

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, June 1, 2022

PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: Colleen Leonard, Council President
Tina Sokolowski, Council Vice-President
Anita Barton, Council Member
Stacy Ellam, Council Member
Kathleen Kingsley, Council Member
Adrian Serna, 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 7:00 PM.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Council President announcements.

LAND USE MATTERS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES

a.) Hearing on a Waiver of Off-Street Parking, 108 ½ Fayette Street, Morning Talk Café

Ms. Cecco explained that the applicant is seeking a waiver of the off-street parking requirements of the Borough's Zoning Ordinance. The applicant, Kwankaew Charoennan, provided an overview of the business, which is a café serving a variety of coffee, beverages, and grab & go items. She provided the hours of operation and confirmed that there would be no sit-down dining. Ms. Cecco reviewed next steps in the process.

b.) Public Hearing on the Conditional Use Application for 150 West Ninth Avenue: Emily and Jon Crabtree, Applicant

Mr. Peters opened the public hearing and explained that the applicant is seeking conditional use to permit the demolition of a single-family home that was constructed more than 50 years ago. He continued the hearing on the record to June 15, 2022.

Ms. Kingsley made a motion to continue the conditional use hearing for 150 West 9th Avenue to June 15, 2022, seconded by Ms. Tutino. The motion carried 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS

a.) Spring Mill Study Presentation, Judy Stern Goldstein, Gilmore & Associates

Ms. Stern Goldstein explained that Gilmore & Associates conducted a Multi-Modal Connections Study, for Whitmarsh Township, to improve a regionally important junction of pedestrian, bicycle, vehicle, and commuter-train transportation options. She explained that the study focuses on Washington Street, the Spring Mill Riverfront, Spring Mill Junction, and North Lane. She stated that the study was funded by a Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI) Grant from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. She reviewed the project history and status to date.

Ms. Stern Goldstein presented an analysis and recommendation for each study area. For Washington Street, Ms. Stern Goldstein discussed the current dead-end condition of Washington Street due to the location of the David's Bridal building. She reviewed two (2) recommendations for how to provide public access to Washington Street via Lee Street. She recommended the relocation of the David's Bridal building and the installation of traffic signals to allow two-way traffic along Washington Street. She also recommended the installation of traffic signals to allow one-direction of travel at a time through Washington Street.

Members of Borough Council voiced their concerns related to vehicular traffic through Conshohocken by future residents of the approved residential developments in Whitmarsh. Council stressed the importance of utilizing resources to improve accessibility to Washington Street.

Ms. Stern Goldstein discussed next steps in the process.

Ms. Cecco stated that she served as a member of the Spring Mill Study Steering Committee. She confirmed that the TCDI grant was awarded for this study to specifically examine multi-modal connections and

riverfront access within the property study area of Washington Street. Ms. Cecco recommended that the Borough send a letter to Whitmarsh requesting that the Township focus on the initial goal of the TCDI grant during the decision-making process for implementation and funding, which, was to generate a solution that would rectify vehicular access restrictions on Washington Street. Council agreed.

b.) Presentation on Main Street Overlay Ordinance Forum Results, Judy Stern Goldstein, Gilmore & Associates

Ms. Stern Goldstein shared that the Borough hosted a public forum in which local residents and business/property owners were given the opportunity to participate in a discussion regarding the character of Fayette Street and what sort of development the community wants to see for the future of Fayette Street. Ms. Stern Goldstein discussed the results of the public forum. She explained that interested parties expressed a desire to preserve the small-town feel of Fayette Street and discussed specific types of uses that were recommended. She stated that many people mentioned streetscape improvements along Fayette Street including street trees, public art, trash receptacles, outdoor dining, benches, etc.

Mr. Serna stated that forum attendees also recommended adding pocket parks along Fayette Street.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

a.) Consider approving Proclamation 2022-03 recognizing June 2022 as Pride Month

Ms. Leonard announced that prior to the meeting, Borough Council and the Mayor held a Pride Month Proclamation and Flag Raising Ceremony outside of Borough Hall. She stated that the Pride flag will remain flying outside of Borough Hall for the month of June.

Ms. Ellam made a motion to approve Proclamation 2022-03 recognizing June 2022 as Pride Month, seconded by Ms. Tutino. The motion carried 7-0.

MANAGER MATTERS

a.) Consider approving Conshohocken Electric Force special event application for a Juneteenth Celebration Event

Ms. Cecco shared that the Borough received a request to hold a Juneteenth Celebration event in Aubrey Collins Park on July 18, 2022. She explained that event organizers are requesting the closure of the 200 block of East Elm Street between 3:00pm and 10:00pm and a waiver of all fees. Ms. Cecco provided the general event details and stated that a request to close the road has been sent to PennDOT.

Ms. Sokolowski asked if Pepperoncini Restaurant and Bar has been notified of the request. Ms. Cecco replied that she would reach out to the restaurant owner to discuss the request.

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve the Conshohocken Electric Force special event application for a Juneteenth Celebration Event on Saturday, June 18, 2022 contingent upon final Borough Administration, Police and PennDOT approval, seconded by Mr. Serna. The motion carried 7-0.

b.) Consider approving Resolution 2022-16 authorizing the sale of a slit seeder on Municibid

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-16 authorizing the sale of a slit seeder on Municibid in the amount of a minimum bid of \$2,000.00, seconded by Ms. Kingsley. The motion carried 7-0.

DEPARTMENT MATTERS

There were no department matters.

LEGAL MATTERS

There were no legal matters.

COUNCIL MEMBER AND MAYOR MATTERS

a.) Consider approving Proclamation 2022-04 recognizing June 3, 2022 as National Gun Violence Awareness Day (Mayor Aronson)

Mayor Aronson read a proclamation declaring June 3, 2022 as National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to approve Proclamation 2022-04 recognizing June 3, 2022 as National Gun Violence Awareness, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.

b.) Mary Wood Park Commission Update (Council President Leonard)

Ms. Leonard provided an update on the Mary Wood Park Commission. She explained that the Commission would like to have the interior of the Mary Wood Park Commission painted and asked Council to review and consider the submitted quotes. She asked Council to consider authorizing an RFP for the repair of the Mary Wood Park House roof. She informed Council that the additional trustees need to be appointed. Ms. Leonard shared that the Mary Wood Park Commission would like to host a fundraiser for the Mary Wood Park House. She explained that the event would be hosted at the Leeland Mansion sometime in the fall of this year.

Mayor Aronson reminded everyone that the Conshohocken Arts Festival and Car Show is on June 4, 2022.

Mr. Serna thanked everyone who attended the Flag Planting events and Memorial Day Services. He recognized Tim Snyder, Borough resident, for assisting the Borough with planting trees at Sutcliffe Park.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary