

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, August 15, 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: 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. Colleen Leonard, Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 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.

**Mr. Stokley made a motion to grant continuance of the hearing to a date certain being October 17, 2018 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at the Borough Hall, seconded by Ms. Sokolowski. The motion carried 7-0.**

**b.) Consider approving a 5k Turkey Trot, Kathleen Baldwin, applicant**

Kathleen Baldwin, resident, requested Council's approval to hold a 5k run/walk on November 17, 2018. Ms. Baldwin explained that she partnered with the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) and that all proceeds would go to kidney disease awareness.

**Ms. Barton made a motion to approve the 5k Turkey Trot, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.**

**c.) Consider approving a Suicide Prevention Panel Discussion, Sarah McGlinchey, applicant**

Sarah McGinchey, resident, shared that she is hosting a suicide prevention panel discussion at the Community Center on September 11, 2018. She explained that the event, Suicide Prevention and Awareness: A Panel Discussion, aims to provide a forum for individuals and families affected by or at risk for suicide in the community. Ms. McGinchey requested a fee waiver for use of the Community Center for the event.

**Mr. Stokley made a motion to approve the fee waiver request for the Suicide Prevention Panel Discussion, seconded by Ms. Sokolowski. The motion carried 7-0.**

**d.) Fall and Winter Recreation Services Activity Guide Update, Lauren Irizarry, Director of Recreation Services**

Lauren Irizarry, Director of Recreation Services, provided an update on programs and events that she has planned for the fall and winter.

**e.) Capital Improvement Financing Options, Concord Public Finance Advisors, Inc., Mr. Chris Gibbons**

Chris Gibbons, Concord Public Finance Advisors, Inc., presented alternative funding options that the Borough could consider in order to achieve its long-term capital improvement projects. Mr. Gibbons shared the Borough's current Borrowing Base Capability based on current debt. He reviewed several alternative methods for the Borough to generate funds, which included MS4 fees, parking enforcement, grant opportunities, voter referendum and the establishment of a local hotel tax and a tax-increment financing district.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- a.) **Approve and adopt the July 18 Meeting Minutes**
- b.) **Accept the July-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$600,788.31.**

**Ms. Barton made a motion to approve the consent agenda items, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 7-0.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**a.) Consider adopting the Montgomery County 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Per Resolution 16-2018**

Ms. Leonard explained that the plan is used by municipalities in the county to fulfill hazard mitigation planning requirements.

**Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to adopt the Montgomery County 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.**

**b.) Consider approving plans for the PSAB "Exploring PA Boroughs" Video**

Ms. Leonard reminded Council that a motion was previously made to participate in the PSAB "Exploring PA Boroughs" Video. Council and the Mayor determined a date for the video shoot, speakers and filming topics and locations.

**c.) Consider approving the 2019 International Bike Race**

Ms. Sokolowski suggested that the Borough may not be equipped to host an event of this scope in 2019, but recommended that Council consider the proposal in the future. Council agreed.

**Ms. Flanagan made motion to deny request to host the 2019 International Bike Race in the Borough of Conshohocken, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**a.) Consider 6 East First Avenue Zoning Hearing Board Application**

Ms. Stetler shared that signage at the site does not comply with the current Zoning Ordinance. She explained that a variance is required to allow for two (2) signs on the business and a variance for the size of the signage at the business.

**Ms. Barton made a motion to approve sending a letter of recommendation to the Zoning Hearing Board for 6 East First Avenue, seconded by Ms. Sokolowski. The motion carried 7-0.**

**b.) Consider 103 Spring Mill Avenue Zoning Hearing Board Application**

Ms. Stetler provided an overview of the application. She explained that the new owner of the property proposes to expand the building into the attached apartment, which requires a special exception for expansion of a non-conforming use. She added that variances are also required for signage size in a residential zoning district and off-street parking.

Ms. Stetler confirmed for Ms. Barton that the expansion would not change the footprint of the building. Ms. Sokolowski inquired about the number of dining tables and Mr. Leonard inquired about the hours of operation. Karin Vargas, applicant and owner of El Limon, responded to both questions. Mayor Aronson asked if Ms. Vargas received any feedback from residents with regard to relocating the restaurant. Ms. Vargas responded that one resident had a concern about the hours of operation.

**Council took no position on the Zoning Hearing Board Application for 103 Spring Mil Avenue.**

**c.) Consider 128 Fayette Street Zoning Hearing Board Application**

Ms. Stetler explained that the zoning ordinance permits only one (1) sign in the Business Commercial District and that the owner of the business is seeking a variance for a second sign.

**Ms. Barton made a motion to approve sending a letter of recommendation to the Zoning Hearing Board for 128 Fayette Street, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.**

**d.) Consider adopting Resolution 17-2018 Fair Housing Resolution**

Ms. Stetler shared that, because the Borough received federal funds, Council is required to pass a resolution that would be presented to the state that indicates their intolerance for housing discrimination.

**Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to approve to approve Resolution 2018-17 Fair Housing Resolution, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.**

**e.) Consider approving a block party request for the 200 block of East 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

Ms. Leonard shared that the neighbors of the 200 block of East 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue are requesting approval to hold a block party on September 8, 2018. She added that this is a recurring event and Council has approved this request in the past.

**Ms. Flanagan made a motion to approve the block party request for the 200 block of East 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue conditioned upon meeting all administrative requirements, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.**

**f.) Consider authorizing the tuition reimbursement for Officers Gregory, Hall, and Detective Walter**

Mr. Griffin stated that education reimbursement is an approved expense per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

**Mr. Griffin made a motion to authorize the tuition reimbursement for Officers Gregory, Hall and Detective Walter, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.**

**g.) Consider approving the Second Amendment to the Lease Agreement with Premier Urgent Care**

Mr. Peters explained that Premier Urgent Care has requested to occupy the remaining rental space in Borough Hall. He briefly reviewed the square footage and rent as indicated in the second amendment.

**Ms. Flanagan made a motion to approve the Second Amendment to the Lease Agreement with Premier Urgent Care, seconded by Ms. Sokolowski. The motion carried 7-0.**

**h.) Discuss Site Development Agreement Specifications for the 51 Washington Street Project**

Mr. Peters reviewed the 2014 Settlement Agreement for 51 Washington Street land development, specifically the commitments made by the Borough in 2014.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Deborah Cieslewski, 225 East 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, informed Council of incidents of theft that occurred at the Conshohocken Post Office and thanked the Conshohocken Police Department for their assistance with the investigation.

Scott Mueller, 105 Spring Mill Avenue, spoke in opposition of the 103 Spring Mill Avenue Zoning Application. Mr. Mueller stated that his major concern is the hours of operation.

Mr. Griffin commented that our Fire Companies are in need of more volunteer firefighters and inquired about advertising for volunteers.

Ms. Flanagan shared that we have received a donation of trees and that she is working with Borough Administration to get them planted.

Joe Ferrigno, 412 Old Elm Street, thanked Mr. Sokolowski for his assistance with various code issues that have occurred at the Grande. Mr. Ferrigno also made a comment about school board representation.

Acting Chief Metz announced that the Police Department has implemented a new reporting system.

Ms. Flanagan shared that a resident donated trees to be planted in Mary Wood Park. Ms. Flanagan also asked Council to consider adopting a process for recognizing long-term residents aged 100 years or older.

Mr. Sokolowski shared that items on the agenda, specifically the 5k Turkey Trot, Suicide Prevention Panel and Recreation Services activity guide, support a Comprehensive Plan goal for Community Facilities.

Ms. Barton voiced her excitement about the Borough's participation in the PSAB "Exploring PA Boroughs" video.

Mr. Stokley praised the Conshohocken firefighters and all surrounding emergency services personnel for their response to the fire that occurred at 9<sup>th</sup> and Maple.

Mayor Aronson discussed two (2) events, Recycling Day at the Library and Bike Trail Safety Class, scheduled for September 15, 2018. He provided details for both events.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Stephanie Cecco,  
Borough Secretary