

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, December 21, 2016

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

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 Conshohocken Borough Hall, 400 Fayette Street, Conshohocken, PA. Mr. James Griffin, Council President, called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

INTERVIEWS FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

FIRST INTERVIEW

Following the call to order, Mr. Griffin invited Ms. Tutino to begin the interviews. Ms. Judy Smith-Kressley was present to interview at 6:00 PM. Ms. Tutino began by introducing Ms. Smith-Kressley and by asking her to tell the Council about what she has done and enjoyed while serving on the Planning Commission as well as why she would like to continue to serve. Ms. Smith-Kressley shared that she previously filled a vacancy on an unexpired term and had since attended educational seminars offered by Montgomery County to learn more about her role as a Commissioner; she also learned about how the Planning Commission aids in the Borough's operations. Ms. Smith-Kressley explained that serving as a Commissioner allows her to contribute to the community, meet new people and learn new things.

Ms. Tutino reminded the other members of Council that the interviews were open for them to ask questions as well. The other members of Council asked Ms. Smith-Kressley various questions about her greatest challenges in executing her role, the completeness of the information the Planning Commission receives on projects and how Council could help her to be more successful as a Commissioner. They also discussed the community's wide array of age groups with differing sets of needs and views, parking issues, and the volume of traffic that goes through the Borough.

Ms. Smith-Kressley inquired about the Borough's checklist included in the Land Use and Development Guidance Manual and Mr. Manfredi and Mr. Savona provided information about the application process it contains. She and Council also discussed the need for timely communications and the need for a new Comprehensive Plan that she would like to participate in creating. In response, Ms. Sokolowski shared that she and Mr. Manfredi were currently working to put together information to establish a Comprehensive Plan Task Force in 2017. After further discussion, Council

thanked Ms. Smith-Kressley for her time and her time served on the Commission and concluded her interview.

SECOND INTERVIEW

Ms. Tutino then introduced Mr. Russ Cardamone who was present to interview for the Zoning Hearing Board. Ms. Tutino began by asking Mr. Cardamone about his experience and accomplishments and Mr. Cardamone explained that he is happy to donate his time for the Borough in this capacity to look out for the residents. Ms. Sokolowski inquired about his greatest challenge while serving and Mr. Cardamone explained that some of the matters before the board get complicated and have a lot of information to digest and cited examples of recent hearings. Ms. Leonard asked Mr. Cardamone's opinion on whether the communication to the residents on zoning is sufficient and Mr. Cardamone responded that he does believe the residents get the information. Mr. Stokley commented that he was recently in front of the Zoning Hearing Board and he was impressed.

Ms. Sokolowski asked Mr. Cardamone about how Council could help him in carrying out his role. Mr. Cardamone explained the need for an update to the zoning code and Mr. Stokley commented that one change he had previously discussed was the need for allowing larger garages to help get more cars off of the street; changes such as that and or putting in more carports could help to improve the parking situation.

After additional discussion, Council thanked Mr. Cardamone for his time and his interview was concluded.

THIRD INTERVIEW

Mr. Manfredi shared that the final interviewee, Ms. Janis Vacca of the Zoning Hearing Board, could not make it and he asked Council if they would like to reschedule her interview, continue to advertise, or take other action. After discussion, Council determined to make an appointment without the interview.

CONSIDER MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND ZONING HEARING BOARD VACANCIES

Ms. Barton made a motion to appoint Ms. Judy Smith-Kressley to a five-year term on the Planning Commission to expire 12/31/21, Russ Cardamone to a three-year term on the Zoning Hearing Board to expire 12/31/19, and Janis Vacca to a three-year term expiring 12/31/19. Ms. Tutino seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Griffin then called for public comment and none was given.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi,
Borough Manager