

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, October 21, 2020

PUBLIC MEETING held via GoToMeeting video/teleconference

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

ALSO PRESENT: Stephanie Cecco, Borough Manager
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 7:00 PM.

PRAYER FOR COUNCIL

Ms. Sokolowski read a Prayer for Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PRESENTATIONS

a.) Conduct an interview for Borough Board and Commission vacancies

Ms. Leonard introduced MaryKate O'Brien who was present to interview for the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC). Ms. O'Brien discussed her educational background in environmental science and her professional experience in community development. She shared that she would be interested in collaborating with the Conshohocken Community Center to support the EAC's educational initiatives. Ms. O'Brien discussed her interest in composting and her goal of working on a composting program with the EAC's recycling team. She explained that the role of the EAC is to promote the improvement and protection of the Borough's environment.

LAND USE, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES

There were no land use, public hearings and ordinances.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a.) Approve and adopt the September 2 and September 16 Regular Meeting Minutes and the September 23 Special Budget Meeting Minutes
- b.) Approve the September-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$1,580,713.18

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve and adopt the September 2 and September 16 Regular Meeting Minutes and the September 23 Special Budget Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Griffin made a motion to approve the September-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$1,580,713.18, seconded by Ms. Flanagan. The motion carried 7-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a.) Consider approving the CDBG Three Year Community Development Plan

Mr. Barton made a motion to approve the CDBG Three Year Community Development Plan, seconded by Ms. Sokolowski. The motion carried 7-0.

- b.) Consider approving Resolution 2020-30 authorizing the submission of the 2020 CDBG Application

Ms. Tutino made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-30 authorizing the submission of the 2020 CDBG Application, seconded Ms. Flanagan. The motion carried 7-0.

c.) Consider adopting the Emergency Action Plan for the Plymouth Creek Flood Protection Project

Mr. Stokley made a motion to adopt the Emergency Action Plan for the Plymouth Creek Flood Protection Project, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.

d.) Discussion on the Conshohocken Bears Youth Football Organization

Ms. Cecco reminded Council that residents surrounding the B-Field were present at the October 7, 2020 Borough Council meeting with complaints about the Conshohocken Bears and their use of Borough facilities. Ms. Cecco explained that in response to these comments, Borough administration complied all complaints, concerns and police reports received within the last several months regarding the Conshohocken Bears organization. Based on that information, Ms. Cecco recommended that the Bears finish their 2020 season at the B-Field and A-Field. Council agreed and asked Ms. Cecco to have a discussion with the President of the Conshohocken Bears. The discussion should focus on future changes to the relationship and use agreement between the Borough and the Bears and also document failed expectations on usage protocols by the Bears during the 2020 season. Any future use of the facilities by the Bears, if applicable, will unfortunately need to operate differently.

NEW BUSINESS

a.) Consider approving SORA West financial security escrow release no. 3 in the amount of \$640,125.00

Ms. Cecco noted that the Borough Engineer is recommending a partial release of the escrow for work completed on the parking garage.

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to approve SORA West financial security escrow release no. 3 in the amount of \$640,125.00, seconded by Mr. Griffin. Mr. Stokley recused himself. The motion carried 6-0.

b.) Consider approving 3 Colwell Lane financial security escrow release no. 5 in the amount of \$174,476.64

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to deny 3 Colwell Lane financial security escrow release no. 5 in the amount of \$174,476.64, seconded by Ms. Flanagan. The motion carried 7-0.

c.) Consider approving an education bonus for Detective Walter for achievement of an Associate's degree

Ms. Tutino made a motion to approve an education bonus for Detective Walter for achievement of an Associate's degree, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.

d.) Consider approving St. Matthew's fee waiver request for use of the A-Field for outdoor church services

Ma. Barton made a motion to approve St. Matthew's fee waiver request for use of the A-Field for outdoor church services for October 18 and 25, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brittany Rogers, Executive Assistant to the Borough Manager, announced that one (1) individual submitted written public comment and read the comment. Cherise Green of Hector Street spoke in support of the Conshohocken Bears organization and its partnership with Conshohocken. She discussed the history of the organization, the positive impact the organization has on the players and the dedication and commitment of the coaches.

COUNCIL AND MAYOR MATTERS

Mayor Aronson announced the success of the contactless Fall Community Cleanup Event.

Mr. Stokley suggested that Borough host a Halloween Home Decorating Contest for 2021.

Ms. Barton thanked the Police Department for their presence in the Borough.

Ms. Sokolowski reminded everyone to visit the Borough website for information about upcoming holiday events.

Ms. Flanagan reminded residents that Borough Council would continue to make Conshohocken a priority before and after the election.

Mr. Griffin voiced a concern about residents leaving their trash and recycling containers at the curb following a holiday.

Superintendent Metz shared feedback from a recent rally in the Borough and thanked the Police Department for their professionalism and participation.

Ms. Leonard thanked the Department of Emergency Management for their hard work with the Emergency Action Plan for the Plymouth Creek Flood Protection Project.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Stephanie Cecco, Borough Secretary