

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, March 22, 2018

PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: Colleen Leonard, Council President
Jane Flanagan, Council Vice-President
Robert Stokley, Senior 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 7:03 PM.

PRAYER FOR COUNCIL

Ms. Karen Tutino read a Prayer for Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Leonard announced that there was an Executive Session held immediately prior to the meeting regarding a personnel matter. Ms. Leonard added an item to the agenda: consider the Chief of Police's recommendation to terminate the employment of Officer Shawn Malloy.

Mr. Stokley made a motion to approve the disciplinary recommendation of the Chief of Police to terminate the employment of Officer Shawn Malloy, seconded by Mr. Griffin. Ms. Leonard recused herself. Ms. Barton was absent. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS

a.) 2018-2019 Insurance Renewal Options

Ms. Cecco explained that Brown and Brown and Delaware Valley Insurance Trust (DVIT) were present to share their insurance renewal options for the Borough.

Ms. Cecco introduced Paul Pugielli who was present representing Brown and Brown. Mr. Pugielli discussed the difference between commercial insurance and the self-insured trust approach. Ms. Cecco asked Mr. Pugielli to confirm that the total cost savings between the expiring Travelers package and the renewal package with Travelers is approximately \$27,000. He confirmed the amount of savings and identified where those savings came from. Mr. Pugielli explained that the total cost savings between the expiring Travelers package and renewal package with Argonaut/Brickstreet is approximately \$140,000. He confirmed for Ms. Cecco that Argonaut/Brickstreet is offering the same level of coverage as Travelers. He added that the silo umbrella limit is also included in the package. Mr. Pugielli also confirmed that Council should not be concerned with having two different entities provide insurance for workers' compensation and property and liability.

Ms. Cecco introduced Bob Solarz, Executive Director, and Jim Thompson, Senior Consultant of Insurance Buyers' Council Inc., who were present representing DVIT. Mr. Solarz explained that the Delaware Valley

Insurance Trust is a regional municipal risk sharing pool that are owned and operated by its members. He went on to share how the Trust was formed and how a self-insured trust differs from commercial insurance. Mr. Solarz summarized their relationship with the Borough to date.

Jim Thompson provided a coverage comparison between the expiring coverage and the coverage proposed by DVIT. He shared that DVIT offers a broader scope of coverage, which is tailored for municipalities. He added that the Borough would receive Heart and Lung coverage, which is not in the Borough's current program. He stated that DVIT provides exceptional loss control and claims service as well as training for employees and law enforcement. Mr. Thompson explained that the Borough, as a member of all three trusts, would receive benefits of the multi-trust discounts. Mr. Solarz added that the Trust returns excess funds to members through cash dividends and their Rate Stabilization Fund.

Mr. Thompson confirmed for Ms. Tutino that it is highly unlikely that the Borough would be removed from a Trust should the Borough experience a poorly developing loss situation. Mr. Solarz added that the Trust's approach in that situation would be to provide any and all services needed to assist the municipality. Mr. Thompson confirmed for Ms. Cecco that belonging to all three trusts would lead to decreased pricing for the Borough, which is reflective in the net cost of approximately \$410,000. Ms. Cecco reviewed the rewards of membership, which included the dividends, the rate stabilization funds and the safety grants. Mr. Thompson confirmed for Ms. Cecco that the Borough would be receiving value-added benefits as a member of all three trusts. Mr. Solarz summarized next steps, in terms of the process of membership initiation. Ms. Sokolowski inquired about the process of appointing a trustee and their role.

b.) Hearing regarding a waiver of off-street parking for 14 East 5th Avenue, The Artist's Loft

Ms. Cecco invited Chris Stetler, Borough Zoning Officer, to the podium to introduce the matter. Ms. Stetler shared that the property is located in the Business Commercial District. She added that the proposed operation is consignment art sales and skin care products. Ms. Stetler explained that there is no possibility of locating parking on the lot. Ms. Eileen Borkowski, the applicant, was present to answer Council's questions. Ms. Flanagan inquired about Ms. Borkowski's business. Ms. Borkowski replied that she sells handcrafted artwork on consignment.

Mr. Stokley made a motion to recommend approval to the Zoning Hearing Board for a waiver of off-street parking for 14 East 5th Avenue, The Artist's Loft, seconded by Ms. Flanagan. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton - absent)

c.) Consider final major subdivision and land development approval for 400 West Elm Street: Applicant, Corson Street Acquisition, L.P.

Mr. Peters shared that this an application for an amendment of a previously approved final land development plan. Mr. Peters explained the differences between the previously approved development and the development as proposed, which included a change in the height of the office building and the parking garage.

Bob Dwyer and Louis Colagrecio were present on behalf of the applicant. Mr. Dwyer reviewed the previously approved plan. He reiterated to Council that the only major change was to the height of the building in order to accommodate a potential tenant. Mr. Dwyer reviewed the proposed financial contributions with regard to the initial height bonus approval and the Parks and Recreation contributions. Mr. Dwyer explained that the applicant is proposing a recreational area in order to qualify for the additional height bonus or a fee in-lieu in the amount of approximately \$204,000. He requested that Council consider the removal of a ramp previously proposed to access the Schuylkill River Trail. Mr. Dwyer explained that the ramp is no longer necessary, as a result of reconfiguration of the proposed trails throughout the site and the retention of the railroad bridge. Mr. Dwyer explained that the applicant would pay a fee-in-lieu of the ramp in the amount of approximately \$100,000.

Mr. Stokley made a motion to approve amended final major subdivision and land development for 400 West Elm Street, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton - absent)

Mr. Stokley made a motion to approve a height bonus of 25 feet of a maximum of 135 feet on the property, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton - absent)

d.) MS4 permit Pollutant Plan, Karen MacNair, Gilmore & Associates, Inc.

Ms. Cecco provided a brief summary of the MS4 Permit Renewal Pollutant Reduction Plan requirement for the Borough and invited Karen MacNair, Borough Engineer, to the podium to provide more information. Ms. MacNair explained that the Pollutant Discharge Elimination Municipal Storm Sewer System (NPDES MS4) General Permit is a permit that allows the Borough to discharge stormwater into waters of the Commonwealth. Ms. MacNair shared that the Borough submitted a Notice of Intent to continue its coverage under the new 5-year permit without submitting the required Pollutant Reduction Plan. She shared that the plan required the Borough to calculate existing sediment loads within the Plymouth Creek watershed and show how the Borough will reduce that sediment load by 10 percent over the next 5 years by implementing stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) or land use changes. Ms. MacNair added that the plan includes mapping, a written report, and requirements for a 30-day public comment period. Ms. Flanagan inquired about the types of BMP's that are used to reduce sediment. Ms. MacNair identified basins, rain gardens and vegetative swales. Ms. Cecco discussed the cost to expedite the process would be a not to exceed cost of \$30,000.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a.) Approve the February-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$665,126.99.**

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as read, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton - absent)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a.) Consider authorizing an advertisement for a hearing to adopt the Comprehensive Plan and to send the Comprehensive Plan out to the reviewing agencies as required by the PA MPC.**

Judy Stern-Goldstein, Comprehensive Plan Task Consultant, provided an update in terms of the Comprehensive Plan Task Force processes. Ms. Stern-Goldstein explained that authorization to advertise the Comprehensive Plan is the next step in the adoption process.

Ms. Flanagan made a motion to authorize an advertisement for a hearing to adopt the Comprehensive Plan and to send the Comprehensive Plan out to the reviewing agencies as required by the PA MPC, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton - absent)

- b.) Consider approving a St. Patrick's Day Parade Proclamation, Mayor Aronson**

Mayor Aronson read the St. Patrick's Day Parade Proclamation.

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to approve the St. Patrick's Day Parade Proclamation, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton - absent)

NEW BUSINESS

- a.) Consider appointing a Board Member to Friends of Conshohocken Parks, Inc.**

Ms. Cecco shared that a previously appointed board member of the Friends of Conshohocken Parks can no longer serve on the Board. Ms. Cecco added that Cindy Webb had reached out to the Borough expressing interest in serving as a board member.

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to appoint Cindy Webb as a board member of the Friends of Conshohocken Parks, seconded by Ms. Flanagan. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton - absent)

- b.) Consider approving Resolution 2018-07 approving a supplemental appropriation to the FY18 annual budget for Storm Sewer Televising**

Ms. Cecco reminded Council that at the March Work Session, Ms. Karen MacNair made a presentation relative to the addition to the Infrastructure Plan for Storm Sewer Televising. Ms. Cecco explained that the Borough has moved forward with the recommendation to utilize Trenchless Pipe Solutions. She shared that

Storm Sewer Televising Services and related professional services from Gilmore will be a not to exceed cost of \$100,000. Ms. Cecco made the recommendation to utilize funds from the Grants Capital Improvements line item in the Capital Fund and make a transfer to the Capital Fund line item Engineering, Infrastructure, Stormwater Management.

Mr. Griffin made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-07 approving a supplemental appropriation to the FY18 annual budget for Storm Sewer Televising, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton - absent)

- c.) **Authorize the Borough Manager to bind property, liability and workers' compensation insurance for the Borough's April 1 renewal.**

Ms. Cecco summarized the insurance renewal options presented by Brown and Brown and DVIT.

Ms. Tutino made a motion to join the Property/Liability Trust and Workers' Compensation Trust effective April 1, 2018, seconded by Ms. Sokolowski. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton - absent)

Ms. Leonard made a motion to authorize the Borough Manager to finalize the insurance renewal process with Delaware Valley Insurance Trust for the April 1 renewal with written notice of the Borough's intent to join all three Trusts, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton - absent)

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to authorize the Borough Manager to advertise two (2) Ordinances, which authorize the participation of the Borough in the Property & Liability and Workers' Compensation Trusts for an April 4th adoption, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton - absent)

Mr. Griffin made a motion to authorize the Borough Manager to issue a Broker of Letter Record to Porter & Curtis LLC to renew the volunteer firefighter workers' compensation through SWIF, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton - absent)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Flanagan shared that a resident in her ward, Mr. Omar, asked her to pass along his thanks to the Public Services Department for their hard work during the snow storm.

Mayor Aronson shared that the benefit concert at the VFW raised a total of \$600 for the Colonial Neighborhood Council, VFW Auxiliary and the Conshohocken Police Association.

Mr. Stokley reminded residents to abide by the rules of a Snow Emergency.

Ms. Sokolowski thanked Ms. Cecco and Borough staff for their hard work with the insurance renewal process.

Mr. Griffin reminded residents to clean snow off the top of their cars.

Ms. Tutino thanked Ms. Cecco and Borough staff for their hard work with the insurance renewal process.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary