

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: James Griffin, Council President
Karen Tutino, Council Vice-President
Robert Stokley, Senior Council Member
Anita Barton, Council Member
Tina Sokolowski, Council Member
Colleen Leonard, Council Member
Jane Flanagan, Council Member
Robert Frost, Mayor

ALSO PRESENT: Richard J. Manfredi, Borough Manager
Michael J. Savona, 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. Mr. James Griffin, Council President, called the meeting to order at 6:12 PM.

INTERVIEWS FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Mr. Manfredi introduced Mr. Jason Fortenberry who was present to interview for re-appointment to the Human Relations Commission. Mr. Fortenberry provided details of his personal and professional background and shared that he has served on the commission for three years since its inception. Ms. Tutino asked him to share information on his accomplishments during his time served on the commission and he explained that the group had initiated a process and procedures for filing complaints and, to date, no complaints had been filed; he summarized the process at Council's request and expressed that the commission would be available as a resource if needed. Mr. Fortenberry shared that he is a special education attorney and that he views serving on the commission as an extension of his daily job which allows him to work to improve the lives of his fellow citizens and neighbors. Following his interview, Council thanked him for his service and the next interviewee was invited in.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mr. Yaniv Aronson was present to interview for the Environmental Advisory Council. Ms. Tutino asked Mr. Aronson to share why he is interested in the position. Mr. Aronson shared that he is a teacher, founding member of the Conshohocken Running Club, and that he currently serves as Chairman of the Conshohocken Rotary Club; he attended a recent Environmental Advisory Council meeting and was interested to work with them in their green initiatives and to assist them in building a website and social media presence. Mr. Aronson also discussed the group's goal to accomplish concrete small steps such as holding cleanups of the trail and the Borough as well as removing invasive fauna. Ms. Tutino asked the other members of Council if they had any questions and there were none posed. Council thanked Mr. Aronson for his time.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mr. Kevin Dwyer was invited in to interview next for the Environmental Advisory Council. Ms. Tutino asked Mr. Dwyer why he was interested in serving and Mr. Dwyer explained that his work as a government compliance consultant has piqued his interest in the environment and he would like to share his experience and knowledge to help the Borough. Ms. Tutino asked Mr. Dwyer about the time commitment that he believes will be necessary for the role and Mr. Dwyer explained that he knows that the group meets once a month but as they work on more projects it could become more frequent; he also shared that he is able to set his own work schedule so he will be able to be flexible in order to assist the group. Mayor Frost inquired about ideas that Mr. Dwyer would like to bring to the Environmental Advisory Council and Mr. Dwyer explained that he would like to put in lighting along the Schuylkill trail where people run and walk their dogs. Mr. Dwyer also shared that he would like to see more environmental education for the public and a link to the Environmental Advisory Council website. Ms. Sokolowski asked Mr. Dwyer about his single-most passion besides work and Mr. Dwyer responded that his work is his greatest passion. Council and the Mayor asked him additional information about his interest in the position before thanking him for coming out to interview.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mr. Domenic Rocco was invited to interview next. Ms. Tutino asked him to share information about himself and his interest in the position. Mr. Rocco shared that he has resided in the Borough for fifteen years and his schedule has recently opened up to allow him to take on the responsibilities of the position. He shared that Ms. Jenifer Fields, a former member of the Environmental Advisory Council, suggested that the group would provide a great opportunity for him to get involved. He has worked for the Department of Environmental Protection for over twenty years and shared his other qualifications. Mr. Rocco asked about the time commitment and expectations that Council would have for him as a member of the Environmental Advisory Council and Mr. Manfredi provided a detailed answer to his question citing portions of the ordinance and sharing that there are projects that the group would be asked to undertake in the near future. Mr. Rocco asked additional questions about the role before Council thanked him for his time and invited the final interviewee in.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ms. Rosemary Northcutt was present to interview for re-appointment to the Environmental Advisory Council. Ms. Tutino asked about Ms. Northcutt's experience so far and where she would like to see things go with the group. Ms. Northcutt shared that she had located the survey of trees that was originally compiled by the Shade Tree Commission and, recently, a concern of the group was the potential for ash tree borer infestation, which she has researched. Ms. Northcutt also shared that the damselfly is a new concern and explained that protecting the Borough's trees is a priority of hers. Mayor Frost and other Council Members asked additional questions about Ms. Northcutt's experience and she shared details of other initiatives that the Environmental Advisory Council is looking to undertake including completing assessments of the community using that Star Community Rating System and her goal to provide more educational opportunities such as sharing information about the "Every Kid in a Park Program," which she detailed for Council. Council then thanked Ms. Northcutt for her service and the interviews were concluded.

CONSIDER MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL VACANCIES

Mr. Manfredi shared that Council could make motions to appoint the individuals to terms on the Human Relations Commission and Environmental Advisory Council if they were so inclined.

Following discussion, **Ms. Barton made a motion to appoint Jason Fortenberry to the Human Relations Commission for a three-year term to expire in 2020, seconded by Ms. Leonard. The motion carried 7-0.**

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to re-appoint Rosemary Northcutt and Jason Derstine to a three-year term on the Environmental Advisory Council, seconded by Ms. Flanagan. The motion carried 7-0.

Ms. Tutino made a motion to appoint Yaniv Aronson and Kevin Dwyer to the Environmental Advisory Council on staggered terms in accordance with the ordinance, seconded by Ms. Sokolowski. The motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Griffin requested to table Mr. Rocco's appointment until additional information is received.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi,
Borough Secretary