

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: James Griffin, Council President
Karen Tutino, Council Vice-President
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
Michael J. Savona, Borough Solicitor

CALL TO ORDER

The 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 6:12 PM.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL INTERVIEW

Mr. Griffin introduced Ms. Tutino and asked her to begin the interview for the Environmental Advisory Council vacancy with the applicant, Ms. Rosemary Northcutt. Ms. Tutino began by asking Ms. Northcutt to tell Council about herself and her interest in the position. Ms. Northcutt replied that she is interested in the environment and in preserving greenspace and she highlighted examples of her involvement with groups that share in her desire to protect the environment such as the Nature Conservancy, Girl Scouts, and the Center for Environmental Education. She also shared that she maintains her own garden and is interested in assisting with the environmental initiatives of the Environmental Advisory Council such as putting in rain gardens throughout the Borough.

Ms. Tutino commented that Ms. Northcutt's background and interests lend themselves to participating in a group such as the Environmental Advisory Council and she invited other members of Council to ask questions. In response, Mayor Frost asked Mr. Manfredi if the Shade Tree Commission was still active and Mr. Manfredi replied that it is in hiatus presently. Ms. Northcutt added that trees have a lot of value in providing shade and in absorbing rainwater and that perhaps the Environmental Advisory Council could raise the issue and pick up where the Shade Tree Commission left off now that the group is becoming active after its own hiatus last year.

Mayor Frost then asked Mr. Manfredi if there is still a line item in the Borough's budget for trees and Mr. Manfredi confirmed that there is money allocated for them. Ms. Northcutt added that the Borough has some of its own very old trees and that, while on a tour in Gettysburg, she encountered several older trees that had been protected and labeled as "witness trees." She suggested that adding signage to Conshohocken's "witness trees" could be an educational opportunity for the community and Mayor Frost vocalized his support of this idea. Mr. Griffin noted that the Borough does not dislike trees and that when the trees were removed in his ward it was because they caused damage to above- and underground utilities; he stressed the

importance of selecting proper trees for planting in the Borough. With no further comments or questions from the Council, Mr. Griffin thanked Ms. Northcutt and the next candidate for interview was seated.

Mr. Robert Stokley arrived and joined the members of Council at the dais at 6:19 PM.

PLANNING COMMISSION INTERVIEW

Ms. Elizabeth Early was present to interview for the vacancy on the Planning Commission and Ms. Tutino began the interview by asking her to share information about herself and her interest in the position. Ms. Early shared that she lives with her husband in the Borough and that she works at a firm in Norristown; a month ago, one of her bosses shared that there is a vacancy on the Planning Commission in Conshohocken and asked if she might be interested. Because she was very much interested in the position, she reached out to the Borough Manager and Mr. Aaron Weems, Chair of the Planning Commission, to find out about the position. She shared that she is interested in becoming more involved in the community and in the planning of the development of the Borough although she does not have a great deal of personal experience in municipal development; however, her father is the Chair of the Planning Commission in the Poconos and she has attended many of his meetings. She added that it is something she hopes to be able to learn as she goes and that she can become an asset to the commission.

Ms. Barton asked Ms. Early if she has reviewed plans in the past and Ms. Early replied that she has. Ms. Flanagan then asked Ms. Early what her educational background is and Ms. Early shared that she is an attorney practicing family law and that she attended Pennsylvania State University as an undergraduate and Temple University for law school. Mr. Savona asked what the name of the firm Ms. Early works in is and she replied that it is High Swartz, LLP; he also asked if she foresaw any conflicts of interest with the Borough and she answered that she did not. There were no further questions or comments from the Council; they thanked Ms. Early and the interview was closed.

Mr. Manfredi announced that the Borough had received three additional applications for the Planning Commission and those interviews will be scheduled for a future meeting. Mr. Manfredi also shared that, once this meeting is adjourned, Council will enter into an Executive Session on a personnel matter.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi,
Borough Secretary