

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, April 3, 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. Leonard, Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PRESENTATIONS

a.) Introduction of part-time Firefighter

Ray Sokolowski, Executive Director of Operations, introduced the Borough's new part-time Firefighter, Alexis Wilmont. He reviewed her professional background and qualifications and shared that Ms. Wilmont is the first paid female firefighter for the Borough of Conshohocken. Ms. Wilmont expressed her excitement to serve the community.

b.) Consider preliminary/final minor subdivision and land development approval for 144 West Ninth Avenue: MTB Development, Tom Jones, Applicant

The applicant's engineer, Mr. Paul Hughes, introduced the project. Mr. Hughes explained that the applicant is proposing to subdivide the property into two (2) parcels to construct two (2) single family detached dwellings. He confirmed that conditional use approval was granted to demolish the existing single-family home and that zoning variances were approved for lot width and accessory structure area. Mr. Hughes described the additional proposed site improvements and the plan for stormwater management. Mr. Peters reviewed the resolution, which included the conditions of approval and requested waivers.

Ms. Tutino made a motion to approve preliminary/final minor subdivision and land development for 144 West 9th Avenue, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.

c.) Hearing regarding a waiver of off-street parking for 326 Fayette Street: Stephanie Morinelli, Applicant

Chris Stetler, Borough Zoning Officer, explained that the applicant would like to open a smoothie shop in the accessory structure to the rear of Deli on 4th at 326 Fayette Street. Ms. Stetler introduced the applicant and owner, Stephanie Morinelli, who was present to answer any questions. Ms. Morinelli discussed the history of the building, hours of operation and number of employees. She explained that the smoothie shop would provide quick service and no table seating.

Mr. Stokley made a motion to approve a waiver of off-street parking for 326 Fayette Street, seconded by Ms. Tutino. The motion carried 7-0.

d.) Tree Planting Project, Barley Van Clief, PA Horticultural Society

Barley Van Clief of the PA Horticultural Society presented a project entitled "Pathway of Patriots" for the Daughters of the American Revolution, which is intended to celebrate the 250th birthday of the USA in 2026. Ms. Van Clief discussed the objective of the project, which is to plant 250 trees along the Schuylkill River Trail between historic bookends of Valley Forge National Historic Park and Bartram's Garden. She explained that each tree would celebrate the life of a patriot who played a role in the history of the country. Ms. Van Clief reviewed three (3) possible tree-planting locations on Borough owned property.

e.) Ready for 100 Resolution Presentation, EAC

Matt Breidenstein, Chair of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), introduced the topic and provided an update on the EAC's progress to date regarding the Green Energy Initiative.

Rob Glover, Friend of the EAC, discussed how the goals of the initiative are consistent with the Montco 2040 Comprehensive Plan and the Borough's 2018 Comprehensive Plan. He reviewed the core elements and specific goals of the resolution.

Elisa Lanzutti, member of the EAC, explained next steps in the process, which included establishing an Energy Transition Task Force Team and drafting an Energy Transition Plan. She discussed how the transition plan would be a phased approach in order to reach renewable electricity by 2035 and all energy-use sectors by 2050.

Vipon Kumar, resident, discussed the importance of joining the national movement.

Ms. Cecco asked Council to review the proposed resolution and provide any revisions to administration. She confirmed that she would work directly with the EAC to incorporate those revisions into the resolution.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

There was no Council business.

MANAGER MATTERS

a.) Consider approving a special event request by the VFW

Ms. Cecco explained that the VFW Post 1074 is requesting to close Wells Street between East 5th Avenue and East 6th Avenue from 1:00pm to 6:00pm on April 27, 2019 for a Cornhole Tournament. She added that the VFW is also requesting permission to allow alcoholic beverages outside during the event. Ms. Cecco explained that the applicant plans to purchase a special events license from the State Liquor Control Board, if approved.

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to approve a special event request by the VFW, contingent upon receipt of all applicable permits, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.

b.) Consider approving a fee waiver request, Sol Yoga Studios

Ms. Cecco explained that Sol Yoga Studios is requesting fee waiver for the use of Sutcliffe Park for its annual Summer Solstice Event. She added that all proceeds would be donated to Beats for Bella.

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve a fee waiver request for Sol Yoga Studios, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 7-0.

c.) Consider approving a request for the sale and consumption of alcohol at Philadelphia Phoenix games at the A-Field

Ms. Cecco explained that this is an annual request for the sale and consumption of alcohol at the A-Field during Philadelphia Phoenix games. She confirmed that all required license and permits were submitted with the exception of a liquor license.

Ms. Flanagan made a motion to approve the request for the sale and consumption of alcohol at the A-Field during Philadelphia Phoenix games, contingent upon the submission of a liquor license, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.

d.) Consider approving a Mutual Aid Agreement with Lower Merion for mutual emergency management assistance

Ms. Cecco explained that the agreement with Lower Merion would provide for mutual assistance for control of fire, fire prevention, emergency medical services, hazardous materials control, and/or emergency support in the event of a major fire, disaster or other emergency.

Ms. Tutino made a motion to approve a Mutual Aid Agreement with Lower Merion for mutual emergency management assistance, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.

e.) Consider authorizing the tuition reimbursement for Officer Sean Gregory

Ms. Cecco confirmed that education reimbursement is an approved expense per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Mr. Griffin a motion to authorize the tuition reimbursement for Officer Sean Gregory, seconded by Ms. Leonard. The motion carried 7-0

DEPARTMENT MATTERS

There were no department matters.

LEGAL MATTERS

There were no legal matters.

COUNCIL MEMBER AND MAYOR MATTERS

a.) Dog Park Advisory Committee Update and Event Request

Mayor Aronson, on behalf of the Dog Park Advisory Committee, presented recommended revisions to the Dog Park Advisory Committee resolution relative to the Committee's scope of duties, composition, and terms of service. Council requested additional information regarding their recommendation to the scope of duties. Ms. Cecco confirmed that she would work directly with the Dog Park Advisory Committee to clarify their recommendation.

b.) Memorial Date and Bench (Mayor Aronson)

Mayor Aronson shared that the Conshohocken Community Garden would like to host a Bench Dedication Ceremony in honor of Paul McConnell on May 19, 2019.

Ms. Leonard made a motion to authorize the purchase of a bench and the cost installation in the amount of \$1,200, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Aronson reminded everyone about the EAC Neighborhood Cleanup on April 13, 2019 from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

Mr. Stokley announced that Conshohocken Little League Opening Day is April 6, 2019.

Ms. Barton provided an update on the Sewer Authority regarding water usage and shut-off notices, easement agreements and a donation to the Conshohocken Elementary.

Ms. Sokolowski provided a recap of the latest Conshohocken Rowing Center Board meeting. She shared that Board reviewed the budget, and discussed programming and maintenance and repairs to the building and accessible routes.

Ms. Flanagan reminded residents that dogs are not permitted on playground equipment.

Ms. Tutino announced that the first meeting of the Parking Task Force is April 24, 2019 at 6:00pm.

Superintendent Metz shared that the Conshohocken Police Department is hosting an informational session on fraud schemes for seniors at the Community Center.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary