

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: Tina Sokolowski, Council President
Kathleen Kingsley, Council Vice-President
Anita Barton, Senior Council Member
Alan Chmielewski, Council Member
Stacy Ellam, Council Member
Ralph Frey, 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. Sokolowski, Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no council president announcements.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for agenda items only)

Mary Tiernan, 1016 Harry Street, expressed concerns related to the lack of public notice given regarding the demolition of the Mary Wood Park Caretakers House at Mary Wood Park. Ms. Cecco responded that the demolition of the Caretakers House is an approved FY 2024 capital budget item and was discussed during the budget meetings. Ms. Tiernan asked Council to consider potential drawbacks to outdoor dining such as how the loss of parking spaces could negatively affect nearby businesses and residents.

Mary Ann Cook, 401 East Tenth Avenue, encouraged Borough Council to improve communication and engagement with constituents. She asked Council to work on increasing awareness of the key issues, policy decisions made, and actions taken by the Borough Council.

PRESENTATIONS

a.) Swearing-in of a Code Enforcement Officer

Mayor Aronson swore-in Mitchell Yanek as a Code Enforcement Officer for the Borough of Conshohocken.

b.) Consider approving Proclamation 2024-04 recognizing National Police Week and the great service our law enforcement professionals provide to the Borough community and honoring those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to serve and protect

Mayor Aronson read a Proclamation honoring Conshohocken Borough law enforcement officers.

Ms. Ellam made a motion to approve Proclamation 2024-04 recognizing National Police Week and the great service our law enforcement professionals provide to the Borough community and honoring those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to serve and protect, seconded by Ms. Kingsley. The motion carried 7-0.

c.) Presentation honoring Borough employees who have provided 25 years of dedicated service to the Borough of Conshohocken

Multiple members of Borough staff, including Public Services, Police Department, Fire Department, and Narberth Ambulance were recognized for 25+ years of service and presented with an award.

LAND USE MATTERS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES

There were no land use matters, public hearings and ordinances.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

Mr. Serna made a motion to approve and adopt the April 3 and April 17 Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.

Ms. Kingsley made a motion to approve the April-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$964,828.02, seconded by Mr. Serna. The motion carried 7-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a.) **Consider authorizing the issuance of a notice of intent to award a contract for the Sutcliffe Park Trail Reconstruction and BMP Project**

Ms. Peters explained that the apparent low bidder was determined to be non-responsive since not all required documents were included in the submission. Mr. Peters stated that the Borough Engineer is recommending issuance of a notice of intent to award the bid to the next lowest bidder who submitted a full and complete bid package. Mr. Chmielewski mentioned that the bid price of \$1,774,000.00 is \$236,000.00 less than the opinion of probable cost for the project. Ms. Sokolowski added that the Borough is a recipient of grant dollars for this project.

Ms. Barton made a motion to authorize the issuance of a notice of intent to award a contract for the Sutcliffe Park Trail Reconstruction and BMP Project to Mecco Constructors, Inc. in the amount of \$1,774,000 for all items under the base bid, conditioned on the issuance of a written contractor responsibility determination in accordance with the Borough's Responsible Contractor's Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Serna. The motion carried 7-0.

- b.) **Consider approving the Colonial Soccer Club request to utilize Borough fields**

Mr. Frey made a motion to approve the Colonial Soccer Club request to utilize Borough facilities with the requested fee waiver for a two-year term from the date of this approval subject to the review and approval of all final use agreement details by the Borough Manager and Borough Solicitor and subject to availability as determined by the Department of Recreation Services, seconded by Ms. Ellam. The motion carried 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- a.) **Consider approving Resolution 2024-07 establishing a temporary no parking area on First Avenue at the intersection with Harry Street and allowing outdoor dining on a temporary basis in that area for Daniel's Restaurant**

Kurt Benkurt, Vice President of Operations for Daniel's, discussed his request to allow for outdoor dining on a temporary basis in the area of the restaurant on First Avenue. He explained that the set-up involves the use of four (4) public parking spaces directly in front of Daniel's restaurant and utilizes an aesthetically appealing design that fits with the feel of the Borough. He also explained that outdoor dining will enable Daniel's to provide an additional user experience to encourage business and increase demand.

Ms. Cecco explained that the parking regulations would be on a temporary basis for a period of 90 days. She added that the public off-street parking options are available at Two Tower Bridge and SORA West.

Mr. Serna made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-07 establishing a temporary no parking area on First Avenue at the intersection with Harry Street and allowing outdoor dining on temporary basis in that area for Daniel's Restaurant, seconded by Mr. Chmielewski. The motion carried 7-0.

- b.) **Consider approving tuition reimbursements for Officers Walter, Glasgow, and Hall**

Mr. Frey made a motion to approve a tuition reimbursement for Officer Walter for the Spring 2024 semester in the amount of \$3,465.16, seconded by Ms. Kingsley. The motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Serna made a motion to approve a tuition reimbursement for Officer Walter for the Summer 2024 semester in the amount of \$3,748.52, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve a tuition reimbursement for Officer Glasgow for the Spring 2024 semester in the amount of \$1,891.95, seconded by Mr. Serna. The motion carried 7-0.

Ms. Kingsley made a motion to approve a tuition reimbursement for Officer Hall in the amount of \$1,878.00 plus the cost of books for the Summer 2024 semester, seconded by Ms. Ellam. The motion carried 7-0.

- c.) **Consider approving change order no. 1 for the A-Field Roof Replacement Project**

Mr. Peters discussed best practices for municipalities when considering the approval of change orders. Ms. Cecco explained that a significant amount of extra work needed to be done in order to shore up the parapet walls to install the roof system.

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve change order no. 1 for the A-Field Roof Replacement Project in the amount of \$10,634.67, seconded by Ms. Kingsley. The motion carried 7-0.

- d.) **Consider ratifying the demolition of the Mary Wood Park Caretakers House on the Mary Wood Park Grounds pursuant to the Mary H. Wood will provisions.**

Mr. Serna made a motion to ratify the demolition of the Mary Wood Park Caretakers House on the Mary Wood Park Grounds pursuant to the Mary H. Wood will provisions, seconded by Mr. Frey. The motion carried 7-0.

- e.) **Consider authorizing the submission of an unclaimed property report with the Pennsylvania Treasury in the amount of \$1,070.28**

Ms. Barton made a motion to authorize the submission of an unclaimed property report with the Pennsylvania Treasury in the amount of \$1,070.28 per the Pennsylvania Treasury Guidelines, seconded by Mr. Serna. The motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Malazita, 200 Wood Street, inquired about Borough's Council's strategic vision for Conshohocken. He expressed his concern that the community is becoming more transient and less permanent. Mr. Frey responded that his goal is to retain and enhance the character of existing residential neighborhoods. Ms. Sokolowski discussed how the Comprehensive Plan provides guidance to elected officials on planning-related decisions. Mr. Chmielewski explained that the Borough provides diverse and affordable housing options to meet the needs of all households.

Mary Tiernan, 1016 Harry Street, explained how the removal of parking spaces for outdoor dining could negatively impact businesses and residents who utilize those parking spaces for to-go orders.

COUNCIL AND MAYOR MATTERS

Mayor Aronson shared photographs from the Conshohocken Library's event, Popsicles in the Park. He also shared that Discover Conshohocken, retail shops and eateries along Fayette Street, held a Spring into Conshohocken Sidewalk Event. He reminded everyone that the Arts Festival and Car Show is scheduled for June 1, 2024.

Mr. Serna announced that the EAC Spring Clean Up event is May 18, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary