

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

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, Interim 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 7:01 PM.

PRAYER FOR COUNCIL

Ms. Anita Barton read a Prayer for Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Council President Announcements.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a.) **Public Hearing on 200 Block of Washington Street, Millennium Block A, Millennium IV Conditional Use Application**

Mr. Peters opened the public hearing for the 200 Block of Washington Street, Millennium Block A, Millennium IV Conditional Use Application and announced that he had received notification from Mr. Edmund Campbell, the attorney representing the applicant, that they would like to continue the hearing scheduled for that evening; he also shared that the two parties who entered an appearance had consented to the continuance as well. Mr. Peters made a recommendation to grant continuance of the hearing.

Ms. Tutino made a motion to grant continuance of the hearing to a date certain being March 21, 2018 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at the Borough Hall, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS

- a.) **Presentation honoring Officer Eric Hall who was named SWAT Officer of the Year, Upper Merion Chief of Police, Ms. Thomas Nolan**

Mr. Nolan provided an overview of the SWAT Central Region Team, which included a brief history and member selection and qualifications. Mr. Nolan read the criteria for award recipients and recognized Officer Hall's professionalism, strong work ethic and drive. A plaque, which will hang in the Conshohocken Police Department for one (1) year, was presented to Officer Eric Hall.

b.) Conshohocken Fire Company # 2 Annual Conshy Classic 5K, Gary Davis, Deputy Chief, and Mike Yuengling, Lieutenant

Lieutenant Yuengling announced that Fire Company No. 2 and the Bryn Mawr Running Company have requested to hold the Conshy Classic 5K. Mr. Yuengling shared that the 5K would precede the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 10, 2018. He also reviewed the event logistics.

Ms. Flanagan made a motion to approve the Conshy Classic 5K, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 7-0.

c.) Hearing for a waiver for off street parking for 127 Fayette Street, The Great American Pub, Hemcher Family Partnership

Ms. Stetler, Borough Zoning Officer, shared that the Great American Pub proposes to establish a rooftop dining area, which is an expansion of a permitted use in the Business Commercial Zoning District. The expansion of the restaurant use generates an increase in the required number of off-street parking spaces. Mr. Stetler explained that the Pub requested a waiver of the required off-street parking spaces and a waiver of the requirement to provide a parking study in support of the off-street parking waiver.

Mark Hemcher, representative for the Great American Pub, discussed the services provided by the Great American Pub and highlighted the benefits to having a rooftop deck in Conshohocken.

Ms. Sokolowski inquired about the added capacity with the addition of a rooftop dining area. Nicolas Betegh, the applicant's architect, reported that capacity on the proposed roof-deck would be 200 people. Ms. Stetler explained that the applicant would not require any additional zoning relief, such as building height and/or signage. Ms. Flanagan asked that the Borough Fire Marshal review the plans once submitted. Ms. Sokolowski asked when the rooftop dining area would be expected to open. Mr. Hemcher replied that the Pub hopes to open in May 2018.

Ms. Tutino made a motion to approve the waiver of off-street parking and the waiver of parking study, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.

d.) Conduct Interviews for Board and Commission Vacancies

Mr. Bob Frost was invited to interview for the Civil Service Commission. Ms. Leonard asked Mr. Frost to share his background. Mr. Frost shared that he is a life long resident of Conshohocken and has been involved with the Borough for the last 35 years, ranging from little league to the Mayor's office. Ms. Leonard asked why he would like to serve on the Civil Service Commission. Mr. Frost explained that he has experience interviewing applicants for the Police Department.

Mr. Francis Perry was invited to interview for the Civil Service Commission. Ms. Sokolowski asked Mr. Perry to share his background. Mr. Perry shared that he has worked for the Borough in the Public Services Department for 20 years. Ms. Leonard asked Mr. Perry why he would like to serve on the Civil Service Commission. Mr. Perry explained that he is interested in serving the Borough in a different capacity and learning more about the Commission.

Mr. John Costello was invited to interview for the Civil Service Commission. Ms. Leonard asked Mr. Costello to share his background and why he is interested in serving on the Civil Service Commission. Mr. Costello shared that he has lived in Conshohocken for 47 years and works for an Engineering firm. He also shared that he is a member of several Borough organizations including the Fire Department and the Conshy Soapbox Derby. Mr. Costello summarized the role of a Civil Service Commission member and stressed the importance of appointing an individual who is knowledgeable about the history and activities of the Borough. Mr. Costello asked how the Commission interacts with Council. Mr. Peters explained that the Commission operates independently.

Mr. Julian Miraglia was invited to interview for the Planning Commission. Mr. Leonard asked Mr. Miraglia to share his background. Mr. Miraglia shared that he has been involved in the Borough for over 50 years. He provided a summary of his relevant experience, which included serving on the planning board in a smaller municipality, serving on Council and having a career in real estate development. Ms. Leonard asked if there is an issue that he feels needs to be addressed by the Planning Commission. He responded that

there is a dichotomy between short-term and long-term goals of the Borough and that his focus would be on addressing short-term goals.

e.) Dog Park Committee Presentation, Marissa Buck, Chair, and Mackenzie Breinlinger, Vice Chair

Ms. Leonard invited Marissa Buck, Committee Chair, and Mackenzie Breinlinger, Committee Vice Chair to the podium. Ms. Buck reviewed the history of the parks and 2016-2017 accomplishments, which included hosting a Dog Yoga fundraising event and installing lights, reseeding grass and paving the middle path at the Riverside Dog Park.

Ms. Breinlinger shared that a goal for 2018 is to open a second dog park at the Haines and Salvatti. She provided a rendering of the proposed park, which included a large, fenced in area with two entrances, benches and a walking path. Ms. Breinlinger added that the Committee recommends removing the basketball court in order to establish a dog only park. She also reviewed future plans, which included the addition of a water feature into each park and an increase in social media presence and membership.

Mr. Stokley inquired about keeping the basketball court for children who accompany their parents to the dog park. Ms. Buck responded that for liability purposes, the recommendation is to remove the basketball courts and permit children from entering the park. Council discussed signage to indicate park restrictions and Mr. Peters suggested creating a formalize set of rules specific to Borough dog parks. Ms. Flanagan inquired about membership fees. Ms. Buck reviewed membership cost, requirements and privileges.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a.) **Approve and adopt the December 6 Meeting Minutes**
- b.) **Accept the December-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$312,898.86**

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to adopt all consent agenda items as read, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

a.) Consider 400 East 10th Avenue Zoning Hearing Board Application

Ms. Stetler explained that the property was previously mixed-use. The owner recently renovated the space with the intention of leasing the space for a photography studio. The use will require three variances: new use, off-street parking and sign size. Mr. Gerry Rath, attorney for the applicant, provided an additional summary of the application and requested variances. Jenny Fritz, the proposed tenant and owner of Jenny Fritz Photography was present for questions. Council asked several questions regarding the services offered and the hours of operation.

Ms. Flanagan made a motion to send a letter of support for the 400 East 10th Avenue Hearing Board Application, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 7-0.

b.) Consider 322 East 8th Avenue Zoning Hearing Board Application

Ms. Stetler explained that the applicant requested a continuance.

c.) Consider approving PennDot's Green Light-Go Traffic Signal System Management Agreement

Ms. Cecco explained that Green Light-Go is a pilot program through PennDot, which transfers the ownership and maintenance responsibility of traffic lights on critical corridors adjacent to I-76 from the Borough to PennDot. She added that the agreement must be signed in order to continue participation in the program.

d.) Consider approving Resolution 2018-01 authorizing the submittal of PennDot's Green Light-Go Traffic Signal System Management Agreement

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve PennDot's Green Light-Go Traffic Signal System Management Agreement and to approve Resolution 2018-01 authorizing the submittal of PennDot's Green Light-Go Traffic Signal System Management Agreement, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.

e.) Consider appointing applicants for Board and Commission Vacancies

Ms. Leonard made the recommendation to consider appointing an applicant to the Planning Commission that evening and appoint an applicant to the Civil Service Commission at the Council Meeting on February 7, 2018. Council agreed.

Ms. Flanagan made a motion to appoint Stacy Ellam to the Planning Commission, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 6-1. (Yes - Griffin, Sokolowski, Barton, Stokley, Flanagan, Leonard; No - Tutino)

f.) Consider approving the Mayor's request to charge and accept marriage ceremony fees

Mayor Aronson shared that he is seeking Council's approval to charge and accept marriage ceremony fees. Ms. Cecco mentioned that Mayor Aronson is required to submit a quarterly report to Council, which includes the name of the couple, the date and the amount of fee charged. Mr. Peters confirmed that per Borough Code, fees are not to exceed \$150 dollars. Mr. Aronson added that he intends to donate the fees to charity.

Ms. Flanagan made a motion to approve the Mayor's request to charge and accept marriage ceremony fees, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Cecco announced that the Borough newsletter is tentatively scheduled to be delivered on February 2, 2018. Ms. Cecco also explained that Borough Administration is actively working to address the issue of individuals leaving their trash and recycling containers at the curb after a holiday. She reported that Code Enforcement issued 73 warnings since Mr. Griffin brought up the issue at the January Work Session.

Tim Beckel, 333 West Elm Street, reported that the basketball court at Haines and Salvatti is used during the spring and summer months.

Joe Ferrigno, 412 Old Elm Street, stated that non-residents of the Grande should not utilize the Grande parking lot and commented that the basketball court at Haines & Salvatti is used. Mr. Ferrigno also mentioned that construction behind the Grande is starting before 7:00 am.

John Costello, 431 East 10th Avenue, reported on the success of the fundraiser for the Luken family.

Mayor Aronson announced that he would be holding public office hours at the Conshohocken Library starting in March.

Mr. Stokley shared that he would like to present his 2018 goals at the February Work Session.

Ms. Flanagan thanked the Public Works Department for all their hard work in the inclement weather.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary