

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: James Griffin, President
Karen Tutino, Vice-President
Robert Stokley, Senior Council Member
Anita Barton, 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 7:02 PM.

PRAYER FOR COUNCIL

Ms. Anita Barton read a Prayer for Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Ms. Flanagan joined the meeting and took her seat at the dais at 7:04 PM.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Council President Announcements.

PRESENTATIONS

a.) Proclamation for St. John AME Church: James Griffin, Council President.

Mr. Griffin invited Mayor Frost to read aloud and present a Proclamation of Appreciation for more than 148 years of faith and service in the Borough of Conshohocken to Reverend Edith J. Patterson-Payne of the Historic St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church. Following the presentation, Mr. Griffin requested that Mr. Manfredi introduce the consent agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a.) Approve the October 5th and October 19th Regular Public Meeting minutes.**
- b.) Accept the October-ending Treasurer's Report and payables.**

- c.) Authorize the Borough Manager to contract with Parkmobile, LLC to offer an electronic payment service alternative for the Borough's parking meters.
- d.) Authorize the Borough to begin the application process for an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Grant Opportunity to aid in funding Leeland remediation work.

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve consent agenda items a.) through d.), seconded by Ms. Sokolowski. The motion carried 7-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a.) Discuss 2017 Capital Projects

Mr. Manfredi introduced the item by sharing that Council has held several budget meetings on revenues and expenses and, at the last meeting, reviewed all funds leaving outstanding the capital projects fund. Mr. Manfredi also shared that the 2016 Budget appropriated \$90,000.00 for flooring surface and fitness equipment at the Community Center at the Fellowship House and \$76,000.00 was budgeted for playground equipment at Haines and Salvati Park. He explained that, if the Borough does not move forward with these purchases and receive them during the 2016 FY, the Borough would not be able to account for them in 2016's budget. He stated that, unless Council objects, he will move forward with the purchases. Council discussed and did not give any objection.

Mr. Manfredi then invited Mr. Paul Hughes, Director of Engineering, Licenses & Inspections, to the podium to present an electronic working document of all projects discussed to date that he would be updating during the discussion to illustrate real-time changes in budgeted funds as Council made decisions on which capital projects to plan for in FY 2017. Mr. Manfredi explained the document set-up and shared that the CMAQ Project for traffic signal improvements on Fayette Street at \$100,000.00 and the \$31,920.00 request for funding from Narberth Ambulance are two items that were not included in the Proposed FY 2017 Budget but he believes are critically important to add. He also shared that \$46,200.00 for a jogging surface was deleted from the list of capital projects because it was included in the A-Field project. Finally, Mr. Manfredi explained funds that the Borough expects to receive in 2017 and shared that, after the scheduled transfer of \$719,000.00 to the Debt Service Fund from Capital Fund takes place, approximately \$1 million dollars would remain as of December 31, 2017 as the budget stands that evening.

Council then proceeded to discuss which projects should be budgeted for in 2017 and which projects could be planned for in a future budget. Following the discussion, Mr. Manfredi asked Mr. Hughes to review the new totals for each subcategory of the Capital Fund and provide the final total for the fund. Mr. Hughes shared that Council determined to allocate \$170,000.00 in Infrastructure Project funds for Hector Street re-greening, street trees, and the CMAQ Grant match and engineering. Council budgeted \$741,008.00 of Parks and Recreation funds for a new presidential bingo console, a used 7000 bingo flash board, Haines & Salvati safety surfacing, completing half of the "A" Field fence only, the "A" Field track project, bleachers, new Sutcliffe Park play equipment and play surface, and the Conshohocken Rowing Center Lease. \$38,920.00 of General Administration funds were budgeted for a Borough Application and funding Narberth Ambulance. \$65,800.00 in Public Works funds were allocated for a Toro tiller, office, lunch and locker room renovations, Tommy gates, emergency vehicle lights, LED lights, an electrical upgrade, paint, and safety equipment. Council also allocated \$47,000.00 of Police Department funds for uniforms and software. Mr. Hughes shared that the total amount budgeted for the Capital Fund was \$1,062,728.00 which was

approximately \$200,000.00 less from the beginning total of all possible projects at the start of the discussion.

Members of Council expressed that they were satisfied with the results of the discussion. Ms. Flanagan commented that they made compromises that will serve the Borough well as they move forward with 2017 as a planning year and, midway through, Council can follow-up with the items that were set aside from the 2017 budget discussions for future consideration. Mr. Manfredi commented that quarterly financial reports would be forthcoming next year rather than twice yearly and Council agreed that would be helpful.

Ms. Leonard commented that the Democratic Meetings would be moving from the Fellowship House to the YMCA conference room. Mr. Stokley asked for confirmation that the Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board meet in the Council Chambers and Mr. Manfredi replied that they do. Ms. Sokolowski asked if other meetings occur in the Borough Hall and Mr. Manfredi explained that other groups met at Leeland though recently some had moved to the Community Center and Mr. Joe Collins has also offered Mary Wood Park House. Ms. Sokolowski replied that the Mary Wood Park is another item that Council would have to consider in the future and Mr. Manfredi replied that, as he had mentioned the previous week, there is no funding for anything with respect to Leeland. Ms. Flanagan commented that she had met with Mr. Collins twice; once with Mr. Manfredi and once with Ms. Sokolowski to tour Mary Wood and it is an impressive building but it needs sufficient funds as well as additional help. Ms. Flanagan expressed that she would bring the matter to Council for discussion in the future.

Finally, Mr. Manfredi shared that he would prepare the proposed budget based on all of the changes made by Council, it would be advertised, and it would then be eligible for formal adoption if Council voted to approve the next agenda item that evening.

b.) Consider approving the FY 2017 Proposed Budget and advertise the same as duly required.

Ms. Flanagan made a motion to approve the FY 2017 Proposed Budget and advertise the same as all the numbers had been finalized through the last two meetings, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Griffin called for public comment on the budget and Mr. Steve Curran of 315 Spring Mill Avenue shared that Ms. Sokolowski discussed spreading funds into all four quadrants and asked what the plans are for Mary Wood Park and why there is nothing in the budget for it. Mr. Savona replied with an explanation of how the Borough acquired the park through Mary Wood's estate and explained the restrictions placed on the Borough through her will to keep it as recreation space for the public. Mr. Savona also detailed the financial aspect of the park sharing that trustees were designated to invest and reinvest the money to maintain the park so that the Borough could have the property but not subsidize it with the taxpayer money but Council has discussed that, as the availability of the funds becomes more limited, Council would have to start budgeting within Borough monies to take care of the park. Ms. Sokolowski added that it is a park that needs to be addressed and it will be part of the long-term planning. Mr. Curran also asked if the Borough would begin subsidizing it in 2018 and Ms. Sokolowski explained that the Borough would be taking over some of the maintenance of the park so funds will be available to maintain equipment but new pieces of equipment are not planned for 2017. Mr. Stokley added that, in the past, when the park has needed emergency funds, Council has always assisted because and they would continue to assist if needed. Ms.

Flanagan mentioned that Council looks at the entire block as Mary Wood Park and this year Council is putting funds into the equipment at the Fellowship House and in bingo for the seniors as a means to serve all populations of the Borough. She thanked Mr. Curran for his comment and invited him to return and share any ideas that he has.

Mr. Griffin called for additional comment and Mr. Brandon Reese of 351 West 5th Avenue commented that he commutes into the city and was curious why the Borough is looking into Parkmobile and not Pango. Mr. Manfredi replied that they had not explored Pango but if Mr. Reese believes that Pango would be a better option, he would be happy to discuss with Mr. Reese and look into it. He added that he and the Public Services Director made an effort to ensure that the Borough had no cost.

With no further public comment, Mr. Griffin asked Mr. Manfredi to share the final agenda matter.

NEW BUSINESS

- a.) *Consider a motion to approve special counsel's continued participation in the pending appeal of Provco Pineville Fayette, L.P. from the August 10, 2016 decision of the Zoning Hearing Board, for the purpose of monitoring and reporting on the status of the appeal, and to not take any active role or position regarding the merits or substance of the appeal absent further direction from Borough Council.*

Mr. Manfredi explained the item and shared that the special counsel would be Mr. Nasatir of Obermayer and that he would be monitoring and reporting the status for Council, through Mr. Manfredi, to authorize any actions. Mr. Savona shared that the reason Mr. Manfredi is asking Council to approve the motion was that, because the Borough intervened in the appeal, the applicant is now using it in an argument to the court to exclude the residents who are interested parties from being able to intervene in the appeal; the argument is that since the Borough had taken a position, no others need to be involved which is inaccurate since the Borough is not taking a position. Mr. Savona explained that Mr. Nasatir could inform the court that the Borough's intervention should not be taken as an endorsement or opposition so that the Borough's appearance in the case does not overshadow the residents' ability to become parties.

Ms. Flanagan made a motion to approve special counsel's continued participation in the pending appeal of Provco Pineville Fayette, L.P. from the August 10, 2016 decision of the Zoning Hearing Board, for the purpose of monitoring and reporting on the status of the appeal, and to not take any active role or position regarding the merits or substance of the appeal absent further direction from Borough Council. Ms. Leonard seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-1 with Mr. Stokley in opposition.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Griffin called for public comment and Mayor Frost wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving next week and assured all that the Conshohocken AMBUCS and Mayor's Special Event Committee would spare no expense for next Friday's Santa visit at Old Borough Hall and shared event details.

Mr. Stokley wished Council and the residents a Happy Thanksgiving.

Ms. Flanagan thanked everyone for a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration at the Community Center at the Fellowship House earlier that day for seniors. She thanked those that made the

event possible including Charles Mascio, Stephanie Cecco, the staff and volunteers that assisted, the Great American Pub, the Conshohocken Italian Bakery, Mr. Stokley for picking up the rolls, and homemade cookies provided by Joe Petri and Rose DeRamo. Ms. Flanagan then shared that her only concern is that people had expressed that they did not know about the luncheon though many mentioned seeing it in the Conshy Courier and it should have been announced on our TV station; the Borough needs to optimize the use of the technology that we have available. Mr. Manfredi replied that he was not aware that it was not on the TV channel and thanked Ms. Flanagan for making him aware so that he can address the matter and added that a Communications Plan for how to disseminate information is evolving.

Ms. Barton wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and reminded all of a Craft Fair at the Fellowship House next Saturday. Ms. Sokolowski shared that it was a really nice week that started with the Veteran's Day celebration that had great attendance and wished all a Happy Thanksgiving. Ms. Tutino also wished everyone Happy Thanksgiving. Mr. Griffin wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and reminded all to remember the less fortunate and to help if they could.

Ms. Rosemary Northcutt of 112 East 6th Avenue commented that she attended the Thanksgiving feast and thanked Ms. Flanagan for expressing the importance of communication with the people. She explained that it was posted on the Facebook page on October 25th but was never shared anywhere else by the Borough as follow-up so many only found about it Friday. She added that bingo for seniors only addresses one group of people and we should send information out via mail especially for a big event when seniors are invited.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi,
Borough Manager