

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: Colleen Leonard, Council President *via teleconference*  
Tina Sokolowski, Council Vice-President  
Robert Stokley, Senior Council Member  
James Griffin, Council Member  
Jane Flanagan, 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, Community Development and Grant Coordinator, shared that this hearing is the second of two (2) public hearings regarding the Borough's 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application. She stated that the Borough is eligible to receive \$132,533.00 in 2020 CDBG funds. Ms. Stetler stated that the proposed activities are grant administration and curb ramp installation, specifically curb cuts on roads and alley crossings. She reviewed costs associated with the project. She mentioned that a recent study identified a need for these activities on the east side of Fayette Street. She listed the areas being considered. There was no public comment. Ms. Stetler provided information for individuals to provide comment after the hearing.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Public Meeting of the Conshohocken Borough Council, duly advertised, was held as a hybrid meeting. Borough elected officials, staff and professionals were physically in attendance at Borough Hall, and the public participated through GoToMeeting video and telephone conferencing. Ms. Colleen Leonard, Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

**PRAYER FOR COUNCIL**

Ms. Tutino read a Prayer for Council.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Sokolowski thanked everyone for attending the hybrid Council meeting. She reviewed the meeting logistics and participation instructions.

**LAND USE, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES**

**a.) Consider granting conditional use approval for 541 East Hector Street**

Mr. Peters opened the public hearing for the 541 East Hector Street conditional use application. He explained that the application is to permit a building height of 40 feet in the Residential Overlay District. Ms. Flanagan recommended that Council continue the hearing until a traffic analysis is provided.

**Ms. Flanagan made a motion to grant a continuance of the hearing to a date certain being October 7, 2020 at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers at the Borough Hall, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton - absent)**

**b.) Consider approving Resolution 2020-23 approving preliminary/final land development for 541 East Hector Street**

**Ms. Flanagan made a motion to table approving preliminary/final land development for 541 East Hector Street, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton - absent)**

**c.) 408 West Sixth Avenue Zoning Hearing Board Application**

Eric Johnson, Zoning Officer, described the current use of the property located at 408 West Sixth Avenue. He stated that the applicant proposes to divide the existing single-family semi-detached dwelling into two (2) dwelling units and use the first floor as a rental property. He explained that the applicant is either seeking relief from the requirement to provide additional off-street parking for the new dwelling unit, or relief from the impervious coverage requirements to expand the off-street parking area to the rear of the property to provide a total of four (4) parking spaces.

Alexander Frazier, the applicant and property owner, described the present use of the property and discussed the proposed use, which is to convert the downstairs of the home into a single apartment and add

thirteen (13) feet of impervious coverage by removing trees in the back of the property to provide the required off-street parking for the proposed dwelling unit.

#### PRESENTATIONS

a.) **Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation**

Jacqueline Rocco, founder of the Hispanic Heritage Association, explained the purpose of the Hispanic Heritage Association. She discussed the history and significance of Hispanic Heritage Month and encouraged everyone to celebrate the Hispanic community through educational and cultural experiences.

**Ms. Tutino made a motion to approve Proclamation 2020-05 celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton - absent)**

#### CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a.) **Approve and adopt the August 5 and August 19 Meeting Minutes**  
b.) **Approve the August-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$377,904.45.**

**Ms. Tutino made a motion to approve and adopt the August 5 and August 19 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton - absent)**

**Mr. Griffin made a motion to approve the August-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$377,904.45, seconded by Ms. Flanagan. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton absent)**

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a.) **Consider authorizing Hough Associates to collect residential and commercial recycling data for 2020, 2021 and 2022**

**Mr. Stokley made a motion to authorize Hough Associates to collect residential and commercial recycling data for 2020, 2021 and 2022, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton absent)**

- b.) **Consider reappointing Bee, Bergvall & Co., P.C. to conduct the Borough's annual financial audit for fiscal years ending 2021, 2022 and 2023**

**Ms. Flanagan made a motion to reappoint Bee, Bergvall & Co., P.C. to conduct the Borough's annual financial audit for fiscal years ending 2021, 2022 and 2023, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton - absent)**

- c.) **Consider approving the Borough's 2021 Minimum Municipal Obligations (MMO) as required by Act 205**

**Mr. Griffin made a motion to approve the Borough's 2021 Minimum Municipal Obligations (MMO) as required by Act 205, seconded by Ms. Tutino. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton - absent)**

- d.) **Discuss Borough Special Events for the remainder of 2020**

Ms. Cecco provided alternative event ideas and plans to be offered in place of the Borough's normally scheduled end of year events. Council was in support of the special event plans presented.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- a.) **Consider approving Resolution 2020-24 designating a Section 504 Officer**

**Ms. Tutino made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-24 designating Christine Stetler as the Borough's Section 504 Officer, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton -absent)**

- b.) **Consider approving 337 West Sixth Avenue professional services escrow release for demolition in the amount of \$1,618.00**

**Ms. Tutino made a motion to approve 337 West Sixth Avenue professional services escrow release for demolition in the amount of \$1,618.00, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton - absent)**

- c.) **Consider approving 351-353 West Seventh Avenue pre-construction professional services escrow release in the amount of \$9,037.48**

**Ms. Tutino made a motion to approve 351-353 West Seventh Avenue pre-construction professional services escrow release in the amount of \$9,037.48, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton - absent)**

- d.) **Consider approving 351-353 West Seventh Avenue construction professional services escrow release in the amount of \$1,041.94**

**Ms. Flanagan made a motion to approve 351-353 West Seventh Avenue construction professional services escrow release in the amount of \$1,041.94, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton - absent)**

e.) **Consider approving St. Matthew’s fee waiver request for use of the A-Field for outdoor church services**

**Mr. Stokley made a motion to approve St. Matthew’s fee waiver request for use of the A-Field for outdoor church services for September 6, 13, 20 and 27, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton - absent)**

f.) **Consider approving the EAC’s contactless Fall Community Cleanup Event**

Mayor Aronson stated that the EAC is proposing a contactless cleanup event. He explained that registered participants would receive cleanup kits and clean their own street or block on October 17<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to 12:00pm.

**Mr. Griffin made a motion to approve the EAC’s contactless Fall Community Cleanup Event, seconded by Ms. Tutino. The motion carried 6-0. (Barton - absent)**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Brittany Rogers, Executive Assistant to the Borough Manager, announced that no public comment was received via email submission.

Janet DiGregorio, 410 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, stated that she is opposed to the 408 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue zoning application. She discussed concerns related to parking and the increase in impervious coverage, which could potentially result in stormwater management issues.

Mr. DiGregorio, 139 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, discussed the zoning application for 408 West 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. He explained that approving that type of change in use, from a single-family home into a duplex, could establish a Borough wide precedent.

Scott Langstein, 200 West Elm Street, stated that it is very difficult to hear the audio during hybrid Council meetings. He inquired about the how the commercial recycling data is used. Ms. Cecco explained that recycling data is provided when applying for grants.

**COUNCIL AND MAYOR MATTERS**

Ms. Sokolowski invited Ray Sokolowski, Executive Director of Operations, to the podium to recognize Fire Services. He shared that the volunteer members of the Conshohocken Fire Department were certified in Swiftwater rescue operations.

Mayor Aronson shared that September is Suicide Awareness Month and provided resources for suicide prevention. He announced that the ConshyStrong campaign donated \$2,000.00 to the Colonial Neighborhood Council and thanked everyone who contributed.

Mr. Stokley stated that he is pleased to see younger residents utilizing Borough parks.

Ms. Flanagan thanked Borough Administration for exploring alternative plans for the Borough’s end of year events. She encouraged residents to reach out to Administration with questions about how to participate.

Mr. Griffin recognized Mayor Aronson and the Conshohocken Police Department for their successful shredding event.

Ms. Leonard encouraged everyone to stay safe.

Ms. Sokolowski urged everyone to get a flu shot.

Superintendent Metz stated that in response to concerns in the area of Sutcliffe Park, there is an increase in police presence. He asked residents to reach out directly to Police with concerns. Superintendent Metz announced that the 2020 National Night Out is canceled and encouraged everyone to donate to local food bank in lieu of the event. He provided information about Police reporting system for residents.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Stephanie Cecco,  
Borough Secretary