

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: Colleen Leonard, Council 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: 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 7:01 PM.

PRAYER FOR COUNCIL

Ms. Sokolowski read a Prayer for Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Council President announcements.

PRESENTATIONS

a.) Public Hearing on 200 Block of Washington Street, Millennium Block A, Millennium IV Conditional Use Application

Mr. Peters opened the public hearing for the 200 Block of Washington Street, Millennium Block A, Millennium IV Conditional Use Application and announced that he had received notification from Mr. Edmund Campbell, the attorney representing the applicant, that they would like to continue the hearing scheduled for that evening; he also shared that the two parties who entered an appearance had consented to the continuance as well. Mr. Peters made a recommendation to grant continuance of the hearing.

Ms. Tutino made a motion to grant continuance of the hearing to a date certain being June 20, 2018 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at the Borough Hall, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 6-0. (Flanagan - absent)

b.) Conduct Interviews for the Dog Park Advisory Committee

Ms. Leonard introduced Jessica Roth who was present to interview for a vacancy on the Dog Park Advisory Committee. Ms. Leonard asked her why she would like to serve as a member. Ms. Roth responded that she is a dog owner who would like to become more involved in the community. Ms. Sokolowski asked her what she believes to be the role of this Committee. She replied that the purpose of this advisory committee is to work with the Borough Administration to address overall operations of the dog park. Ms. Barton asked her what she would like to accomplish as a member. She replied that she would like to ensure that the dog park is safe for dogs and their owners.

Ms. Leonard introduced Nicholas Cirulli who was present to interview for a vacancy on the Dog Park Advisory Committee. Ms. Leonard asked him why he would like to serve as a member of this advisory

committee. He responded that he is a life-long dog owner who is looking for ways to become more involved in the community. Ms. Sokolowski asked him how he learned about the Committee. He replied through their social media account.

Ms. Barton made a motion to appoint Jessica Roth and Nicholas Cirulli to the Dog Park Advisory Committee, seconded by Ms. Tutino. The motion carried 6-0. (Flanagan – absent)

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a.) **Approve and adopt the April 4 and April 18 Meeting Minutes**
- b.) **Accept the April-ending Treasurer’s Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$469,115.10**

Mr. Griffin made a motion to approve consent agenda items a.) and b.), seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 6-0. (Flanagan – absent)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a.) **Consider approving Ordinance No. 03-2018 Vehicle and Traffic Ordinance Amendment**

Mr. Peters explained that Ordinance No. 03-2018 would effectuate certain revisions to the parking regulations within the Borough. He reviewed those revisions in detail.

Mr. Griffin made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 03-2018 Vehicle and Traffic Ordinance Amendment, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 6-0. (Flanagan – absent)

NEW BUSINESS

- a.) **Consider 161 Washington Street Zoning Hearing Board Application**

Mr. Stetler provided an overview of the history of the project and reviewed the current proposal, which is to replace the existing café in the office building located at Eight Tower Bridge. Ms. Stetler determined that zoning relief in the form of variances is required for the installation of the new café. She explained that in order to be in compliance with the Flood Plain Conservation District of the Zoning Ordinance, the area of the new café must be elevated or flood proofed.

Robert Careless, the applicant’s attorney was present. Mr. Careless provided an additional summary of the project. Mr. Careless explained that the petitioner maintains that the café use has been in continuous existence, and is not new construction or substantial improvement, which eliminates the need for flood proofing.

Per recommendation from Mr. Peters, Council took no position on the Zoning Hearing Board Application for 161 Washington Street.

- b.) **Consider 130 West 5th Avenue Zoning Hearing Board Application**

Ms. Stetler provided an overview of the history of the project and reviewed the current proposal, which is to change the use of the property from a day care center to a mixed residential-commercial office use. Ms. Stetler explained the project requires special exception for the change in non-conforming use and a variance for off-street parking. Ms. Stetler introduced Ed Campbell, the applicant’s attorney. Mr. Campbell provided an additional summary of the proposed plan. He added that there are two (2) parcels of land adjacent to the parcel owned by the applicant that are owned by the Borough of Conshohocken. He confirmed that he would work with Mr. Peters to formalize an easement agreement in order for the applicant to utilize the parcels owned by the Borough.

Mr. Stokley inquired about use of the alley located behind the property. Mr. Campbell confirmed that the applicant is proposing to use the alley as an egress only.

Mr. Stokley made a motion to approve sending letter of recommendation to the Zoning Hearing Board for 130 West 5th Avenue, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 6-0. (Flanagan – absent)

c.) Consider authorizing the return of donations to the Conshohocken Community Garden

Mr. Peters explained that the Borough was handling the revenues and expenditures for the Community Garden until the Community Garden finalized its transition to a 501 C7. He continued to explain that during that time, specific monies were donated to the Community Garden that need to be returned now that the transition to a non-profit is complete.

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to authorize the return of funds to the Conshohocken Community Garden in the amount of \$2,500, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 6-0. (Flanagan – absent)

d.) Consider authorizing the tuition reimbursement for Detective William Walter

Ms. Leonard shared that education reimbursement is an approved expense per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Mr. Griffin made a motion to authorize the tuition reimbursement for Detective William Walter, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 6-0. (Flanagan – absent)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Robinson, 713 Spring Mill Avenue, was present along with several members of the Conshy Running Club to discuss safety concerns at specific intersections along the Schuylkill River Trail (SRT).

Kristy Campbell, 112 Wood Street, shared that intersections connecting the SRT and Borough streets are increasingly dangerous for trail users. She identified various obstructions located at street and trail intersections, which inhibits pedestrian and motorist sightlines. She also cited distracted drivers and vehicle speed as an issue. Ms. Campbell proposed that Council consider removing a retaining wall on at the corner of Cherry Street to improve visibility. She also recommended that Borough implement stop signs and convert Ash, Poplar and Cherry Streets into one-way streets.

Mark Petroski, member of the Conshy Running Club, spoke about pedestrian safety relative to vehicle traffic and speeding at the railroad crossing.

Another member of the Conshy Running Club reiterated that poor visibility at the intersections forces trail users to enter the intersection to see if it is clear to cross.

Lisa Hall, resident of Riverwalk at Millennium, disagreed with the recommendation to change Ash, Poplar and Cherry Streets to one-way streets.

Mr. Peters responded that the Borough would communicate their concerns to the County and that Borough Administration would evaluate the situation and determine next steps.

Stacy Ellam, 334 West 10th Avenue, voiced an issue with the Conshohocken Fire Police during the Conshy 5K. Ms. Ellam also requested that more detailed notices be provided to residents prior to the event next year. She also inquired about an alternative meeting location for Conshohocken High School Alumni Association while the Mary Wood Park House is being renovated. Council provided several alternative meeting locations and suggested that the Alumni Association contact the Borough Manager for further assistance.

Mr. Stokley mentioned the issue of limited street parking in the Borough. He suggested striping parking lines and removing abandoned vehicles.

Ms. Tutino announced that Borough Administration sent a formal request to PennDOT to evaluate the restriction of heavy truck traffic from West Elm Street.

Mayor Aronson shared a photo from the Neighborhood Streets Cleanup and announced that 940 pounds of trash was collected. He also mentioned that there is a mini art show at Coyote Crossing on May 29, 2018 to kick off the Conshohocken Arts Festival on June 2nd. Lastly, Mayor Aronson encouraged everyone to attend the Conshy AMBUCS Restaurant Rally on May 20, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary