

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, May 1, 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.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PRESENTATIONS

a.) Community Garden Presentation, Nicole Zapata, Chair

Nicole Zapata, Chair of the Conshohocken Community Garden, was present to provide an update on the Community Garden. Ms. Zapata discussed membership, recent projects and community engagement.

b.) Colonial Soccer Club Presentation, Chris Zeoli, Board Member

Chris Zeoli, Board Member, provided an overview of the Colonial Soccer Club. He stated that Colonial Soccer Club is a non-profit, volunteer-led organization serving youth communities of Conshohocken, Plymouth, Whitemarsh, and surrounding areas. He explained that the organization provides programming to approximately 1,800 kids with Conshohocken-based children accounting for 25% of the total. Mr. Zeoli asked Council to consider approving a relationship with Colonial Soccer Club as a youth organization in our community and allowing them use of the A & B Fields for practices, games and tournaments. Jim Jamison, President, discussed programming and services offered by the organization.

Ms. Cecco recommended that Borough Council consider approving Colonial Soccer Club use of Borough facilities based upon availability on the current recreation calendar. She stated that the request also includes the waiver of fees associated with the rental.

c.) Emergency Management Update, Emergency Management Personnel

Emergency Management personnel were present to provide an update on emergency management matters.

Calvin Perlman, Deputy Fire Chief, provided an update on the fire department's training programs and Fire Chief Tim Gunning provided an overview of the response statistics for 2023. He discussed the Quick Response Service (QRS) program, which provides emergency medical service by firefighters to the community in a non-transport quick response capability. He discussed community engagement activities, including Sprinkler Nights, smoke detector giveaway events, and open house events.

Police Chief Lennon discussed how the Borough has been utilizing the Schuylkill River flood gauge data to improve flood management. He also discussed the Borough's radio dispatch center, which provides software-based communication between dispatchers and field personnel during large-scale events. Chief Lennon shared that the Borough's Drone Unit recently conducted two (2) successful river rescue operations.

Ray Sokolowski, Emergency Management Coordinator, discussed the overall operation of the Emergency Management Department and the relationship between the volunteer fire companies, Narberth Ambulance and the municipality.

LAND USE MATTERS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES

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

COUNCIL BUSINESS

There was no Council business.

MANAGER MATTERS

a.) Consider accepting the resignation of a Friends of Conshohocken Parks member

Mr. Serna made a motion to accept the resignation of Annika Petroski from the Friends of Conshohocken Parks, seconded by Ms. Kingsley. The motion carried 7-0.

b.) Consider awarding a contract for the 2024 Liquid Fuels Road Program

Ms. Cecco stated that the Borough Engineer conducted a contractor responsibility review and has deemed the contractor, and all listed subcontractors, to be responsible in accordance with the Borough's Responsible Contractor Ordinance.

Ms. Barton made a motion to award the 2024 Liquid Fuels Road Program contract to Scott Contractors, Inc. for the base bid and alternate bid no. 1 in the amount of \$914,570 plus engineering costs, contingent upon receiving authorization to award from all funding agencies, seconded by Mr. Serna. The motion carried 7-0.

c.) Consider approving a block party request for the 400 Block of East Ninth Avenue

Mr. Frey made a motion to approve a block part request for the 400 block of East Ninth Avenue on Saturday, August 24, 2024, contingent upon final review and approval by Borough Administration, seconded by Ms. Kingsley. The motion carried 7-0.

d.) Consider approving a block party request for Pleasant Valley Homes Development

Ms. Ellam made a motion to approve a block part request for Pleasant Valley Homes Development on Saturday, May 11, 2024, contingent upon final review and approval by Borough Administration, 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

Mayor Aronson shared that Alex Bland of Scout Troop 140 in Conshohocken is working towards completing his requirements for Eagle Scout. He explained that Alex's project is to better the community by making a bench and a lending library at the Fritz Lodge. He recognized the EAC for hosting a successful Greenfest event and shared that the Conshohocken Police Department participated in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. He also shared the VFW flag planting and Memorial Day services schedules.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joi Manas, 222 West Sixth Avenue, voiced concerns regarding commercial vehicles parking in her neighborhood. Chief Lennon explained that the ordinance prohibits overnight parking of certain trucks, trailers, vehicles, and equipment on the basis of weight, size, or type. Ms. Manas reported that vehicles are not stopping at the pedestrian crossings at 4th and 7th Avenues. Chief Lennon confirmed that the Police Department are evaluating and enforcing incidents at both of those intersections. He also discussed Pennsylvania State pedestrian law. Ms. Manas explained that cars are being parked too close to the alleyways, which makes it extremely difficult to see oncoming traffic when pulling out. Chief Lennon replied that creating restricted or no parking areas would eliminate street parking. Ms. Manas discussed potential safety concerns associated with vehicle window tinting. Chief Lennon provided an overview of Pennsylvania State vehicle window tint laws and confirmed that the Conshohocken Police Department is actively enforcing window tint regulations to maintain safety on the roads.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary