

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: Colleen Leonard, Council President
Jane Flanagan, Council Vice-President
Robert Stokley, Senior Council Member
Anita Barton, Council Member
Tina Sokolowski, Council Member
James Griffin, Council Member
Karen Tutino, 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 7:07 PM.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Leonard announced that an Executive Session was held immediately prior to the meeting regarding a legal matter.

PRESENTATIONS

a.) Hearing regarding a waiver of off-street parking for 320 Fayette Street, Glow Goals Luxury Spa

Chris Stetler, Zoning Officer, explained that the operators of Glow Goals Luxury Spa propose to lease the third floor of 320 Fayette Street for a skin and lash studio. She stated that the property has limited off-street parking. The owners, Brandi and Bobbi Mayo, were present to answer any questions. Brandi Mayo provided an overview of the business, which included services offered, number of employees and hours of operation. She answered questions about number of patrons per hour and access to the business.

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve a waiver of off-street parking for 320 Fayette Street, Glow Goals Luxury Spa, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.

b.) Zoning Hearing Board Report, Richard Barton, Chair

Rick Barton, Chair of the Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB), presented a report, which summarized the year-to-date activities and decisions of the ZHB. He explained the decision-making process of the ZHB members and identified sections of the Zoning Ordinance for recommended revision. Council asked questions related to non-conforming uses in residential zoning districts and the process of zoning approval extensions.

c.) Recycling Program Presentation, Ryan Ingham, Hough Associates

Tom Hough, President of Hough Associates, provided a brief history of recycling grant services for the Borough and reviewed grant awards for grant years 2015-2018. Mr. Hough discussed the future of the Pennsylvania Recycling Grant Program.

d.) Emergency Management Update, Ray Sokolowski, Executive Director of Operations

Mr. Sokolowski presented Council with a breakdown of the active shooter simulation responses and feedback from Police, Fire and EMS officials. Sergeants Michael Conner and David Lennon were present for the presentation and answered questions from Council. Mr. Sokolowski discussed CodeRed, an emergency alert system that provides high-speed communication within the community in the event of an emergency.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

a.) Conduct interviews for towing services

Ms. Cecco shared that the Borough received proposals from EVB Towing and Janeway Towing for towing services for the Borough. Representatives from both companies were present to interview.

Ms. Cecco introduced Kevin Bowe of EVB Towing. Ms. Leonard asked what is the biggest challenge as a municipal towing contractor. Mr. Bowe replied that responding to multiple towing emergencies at one time is challenging. He confirmed that EVB has over fifty (50) employees and thirty (30) tow trucks to complete the required scope of work. He discussed the towing process related to insurance and individuals who are unable to pay. Ms. Leonard asked if EVB has the capability to provide services ranging from disabled vehicles to complex commercial vehicles. Mr. Bowe confirmed and reviewed the company's fleet. Ms.

Sokolowski asked if EVB has any conflicts of interest that would prohibit the company's involvement with the Borough. Mr. Bowe responded that he is not aware of any issues that would be deemed a conflict of interest.

Ms. Leonard introduced Jane Dougherty of Janeway Towing. She asked what is the biggest challenge as a municipal towing contractor. Ms. Dougherty discussed challenges related to meeting response time requirements. Ms. Sokolowski asked about staffing and equipment. Ms. Dougherty replied that Janeway Towing operates with fifteen (15) employees and possesses a fleet capable of handling disabled vehicles to recovery of commercial vehicles. She discussed the towing process related to insurance and individuals who are unable to pay. Ms. Sokolowski asked if Janeway Towing has any conflicts of interest that would prohibit the company's involvement with the Borough. Ms. Dougherty responded there are no conflicts of interest.

MANAGER MATTERS

a.) Consider approving a block party request for Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

Ms. Cecco stated that Saint Mark's Church would like to hold a block party and worship service outside in front of the church on October 20, 2019. She explained that Administration received a request for the road closure of East 5th Avenue in front of the church from Fayette Street to Harry Street from 8:00am to 2:00pm.

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to approve a block party request for Saint Mark's Lutheran Church, seconded by Ms. Leonard. The motion carried 7-0.

b.) Consider the resignation of a member of the Dog Park Advisory Committee

Ms. Cecco stated that Luke Smith has resigned from the Dog Park Advisory Committee.

Ms. Barton made a motion to accept the resignation of Luke Smith from the Dog Park Advisory Committee, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.

c.) Consider approving a Second Addendum to the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2020-2022

Ms. Flanagan made a motion to approve a Second Addendum to the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2020-2022, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.

d.) Consider approving an RFP for zoning services

Ms. Cecco explained that with Ms. Stetler retiring as the Zoning Officer in at the end of the year, the Borough must appoint a firm to provide zoning services for the Borough. She reviewed a draft RFP for zoning services and asked Council to review the RFP over the next two weeks.

DEPARTMENT MATTERS

a.) Consider approving a Fire Prevention Demonstration for Fire Prevention Week

Tim Gunning, Fire Marshal, shared that the Fire Companies within the Colonial School District will be holding a Fire Prevention Demonstration on Wednesday, October 9, 2019 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. He added that the Fire Companies are requesting use of Fayette Street from 3rd Avenue to 6th Avenue.

LEGAL MATTERS

a.) Discuss Ordinance 07-2019 amending Chapter 11 of the Borough Ordinance to include the installation and maintenance of rear house numbers for residential rental properties

Mr. Peters presented a draft ordinance amendment, which would require each residential rental unit to display a house number on the front and rear of the property for purposes of allowing emergency personnel to better identify property location. He mentioned that establishing a regulatory process for rental properties is the first step in creating a Borough-wide policy.

COUNCIL MEMBER AND MAYOR MATTERS

Mayor Aronson thanked Borough staff for their hard work with Funfest. He announced that the VFW would be hosting its annual Crabfest on Saturday, October 5, 2019 at 3:00pm. He encouraged everyone to attend the Rotary Beerfest on October 12, 2019.

Superintendent Metz shared information about the Montgomery County Law Enforcement Explorers, an education program for adolescents and young adults with an interest in a career in law enforcement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Zale, 300 West Elm Street, requested a status update on major land development projects in the Borough, which Ms. Cecco answered. He thanked Council and Administration for putting up pedestrian crossing signs at several intersections along Washington Street.

Loretta Molnar, 303 Angel Alley, reported property maintenance and dog waste issues along Angel Alley.

Joe Ferrigno, 412 Old Elm Street, discussed issues on West Elm Street related to truck traffic. He requested that Council initiate a second truck traffic study with PennDOT that focuses on safety hazards, such as noise and pollution.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary