

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: Colleen Leonard, Council President
Jane Flanagan, Council Vice-President
Robert Stokley, Senior Council Member
Anita Barton, 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, Interim 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. Colleen Leonard, Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PRAYER FOR COUNCIL

Ms. Karen Tutino read a Prayer for Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Cecco announced that there was an Executive Session held immediately prior to the meeting regarding a legal matter and a personnel matter.

PRESENTATIONS

a.) Conduct Interviews for Boards and Commissions

Ms. Cecco introduced Julie Dickson who was present to interview for reappointment to the Mary Wood Park Commission. Ms. Flanagan asked Ms. Dickson to explain why she is interested in continuing to serve on the Mary Wood Park Commission. Ms. Dickson explained that she would like to continue planning for the Bi-Centennial and assisting with small improvement projects to the Mary Wood Park House. Ms. Flanagan asked if there is a particular issue that needs to be addressed by Council and the Commission with regard to the Mary Wood Park. Ms. Dickson stated that the park was not kid friendly, but the Borough is working to address that issue with the new renovations.

Ms. Cecco introduced Timothy Beckel who was present to interview for appointment to the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC). Ms. Leonard asked Mr. Beckel why he is interested in serving on the EAC. Mr. Beckel explained that since attending several EAC meetings and learning more about the Committee initiatives, he is motivated to protect and improve the Borough's environment. Mayor Aronson asked Mr. Beckel if there is a specific initiative that he would like to be involved in. Mr. Beckel identified the rain barrel initiative adding that his professional background in stormwater management could assist with education.

Ms. Cecco introduced Debra Mallon who was present to interview for appointment to the EAC. Ms. Leonard asked Ms. Mallon to share why she is interested in serving on the EAC. Ms. Mallon shared that she has attended several meetings and that her professional experience as a school counselor could assist in accomplishing some of the goals of the EAC through a partnership with Conshohocken Elementary. Mayor

Aronson asked Ms. Mallon to share what she has done within the last several months to increase community involvement. Ms. Mallon explained how she has been utilizing social media to increase volunteer recruitment.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a.) **Approve and adopt the December 20 Special and Regular Meeting Minutes; January 2, January 3 and January 17 Meeting Minutes.**
- b.) **Accept the January-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$748,939.26.**

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to adopt all consent agenda items a.) and b.), seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- a.) **Consider 304 East Hector Street Zoning Hearing Board Application**

Chris Stetler, Borough Zoning Officer, explained that the developers of the property propose to convert the existing legal non-conforming commercial use into four (4) residential condominium units with eight (8) parking spaces on the grade level inside of the building. She added that zoning relief is required for a special exception for change of non-conforming use. George Ozorowski, attorney for the applicant, provided an additional summary of the application and reviewed the existing conditions and proposed improvements to the property. Council asked several questions regarding parking and accessibility to Angel Alley, which Mr. Ozorowski answered. Mr. Griffin and Ms. Sokolowski voiced their support and appreciation for the adaptive reuse of the property.

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to send a letter of support for the 304 East Hector Street Zoning Hearing Board Application, seconded by Mr. Griffin. Mr. Stokley recused himself. The motion carried 6-0.

- b.) **Consider approving Resolution 2018-04 authorizing the submittal of the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Application.**

Ms. Stetler explained that the Borough proposes to submit an application for funding to the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Program for restoration of the exterior porch at the Mary Wood Park House. She added that the application required a resolution from Council to accompany the application.

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-04 authorizing the submittal of the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Application, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 7-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a.) **Consider 322 East Eighth Avenue Zoning Hearing Board Application**

Ms. Stetler shared that the developer proposes to subdivide the lot, leave the existing single-family semi detached dwelling on one lot and construct a single-family detached dwelling on the second lot. Ms. Stetler explained that variances for lot width and front yard setback are required as well as a special exception for garage size. George Ozorowski, attorney from the applicant, provided an additional summary of the application and shared architectural renderings of existing conditions and the proposed plans.

Ms. Flanagan made a motion to send a letter of support for the 322 East Eighth Avenue Zoning Hearing Board Application, seconded by Mr. Griffin. Mr. Stokley recused himself. The motion carried 6-0.

- b.) **Consider transition Police and Fire Pension Assets to PFM Multi-Manager Funds**

Ms. Cecco asked Council to consider transitioning Police and Fire Pension Assets to PFM Multi-Manager Funds. Ms. Cecco voiced her concerns with the transition, which included the increase of fees and the newness of the multi-manager funds. Lieutenant George Metz confirmed that the Police share the same concerns. Ms. Cecco recommended that Council consider the transition at a later date when there is more industry data to evaluate the performance of new multi-manager funds in the market.

Ms. Tutino made a motion to maintain the Borough's current asset allocation through PFM, seconded by Ms. Sokolowski. The motion carried 7-0.

c.) Consider appointing applicants for Board and Commission Vacancies

Ms. Cecco asked Council to consider re-appointing Julie Dickson to the Mary Wood Park Commission and appointing Timothy Beckel and Debra Mallon to the EAC.

Ms. Flanagan made a motion to re-appoint Julie Dickson to the Mary Wood Park Commission, seconded by Ms. Tutino. The motion carried 7-0.

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to appoint Timothy Beckel to the Environmental Advisory Council, seconded by Ms. Tutino. The motion carried 7-0.

Ms. Barton made a motion to appoint Debra Mallon to the Environmental Advisory Council, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Debra Stovall, 76 Poplar Street, voiced a concern about the lack of parking around her residence. She referenced specific commercial properties and parking signage as the cause of the issue. Sergeant Michael Conner approached the podium to respond to Ms. Stovall's concerns. Sergeant Conner stated the Police Department would address any parking violations at the commercial properties and work with business owners to develop a plan to accommodate residents. Chris Stetler added that she is in the process of renewing all handicap parking spaces. Ms. Cecco stated that Borough Administration would also investigate current signage in the area.

Matt O'Hanlon, 200 West Elm Street, inquired about the status of the SORA land development project. He explained that he currently manages an office on the proposed site and voiced concerns regarding the receipt of a notice to vacate. Ms. Cecco explained that the applicant has received preliminary land development approval from the Planning Commission. She added that the applicant would be in front of Council on March 7, 2018 to present plans for approval and encouraged Mr. O'Hanlon to attend.

Mayor Aronson announced that VFW is hosting a Blood Drive on February 25, 2018. He also provided details about Conshohocken Irish Week.

Mr. Stokley shared that one of his goals for 2018 is to address the opioid epidemic in the Borough. He asked Council for their support to implement a program to help raise awareness to the risks of misusing prescription opioids. Lieutenant Metz approached the podium to inform Council that he met with representatives from The Center of Excellence. He provided an overview of the resources and services offered by the non-profit organization.

Ms. Sokolowski shared that there will be a Voting Machine Open House on Saturday, February 24, 2018 at Montgomery County Community College. She added that attendees will be able to view, test and provide feedback on various voting machines. Ms. Sokolowski also announced that the Conshohocken Rowing Center will be hosting an Open House on June 2, 2018 for National Learn to Row Day. She also reminded Conshohocken residents that the Conshohocken Rowing Center offers paddleboard and kayak launch memberships.

Ms. Flanagan announced that construction has begun at the Mary Wood Park.

Ms. Leonard thanked Conshohocken business owners, Mr. Webber of the Boathouse and Mr. Hemcher of the Great American Pub, for supporting the Mayor's special events. She added that they purchased badges for the "Read to Me" event and a porta potty for a VFW event.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary