

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
WEDNESDAY, January 14th, 2015

SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: Paul McConnell, Council President
James Griffin, Council Vice-President
Karen Tutino, Council Member
Anita Barton, Council Member
Matthew Ryan, Council Member

ALSO PRESENT: Richard J. Manfredi, Borough Manager

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 7:00 pm.

1. INTERVIEWS FOR VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mr. McConnell stated that the purpose of the meeting was to interview candidates for boards and commission vacancies. He announced that there was one Planning Commission candidate that was requesting re-appointment and one vacancy on the Planning Commission. Mr. McConnell then introduced the first interviewee, Ms. Judy Smith-Kressley and asked her to share her background and interest in the Planning Commission vacancy.

Ms. Smith-Kressley answered by stating that she had been in Conshohocken since February of 2010, almost 5 years next month. She is formerly from the Wayne area. She has a background in art and design and graduated from Moore College of Art and Design. She also has a nursing degree, a teaching certification, and a certification in technology from Apple. She currently works for United Healthcare as a corporate trainer where she teaches newly-hired doctors from home. She is also a member of Rotary International.

After Ms. Smith-Kressley's introduction, Mr. McConnell opened the meeting up to questions from all present.

Mr. Ryan asked Ms. Smith-Kressley if she had been to any Planning Commission meetings and Ms. Smith-Kressley replied that she had gone to a few as well as some Borough Council meetings. Mr. Griffin asked Ms. Smith-Kressley what she thought about the Verizon Building project and she replied that the building at the corner of 4th and Fayette has a much-needed fix in place right now. Mr. Griffin also explained that Conshohocken has a lot of issues related to parking.

Ms. Barton asked Ms. Smith-Kressley how much Ms. Smith-Kressley knows from being at the meetings how the plans work and what is and what is not allowed from the meetings. Ms. Smith-Kressley answered that she knows there is a process of asking for permission to do something in the town but she is not sure of the exact process. Mr. Manfredi commented that the Borough had just finalized the Land Use and Development Guidance Manual that explains this entire process and that council would be receiving it soon. Mr. McConnell added that the PA State Association of Boroughs offers courses as well.

The Council thanked Ms. Judy-Smith Kressley for coming in and the next interviewee was called in.

Mr. McConnell introduced Mr. Mark Danek and explained that he was recently appointed to the Zoning Hearing Board. Because he had already been appointed, Mr. McConnell started the interview by asking what he thought so far about the position.

Mr. Danek answered that the different applications are very interesting and, as an attorney, he could appreciate the arguments that people make for their submissions. Mr. Danek further explained that he was on the Sewer Authority before and the Zoning Hearing Board is a different atmosphere because of its quasi-judicial aspects.

Mr. Ryan asked Mr. Danek if he had any ideas for improvement. Mr. Danek said that the Zoning Hearing Board could be more proactive with what is going on in the Borough and suggested that fine-tuning the zoning code. Ms. Barton asked Mr. Manfredi whether that was something Borough staff was working on presently and Mr. Manfredi answered that staff is working to revise the ordinance to create a new draft that would go to Council.

Mr. Ryan asked if the Council could address the Business Development Commission because it is on the website and it should be removed. Mr. Manfredi asked if it had officially dissolved. Mr. McConnell replied that it did not have to stay on the website, but council has a resolution in place that formed the Business Development Commission and, if council formally wants it to disband, it can adopt a new resolution of support for the new Business Development Commission as it is its own entity separate from the Borough.

Council thanked Mr. Danek for his time and Mr. McConnell then introduced the next candidate, Mr. Kyle Elliot who was present to interview for the Sewer Authority. Mr. McConnell then asked Mr. Elliot to tell council about himself.

Mr. Elliot answered that he lives on East Hector Street with his wife Laura and their two young children. He moved to Conshohocken initially in 2006. He is an attorney at a law firm called Conrad O'Brien that is based in Philadelphia with offices throughout PA and an office in Cherry Hill, NJ. He works on complex commercial and criminal litigation and represents public officials, executives, and white-collar investigations. He is interested in applying for the position with the Sewer Authority because of the proximity of Sewer Authority to his home and it is a good way for him to make a positive impact. He is familiar with some of the issues facing the Sewer Authority, one being the odor and another being the conversion of the plant into a closed system, which would require a capital investment.

Mr. McConnell asked council if they had any other questions and, because there was nothing further, thanked and dismissed Mr. Elliot from the interview.

Mr. McConnell introduced Ms. Janene Reilly and explained to all that there are two current openings on the Sewer Authority. He asked Ms. Reilly to tell Council about herself, her background, and why she is interested in a position on the Sewer Authority.

Ms. Reilly said she has lived in Conshohocken for seven years and is an attorney that specializes in wills and trusts and that she has two children. She became aware of this opportunity and wanted to give back. She and her family love the way Conshohocken is growing and developing and believe it is a wonderful place to live.

Mr. McConnell asked if there were any questions from Council. Mr. Ryan asked Ms. Reilly if she has any experience with the Sewer Authority. Ms. Reilly answered that she did attend the

December meeting and, through her attendance, she could grasp the issues quickly. Mr. McConnell asked Ms. Reilly how she felt about being on an authority that has its own lawyer. Ms. Reilly answered that it did not concern her.

Mr. McConnell thanked Ms. Reilly for coming in and the interviews were concluded.

When all of the candidates had been interviewed, Mr. McConnell announced that council could vote on appointments one of three ways: council could vote on the appointments that evening, they could put the votes on the consent agenda for the next council meeting on January 21st, or they could be voted on one by one in the next meeting. Mr. McConnell also invited Council to comment on each candidate.

Mr. McConnell asked how the present members would prefer to make the appointments and all agreed to vote on appointments that evening. Mr. Manfredi commented that Council would need to inform him who of the two Sewer Authority candidates should serve the longer term. Mr. McConnell shared that it is his preference that Kyle Elliot serves the longer of the two terms since he lives closer to the plant and Ms. Barton agreed.

Mr. Manfredi clarified that the motion that council should make that evening would be to appoint Judy Smith-Kressley to serve a term with the Planning Commission, for Mark Danek to continue to serve his term with the Zoning Hearing Board, to appoint Kyle Elliot to the longer term available with the Sewer Authority and to appoint Janene Reilly to the shorter term available with the Sewer Authority.

Mr. Griffin made a motion to appoint the candidates as Mr. Manfredi stated and Ms. Tutino seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. McConnell asked if someone could look into whether Mr. David Bertram and Mr. Marty Eckert could make it to the next meeting of council to discuss their possible reappointments since they were both unable to attend that evening. Mr. Manfredi asked Mr. McConnell if it was the will of council to bring both Mr. Bertram and Mr. Eckert in to council in advance of next week's meeting. The members of council in attendance agreed that it was.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi, Secretary