

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

PUBLIC MEETING held via GoToMeeting video/teleconference

PRESENT: Colleen Leonard, Council President
Tina Sokolowski, Council Vice-President
Robert Stokley, Senior Council Member
Anita Barton, Council Member
Jane Flanagan, 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 remotely using the GoToMeeting platform. Colleen Leonard, Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Leonard thanked everyone for attending the virtual Council meeting. She reviewed the meeting logistics and participation instructions.

LAND USE MATTERS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES

a.) Preliminary/Final Minor Subdivision and land Development Application for 331 West 7th Avenue: DJB Properties, Applicant

Mr. Peters introduced the application. He explained that the applicant proposes to subdivide the property into three (3) lots and build a single-family detached dwelling and single-family semi-detached dwellings. He reviewed the proposed public improvements, stormwater management plan and parking on the site. He discussed the conditions of the Planning Commission's recommendation for approval.

The applicant, David Brosso, and the applicant's engineer, Joseph Estock, were present. Mr. Estock stated that the applicant would comply with all comments in the Borough professional review letters. He reviewed parking on site, which consists of a garage for the single-family detached dwelling and parking pads for the single-family semi detached dwellings. He also reviewed the list of requested waivers.

Ms. Barton asked why garages were not being proposed for the single-family semi-detached dwellings. Mr. Brosso explained that while a garage is necessary in the single-family detached housing market in Conshohocken, the parking pads were sufficient for the semi-detached housing market. He also mentioned that the parking pads would provide more parking space than garages.

Mr. Peters stated that Council would consider approving the application at the June Voting Meeting.

b.) Waiver of Land Development Application for Conshohocken Station Project: SEPTA, Applicant

Mr. Peters explained that SEPTA is requesting a waiver of land development to permit construction of a Regional Rail Station west of the existing station and to construct a new vehicular and pedestrian at-grade crossing as an extension of Oak Street. He explained what a waiver of land development entails, and when and why a waiver would be recommended.

Michael Gill, special counsel for the applicant, presented the site improvement plan. He explained that the applicant's zoning application would be amended to reflect additional variances.

Ms. Barton asked about the status of the parking garage on site. Mr. Gill responded that the parking garage is not included in the current proposed project. Daniel Dwyer, attorney for the applicant, stated that although SEPTA is planning to build a parking structure, the property for the garage has not yet been acquired.

Ms. Tutino asked how many parking spaces are being provided in the proposed project. Mr. Gill responded that this project proposes a total of 87 parking spaces. Ms. Sokolowski inquired about the current number of parking spaces. Alicia Nardo, Project Manager for SEPTA, confirmed there would be fewer parking spaces on site at the completion of the project than there are currently available. She added that new project plan does provide for more ADA parking spaces.

Ms. Barton asked if SEPTA is proposing a pedestrian crossing over rail lines. Ms. Nardo explained why a pedestrian crossing is not feasible at the Conshohocken station location. She mentioned that pedestrian sidewalks are being proposed on each side of Oak Street.

Mr. Peters stated that Council would consider approving the application at the June Voting Meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

There was no Council business.

MANAGER MATTERS

a.) Consider approving Resolution 2020-14 approving an extension of the local disaster emergency

Ms. Leonard explained that the proposed resolution extends the local state of emergency, which is already in place, until July.

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-14 approving an extension of the local disaster emergency, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.

DEPARTMENT MATTERS

There were no department matters.

LEGAL MATTERS

There were no legal matters.

COUNCIL MEMBER AND MAYOR MATTERS

Ms. Sokolowski shared the Friends of Conshohocken Parks is working on a t-shirt fundraiser campaign to raise awareness and money for the Borough’s non-profit organization. She asked Council to consider approving a request to utilize non-profit funds for the purchase of t-shirts at a not to exceed cost of \$550.00. **Ms. Flanagan made a motion to approve a request of the Friends of Conshohocken Parks to utilize non-profit funds for the purchase of t-shirts at a not to exceed cost of \$550.00, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.**

Mayor Aronson thanked Police Superintendent George Metz for his statement regarding the death of George Floyd. He encouraged all to attend the Virtual Arts Festival and Car Show.

Ms. Flanagan thanked Public Services for their response to recent storm damage.

Ms. Tutino recognized the peaceful protest that occurred in Sutcliffe Park.

Ms. Leonard thanked residents and business owners for their patience and compliance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brittany Rogers, Executive Assistant to the Borough Manager, stated that no public comments were received via email submission.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary