

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, November 20, 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, Borough Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Sokolowski announced that an Executive Session was held immediately prior to the regularly scheduled public meeting on personnel, property and legal matters.

Ms. Sokolowski provided information about this year's holiday events.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for agenda items only)

Joe Malazita, 200 Wood Street, voiced concerns related to the proposed temporary traffic restrictions on East Second Avenue between Fayette Street and Harry Street.

S. Maurice Natale, owner of Tony and Joe's Pizzeria, discussed how the temporary traffic restrictions on East Second Avenue may inconvenience his customers and ultimately, negatively impact his business. Mr. Natale shared that his customers are opposed to creating one-way traffic. Ms. Sokolowski responded that the Borough is evaluating the proposed temporary traffic restrictions to address public safety concerns.

Mary Tiernan, 1016 Harry Street, voiced concerns related to the proposed temporary traffic restrictions on East Second Avenue. She inquired about how the success of the trial period would be evaluated and recommended restricting left hand turns from Fayette Street on to Second Avenue.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

LAND USE MATTERS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES

a.) Consider adopting Ordinance 06-2024 amending the group home provisions of the Zoning Ordinance

Mr. Peters explained that the proposed ordinance amends the provisions of Section 27-823 to be consistent with the zoning ordinance's other provisions regarding group homes.

Ms. Barton made a motion to adopt Ordinance 06-2024 amending the group home provisions of the Zoning Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Serna. The motion carried 7-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a.) Approve and adopt the October 2 and October 16 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- b.) Approve the October-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable**

Ms. Kingsley made a motion to approve and adopt the October 2 and October 16 Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Ms. Ellam. The motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Chmielewski made a motion to approve the October-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$1,448,378.13, seconded by Mr. Serna. The motion carried 7-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a.) **Consider approving the FY2025 Proposed Budget and advertise the same as duly required**

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve the FY2025 Proposed Budget and advertise the same as duly required, seconded by Mr. Frey. The motion carried 7-0.

- b.) **Consider authorizing advertisement of an ordinance to levy real estate tax for 2025**

Ms. Cecco reviewed mills associated with the Borough's General Fund, Street Lighting Fund, Library Fund, Fire Fund, Debt Service Fund, and the newly established Road Fund. She indicated that the total 2025 millage rate would remain at 4.5 mills with no tax increase.

Mr. Chmielewski made a motion to authorize advertisement of an ordinance to levy real estate tax for 2025, seconded by Ms. Kingsley. The motion carried 7-0.

- c.) **Consider approving Resolution 2024-30 establishing temporary traffic restrictions on East Second Avenue between Fayette Street and Harry Street**

Mr. Serna expressed his support of a trial period to evaluate the impact on vehicular and pedestrian safety and the businesses on East Second Avenue.

Ms. Ellam inquired about accidents in the subject area. Chief Lennon responded that accidents occur in the area due to obstructions in traffic flow.

Ms. Cecco explained that the Borough Traffic Engineer along with Borough Administration and the Police Department will be conducting the assessment throughout the trial period. She confirmed that the proposed start date of the trial period would be January 6, 2025.

Mr. Frey stressed the importance of receiving feedback from the business owners. He encouraged the businesses to conduct their own assessment during the trial period and communicate their findings to Borough Council.

Mr. Serna added that the proposed temporary traffic regulations may improve walkability and increase foot traffic in the area, which could benefit the business owners. He explained that the proposed traffic regulations are a proposed solution to vehicular and pedestrian safety concerns and that other solutions would be explored depending on the results of the assessment.

Mr. Serna made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-30 establishing temporary traffic restrictions on East Second Avenue between Fayette Street and Harry Street, seconded by Mr. Chmielewski. The motion carried 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- a.) **Conduct interviews for Board and Commission reappointments**

Ms. Sokolowski introduced Justin Claffey who was present to interview for reappointment to the EAC. Mr. Claffey expressed that he enjoys being involved in the community and that, as a sustainability engineer, he is passionate about sustainability. He discussed some of the EAC's initiatives, such as composting and Local Climate Action Plan (LCAP).

Ms. Sokolowski introduced Domenic Rocco who was present to interview for reappointment to the EAC. Mr. Rocco explained that he is interested in continuing to educate the community about ways to protect the environment through initiatives like Greenfest. He expressed pride in the EAC's ability to rebuild after COVID.

Ms. Sokolowski introduced Daniel Swartley McArdle who was present to interview for reappointment to the Planning Commission. Mr. Swartley McArdle discussed his interest in continuing to serve on the Planning Commission. He summarized the time commitment of a planning commission member.

- b.) **Discuss and consider authorizing advertisement of an RFP for the annual fireworks display**

Ms. Cecco provided a brief overview of the RFP for the Borough's annual fireworks display.

Mr. Serna made a motion to authorize advertisement of an RFP for the Borough's annual fireworks display, seconded by Mr. Frey. The motion carried 7-0.

- c.) **Consider approving the final payment for the A-Field roof project**

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve the final payment for the A-Field roof project in the amount of \$24,863.47, seconded by Mr. Serna. The motion carried 7-0.

d.) Consider approving zoning escrow releases for 127 East Elm Street and 135 West First Avenue

Mr. Serna made a motion to approve zoning escrow releases for 127 East Elm Street in the amount of \$804.24 plus interest and 135 West First Avenue in the amount of \$77.06 plus interest, seconded by Mr. Frey. The motion carried 7-0.

e.) Consider approving Resolution 2024-31 ratifying Proclamation 2024-08 and extending a temporary burn ban within the Borough

Ms. Cecco stated that, in response to the drought conditions that have developed in the region, Mayor Aronson established, by proclamation, a temporary burn ban in the Borough of Conshohocken. She explained that drought conditions continue and the risk of fire and endangering the health, safety, and welfare of community increases. Therefore, Ms. Cecco requested that Council consider extending the burn ban to December 18, 2024. Mr. Peters provided information about the restriction.

Ms. Kingsley made a motion approve Resolution 2024-31 ratifying Proclamation 2024-08 and extending a temporary burn ban within the Borough until December 18, 2024, seconded by Ms. Ellam. The motion carried 7-0.

f.) Consider approving a tuition reimbursement for Detective Bahn for the 2025 spring semester

Mr. Serna made a motion to approve a tuition reimbursement for Detective Bahn for the 2025 spring semester in the amount of \$1,714 plus the cost of books, seconded by Mr. Frey. The motion carried 7-0.

g.) Consider approving change order no. 3 for the Sutcliffe Park Trail Reconstruction Project

Mr. Serna made a motion to approve change order no. 3 for the Sutcliffe Park Trail Reconstruction Project in the amount of \$8,870, seconded by Ms. Ellam. The motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Tiernan, 1016 Harry Street, discussed her concerns related to a Road Diet on Fayette Street. She inquired about a recycling program for soft plastics.

COUNCIL AND MAYOR MATTERS

Mayor Aronson announced the opening of Posigen, a solar panel company in the Borough. He shared that Conshy Stuff and the Hussey Team Mortgage Advisors hosted a food drive for the Colonial Neighborhood Council. He thanked the Community Center for hosting a successful Thanksgiving Luncheon for the seniors. Mayor Aronson reminded everyone about the annual Christmas Tree Lighting.

Ms. Barton announced that the Senior Holiday Luncheon is scheduled for December 11, 2024 at the Community Center.

Ms. Sokolowski thanked residents and business owners for attending the meeting to provide feedback on agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary