

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

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, Borough Solicitor

PUBLIC HEARING ON CDBG APPLICATION

Chris Stetler, Zoning Officer and Community Development Coordinator, shared that the Borough is eligible to receive \$128,853.00 in federal funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. She explained that the funds must be used to benefit low and moderate-income residents and asked the public to provide recommendations on community development needs in the Borough. She provided examples of projects previously funded by CDBG and discussed income eligibility guidelines.

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 7:05 PM.

PRAYER FOR COUNCIL

Ms. Sokolowski read a Prayer for Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Leonard announced that Ms. Stetler received the first-ever awarded Affordable Housing Achievement Award from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. She thanked Chris for her hard work and dedication to the Borough.

PRESENTATIONS

a.) Recognition of 20 Years of Service: Francis Perry Jr., Michael Maxwell and Derik Haley, Public Services

Ray Sokolowski, Executive Director of Operations, acknowledged two (2) members of the Public Services Department, Michael Maxwell and Derik Haley, for 20 years of service, and presented recognition gifts. Mr. Sokolowski mentioned that Mr. Perry was unable to attend and would be recognized in November.

b.) Swearing in of Steve Young as Deputy Fire Marshal

This item was tabled.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

a.) Approve and adopt the September 4 and September 18 Meeting Minutes

b.) Accept the September-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$1,407,511.36.

Mr. Griffin made a motion to approve and adopt the September 4 and September 18 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Ms. Flanagan. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton absent)

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to approve the September-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$1,407,511.36, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton absent)

NEW BUSINESS

a.) Conduct interviews for re-appointment and appointment to the Friends of Conshohocken Parks

Ms. Leonard invited Antoinette Coupe to the podium to interview for reappointment to the Friends of Conshohocken Parks. Ms. Leonard inquired about first-year challenges for the non-profit organization. Ms. Coupe explained that the biggest challenge was establishing the structure of the organization. Ms. Sokolowski asked her to share some accomplishments of the Friends of Conshohocken Parks. Ms. Coupe stated that the organization received 503(c)(3) status and created marketing materials.

Ms. Leonard invited Holly Holst to the podium to interview for appointment to the Friends of Conshohocken Parks. Ms. Leonard asked why she would like to serve as a member. Ms. Holst explained

how her educational background in American History and Parks and Recreation Management and her professional experience working for the National Parks Service would benefit the organization. Ms. Flanagan asked about her first priority as a member of the Board. Ms. Holst stated that her first priority would be to secure large donor funds. She discussed grant matching opportunities and confirmed that she has experience with grant writing for the National Parks Foundation.

Ms. Leonard invited Jocelyn Sirchio to the podium to interview for appointment to the Friends of Conshohocken Parks. She asked why she would like to serve as a member of the Friends of Conshohocken Parks. Ms. Sirchio explained that she is passionate about the revitalization of Borough parks. She discussed how her business relationships with stakeholders in the community could support the fundraising goals of the organization.

Ms. Flanagan made a motion to re-appoint Antoinette Coupe to the Friends of Conshohocken Parks, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton absent)

Mr. Griffin made a motion to appoint Holly Holst and Jocelyn Sirchio to the Friends of Conshohocken Parks, seconded by Ms. Sokolowski. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton absent)

Ms. Flanagan made a motion to ratify Antoinette Coupe's position as President and Holly Holst's position as Secretary, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton absent)

b.) Consider approving 100-102 Forrest Street financial security release in the amount of \$18,829.00

Ms. Cecco confirmed that the Borough Engineer inspected the site improvements and recommends the partial release of the financial security for 100-102 Forrest Street.

Mr. Griffin made a motion to authorize the release of 100-102 Forrest Street financial security in the amount of \$18,829.00, seconded by Ms. Sokolowski. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton absent)

c.) Discussion on speed hump (Council President Leonard)

Ms. Leonard asked Council to consider re-deploying a speed hump, currently on Righter Street, to a new location. She shared that Superintendent Metz recommends relocating the speed hump to the 300 block of Hector Street for pedestrian safety reasons. Council supported the relocation of the speed hump from Righter Street to the 300 block of Harry Street and authorized administration to engage Pennoni Associates to conduct a traffic study.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a.) Consider authorizing advertisement of an RFP for zoning services

Ms. Cecco reviewed the final draft of the proposed RFP for zoning services.

Mr. Stokley made a motion to authorize advertisement of an RFP for zoning services, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton absent)

b.) Consider adopting Ordinance 04-2019 amending the Non-Uniformed Pension Plan

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to adopt Ordinance 04-2019 amending the Non-Uniformed Pension Plan, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton absent)

Ms. Cecco added an item to the agenda. She shared that the Borough received monies paid in connection with the Seven Tower Bridge construction loan closing. She explained that additional monies in the amount of \$153,600.00 were inadvertently wired to the Borough through error. She stated that the monies should have been paid to the Borough of Conshohocken Authority. **Ms. Tutino made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-22 authorizing the wire transfer of \$153,600.00 to the title company handling the construction loan closing of Seven Tower Bridge, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton absent)**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Maikoid, 112 West 9th Avenue, discussed the most recent malfunction and system shutdown at the Covanta plant, which created a loud noise and released pressurized steam. He discussed the life expectancy of the plant, the frequent occurrence of malfunctions and the plant's inability to control hazardous pollutants.

Mayor Aronson announced that the Conshohocken Neighborhood Council is hosting a Halloween costume drive and shared costume collection sites. He also announced that the EAC West Side Community Cleanup event is October 19th at 10:00am.

Mr. Stokley discussed pedestrian safety and urged pedestrians to use crosswalks when crossing the street.

Ms. Sokolowski reminded motorists to drive with caution around pedestrians.

Ms. Flanagan discussed programs offered to seniors at the Community Center. She encouraged senior residents to contact Lauren Irizarry, Recreation Director, for membership information.

Mr. Griffin encouraged all registered voters to vote on Election Day.

Superintendent Metz shared that the Police Department would be participating in No-Shave November to support St. Jude Children's Cancer Research Hospital.

Ms. Leonard provided information about the upcoming Pumpkin Painting event and Halloween Parade.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary