

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: Colleen Leonard, Council President
Tina Sokolowski, Council Vice-President
Anita Barton, Council Member
Stacy Ellam, Council Member
Kathleen Kingsley, Council Member
Adrian Serna, 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 at the Conshohocken Borough Hall, 400 Fayette Street, Conshohocken, PA. Ms. Leonard, Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Leonard announced that an Executive Session was held immediately prior to the regularly scheduled public meeting on property and collective bargaining matters.

PRESENTATIONS

a.) Recognition of Quick Response Service (QRS) Certification

Ms. Leonard shared that Borough of Conshohocken, in conjunction with Narberth Ambulance and the Conshohocken Fire Department, has completed and implemented a Quick Response Services (QRS) Program. She discussed the program and thanked the individuals involved in the process.

b.) Proclamation 2022-05 recognizing June 19, 2022 as Juneteenth in the Borough of Conshohocken

Ms. Sokolowski read a proclamation recognizing June 19, 2022 as Juneteenth in the Borough of Conshohocken.

LAND USE MATTERS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES

a.) Public Hearing on a Conditional Use Application for 150 West Ninth Avenue: Emily and Jon Crabtree, Applicant

Mr. Peters opened the public hearing. He explained that the applicant is seeking conditional use to demolish the existing single-family detached dwelling on the property and construct a new single-family detached dwelling.

Mr. Peters asked for any public comment. There was no public comment.

Jon Crabtree, applicant, provided an overview of the site and existing conditions. He explained that the new home meets all dimensional requirements of the zoning code, including the required setbacks. He stated that the existing curb-cut on Maple Street and 2-car garage that would be located underneath the home, which is similar to the current configuration. Mr. Crabtree presented renderings and proposed floorplans.

Mr. Peters reviewed the proposed conditions of approval.

Ms. Kingsley made a motion to grant conditional use approval for 150 West 9th Avenue pursuant to part 19-C of the Borough Zoning Ordinance subject the conditions of approval, seconded by Mr. Serna. The motion carried 6-0. (Tutino absent)

b.) Public Hearing on Stormwater Management Ordinances

a. Stormwater Management Ordinance

Mr. Peters opened the public hearing regarding an amendment to the Borough's Stormwater Management Ordinance.

Geoff Anttanasio, Gilmore & Associates, stated that the proposed ordinance was written to comply with the model ordinance issued by the DEP in connection with the Borough's participation in the MS4 program. He explained that the new ordinance exempts projects under 600 square feet, and for projects between 601 square feet and 1000 square feet, the ordinance provides a process for small stormwater projects with examples that can be followed by homeowners.

Mr. Peters provided an overview of the ordinance which includes new and expanded provisions regarding purpose and intent statements, definitions, regulations and site plan requirements and several appendices with illustrations.

Mr. Peters asked for public comment. There was no public comment. He continued the hearing on the record to July 20, 2022.

b. Ordinance Amendment to the Stormwater Management Section of the SALDO

Mr. Peters opened the public hearing regarding an amendment to the Stormwater Management section of the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO). He explained that the proposed ordinance amends the drainage section of the SALDO, which was designed to coincide with the new stormwater management ordinance. He provided an overview of the ordinance which includes current and new provisions regarding stormwater management (SWM) standards and site plan requirements, operation and maintenance, fees and expenses, and enforcement and penalties.

Mr. Peters called for public comment. There was no public comment. He continued the hearing on the record to July 20, 2022.

c.) Borough Trash and Recycling Alternative Trial Period, Ray Sokolowski, Executive Director of Operations

Ray Sokolowski, Executive Director of Operations, and Frank Perry, Foreman, were present to discuss a potential change to the trash and recycling schedule. Mr. Sokolowski explained that Borough Administration has analyzed data regarding the tonnage of solid waste collected on each of the collection days and has determined that the Borough could collect trash once-per-week and still meet the needs of those receiving collection service from the Borough. He asked Council to consider approving a 3-month trial period beginning August 2022 through October 2022 to evaluate the functionality of once-a-week trash and recycling pick-up. He discussed how reducing collection to one time per week carries financial, administrative, logistical, and environmental benefits. Mr. Perry stated that the Public Services employees are supportive of the change in collection service. He explained how reducing collection to one time per week would allow Public Services employees to dedicate more time and skills to other areas of Public Services, such as parks, buildings, streets, and landscaping.

Mr. Aronson inquired about yard waste collection and bulk trash pick-up. Mr. Sokolowski replied that there would be no change to the yard waste schedule. He explained that the Borough would be evaluating the Borough's current bulk trash pick-up schedule during the trial period.

Ms. Leonard asked for public comment on the agenda item.

Bridget Fernandez, 146 West 4th Avenue, suggested that the Borough remind residents about the trash collection rules and regulations. She recommended that residents place their trash and recycle bins next to their neighbor's bins at the curb on collection day.

Philip Candelore, 431 East 11th Avenue, inquired about the holiday collection schedule. Mr. Sokolowski responded that if a holiday falls on a Monday, trash and recycling would be picked up on Wednesday.

Carol Smith, 109 Maple Street, voiced her support in reducing collection to one time per week.

Ms. Sokolowski asked how residents can contact the Borough with questions, concerns, or complaints. Ms. Cecco explained how the Borough plans to communicate the trial period to the public.

Ms. Cecco explained that, if approved, Borough Administration would evaluate the functionality of once-a-week trash and recycling pick-up from August 2022 through October 2022. She added that Council would then reconvene to evaluate the results of the trial period over the course of the months of November and December so that a definitive action plan is in place for fiscal year 2023.

Ms. Ellam made a motion to approve a Borough Trash and Recycling Alternative Trial Period to take place over the course of August 2022 - October 2022, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 6-0. (Tutino absent)

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a.) **Approve and adopt the May 4 and May 18 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- b.) **Approve the May-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$711,383.98**

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve and adopt the May 4 and May 18 Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Ms. Kingsley. The motion carried 6-0. (Tutino absent)

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to approve the May-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$711,383.98, seconded by Mr. Serna. The motion carried 6-0. (Tutino absent)

NEW BUSINESS

- a.) **Consider approving the submission of a request for revision to the 2019 CDBG contract from DCED to add curb ramp installation as a 2019 CDBG activity**

Ms. Cecco asked for Council's approval to apply for a revision of the 2019 CDBG contract to add curb ramp installation as a 2019 activity and transfer \$35,000.00 from housing rehabilitation funding to curb ramp installation. Ms. Cecco explained that the 2019 CDBG contract for housing rehabilitation has funds available that can be transferred to the 2022 curb ramp project to cover construction and engineering costs. She explained that rehabilitation funds are being spent at a much slower rate than originally anticipated because of COVID, cost of materials and difficulty identifying eligible applicants.

Mr. Serna made a motion to approve the submission of a request for revision to the 2019 CDBG contract from DCED to add curb ramp installation as a 2019 CDBG activity, and to transfer funds from housing rehabilitation activity to curb ramp installation in the amount of \$35,000.00, seconded by Ms. Ellam. The motion carried 6-0. (Tutino absent)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a.) **Consider approving a waiver of off-street parking for 108 ½ Fayette Street, Morning Talk Café**

Ms. Kingsley made a motion to approve a waiver of off-street parking for 108 ½ Fayette Street, Morning Talk Café, seconded by Mr. Serna. The motion carried 6-0. (Tutino absent)

- b.) **Consider approving a quote to paint the interior of the Mary Wood Park House**

Ms. Cecco shared that the Borough received two (2) proposals to paint the first floor of the Mary Wood Park House. She stated that Borough Administration is recommending that Borough Council consider approving a painting quote with C&M Painters Inc for the Mary Wood Park House in a not to exceed amount of the \$8,000 from the Mary Wood Park Fund.

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve a painting quote with C&M Painters Inc for the Mary Wood Park House in a not to exceed amount of the \$8,000 from the Mary Wood Park Fund, seconded by Ms. Ellam. The motion carried 6-0. (Tutino absent)

- c.) **Consider approving the issuance of an RFP for the replacement of the Mary Wood Park House roof**

Ms. Cecco explained that the Mary Wood Park Commission is requesting Council's approval to issue an RFP for the replacement of the Mary Wood Park House. She added that, if approved, Borough Administration would draft and issue the RFP and evaluate next steps based on proposals.

Ms. Ellam made a motion to approve the issuance of an RFP for the replacement of the Mary Wood Park House Roof, seconded by Mr. Serna. The motion carried 6-0. The motion carried 6-0. (Tutino absent)

- d.) **Consider approving a fundraiser event for the Mary Wood Park House**

Ms. Cecco shared that the Mary Wood Park Commission would like to host a fundraiser for the Mary Wood Park House at Leeland Mansion sometime in the fall of 2022. She explained that the Commission is required to seek approval of the event from Borough Council and the Friends of Conshohocken Parks.

Ms. Kingsley made a motion to approve a fundraiser event for the Mary Wood Park House to be hosted by HOW Properties, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 6-0. (Tutino absent)

COUNCIL MAYOR AND MAYOR MATTERS

- a.) **Fireworks and Soap Box Derby Community Reminder (Council President Leonard)**

Ms. Leonard announced that the Fireworks event is scheduled for July 3, 2022, with fireworks starting approximately at 9:30pm and the Soap Box Derby to be held on 7/4 from 8:00am to 5:00pm on Fayette Street

Ms. Leonard also announced that the July Work Session is canceled.

Mayor Aronson thanked all parties responsible for making the Arts Festival and Car Show a success.

Ms. Ellam shared the schedule and event details for the 2022 Summer Concert Series.

Ms. Barton announced that the Recreation Department would be hosting Movie Night in the Park featuring Encanto on June 17, 2022, at Sutcliffe Park.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bridget Fernandez, 146 West 4th Avenue, inquired about the scope of services related to the painting of the Mary Wood Park House. Ms. Leonard responded that the proposal is for interior painting of the first floor of the Mary Wood Park House and described the current condition of the walls.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary