

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

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
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.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Cecco thanked everyone for attending the virtual Council meeting. She reviewed the meeting logistics and participation instructions. She announced that Council held Executive Session prior to the regularly scheduled meeting on legal and property matters.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

LAND USE, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES

There were no land use, public hearings and ordinances.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a.) **Approve and adopt the March 3 and March 17 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- b.) **Approve the March-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable**

Mr. Barton made a motion to approve and adopt the March 3 and March 17 Regular Meeting Minutes, second by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Griffin made a motion to approve the March-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$2,386,235.57, seconded by Ms. Tutino. The motion carried 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- a.) **Consider approving a special event request for St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

Ms. Cecco shared that St. Mark's Lutheran Church is requesting the closure of 5th Avenue between the alley and Harry Street for outdoor church services on May 9th, May 23rd, June 6th and June 20th. She stated that the event has been vetted by Administration.

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to approve a special event request for St. Mark's Lutheran Church contingent upon final administrative review, seconded by Ms. Flanagan. The motion carried 7-0.

- b.) **Consider approving a request from the Friends of Conshohocken Parks to sponsor signs for a StoryWalk event**

Ms. Sokolowski shared that the Friends of Conshohocken Parks is working on raising awareness about the non-profit organization. She explained that the organization is partnering with the Department of Recreation and the Conshohocken Free Library for a StoryWalk event. She provided information about the StoryWalk program. She asked for Council's approval to purchase ten (10) signs at a not to exceed cost of \$400.00.

Ms. Barton made a motion to permit Friends of Conshohocken Parks to utilize fundraising proceeds to purchase ten (10) signs at a not to exceed cost of \$400.00 for a StoryWalk event in Mary Wood Park and Sutcliffe Park, seconded by Ms. Flanagan. The motion carried 7-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a.) **Consider approving an Addendum to the Park Permit Application for the Conshohocken Golden Bears**

Ms. Cecco reviewed the conditions of approval outlined in the addendum to the Park Permit Application for the Conshohocken Golden Bears. Ms. Cecco shared a statement from the Board of the Conshohocken Golden Bears, which opposed recent social media comments and stated the Board's intentions for the 2021 season.

Ms. Tutino made a motion to approve an Addendum to the Park Permit Application for the Conshohocken Golden Bears, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.

b.) Consider approving AmerisourceBergen RACP Grant-related Agreements

Mr. Peters reminded Council that the Redevelopment Authority of Montgomery County (RDA) received a grant pursuant to the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) in the amount of 2 million dollars for the SORA West development and more specifically for development of the parking garage structure. He briefly reviewed the grant-related agreements which require approval by Borough Council.

Ms. Flanagan made a motion to authorize the Borough Manager to execute the AmerisourceBergen RACP Grant-related agreements, subject to final review and approval of the Borough Solicitor, seconded by Ms. Barton. Mr. Stokley recused himself. The motion carried 6-0.

c.) Consider authorizing advertisement of an amendment to the Parking and Snow Route section of the Borough Ordinance

Ms. Cecco shared that the proposed ordinance amends the Borough's Vehicle and Traffic Regulations by adding an additional stop intersection on East Elm Street at Jones Street, by adding certain no parking areas on East 8th Avenue and West 5th Avenue, by creating a patient-only parking zone during certain hours in an area of East 11th Avenue, and by creating new snow emergency routes on portions of East First Avenue and West First Avenue.

Mr. Griffin made a motion to authorize advertisement of an amendment to the Parking and Snow Route section of the Borough Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Stokey. The motion carried 7-0.

d.) Consider authorizing the Borough Traffic Engineer to conduct a study for a Fayette Street Traffic Calming/Road Diet

Ms. Cecco explained that, as a follow up to the April Work Session discussion on the road diet concept, Mr. Keaveney has prepared a proposed scope of work to further evaluate the feasibility of implementing a revised lane configuration on Fayette Street. Ms. Cecco stated that Borough Administration is in support of the study as it will provide data to determine if a reduced lane configuration is feasible along Fayette Street.

Mr. Stokley inquired about the cost of the study. Ms. Cecco replied that the study would cost \$19,800.00 plus time spent as it relates to meetings and coordination with PennDOT and the Borough.

Ms. Sokolowski asked if the study would determine if Fayette Street being reduced to one (1) lane in each direction would divert drivers to the residential side streets. Mr. Keaveney responded that the study would note if traffic is expected to divert from Fayette Street on to adjacent roadways. Mr. Keaveney discussed the recently installed modernized signal system, ungraded signals and the actuated minor approaches that greatly enhance the efficiency of Fayette Street. Ms. Sokolowski asked about the traffic data collection process and if COVID-19 traffic conditions would impact the study. Mr. Keaveney responded that base traffic conditions would be developed using both the historical and available recent data, with the understanding that the current COVID-19 conditions are continuing to impact peak hour and daily traffic volumes.

Ms. Flanagan explained that she is concerned that the road diet will lead to added congestion that would force traffic on to the side streets. She inquired about alternative ways to improve pedestrian safety. Mr. Keaveney discussed rapid flashing beacons and high visibility crosswalk markings.

Ms. Leonard asked if Council wanted to approve the study contingent upon approval by PennDOT or table the item for further discussion and feedback from PennDOT. Council agreed to table the item.

COUNCIL AND MAYOR MATTERS

Mayor Aronson shared that the Conshohocken Arts Festival and Car Show will be held in-person on June 5, 2021. He discussed the EAC Community Cleanup and the Conshohocken Baseball and Softball League Opening Day. He announced that the EAC in conjunction with Borough Administration are conducting a spotted lanternfly training on April 22, 2021.

Mr. Stokley had questions and concerns regarding the Liquid Fuels project specifically as it related to the condition of trenches and the status of how the area had been left. Ms. Cecco replied that the Borough Engineer inspects the project on a regular basis. She confirmed that she will follow up with the Borough Engineer to provide a timeline with details of what is remaining for the project itself and what conditions will be required of the contractor in order to close out the project.

Ms. Flanagan recognized the Friends of Conshohocken Parks for establishing community partnerships.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brittany Rogers, Executive Assistant to the Borough Manager, stated there was no written public comment.

Joe Ferrigno, 412 Old Elm Street, voiced a concern about the proposed road diet and the traffic to be generated from the planned area developments. He asked Council to consider including traffic impact studies associated with proposed developments into the study to determine if the lane configuration is feasible.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary