

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

PUBLIC MEETING held via GoToMeeting video/teleconference

PRESENT: Colleen Leonard, Council President
Tina Sokolowski, Council Vice-President
Robert Stokley, Senior Council Member
James Griffin, Council Member
Jane Flanagan, 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 remotely using the GoToMeeting platform. Colleen Leonard, Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

PRAYER FOR COUNCIL

Ms. Sokolowski read a Prayer for Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Leonard thanked everyone for attending the virtual Council meeting. She reviewed the meeting logistics and participation instructions.

LAND USE, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES

a.) Consider granting a waiver of off-street parking for 319 Forrest Street

Ms. Barton made a motion to grant a waiver of off-street parking for 319 Forrest Street, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS

a.) Conduct interviews for Board and Commission vacancies

Ms. Leonard introduced Morgan Sheridan who was present to interview for the Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB). Ms. Leonard asked why she would like to serve on the ZHB. Ms. Sheridan discussed how her professional background as a relator and her understanding of construction have influenced her interest in development. Ms. Sheridan shared that the role of the ZHB is to consider applications from property owners seeking variances and special exceptions from the zoning code. She discussed the importance of maintaining the characteristics of the Borough's small town community.

Ms. Leonard introduced Daniel Swartley McArdle who was present to interview for the Planning Commission. He explained that the role of the Planning Commission is to act as an advisory group to Borough Council on long-term planning, development and land use issues. He discussed his professional experience as a project planner for a biopharmaceutical firm. He also discussed his experience serving on the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission and the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Delaware River Post Authority.

b.) Conduct interviews for Board and Commission reappointments

Ms. Leonard announced that Mr. Eckert was unable to attend and that his interview will be rescheduled for December 2, 2020.

Ms. Leonard introduced Marissa Buck who was present to interview for reappointment to the Dog Park Advisory Committee. Ms. Buck reviewed the accomplishments of the Dog Park Committee, which included installing lights, resurfacing the grass area and making the park ADA accessible. She explained how the Committee is focused on fundraising and community engagement activities.

Ms. Leonard introduced MacKenzie Breinlinger who was present to interview for reappointment to the Dog Park Advisory Committee. Ms. Breinlinger stated that the Committee is dedicated to meeting the needs of the Dog Park members and their dogs. She shared that the Committee held a roundtable discussion and conducted a survey to improve park operations.

Ms. Leonard introduced Georgina Weber who was present to interview for reappointment to the Dog Park Advisory Committee. Ms. Weber discussed goals for the Dog Park Advisory Committee in 2021, which

included continuing to engage with members in order to improve operations at the park. She also discussed partnering with local dog rescue organizations to raise awareness and increase community engagement.

Ms. Leonard introduced Timothy Beckel who was present to interview for reappointment to the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC). Mr. Beckel reviewed some of the initiatives of the EAC in 2020, which included spotted lanternfly education, street cleanup events, and preparations for the next phase of the Ready for 100 initiative. He explained how the EAC plans to continue to operate through the pandemic through contactless in-person events and virtual education seminars.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a.) **Approve and adopt the October 7 and October 21 Meeting Minutes**
- b.) **Approve the October-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$367,579.42**

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to approve and adopt the October 7 and October 21 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Griffin made a motion to approve the October-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$367,579.42, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a.) **Consider approving the FY2021 Proposed Budget and advertise the same as duly required**

Ms. Flanagan made a motion to approve the FY2021 Proposed Budget and advertise the same as duly required, seconded by Ms. Sokolowski. The motion carried 7-0.

- b.) **Consider authorizing advertisement of Ordinance 02-2020 to levy real estate tax for 2021**

Ms. Barton made a motion to authorize advertisement of Ordinance 02-2020 to levy real estate tax for 2021, seconded Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.

- c.) **Consider approving Fire Stipend distributions for FY2020**

Ray Sokolowski, Executive Director of Operations, read the names of the fire stipend recipients for 2020.

Mr. Griffin made a motion to approve Fire Stipend distributions for FY2020, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Leonard added an item to the agenda. Mr. Peters shared that Borough Administration has identified the need, from an emergency management perspective, to revise a section of the Borough's Zoning Ordinance. He explained that the recommendation is to remove the Residential Overlay section of the ordinance which relates to the Light Industrial Zoning District.

Ms. Tutino made a motion to authorize advertisement of an ordinance amendment to repeal Part 19-B Residential Overlay District of the Borough's Zoning Ordinance and authorize the Planning Commission to consider the proposed ordinance amendment, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brittany Rogers, Executive Assistant to the Borough Manager, stated that no public comment was received via email submission.

Jessica Ram, 138 Sutcliffe Lane, reported that the Covanta trash-to-steam plant did not follow stack test protocols. She reviewed stack test protocols per DEP regulations and discussed how Covanta violated those protocols. She also reviewed four (4) notices of violations that Covanta received in the last year.

COUNCIL AND MAYOR MATTERS

Mayor Aronson announced that two (2) businesses, Conshohocken Candy Company and Bar Sera, recently opened in the Borough. He shared that he is partnering with West Conshohocken to promote local businesses.

Mr. Stokley wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Ms. Barton wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Ms. Flanagan thanked Public Services for decorating Mary Wood Park for holiday season.

Mr. Griffin wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Ms. Sokolowski wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Superintendent Metz reminded residents to lock their car doors.

Ms. Cecco announced that a pre-recorded Virtual Christmas Tree Lighting video would be available on the Borough's social media outlets the day after Thanksgiving. She thanked Kate Kosmin, Communications Manager and Special Events Coordinator, and Mayor Aronson for production and coordination of the video.

Ms. Leonard wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary