

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

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: Stephanie Cecco, Interim Borough Manager  
Michael J. Savona, Borough Solicitor

**PUBLIC HEARING ON CDBG APPLICATION**

Ms. Cecco invited Mr. Stetler to the podium. Ms. Stetler shared that this was the first of two (2) public hearings regarding the Borough's 2017 Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). Ms. Stetler explained that the CDBG application requires that the Borough engage in citizen participation to involve the public in determining the community development needs in Conshohocken. Ms. Stetler shared that the Borough would be receiving \$112,875 dollars in federal funds from the State Department of Community & Economic Development. Ms. Stetler explained that although the money can be used on several types of projects, it must be used to benefit low to moderate income residents. Ms. Stetler shared that in previous years CDBG grant funds had been used on housing rehabilitation and installation of curb ramps. Ms. Stetler reviewed resident eligibility for housing rehabilitation and the required timeframe to spend the allocated funds.

**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 7:15 PM.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Council President announcements. Ms. Cecco shared that the order of business would be modified to move item a.) of legal matters to the first matter of business and item d.) of council business to the second matter of business.

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

Mr. Savona 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. Savona made a recommendation to grant continuance of the hearing.

**Ms. Flanagan made a motion to grant continuance of the hearing to a date certain being October 18, 2017 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at the Borough Hall, seconded by Ms. Leonard. The motion carried 7-0.**

**b.) Discussion on authorization to prepare an amendment to and advertisement for the traffic ordinance for the permanent installation of a stop sign on West 6th Avenue.**

Ms. Cecco shared that in July 2017, by order of the Mayor, temporary stop signs were installed at the intersection of West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Freedley Street. Ms. Sokolowski invited residents to the podium to provide feedback on the temporary stop signs.

Rhonda Shepard, 353 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, shared that the stop sign is a safety hazard, likely to increase the risk of an accident. Ms. Shepard added that the stop sign has not addressed the issue of speeding.

Mike Hamilton, 319 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, shared that the stop sign has improved the speed of traffic.

Dan Kauffman, 357 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, shared that since the installation of the stop sign, he has been unable to safely exit his driveway without risk of an accident.

Christine Reilly, 336 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, thanked Council for listening to the residents' concerns. Ms. Reilly added that the stop sign has managed to slow the speed of vehicle traffic and offered a safe place to cross.

Ms. Leonard suggested that the placement of the stop sign be researched further. Mr. Hughes stated that the stop sign was deliberately placed in that specific location because the alley is considered an intersection.

Sergeant Michael Conner explained that intersection protection measures would be implemented, should Council authorize the permanent installation of the stop sign.

**Ms. Tutino made a motion to advertise an amendment to the traffic ordinance for the permanent installation of a stop sign on West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.**

## **PRESENTATIONS**

**a.) Consider approval for 307 East Ninth Avenue plan for minor subdivision: Mr. Chuck Borkowski, Applicant**

Ms. Cecco shared that this matter was for discussion only. Ms. Cecco explained that Mr. Borkowski would return to Council for approval once the Planning Commission reviewed the Land Development portion of this project. Ms. Ameer Farrell, the attorney representing the applicant, provided an overview of the project. Ms. Farrell explained that there is an existing lot with an existing home on the lot. The applicant is seeking to divide the existing lot into two (2) lots, repair the existing single family home, and build a second single family home.

## **COUNCIL BUSINESS**

**a.) Consider 301-303 West Tenth Avenue Hearing Board Application**

Ms. Cecco invited Ms. Stetler to the podium to introduce the matter. Ms. Stetler explained that the owners of 301 and 303 West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue have submitted zoning applications to demolish their existing, attached garages and rebuild them. Ms. Stetler added that the new garages would be attached and larger than the existing structures. Ms. Stetler shared that there may be issues related to height and impervious coverage. Therefore, zoning relief would be needed for construction of each of the garages.

**Mr. Stokley made a motion to send a letter of support of the application to the Zoning Hearing Board, seconded by Ms. Flanagan. The motion carried 7-0.**

**b.) Consider approving the transfer of unused 2015 CDBG funds from curb ramp installation to housing rehabilitation**

Ms. Stetler shared that the 2015 Community Development Block Grant Program consisted of two (2) projects: housing rehabilitation and curb ramp installation. The curb ramp project, which installed six (6) curb ramps in the 7<sup>th</sup> Ward, was completed \$5,000 under budget. Ms. Stetler proposed that the remaining funds be transferred to the housing rehabilitation project to allow the Borough to use the

funds for additional rehabilitation activities, including an emergency roof repair for a low income resident.

**Ms. Leonard made a motion to approve the transfer of unused 2015 CDBG funds from curb ramp installation to housing rehabilitation, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.**

**c.) Consider approving the proposed YMCA sign per submission from Keystone Property Group**

Ms. Cecco explained that the Keystone Property Group has submitted a rendering for the proposed YMCA sign for Borough Hall. Council asked questions regarding illumination, location and size of the proposed sign. They requested that the sign be pin-mounted to the façade and that the sign would not be illuminated.

**Mr. Stokley recused himself from the vote. Ms. Tutino made a motion to approve the sign submitted by the Keystone Group provided that the sign is pin-mounted to the wall and not illuminated, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 6-0.**

**MANAGER MATTERS**

Ms. Cecco announced that there was an addition to the manager matters. Ms. Cecco made a recommendation that the Borough retain special outside counsel with expertise in municipal and right to know law in order to address the accusations made pertaining to the Borough's insurance, as well as to answer Right-to-Know requests pertaining to this topic. Mr. Savona opened the discussion for public comment.

Joe Malazita, 200 Wood Street, voiced his concern about the cost of hiring an attorney. Council explained appointing outside counsel is necessary due to the scope of the Right-to-Know requests.

Debbie Ellis, West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, inquired about how the Borough can prevent a similar issue from occurring in the future. Council Assured her that proper process and procedure would occur moving forward.

**Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to appoint Lamb McErlane as special counsel, seconded by Ms. Tutino. The motion carried 7-0.**

**DEPARTMENT MATTERS**

There were no department matters for discussion.

**LEGAL MATTERS**

There were no legal matters for discussion.

**COUNCIL MEMBER AND MAYOR MATTERS**

Ms. Leonard thanked Mr. Sokolowski and the Public Services Department for their work on the improvements to the A-Field.

Ms. Barton thanked members of the community for gifting the Borough with a framed copy of The American's Creed.

Mayor Frost thanked members of the AME Church for hosting the Appreciation Day Luncheon for Borough employees.

Ms. Flanagan announced that Community Center is hosting its Annual Halloween Pumpkin Painting Event on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Sokolowski announced that the Comprehensive Plan Task Force will be holding a public Visioning Meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup> at Washington Fire Company.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Stephanie Cecco,  
Interim Borough Secretary