

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
WEDNESDAY, February 4th, 2015

PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: Robert Frost, Mayor
Paul McConnell, Council President
James Griffin, Council Vice-President
Anita Barton, Council Member
Matthew Ryan, Council Member
Robert Stokley, Council Member
Edward Phipps, Council Member

ALSO PRESENT: Richard J. Manfredi, Borough Manager
Michael Savona, Borough Solicitor
Paul Hughes, Borough Engineer

CALL TO ORDER

The Public Meeting of the Conshohocken Borough Council duly advertised, was held at Conshohocken Borough Hall, 8th Avenue & Fayette Street, Conshohocken, PA. Mr. McConnell, Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. McConnell invited public comment and Mr. Dennis Beaver of the 400 Block of 10th Avenue inquired on the procedure for issuing tickets in alleyways. Mr. Beaver shared that he was mainly concerned about the sewer systems being affected by trucks and other heavy vehicles travelling through the alleyways. In response to Mr. Beaver's concerns, Mr. Savona replied that the Borough does not own the alleyways; they cannot be regulated in the same manner as public roadways. Mr. Savona added that the Borough's ordinance only allows police to ticket or tow a vehicle in an alleyway if it is blocking access to public Emergency vehicles.

There were no other comments from the public.

2. COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements made by the Council President.

3. PRESENTATIONS

- a) **Introduction to the Valley Forge Tourism and Convention Board and discussion of its new brand campaign aimed at bringing travel and tourism to all of Montgomery County's fantastic attractions and destinations, including those in Conshohocken; presented by Bill Fitzgerald, President of the Valley Forge Tourism and Convention Board.**

Mr. McConnell introduced Mr. Bill Fitzgerald. Mr. Bill Fitzgerald shared that this campaign would like to work with the Borough of Conshohocken to bring tourism to the area. Mr. Fitzgerald mentioned that he would like to work with Borough staff on the campaign and highlighted the idea of bringing individuals to the river for activities. Mr. Ryan shared that the Borough portion of the CRC would be opening soon. Mr. McConnell mentioned incorporating the A-Field into future marketing plans.

b) Harvey Buek, Public Works Supervisor, and Paul Hughes, Borough Engineer presenting:

- **An overview of the 2015 Pavement and Infrastructure Program**
- **Council Discussion of which roads should be paved in 2015**

Mr. Buek and Mr. Hughes provided slides of a PowerPoint Presentation that they created to illustrate their plans for the pavement-resurfacing program. To begin, Mr. Hughes explained that Borough Council began discussing plans for Harry Street in November and that the goal for this evening was to determine which streets should be paved over the next few years. Mr. Hughes explained that the paving program exists because it will be covered 100% by the Municipal Liquid Fuels Program. Mr. Hughes also clarified that the program will only cover milling, pavement base repairs and paving, not areas such as storm sewer work, curb ramp improvements, curb replacement, sidewalk or driveway reconstruction, and no plates or driveway pipes would be addressed.

Mr. Hughes explained that there are six main recommended areas for the program; the six areas are 1) West 3rd Avenue, from Maple Street to the dead-end, 2) Wood Street, from West 4th Avenue to West 5th Avenue, 3) Old Elm Street, from "426 Old Elm" project to the Borough line, 4) Corson Street, from West Elm Street to Old Elm Street, 5) East 4th Avenue, from Fayette Street to Harry Street, and 6) East Elm Street, from Apple Street to Borough line where utility repairs occurred.

Mr. Hughes then shared the cost estimates to repair each of the six recommended areas. Mr. Hughes explained that, in total, there were 9,581 SY that were recommended for paving and the total for all six areas would come to \$143,741.67. Mr. Hughes noted that the Borough's Liquid Fuel allocation for 2015 would total approximately \$140,000.00 and the Borough should be able to award a contract within the budgeted amount.

Mr. Hughes listed five other areas that could be considered in the future that included 1) East 5th Avenue, from Harry Street to Hallowell Street, 2) West 11th Avenue, from Fayette Street to Forrest, 3) West 5th Avenue, from Forrest to Maple Street, 4) various avenues off of Harry Street, and 5) various blocks of Forrest Street.

Mr. Hughes included a map showing the planned 5 Year Infrastructure Management Program and explained that the map is color-coded and would be added to as council makes decisions on the next few years.

Mr. McConnell introduced the council business items.

4. COUNCIL BUSINESS

- a) **Consider request to waive back taxes, penalty and interest owed by Michael John.**
- b) **Consider request to waive NextDocs Corporation's 2012 and 2013 Business Privilege Tax penalties and interest.**

Mr. McConnell invited Mr. Savona to comment on the two requests. Mr. Savona shared that he will recommend denying both.

- c) **Consider 401-433 Washington Street sewer facilities module resolution.**

Mr. McConnell asked Mr. Manfredi if he would like to comment on the item. Mr. Manfredi

stated the Department of Environmental Protection requires Council to consider the item and that it would be included in the next consent agenda.

5. MANAGER MATTERS:

Mr. Manfredi commented that there would be two presentations on the next meeting's agenda, a presentation honoring Ms. Vivian Angelucci for her service to the Borough on the Zoning Hearing Board and a hearing for the Comcast Cable Franchise. Mr. Manfredi mentioned two additions to the consent agenda, considering the January 7th Borough Council meeting minutes for adoption and the approval of a change order for the new Borough Hall project.

Mr. Manfredi provided an update on the new Borough Hall project; he shared that the Borough is continuing discussions with Keystone Property Group regarding the tenant fit-out and that an update for tenants in the retail space would be available at the end of February. Mr. Manfredi also mentioned that he would be meeting with Jerry Nugent of the Montgomery County Redevelopment Authority to begin the grant administration process for the 2.5 million RACP monies.

Mr. Manfredi shared that the 2013 audit is ongoing and that the Borough's finance officer consultant, Julie Davis, is working to streamline and improve purchasing processes and financial systems. Mr. Manfredi requested a finance committee meeting to meet the audit firm and finance team the following Wednesday, February 11th, 2015. Additionally, Mr. Manfredi mentioned that the Borough has been working through issues with the Freedom Systems Software and new modules will be installed on the Borough computers, including purchasing features, customer service and constituent service.

As an update on recreation services in the Borough, Mr. Manfredi mentioned that he and Ms. Cecco had been assessing current operations and meeting other recreation service providers and that, at the March work session, Ms. Cecco would provide an update. He also mentioned that they are both continuing to discuss the proposal from Barrack Academy to utilize Sutcliffe and that the Conshohocken Rowing Center has tentatively scheduled a grand opening for April 26, 2015.

Mr. Manfredi mentioned that he and Ms. Hally Ammons, Assistant to the Borough Manager, have initiated the process of designing and mapping out a new Borough website. Mr. Ryan suggested that they look at Ventnor, NJ's site for inspiration since he believes it is an excellent design. Mr. McConnell mentioned that a self-service model for council to utilize to login and receive updates on their ward and view code citation issues would be a nice addition to the future site.

Mr. Manfredi shared that a zoning ordinance amendment meeting occurred the day before and that a draft revision to the ordinance would be presented to Council by November 2015. Also relating to land use, Mr. Manfredi added that a new/preliminary land development plan was received from Equus Capital Partners, Ltd., at West Elm and Corson Street; the applicant proposes to build a seven-story 324,860 square foot office building over a six level parking garage. Mr. Manfredi also shared that Riverfront Plan proposals are being accepted at Whitemarsh Township and that he, the Whitemarsh Township Manager, DVRPC public involvement manager, and Ms. Stetler are on the proposal review team.

Mr. Manfredi concluded his matters by explaining that a number of ongoing projects and initiatives exist at present; they include business community outreach, traffic and transportation, communications policy, social media policy, human resource policy, code enforcement service delivery and cost, and records management and retention.

6. SOLICITOR MATTERS:

There were no solicitor matters presented to council.

7. COUNCILMEMBERMATTERS:

Mr. McConnell asked if there were any council member matters to discuss. Mr. Stokley shared that he had been speaking with representative of Washington Fire Company and Conshohocken No. 2 about the possibility of a merger and that he, Mr. Phipps, Mr. Griffin and Mr. Leo Costello, would be meeting with three members of each company soon to begin discussion. Mr. McConnell asked if inviting a representative from each company to come to a future work session to discuss their view on the matter would be helpful and it was determined that they would be asked to a future session.

8. PublicComment:

There were no comments from the public.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi, Secretary