

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: Tina Sokolowski, Council President  
Kathleen Kingsley, Council Vice-President  
Anita Barton, Senior Council Member  
Alan Chmielewski, Council Member  
Stacy Ellam, Council Member  
Ralph Frey, Council Member  
Adrian Serna, 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. Sokolowski, Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Sokolowski announced that an Executive Session was held immediately prior to the regularly scheduled public meeting on personnel and legal matters.

Ms. Sokolowski thanked all the Borough Departments for the hard work that went in to making the 2024 St. Patrick's Day Parade such a success.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (for agenda items only)**

There was no public comment pertaining to agenda items.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**a.) Recognition of the Conshohocken Fire Department for receiving the Swiftwater Type 1A State Certification, Tim Gunning, Fire Chief**

Ms. Sokolowski introduced Fire Chief Tim Gunning who recognized the Fire Department's Achievement of obtaining the State of Pennsylvania Swiftwater Type 1A Certification. Chief Gunning made note that the department is 1 of only 4 in the state of Pennsylvania to obtain the Swiftwater Type 1A Certification.

**b.) Consider approving Proclamation 2024-02 recognizing the Conshohocken Women's Business Group on 75 years of service, Mayor Aronson**

Mayor Aronson read a Proclamation on behalf of the Conshohocken Women's Business Group for their 75 years of service to the Community.

**Mr. Serna made a motion to approve Proclamation 2024-02 recognizing the Conshohocken Women's Business Group on 75 years of service, seconded by Ms. Kingsley. The motion carried 7-0.**

**c.) Conduct an interview for a vacancy on the Friends of Conshohocken Parks**

Ms. Sokolowski introduced Eileen Fay who was present to interview for a vacancy on the Friends of Conshohocken Parks. Ms. Fay gave a summary of her background and what prompted her to apply for the vacant position. Mr. Chmielewski asked if she had reviewed the meeting schedule. Ms. Fay replied yes and explained that she works primarily from home and the meeting schedule would be no problem. She expressed her excitement at the opportunity of joining the Friends of Conshohocken Parks and thanked the members of Borough Council for considering her.

**d.) Presentation on the EAC Local Climate Action Plan, Tim Beckel and Justin Claffey**

Ms. Sokolowski introduced Tim Beckel and Justin Claffey to present an update on the EAC's Local Climate Action Plan. Mr. Beckel reviewed the timeline and goals of the Local Climate Action Plan. He noted that phase 1 (Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory) of the program was completed in December 2023. In January 2024, phase 2 of the program had begun. Mr. Claffey stated that a report following the completion of phase 2 will be presented to Borough Council. A list of upcoming EAC events was discussed.

## LAND USE MATTERS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES

There were no land use matters, public hearings and ordinances.

## CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a.) Approve and adopt the February 7 and February 21 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b.) Approve the February-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve and adopt the February 7 and February 21 Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Ms. Ellam. The motion carried 7-0.

Ms. Kingsley made a motion to approve the February-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$905,514.44, seconded by Mr. Frey. The motion carried 7-0.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a.) Consider appointing two (2) applicants to the Sewer Authority Board

Ms. Kingsley made a motion to appoint Jack Ambler and Christine Bertino to the Sewer Authority Board, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.

- b.) Consider approving the Second Amendment to the Settlement Agreement for the 401-433 Washington Street Project

Mr. Frey made a motion to approve the Second Amendment to the Settlement Agreement for the 401-433 Washington Street Project subject to final review by the Borough Solicitor and Borough Manager, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.

- c.) Consider approving the Flyers Alumni Special Event request for June 2025 contingent upon final review and approval by Borough administration and satisfaction of all Borough Special Event requirements including insurance.

Ms. Ellam made a motion to approve the Flyers Alumni Special Event request for June 2025 contingent upon final review and approval by Borough administration and satisfaction of all Borough Special Event requirements including insurance, seconded by Mr. Frey. The motion carried 7-0.

- d.) Consider authorizing advertisement of bids for the Sutcliffe Park Trail Renovation Project and the Sutcliffe Park Stormwater PRP project

Ms. Barton made a motion to authorize advertisement of the bid documents for the Sutcliffe Park Trail Renovation Project and the Sutcliffe Park Stormwater BMP project, seconded by Ms. Kingsley. The motion carried 7-0.

- e.) Consider awarding the A-Field Roof Project bid to Munn Roofing Corporation in the amount of \$238,000.

Mr. Serna made a motion to award the A-Field Roof Project bid to Munn Roofing Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$238,000, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.

- f.) Consider discontinuing the use agreement with the Conshohocken Bears

Mr. Serna made a motion to discontinue the use agreement with the Conshohocken Bears organization, seconded by Mr. Frey. The motion carried 7-0.

- g.) Consider approving Resolution 2024- 05 supporting and providing input on certain legislative priorities and resolutions of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs regarding compensation of elected Borough officials.

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-05 supporting and providing input on certain legislative priorities and resolutions of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs regarding compensation of elected Borough Officials, seconded by Mr. Serna. There was a roll call vote. Yes- Barton, Serna, Ellam, Kingsley, Sokolowski. No - Frey, Chmielewski. The motion carried 5-2.

## NEW BUSINESS

- a.) Consider approving a Chief of Police Employment Contract

Ms. Sokolowski explained the process leading up to selecting a final candidate for the position of Chief of Police. Borough Council started the process by formulating a Police Chief Search Committee in early 2023. The Search Committee consisted of the Borough Council President, Vice President, and Mayor.

The Committee met to formalize and define the type of candidate Borough Council and the Mayor wanted as the next chief of police. Ms. Sokolowski noted that special consideration was given to the unique needs of

the businesses and residents of the Borough of Conshohocken. The Search Committee identified leadership, management, and interpersonal skills that a candidate needed to demonstrate to be considered for the Chief position. Ultimately, the final candidate would need to be the individual who would best advance the department as a professional and innovative police agency into the future. Along with demonstrated supervisory and leadership abilities, specific emphasis was placed on an individual's ability to identify community issues, develop innovative responses, and issue corrective action plans as applicable.

In early June of 2023, the Borough posted notice that they would start the search process for the next Chief of Police and began accepting applications. Ms. Sokolowski made note that the Borough initially received 45 applications. An internal review of applications was conducted. Candidates who did not meet the minimum requirements were removed from the consideration list.

In October of 2023, the Search Committee reviewed and discussed the final list of applicants and confirmed the final 7 applicants that would be interviewed. The final candidates were then interviewed by the Search Committee, utilizing a list of 29 questions that were geared specifically to address the unique needs of the Borough community.

From there, three finalists were selected. The three finalists interviewed with all 7 Borough Council members and the Mayor in a public forum format to ensure that the final candidate selected would be able to publicly satisfy the needs of the Borough Community.

Borough Council and the Mayor deliberated over the final interviews and accounted for all feedback received to date from Borough residents, community members, and businesses to select the best candidate for the Borough and the future of the Department.

In early March 2024, Borough Council selected a final candidate for the position of Chief of Police and offered the position to Dave Lennon, who has been serving as the Borough's Acting Chief and Lieutenant for the past 8.5 months. Dave graciously accepted the offer.

Ms. Sokolowski explained the purpose of this evening's agenda item is to formalize the terms of his employment agreement which have been negotiated and are ready for Council's formal consideration.

Ms. Sokolowski thanked all the candidates who applied to the Borough of Conshohocken and her fellow Search Committee members, Council members, and Mayor for their hard work and diligence throughout the entire process. She thanked the community who provided valuable input and feedback during the search process. She also thanked Dave Lennon for dedicating 23 years of his career to the Borough of Conshohocken and for continuing to serve the Borough community.

**Ms. Kingsley made a motion to approve a Chief of Police Employment Contract for David Lennon subject to final review by the Borough Solicitor and Borough Manager, seconded by Mr. Frey. The motion carried 7-0.**

**b.) Consider approving 105 E 10<sup>th</sup> Ave zoning escrow release in the amount of \$24.60 plus interest**

**Mr. Serna made a motion to approve 105 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue zoning escrow release in the amount of \$24.60 plus interest, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.**

**c.) Consider approving 227 Washington St. zoning escrow release in the amount of \$1097.57 plus interest**

**Ms. Kingsley made a motion to approve 227 Washington Street zoning escrow release in the amount of \$1097.57 plus interest, seconded by Mr. Serna. The motion carried 7-0.**

**d.) Consider approving 121 Maple St. zoning escrow release in the amount of \$42.13 plus interest**

**Mr. Serna made a motion to approve 121 Maple Street zoning escrow release in the amount of \$42.13 plus interest, seconded by Ms. Ellam. The motion carried 7-0.**

**e.) Consider approving 344 W 11<sup>th</sup> Ave zoning escrow release in the amount of \$311.03 plus interest**

**Ms. Ellam made a motion to approve 344 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue zoning escrow release in the amount of \$311.03 plus interest, seconded by Ms. Kingsley. The motion carried 7-0.**

## **COUNCIL AND MAYOR MATTERS**

Mayor Aronson shared photos from Daniel's second anniversary event and CHOP'S Spin-in event. Mayor Aronson also thanked everyone for making the Saint Patrick's Day Parade such a successful event.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Stephanie Cecco,  
Borough Secretary