

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
Wednesday, September 2nd, 2015

PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: Robert Frost, Mayor
Paul McConnell, Council President
James Griffin, Council Vice President
Karen Tutino, Council Member
Anita Barton, Council Member
Edward Phipps, Council Member

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

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. Paul McConnell, Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. McConnell shared information about the upcoming Papal Visit. He mentioned various road closures, alternative driving routes, changes to SEPTA train schedules, public safety-related efforts, and that residents should be prepared for the potential high volume of pedestrian traffic on the bike trail that weekend. Ms. Barton inquired to Fire Chief Leo Costello whether the borough was prepared for emergency situations that could occur that weekend and Chief Leo Costello assured her that the borough would be ready.

PRESENTATIONS

- a) **Consider 204 E. 8th Avenue plans for minor subdivision land development, LD-2015-05.**

Mr. Manfredi provided a brief summary of the plans for the project at 204 E. 8th Avenue and then invited the applicant, Mr. Davis Brosso, to share his comments on the project. Mr. Brosso discussed that the lot size of the property allows ample room to subdivide the lot into two separate single-family homes and explained his rationale for designing the homes the way he has in the proposed plans. Before concluding the presentation, Mr. Manfredi explained that the Borough Planner, Amy Mayer, was unable to attend the evening's meeting but that she had prepared a listing of the waivers that were requested and conditions set for the project, which he then read aloud.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

- a) **Consider the Borough's 2016 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) as required by Act 205.**

Mr. Manfredi explained that the Borough is required to adopt the Commonwealth's Minimum Municipal Obligation in September of each year. For Budget Year 2016, the MMO for the police pension plan would total \$502,788, the fire pension plan would total \$0.00, and the non-uniformed pension plan would total \$136,543. Mr. Manfredi also explained that the MMO for each plan represents the amount of money that the Borough

must contribute to each of the three pension plans.

Mr. Manfredi then explained that there could be some changes to the investment plans in the future and shared information on the Borough's search for a new investment plan manager for the police pension plan. He shared that requests for proposals went out to various firms and detailed the areas that the firms were tasked to report on. Mr. Manfredi explained that he would make a recommendation for which firm should become the police pension investment plan manager as part of the next agenda.

b) Discussion regarding stop signs approaching county trail.

Mr. McConnell shared that the number of bicyclists, pedestrians, and other enthusiasts on the trail continues to rise and the small trail is becoming crowded. The number of vehicles in the area is also growing because of the businesses. Mr. McConnell explained that the number of people and vehicles in the trail area, in addition to areas with poor sight lines, and ill-placed stop signs is cause for concern. He requested that Council consider a few options to improve safety. Some ideas that he shared included diverting bikes off of the trail at Cherry and Harry Streets so that bicyclists can ride with the flow of traffic, diverting vehicles off of Washington Street to the river path nearby the Conshohocken Rowing Center and the dog park, putting a stop bar on the south side of Cherry Street going towards the tracks, and adding hash marks to the area to slow cars and bicyclists. Council showed an interest in considering the suggestions further.

Ms. Barton commented that she would prefer to address pedestrian crossings on Fayette Street before considering the path further. Mr. Savona shared that some of the changes that Mr. McConnell proposed are not feasible because of PUC regulations so staff should have a discussion with SEPTA to see if they have any interest because it would take their support to get PUC to discuss the proposals. Mr. Savona also mentioned that since he and Mr. Manfredi are already working closely with SEPTA on other matters, the Borough could add this item to the discussion.

Before concluding the discussion, a resident, Mr. Dennis Beaver shared suggestions about adding stop signs on Ash Street, Poplar Street, and Cherry Street. Mr. McConnell reminded Mr. Beaver that this issue would be handled administratively and Council moved on to the next item, Manager Matters.

MANAGER MATTERS

Mr. Manfredi explained that Council would be asked to accept the August minutes and to consider a PennDOT 5-Year Agreement for winter traffic services on the next consent agenda. Mr. Buek then provided background on the agreement. Mr. Manfredi also mentioned that he and Mr. Hughes met earlier to review change orders for the new Borough Hall and that they were all dismissed but they may be on the next agenda for consideration.

LEGAL MATTERS

There were no legal matters shared.

COUNCIL MEMBER AND MAYOR MATTERS

Ms. Barton made a suggestion to stripe the crosswalks on Fayette Street diagonally to make them more visible to drivers. Mr. Manfredi responded that he would make the

request of PennDOT and would follow-up the discussion at an upcoming meeting. Ms. Barton also requested that the police presence on Fayette Street be increased for approximately the next two weeks to remind drivers of the need to slow down. Mayor Frost replied that he could address the matter with the police on her behalf. A male resident also commented that people need to cross at the crosswalks and not at just any point on the street and stated that only an actual stop sign at the intersections where people cross will make the cars slow; adding stripes in the area is not sufficient.

Ms. Tutino asked Council to consider passing an ordinance against brake retarders on Elm Street in particular because there have been a lot of complaints from residents.

Mayor Frost commented that the tree outside of Leeland Mansion is beginning to cover the streetlight and is presenting a public safety issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT

On behalf of himself and his wife, Mr. Buek, Public Works Superintendent, presented Council with a framed and glass-encased photo as well as a framed and glass-encased blue panel from the Old Verizon Building, which stood in place of the present Borough Hall. Mr. Manfredi suggested that both would be displayed in the Borough Hall and thanked Mr. Buek for his kind and appropriate donation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi, Secretary