

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, October 5, 2022

PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: Colleen Leonard, Council President
Tina Sokolowski, Council Vice-President
Anita Barton, Council Member
Stacy Ellam, Council Member
Kathleen Kingsley, Council Member
Adrian Serna, Council Member
Karen Tutino, Council Member

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

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. Leonard, Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Council President announcements.

LAND USE MATTERS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES

a.) Public Hearing on the Conditional Use application for 918 Fayette Street: Pop of Posh LLC and Vintage Affairs Rentals LLC, Applicant

Mr. Peters opened the public hearing on the conditional use application for 918 Fayette Street. He reviewed party status. He stated that the applicant is seeking conditional use to permit an artistic/creative flex space on the first floor of the existing building.

Stevie-Rae Smith of Pop of Posh, LLC provided testimony on the petition. She stated that Pop of Posh, LLC and Vintage Affairs Rentals, LLC proposes to operate jointly on the first floor of the property. She described the proposed use of the first floor as a studio space for creatives and photographers, office space for the companies, and small group classes. She confirmed that the residential use on the upper floors of the building will remain unchanged. She discussed hours of operation and number of employees. Ms. Smith testified that the façade of the building would remain the same. She also testified that the proposal is consistent with the character of the surrounding neighborhood.

Mr. Peters continued the matter on the record to October 19, 2022.

b.) Public Hearing on Tax Ordinance Amendment

Mr. Peters stated that, Act 57 of 2022, which was signed into law by Governor Wolf, amends the local tax collection law. He shared that the amendment allows for the tax collector to automatically waive penalties for taxpayers who have purchased a home within twelve (12) months and have not received their tax bill in the mail. He explained that the Borough is required, as a local taxing agency, to adopt an ordinance which is consistent with the new legislation. Mr. Peters reviewed the proposed ordinance amendment and asked Council to consider approving its adoption.

Mr. Serna made a motion to adopt Ordinance 12-2022 amending the Borough's Tax Ordinance pursuant to Act 57 of 2022, seconded by Ms. Kingsley. The motion carried 7-0.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

a.) Conduct an interview for Board and Commission reappointment

Ms. Leonard introduced George Bass who was present to interview for reappointment to the Sewer Authority Board. Mr. Bass shared that he enjoys giving back to the community and discussed the importance of wastewater treatment facilities. He reviewed some of the accomplishments of the Board with assistance from Authority administration and professionals. He shared what volunteers can expect when serving on a Borough Board or Commission.

PRESENTATIONS

a.) Discussion on the Borough Public Safety Initiative

George Metz, Police Superintendent, and William Walter, Detective, were present to discuss public safety initiatives of the Police Department. Superintendent Metz discussed the Police Department's participation

in a DUI Task Force. He reviewed various community outreach events and programs, such as active shooter trainings, an annual shredding event and educational sessions with seniors and children. Detective Walter provided information about Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs). He explained the capabilities of the ALPRs and how Conshohocken Borough could benefit from them. He reviewed potential strategic locations for usage, as well estimated costs. Ms. Sokolowski inquired about policies for the cameras. Superintendent Metz responded that he is researching the topic and plans to implement policies. Superintendent Metz explained that the cameras are not red-light cameras used for traffic enforcement or citations. He reiterated that ALPRs would assist police with criminal investigations.

Detective Walter discussed his role on the Montgomery County Human Trafficking/Child Exploitation Task Force, which helps find missing children and helps victims of human trafficking. He shared that he also serves as a part-time federal Agent on the Philadelphia FBI Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force. Superintendent Metz shared that the Police Department receives valuable resources from the County and FBI as members of these Task Forces.

Ed Zale, 200 West Elm Street, voiced his support of the Automated License Plate Readers.

Dave Murphy, Deputy Fire Chief, and Steve Young, Battalion Chief, were present to discuss public safety initiatives of the Fire Department. Deputy Chief Murphy reviewed recent additions to the Fire Department's fleet including, a fire truck, rescue boat and high-water rescue vehicle. He provided information about recent and upcoming training programs, such as high-water rescue training, elevator rescue training and high-rise firefighting training. Battalion Chief Young discussed fire prevention and public safety programs, including an annual Fire Prevention Expo, Sprinkler Nights, fire safety speeches and fire company open houses. He also discussed the implementation of a Quick Response Service (QRS) Program, which provides emergency medical services to the community in a non-transport response capability. Mr. Murphy and Mr. Young discussed Fire Department needs for the future.

Ray Sokolowski, Executive Director of Operations, was present to discuss public safety initiatives of the Public Services Department. Mr. Sokolowski explained that the Public Services Department is supporting the Borough's public safety initiative through the installation of LED lighting throughout the Borough, the use of crowd barriers during special events and line painting to create safer crosswalks and intersections. He discussed Public Services' role in emergency response.

Bill and Bob Weber of Narberth Ambulance were present to discuss public safety initiatives of the Borough's EMS providers. Bob Weber shared that Narberth Ambulance has provided CPR/First Aid and AED training to Borough staff and emergency response personnel and offers a blood pressure screening at the Community Center during EMS week. He stated that Narberth Ambulance participates in all major Borough events. Bill Weber discussed the benefits of the Borough's QRS program.

Ms. Cecco discussed proposed FY 2023 capital budget items which support the Borough's overall public safety initiative. She reviewed traffic-related grants aimed to increase vehicular mobility and pedestrian safety. She discussed the concept of installing pocket parks along Fayette Street to enhance walkability. She also discussed the installation of cameras on public facilities and in parks to deter theft and vandalism and to assist law enforcement during criminal investigations. Ms. Cecco mentioned additional potential traffic safety initiatives, such as traffic-calming improvements around Corson Street along West Elm Street, the road diet concept along Fayette Street, and a shuttle service.

David Lennon, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, and Bobbi Jo Myrsiades, Administrative Assistant for Operations, were present to discuss public safety initiatives of the Emergency Management Department. Sergeant Lennon discussed the benefits of an emergency radio console for the Emergency Operations Center and evacuation signage. Mr. Sokolowski added that flood gates will be installed along areas of Colwell Lane. Sergeant Lennon shared information about the Borough's Drone Unit. Ms. Myrsiades reviewed community outreach initiatives, such as CodeRed, and emergency preparedness training.

b.) EAC Initiatives Presentation, Domenic Rocco and Timothy Beckel, EAC

Ms. Leonard introduced Domenic Rocco, Chair of the EAC, and Timothy Beckel, Vice-Chair of the EAC, who were present to provide an update on the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC).

Mr. Rocco discussed the composition of the EAC, including former and current members and liaisons. He announced that there will be two (2) vacancies on the Council beginning January 2023. He encouraged residents interested in serving on the EAC to contact a member of the EAC or Borough Administration.

Mr. Beckel reviewed the major initiatives of the EAC, which included communications, environmental education, and events. He discussed successes of the EAC, which included collecting approximately 2700 lbs. of trash and planting over 200 trees at Sutcliffe Park and the B-Field.

Mr. Rocco discussed the concept of hosting Conshy GreenFest in 2023 and utilizing a grass roots approach to public engagement. He also discussed the idea of working with Borough Administration to educate the community on composting and proper recycling.

MANAGER MATTERS

- a.) **Consider approving 204 East Eighth Avenue professional services escrow release no. 1 (final) in the amount of \$207.41**

Ms. Tutino made a motion to approve 204 East Eighth Avenue professional services escrow release no. 1 (final) in the amount \$207.41, seconded by Ms. Sokolowski. The motion carried 7-0.

- b.) **Consider awarding a bid for the locker room renovation at the Community Center**

Ms. Cecco stated that the locker room renovation at the Community Center is an approved capital item for 2022. She reviewed the results of the RPF and recommended that Council consider awarding the bid to the lowest and only bidder, Dellose Construction.

Ms. Barton made a motion to award a bid to Dellose Construction in the amount of \$21,000.00 for the locker room renovation project at the Community Center, seconded by Mr. Serna. The motion carried 7-0.

- c.) **Consider approving Resolution 2022-29 authorizing the sale of a Borough vehicle to Narberth Ambulance**

Ms. Cecco explained that the Borough identified a vehicle that, per the depreciation schedule, is no longer of use to the Borough. She recommended that Council consider authorizing the sale of the Borough's 2015 Chevy Tahoe to Narberth Ambulance in the amount of \$10.00.

Ms. Kingsley made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-29 authorizing the sale of the Borough's 2015 Chevy Tahoe to Narberth Ambulance in the amount of \$10.00, seconded by Ms. Ellam. The motion carried 7-0.

DEPARTMENT MATTERS

There were no department matters.

LEGAL MATTERS

There were no legal matters.

COUNCIL MEMBER AND MAYOR MATTERS

Mr. Serna reminded everyone that the EAC Fall Clean Up event is Saturday, October 15, 2022 from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

Ms. Leonard, on behalf of Mayor Aronson, thanked the Conshohocken Police Department for hosting its annual Community Shredding Event and reminded residents about the upcoming Pumpkin Painting event and Halloween Parade.

Ms. Leonard expressed condolences to the family and friends of Philip Candelore, resident of Conshohocken.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Zale, 200 West Elm Street, recognized Borough Manager Stephanie Cecco for her outstanding service to the residents of the Borough of Conshohocken.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary