

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

PUBLIC MEETING

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

ALSO PRESENT: Richard J. Manfredi, Borough Manager
Michael J. Savona, Borough Solicitor

CALL TO ORDER

The Public Meeting of the Conshohocken Borough Council duly advertised, was held at Conshohocken Borough Hall, 400 Fayette Street, Conshohocken, PA. Mr. James Griffin, Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PRAYER FOR COUNCIL

Ms. Flanagan read a Prayer for Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Manfredi announced on behalf of Mr. Griffin that there was an Executive Session held prior to the meeting on potential litigation and personnel.

PRESENTATIONS

a.) Police Officer Commendations: Presented by Lt. George Metz

Mr. Griffin invited Mr. Manfredi to introduce the presentation for the evening. Mr. Manfredi shared that Lieutenant George Metz was at the meeting to present Chief of Police Commendations of Merit. Lt. Metz explained that he had the honor of presenting the commendations to Detective Christopher McGuire and Detective William Water and thanked the Chief of Police for the opportunity to do so. Lt. Metz read aloud the commendations that recognized both detectives for work that they performed in May of this year to remove dangerous, prolific criminals and illegals guns from the street and for solving multiple crimes in the Borough of Conshohocken, Norristown, Plymouth Township and the City of Philadelphia. Council and the residents that were present applauded the detectives for their good work before moving to the consent agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Manfredi read and explained the items included on the consent agenda.

- a.) **Approve and adopt the Borough Council August 17th Regular Meeting and August 31st Special Meeting Minutes**
- b.) **Accept the August-ending Treasurer's Report**
- c.) **Approve and adopt Resolution 2016-12 authorizing the filing of the Borough's 2016 CDBG Application**
- d.) **Approve and adopt the Borough's 2017 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) as required by Act 205.**
- e.) **Grant St. Matthew Parish parking request to close 3rd Avenue from Fayette to Harry Streets during Sunday masses.**
- f.) **Ratify and affirm the September 17, 2016 Fun Fest as an event of public significance where the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages has been specifically approved by the Borough.**
- g.) **Ratify and affirm the October 15, 2016 CPW Rotary Beer Festival at the A-Field as an event of public significance where the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages has been specifically approved by the Borough.**

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to approve the consent agenda items a.) through g.) as submitted, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 6-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a.) **Consider awarding bids for:**
 - i. **2016 Infrastructure Program**

Mr. Manfredi introduced the matter and invited Mr. Paul Hughes, Director of Engineering, Licenses and Inspections to share the bid results. Mr. Hughes explained that only one bid was received from N. Abbonizzio Contractors in the amount of \$1,521,070.00 with an alternate bid priced at \$71,762.00. Mr. Hughes commented that the bid prices were high and that he called other potential bidders to gauge why they had not responded. Each of the bidders explained to Mr. Hughes that they would be interested in submitting a bid for the work if the schedule would allow for the pipe work to be completed during the winter months and the concrete work to be completed in spring. As a result of these conversations, Mr. Hughes shared with Council his recommendation to re-bid the project during the month of November so that it could be awarded in December. Mr. Manfredi commented that the Borough would be bidding a 2017 project in 2016 so Mr. Hughes is in the process of reviewing the various capital projects that he is responsible for to share with Council at the next meeting and that, if Council were to reject the bid, the project could possibly be back before them at the October 5th work session.

Ms. Sokolowski explained her concern that the Borough is not scheduling our projects so they can get done in a timely manner. Mr. Manfredi responded that that is one of the reasons he had Mr. Hughes reach out to the contractors to discuss their reasons for not participating in recent bids and that this is the second year that the Infrastructure Project has been bid with few or no bidders to respond. Mr. Stokley asked if the Borough's Responsible Contractor Ordinance was causing the lack of bids and Mr. Manfredi replied that it could be. Ms. Leonard requested more information about the Responsible Contractor Ordinance and Mr. Savona explained the reasons for adopting it initially, how

it benefits the Borough, and changes that had been made to it recently to improve upon the initial version.

Mr. Hughes answered additional questions about the project and, to address Ms. Sokolowski's comment regarding scheduling, he shared that he is also disappointed with how some projects have been delayed and that now, as a Borough staff member, he can do more to ensure that our projects are completed in a timely fashion and that he would be providing a schedule for Council to see what projects would be bid and when shortly.

Mr. Stokley made a motion to accept the recommendation to reject the 2016 Infrastructure Program bid, seconded by Ms. Leonard. The motion carried 6-0.

ii. Sutcliffe Park Storm water Improvements

Mr. Hughes shared that six bids were received and that the low bidder was Flyway Excavating with a base bid in the amount of \$198,615.00, alternate bid # 1 was for \$23,940.00, alternate bid # 2 was for \$24,300.00, and alternate bid # 3 was for \$6,400.00. Mr. Hughes recommended that the base bid and alternate bid # 1 be awarded and explained that the work for both would allow for the parking lot work to remove the existing asphalt surfaces and replace it with a pervious paver surface, the addition of landscaped islands, and also includes a rain garden component. He explained that the bid prices for alternate bid #2, to construct a path to the basketball courts, and alternate bid # 3, for trash receptacles, were excessively priced and shared his belief that the work could be completed at a later time at a much lower cost.

Mr. Hughes shared that the funding for the project would come from \$120,000.00 in reimbursable grant funding from the Montco2040 Grant Program and the remainder of the work would be funded by \$102,555.00 of Borough general funds. Ms. Sokolowski inquired about the timeframe for project completion and Mr. Hughes replied that the contract would be signed and the work would commence immediately so that it could be done by this Thanksgiving. Mr. Stokley asked Mr. Manfredi if there was money in the budget for this and Mr. Manfredi confirmed that there is.

Mr. Stokley made a motion to award the Montco20140 Sutcliffe Park Parking Lot Retrofit project consisting of the Base Bid and Alternate Bid No. 1 for a total contract amount of \$222,555.00 to Flyway Excavating, Inc. Mr. Manfredi clarified that the project was approved which would mean that the money would be transferred to fund it from capital or it could come from another capital project that is not completed. Mr. Stokley also asked how long the grant is good for and Mr. Hughes replied that it should be good through 2018. Mr. Manfredi further explained how the Borough would fund the costs not covered through the grant and Mr. Hughes explained how moving forward with the grant at this time could assist the Borough in possibly receiving additional funds. **After the discussion, Ms. Flanagan seconded Mr. Stokley's motion. The motion carried 6-0.**

iii. A-Field Wall

Mr. Manfredi introduced the item and Mr. Hughes explained that there were no bids received for this project. Mr. Manfredi asked Mr. Hughes to elaborate on why he believed no bids were received and Mr. Hughes shared that it is most likely for the same reasons that the Infrastructure Project did not receive bids and that is that contractors are too busy and because the project requires the general contractor to solicit pricing from precasters which was difficult for them to do in time to respond. Mr. Hughes explained

that he would continue to work on moving this project forward and that he would try to provide an update at the next work session.

b.) Consider Council Members to serve on the Mary Wood Park Commission.

Mr. Manfredi shared that the Mary Wood Park Commission has two vacancies and that the ordinance requires that the President of Council would serve on the commission in addition to two other members of Council. He further explained that three Council Members submitted their names to serve and they were Ms. Leonard, Ms. Flanagan, and Ms. Barton. He added that there are a few people, including Mr. Joe Collins, that are looking for these appointments to move forward as there are a number of issues to be taken care of at the park.

Mr. Griffin then invited Mr. Collins, who was present that evening, to share any comment he had on the item. Mr. Collins commented that two of the previous members passed away and he is in need of a few more members to serve on the board to help and that he also needs additional funding. He requested a meeting with the new members to walk the park and discuss what needs to be done.

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to appoint Ms. Leonard and Ms. Flanagan to serve on the Mary Wood Park Commission. She explained that she made the recommendation because both Council Members are also on the east side of the Borough and, although the park is in her ward, she is already taxed. After further discussion, **Mr. Stokley seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.**

The Council also discussed possibly appointing citizens in the future to serve before moving on to new business.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Stokley mentioned that he would like to discuss the speed bump that was purchased to be placed on Maple Street and shared an image of the speed table. Mr. Stokley explained that the placement of the speed bump is on hold because some residents had expressed concerns about it. He then invited Mr. Hughes to elaborate. Mr. Hughes explained the rationale behind the purchase and shared that there are regulations that require them to be placed one hundred and fifty-feet ahead of a stop sign. He explained how the change in elevation caused by the placement of the table along with visual cues that include signage and yellow striping signal traffic to slow. He also commented that the location that was picked for the speed table placement on Maple could not change without negating the effectiveness of the table.

Mr. Stokley then asked Mr. George Gephardt, of 131 West 12th Avenue, if he would like to comment. Mr. Gephardt explained that the issue was not to slow traffic on the road but rather to prevent a number of cars from going through the stop sign and into Plymouth Garden Apartments. He explained many of these drivers do not apply their brakes at all and go through the sign at 30-35 MPH and this is a concern of his especially due to his grandchildren and other young children that reside in the area. He shared that he did not believe his request warranted a speed bump but that he would like to somehow prevent drivers from ignoring the stop signs altogether to go right into the apartment complex.

Mr. Hughes asked Mr. Savona if he was correct in his belief that traffic that does not obey stop signs is an enforcement issue and Mr. Savona agreed that it is. Mr. Savona explained that Mr. Hughes' point is that there is no need to construct a barrier to enforce a stop sign and that it could possibly be corrected by speaking with the Chief of Police about enforcement. Mr. Hughes also

suggested asking the apartment complex to make this intersection exit only so that entering the complex from Conshohocken would no longer present an issue. Mr. Manfredi commented that the most appropriate course of action would most likely be to have the police department place a detail at the location. After further discussion, Mr. Manfredi clarified that the action items for this would be to speak to the Chief of Police about a detail, the traffic engineer would be responsible for looking further in to matter, and that he would be responsible for reaching out to Plymouth Township about it and possibly the apartment complex if necessary.

Mr. Stokley shared, on related matter, that another enforcement issue is that cars are parking too close to stop signs and not allowing fifteen feet as required. He also added that there are a lot of trees overhanging stop signs; Mr. Hughes commented that the Borough would be working aggressively to correct issues such as that. Ms. Leonard inquired about curbs and lines that are painted to indicate where cars cannot park and Mr. Harvey Buek, Public Works Superintendent, answered that there are painted curbs in the Borough that have been authorized by Council; painting the curb at Mr. Gephardt's street was identified as another possible solution to his issue.

Ms. Sokolowski commented that there are several matters that arise during Council meetings that would be helpful for a member of the police department to be present to explain and answer questions on. She asked Mayor Frost if he had been meeting with the Chief to review matters brought before the Council and requested that there be a police presence at the meetings to help build more cohesion between the two groups. Council discussed it further and Mr. Manfredi clarified that the request is that the Mayor request the Chief or his designee to attend Council work session meetings.

Mr. Stokley then shared that there was a contractor in the audience with an issue to present. Mr. Stokley then invited Mr. Jason Catania of 137 West 7th Avenue who requested that Council consider approving his amended land development plan as part of this meeting to allow for the upcoming settlement to proceed. Mr. Savona replied that, although Mr. Catania had received approval from the Zoning Hearing Board on the plan amendment, it is not feasible for the Borough Council to grant an approval of the amended plan without first reviewing the plans and also adopting a new approval resolution. After further discussion, Mr. Manfredi shared that the item would be placed on the next agenda for consideration.

Mr. Stokley commented that he would like to honor Mr. Gerry McTamney and proposed renaming the Council Chambers McTamney Hall. He explained that Mr. McTamney made a lot of contributions to the Borough and inspired Mr. Stokley to become a Council Member himself. Mr. Manfredi replied that it could be discussed further with the Council.

Mr. Stokley shared that residents had approached him about the rules on how to get into Marshal Lee Towers. Council discussed that the facility is County-run and recent changes in the residency.

Ms. Flanagan commented that the Fun Fest was a fabulous event and thanked the volunteers that made the day possible, Mr. Manfredi, members of Borough staff that helped in the event planning, and Mr. Griffin who pushed to bring the event back to Fayette Street.

Mr. Manfredi shared that he would like to suggest to Council that they recognize Ms. Janene Reilly for the amount of time that she put into the event. He also shared that the Council meetings would now be uploaded to the Borough website beginning with this meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Griffin called for public comment and Ms. Theresa Parris inquired why the port-a-potties were still on the street following the Fun Fest event. Mr. Stokley replied that Ms. Kosmin had been making calls to have them removed and that she had received confirmation that they should be gone the next day.

Mr. Marty Eckert, 314 West 4th Avenue, commented that Mr. Stokley's idea to honor Mr. McTamney was a good one. He also thanked Council for permitting the St. Matthew High School and Archbishop Kennedy High School Football Alumni to hold their plaque dedication ceremony at the A-Field that weekend and formally invited them to attend.

Ms. Rosemary Northcutt, 112 East 6th Avenue, shared that Whitemarsh has begun putting up yard signs asking drivers to slow down. She asked if the Borough has had any discussions with Whitemarsh and Plymouth about making the speed limit 25 MPH the whole way as traffic goes through the municipalities and suggested that the three municipalities go to PennDOT together to make the speed limit request. Council gave their consent do as Ms. Northcutt suggested. She also said that a banner across Fayette Street could help notify people of Fun Fest 2017 and Mr. Griffin replied that they are no longer allowed to place banners across Fayette Street.

Mr. Stokley commented that he, Ms. Tutino, and Mr. Griffin were present to help St. Cosmo's move the statues to their new location and shared that it was a great event. He thanked Mr. John Costello who was a director there during the event and commended Father Heron for all that he is doing to bring the community together. He also commented that their childcare is open now and it is great to see all of the young people in the Borough.

Mayor Frost announced that the Annual Halloween Parade is scheduled for October 29th and provided the event details.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi,
Borough Secretary