

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

PUBLIC MEETING held via GoToMeeting video/teleconference

PRESENT: Colleen Leonard, Council President
Tina Sokolowski, Council Vice-President
James Griffin, Council Member
Kathleen Kingsley, Council Member
Karen Tutino, Council Member
Yaniv Aronson, Mayor

ALSO PRESENT: Stephanie Cecco, Borough Manager
Michael E. Peters, Borough Solicitor

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CDBG APPLICATION

Chris Stetler, Community Development and Grant Coordinator, opened the public hearing on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program application. Ms. Stetler shared that the Borough is eligible to receive \$134,796.00 in federal funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). She recommended that the available funding for community development activities be utilized through a housing rehabilitation program. She explained that the funds must be used to benefit low- and moderate-income residents. She reviewed program administration, delivery, and construction costs. There was no public comment.

CALL TO ORDER

The Public Meeting of the Conshohocken Borough Council duly advertised, was held remotely using the GoToMeeting platform. Colleen Leonard, Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

PRAYER FOR COUNCIL

Ms. Leonard read a Prayer for Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Leonard thanked everyone for attending the virtual Council meeting. She reviewed the meeting logistics and participation instructions. Ms. Leonard announced that an Executive Session was held immediately prior to the regularly scheduled public meeting on legal matters.

PRESENTATIONS

a.) Proclamation 2021-07 Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

Ms. Leonard introduced Jennefer Rivera from the Hispanic Heritage Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania. She thanked Council for approving a proclamation that celebrates and recognizes the contributions Hispanics have made to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States. She shared information about the Hispanic Heritage Association and encouraged everyone to continue to create a culture and community of inclusion. Ms. Cecco read Proclamation 2021-07 which recognizes and celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month.

Ms. Tutino made a motion to approve Proclamation 2021-07 celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month and designating Friday, September 17, 2021 as the Hispanic Day of Celebration in the Borough of Conshohocken, seconded by Ms. Kingsley. The motion carried 5-0. (Barton and Stokley absent)

LAND USE, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES

a.) Consider authorizing advertisement of an ordinance amendment to establish animal control regulations

Mr. Peters provided a summary of the proposed ordinance amendment, which creates an Animal Control Officer and regulations related to keeping chickens; clarifies the restrictions related to off-leash animals and animal waste; prohibits roosters and the feeding of feral cats; and contains violation and penalty provisions.

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to authorize advertisement of an ordinance amendment to establish animal control regulations, seconded by Ms. Kingsley. The motion carried 5-0. (Barton and Stokley absent)

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a.) **Approve and adopt the August 4 and August 18 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- b.) **Approve the August-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable**

Mr. Griffin made a motion to approve and adopt the August 4 and August 18 Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Ms. Sokolowski. The motion carried 5-0. (Barton and Stokley absent)

Mr. Griffin made a motion to approve the August-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$536,947.14, seconded by Ms. Sokolowski. The motion carried 5-0. (Barton and Stokley absent)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a.) **Consider appointing an applicant to the vacancy on the Dog Park Advisory Committee**

Ms. Cecco asked Council to consider appointing Aparna Chhibber to the Dog Park Advisory Committee.

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to appoint Aparna Chhibber to the Dog Park Advisory Committee, seconded by Ms. Tutino. The motion carried 5-0. (Barton and Stokley absent)

- b.) **Consider approving the Borough's 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligations (MMO) as required by Act 205**

Ms. Cecco explained that the Borough is required to annually satisfy Minimum Municipal Obligations (MMO) for its pension plans. She reviewed the financial requirement for the Police, Fire and Non-Uniformed pension plans. She explained the MMO values will be included in the FY2022 budget.

Mr. Griffin made a motion to approve the Borough's 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligations as required by Act 205, seconded by Ms. Leonard. The motion carried 5-0. (Barton and Stokley absent)

NEW BUSINESS

- a.) **Consider ratifying a supplemental appropriation for a high-water rescue vehicle**

Ms. Cecco shared that during Tropical Storm Ida the Borough utilized a high-water rescue vehicle through mutual aid that allowed first responders to drive across the flood waters and assist a greater number of isolated individuals stranded by the flood waters. She explained that Borough Council authorized administration to utilize capital reserves to facilitate a purchase should a high-water rescue vehicle become available. She confirmed that a rescue vehicle was secured and asked Borough Council to ratify a supplemental appropriation.

Ms. Tutino made a motion to ratify a supplemental appropriation for a high-water rescue vehicle from the capital reserve fund, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 5-0. (Barton and Stokley absent)

- b.) **Consider approving Resolution 2021-26 ratifying the declaration of the local disaster emergency as issued on September 1, 2021 and September 8, 2021**

Ms. Cecco explained that Borough elected officials, in response to the major flooding event that occurred from Tropical Storm Ida, declared a local disaster emergency on September 1, 2021 and re-declared a local disaster emergency on September 8, 2021. She asked Council to approve a resolution that would ratify the declarations.

Mr. Griffin made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-26 ratifying the declaration of the local disaster emergency as issued on September 1, 2021 and September 8, 2021, seconded by Ms. Sokolowski. The motion carried 5-0. (Barton and Stokley absent)

- c.) **Consider approving a block party request for the 200 block of East Eighth Avenue**

Ms. Cecco shared that the residents of the 200 block of East 8th Avenue are requesting to hold a block party on October 2, 2021 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. She explained that the event will require road closures and include food, music, and a bounce house. She added that Borough administration is in support of this annual event.

Ms. Kingsley made a motion to approve a block party request for the 200 block of East Eighth Avenue, seconded by Ms. Tutino. The motion carried 5-0. (Barton and Stokley absent)

- d.) **Consider approving tuition reimbursements for Officers Bahn and Hall**

Ms. Cecco stated that tuition reimbursement is a stipulation of the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Mr. Griffin made a motion to approve tuition reimbursements for Officers Bahn and Hall, seconded by Ms. Kingsley. The motion carried 5-0. (Barton and Stokley absent)

COUNCIL AND MAYOR MATTERS

Mayor Aronson shared highlights from the West Conshohocken 9/11 memorial service which honored those lost and recognized first responders. He thanked Borough emergency management personnel for their tremendous efforts in working to help and protect the residents of Conshohocken during Tropical Storm Ida.

Mr. Griffin thanked first responders for helping residents impacted by Storm Ida.

Ms. Kingsley recognized the emergency response efforts of our first responders during the storm and the continued cleanup efforts of Public Services following the storm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brittany Rogers, Executive Assistant to the Borough Manager, stated that no written public comment was received.

There was no public comment on the call.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 PM.

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary