officer Commendations and Proclamation

Police Superintendent Metz shared that Officer Joseph Glasgow and Officer Xavier Perez saved the life of an infant on July 4, 2019. Mayor Aronson read a proclamation honoring the life-saving efforts of the officers.

b.) Washington Fire Company Update

Ms. Cecco read a statement regarding the current issues surrounding Washington Fire Company No. 1.

a. Allen M. Mandelbaum, Esq. and Washington Fire Company spokesperson

Allen Mandelbaum, attorney for the Washington Fire Company No. 1, read a statement regarding the current issues surrounding the fire company.

b. Public Comment

- i. Andrew Carlin, President of Washington Fire Company, explained that the Fire Company misunderstood the Borough's request to conduct an audit that is more comprehensive and broader in scope than previous audits. He stated that he would like the fire company to resume its partnership with the Borough and continue providing firefighting services to the community.
- ii. Joe Wertz 335 West 5th Avenue, asked Council to restore in-service status of the Washington Fire Company.
- iii. Debra Ellis, 149 West 4th Avenue, voiced concerns about dispatch of the ladder truck and delayed response times.
- iv. Jackie Coll, 810 Forrest Street, commented that proper notification should have been provided prior to the removal of fire trucks from Washington Fire Company.
- v. Ana DeSantis, 200 West Elm Street, stated that having a fire company in close proximity to the Grande makes her feel safe. She voiced concerns about drivers running red lights.
- vi. Ashley Carlin, 309 West 11th Avenue, disagreed with how the situation was handled and stated that she felt that removing the fire trucks without notice was disrespectful.
- vii. Charles Primavera, resident of Lancaster, disagreed with how the situation was handled by administration and Borough Council.
- viii. Clint Gates, 926 Fayette Street, urged Council to return the fire trucks to the Washington Fire Company.
- ix. Frank Carlin, resident and member of Washington Fire Company, urged Council to return the fire trucks and restore operation of the fire company for the safety of the residents, especially those in high-rise apartment buildings.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a.) **Approve and adopt the June 5 and June 19 Meeting Minutes**
- b.) **Accept the June-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$496,693.25.**

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- a.) **Consider approving a fee waiver request, Pitches for PKU**

Ms. Cecco shared that residents of the Borough are requesting a fee waiver for use of Sutcliffe Park to host a fundraiser for Phenylketonuria (PKU) on September 7, 2019.

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve a fee waiver request for Pitches for PKU, seconded by Ms. Flanagan. The motion carried 7-0.

- b.) **Consider the resignation of a Dog Park Committee Member**

Ms. Cecco stated that the Borough received notification of the resignation of Kaitlin Rosen from the Dog Park Advisory Committee.

Ms. Leonard made a motion to accept the resignation of Kaitlin Rosen from the Dog Park Advisory Committee, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 7-0.

- c.) **Consider approving a Dog Park Advisory Committee Roundtable Discussion**

Ms. Cecco shared that the Dog Park Advisory Committee is requesting to host a roundtable discussion meeting with residents on August 20, 2019 at 6:30pm at the Community Center. She reviewed discussion topics, which included needs of dog owners in the Borough, the registration process and operation of the Riverside Dog Park and future plans for Haines and Salvati Park.

Ms. Flanagan made a motion to approve a Dog Park Advisory Committee Roundtable Discussion, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.

- d.) **Consider approving Resolution 2019-17 establishing temporary stop signs at the intersection of Righter Street and East Eleventh Avenue**

Ms. Leonard made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-17 establishing temporary stop signs at the intersection of Righter Street and East Eleventh Avenue, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.

- e.) **Consider approving the scope of services and fee proposal for a Borough Parking Evaluation for the Parking Task Force**

Ms. Cecco shared that the evaluation would assess current parking conditions in a specific area of study: Fayette Street from East/West Elm Street to 4th Avenue, 2 blocks east and west (Maple to Hallowell/Spring Mill/Ash). She explained that the data collection would assist the Parking Task Force in determining the state of actual parking conditions and understanding the locations and time of peak demand. Ms. Cecco shared that the Borough is partnering with Temple University to complete a larger scope study of the entire Borough.

Ms. Flanagan made a motion to approve the scope of services and fee proposal for a Borough Parking Evaluation for the Parking Task Force, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 7-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a.) **Consider approving Ordinance 05-2019 affirming the Seven Tower Bridge TIF, approving an amended project plan for the TIF and allocating appropriate tax increments from the positive real property taxes of the district to fund the amended project plan**

Mr. Peters reviewed the proposed ordinance.

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve Ordinance 05-2019 affirming the Seven Tower Bridge TIF, approving an amended project plan for the TIF and allocating appropriate tax increments from the positive real property taxes of the district to fund the amended project plan, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.

Ms. Cecco confirmed that the Borough has agreed to recycle a portion of a previously awarded UDAG loan to the Oliver Tyrone Pulver Corporation (OTPC) and that in return OTPC and the Borough will enter into a parking agreement which would provide public parking in OTPC-owned garages. Ms. Cecco discussed terms of the UDAG loan and the parking agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ana DeSantis, 200 West Elm Street, reported an increase in the number of drivers running red lights and shared that she is concerned about the accidents that can occur as a result.

Joe Ferrigno, 412 Old Elm Street, inquired about the location of the ladder truck. Ms. Cecco confirmed that the ladder truck is housed in a bay at Conshohocken Fire Company No. 2. She added that there are six (6) individuals from Conshohocken Fire Company No. 2 who are trained to operate the ladder truck. Mr. Ferrigno had a question about the scope of the Borough Parking Evaluation. Ms. Cecco confirmed that the study would evaluate existing parking conditions, but that our Traffic Engineer would take into consideration the impact of future developments.

Joi Manas, 222 West 6th Avenue, suggested that cameras be installed on traffic lights and stop signs to improve traffic safety and reduce the number of accidents.

Ed Zale, 300 West Elm Street, requested that public parking signage be improved to help direct patrons to designated parking lots.

Mayor Aronson shared that the Conshohocken Community Garden is a finalist in the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's 2019 Gardening Contest. He also shared that Coldwell Banker Preferred in conjunction with the Police Department will be hosting a shredding event on September 14, 2019 from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

Mr. Stokley reported that individuals are parking illegally around Sutcliffe Park and asked Superintendent Metz to patrol the area when events are being held at Sutcliffe Park.

Ms. Barton provided an update on the Sewer Authority regarding water usage, the evaluation of flows, the second sewer liner project and the purchase of a jet truck.

Ms. Sokolowski shared that thirty (30) residents enrolled in the Learn to Row Program this summer at the Conshohocken Rowing Center. She urged residents reach out to Borough elected officials and administration for assistance during the upcoming heat wave.

Ms. Flanagan reminded residents about the Summer Concert Series.

Mr. Griffin reported property owners failing to cut grass and weeds on the sidewalk and asked that our Department of Licenses & Inspections enforce the issue.

Superintendent Metz encouraged residents to contact the Police Department to check in on those who may need assistance during the heat wave.

Kevin Lukens, 207 East 8th Avenue, reported low-hanging tree branches obstructing the right-of-way on Wells Street between Sixth and Seventh Avenue. Ms. Leonard responded that the enforcement officers would contact the homeowner.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary