

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, March 6, 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 7:03 PM.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Council President announcements.

PRESENTATIONS

a.) Eagle Scout Presentation

Ms. Flanagan read a proclamation recognizing Brendan Flanagan for the completion of his Eagle Scout Service Project, which was the construction of a Conshohocken History Exhibition at Borough Hall. Mr. Flanagan thanked all parties who assisted with the exhibition.

b.) Hearing regarding a waiver of off-street parking for 103 Fayette Street, PokeOno

Chris Stetler, Borough Zoning Officer, explained that the applicant is proposing a restaurant use at the site, which has no off-street parking. She introduced Andrew Danieli, owner of PokeOno, who was present to provide an overview of the business and answer any questions. He explained that PokeOno is a healthy, fast-casual restaurant serving Hawaiian poke bowls. He reviewed the hours of operation and number of employees.

He discussed a plan for employee parking, which included utilizing the Park-and-Ride commuter lot and incorporating parking policies in new hire materials. He confirmed that he would continue to partner with the Borough on additional parking alternatives.

He also reviewed customer parking. He stated that he expects a large percent of customers to utilize delivery platforms and their online ordering service. He also discussed the idea of offering curbside pickup.

Council asked questions regarding number of tables and curbside pickup, which Mr. Danieli answered.

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve a waiver of off-street parking for 103 Fayette Street, PokeOno, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 7-0.

c.) Public Services Update, Ray Sokolowski, Executive Director of Operations

Ray Sokolowski, Executive Director of Operations, provided an update on the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) Tree Planting and the Emergency Management Drill.

Mr. Sokolowski shared that the Borough, in conjunction with the EAC, would be planting a variety of fifteen (15) bare root trees at the B-Field during an EAC community event on April 27, 2019. He presented a sketch, which provided the proposed location and types of trees to be planted.

Mr. Sokolowski shared that the Emergency Management Drill is scheduled for June 22, 2019. He provided a brief overview of the event, reviewed the active participants and emphasized the importance of proper notification of the event.

d.) Recreation Services Update, Lauren Irizarry, Director of Recreation

Lauren Irizarry, Director of Recreation Services, provided an update on Recreation Services. Ms. Irizarry shared that the Spring/Summer activity guide was released in January. She reported an increase in participation in several programs, such as Soccer Shots, Ballet with Lawren, Tiny Tots Open Play and Conshohocken Little League Baseball Clinic. She also reported a \$50,000 increase in revenue due to an increase in park and facility rentals and recreation programming. Ms. Irizarry provided an overview of 2019 initiatives, which included implementing a bulk email communication service and offering an in-house summer camp. She discussed upcoming events for the spring and summer and reflected on her first year as Director of Recreation.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

a.) Conduct interviews for Board and Commission vacancies

Ms. Cecco stated that one of the applicants, Holly Holst, was unable to attend and would be rescheduled for an interview.

Ms. Cecco introduced Timothy Snyder, 236 West 3rd Avenue, who was present to interview for the vacancy on the EAC. Mr. Snyder provided an overview of his involvement with the EAC, which included the establishment of the Tree Shade Commission. Ms. Barton inquired about his professional background. He discussed his work experience, training programs and education in horticulture. Ms. Barton inquired about goals for the Shade Tree Commission. He responded that he hopes to educate residents on proper tree planting and maintenance as well as on the benefits of trees. He also discussed contributing to the aesthetic quality of Borough streets and public areas. Ms. Leonard asked if there is a specific initiative of the EAC that he is most passionate about. Mr. Snyder discussed the importance of environmental education for children.

Ms. Cecco introduced William Adlin, 230 East 6th Avenue, who was present to interview for the vacancy on the EAC. Mr. Adlin shared his day-to-day, environmentally friendly actions. He discussed his background as an elementary school teacher and how he implements environmental education in the classroom. Ms. Flanagan asked how he would educate children as a member of the EAC. He discussed garden-based learning, sustainability activities, and empowering children to take positive environmental actions.

Ms. Cecco introduced Sarah Kratz, 336 East Hector Street, who was present to interview for the vacancy on the Dog Park Advisory Committee. Ms. Kratz shared her background as a dog owner and member of the Riverside Dog Park. She discussed how the Committee could partner with and support local rescues and charities. She also discussed implementing dog play dates and scheduled meet ups to foster socialization. Ms. Kratz explained how her professional background in business administration could benefit the Committee.

b.) Consider appointing applicants to the Parking Task Force

Ms. Cecco reviewed the composition of the Parking Task Force, per the resolution, and listed the individuals who were interviewed for appointment to the Parking Task Force. The applicants included: Mary Ann Costello, Rita Montemayor, Julian Miraglia, Betty Stanley, James Flanagan and Stacy Ellam.

Mr. Stokley made a motion to appoint applicants to the Parking Task Force, seconded by Ms. Tutino. There was a roll call vote. The motion carried 6-1. (Yes - Tutino, Griffin, Sokolowski, Barton, Stokley, Flanagan; No - Leonard).

MANAGER MATTERS

- a.) **Ratify and confirm the approval of the January-ending Treasurer’s Report and Accounts Payable**

Mr. Stokley made a motion to ratify and confirm the approval of the January-ending Treasurer’s Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$1,106,359.34, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.

- b.) **Ratify and confirm the authorization of Special Counsel (Obermayer) to file an appeal to the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas of the Zoning Hearing Board’s decision on the substantive validity challenge to Ordinance 2018-07**

Ms. Leonard made a motion to ratify and confirm the authorization of Special Counsel (Obermayer) to file an appeal to the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas of the Zoning Hearing Board’s decision on the substantive validity challenge to Ordinance 2018-07, seconded by Ms. Flanagan. Mr. Griffin voted to oppose the motion. The motion carried 6-1.

- c.) **Ratify and confirm the DCED letter for grant extension, 51 Washington Street**

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to ratify and confirm the DCED letter for the grant extension for 51 Washington Street, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.

- d.) **Consider approving Resolution 2019-04 authorizing the submittal of the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Application**

Ms. Cecco explained that the Borough submitted an application for funding to the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Program for accessibility and safety improvements at the B-Field, specifically the construction of sidewalks. She reviewed the estimated total cost of the project and the requirement of matching funds.

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-04 authorizing the submittal of the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Application, seconded by Ms. Flanagan. The motion carried 7-0.

- e.) **Consider approving Resolution 2019-05 establishing temporary traffic restrictions on West Second Avenue**

Ms. Cecco shared that due to infrastructure conditions and construction currently occurring in the area, Borough Administration has identified the need for traffic restrictions on West Second Avenue. She explained that the proposed resolution would temporarily limit traffic on West Second Avenue to one-way traffic in the westerly direction (Fayette Avenue towards Forrest Street) and restrict traffic in the easterly direction (Forrest Street towards Fayette Street).

Ms. Tutino made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-05 establishing temporary traffic restrictions on West Second Avenue, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 7-0.

- f.) **Consider adopting Ordinance 03-2019 amending regulations of the Vehicles and Traffic Ordinance**

Ms. Cecco explained that Ordinance 03-2019 would establish three 2-hour parking spaces along the west side of the 400 block of Fayette Street, in front of Borough Hall. She added that the proposed parking regulations accommodate the business needs of Tower Health Urgent Care.

Ms. Flanagan made a motion to adopt Ordinance 03-2019 amending regulations of the Vehicles and Traffic Ordinance, seconded by Ms. Sokolowski. The motion carried 7-0.

- g.) **Consider authorizing the donation to the Conshohocken Soap Box Derby**

Ms. Cecco stated that the requested donation is a budgeted item for 2019.

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to authorize a donation to the Conshohocken Soap Box Derby, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.

- h.) **OPEB Trust**

- a. Consider approving the creation of a GASB qualified Trust for Other Post Employment Benefits
- b. Consider approving the investment advisory agreement with PFM Asset Management for the Borough's OPEB Trust
- c. Consider authorizing the Borough Manager to serve as the Borough's authorized officer and plan administrator for the Other Post Employment Benefits Plan
- d. Consider authorizing the Borough Manager to execute documents related to the generation of the OPEB Trust

Ms. Cecco shared that the Borough is currently working to ensure compliance with new Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) regulations. She explained that the Borough needs to create a GASB qualified Trust in order to pre-fund all or some of the liability generated from other post-employment benefits.

Ms. Cecco added two items to the agenda.

Ms. Cecco explained that the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) requires that the Borough designate a voting delegate to represent the Borough at the PSAB Conference. **Ms. Tutino made a motion to designate Anita Barton as the voting delegate at the PSAB Conference, seconded by Ms. Leonard. The motion carried 7-0.**

Ms. Cecco shared a rendering of the proposed Tower Health sign for Borough Hall for approval by Council. Council asked questions regarding the illumination of the sign and overall approval process for tenant signage, which Ms. Cecco answered. **Ms. Leonard made a motion to approve the Tower Health sign, seconded by Ms. Sokolowski. The motion carried 7-0.**

DEPARTMENT MATTERS

There were no department matters.

LEGAL MATTERS

There were no legal matters.

COUNCIL MEMBER AND MAYOR MATTERS

There were no Council Member and Mayor matters.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Costello thanked Council for their continued support of the Soapbox Derby and requested that the Borough advertise event details, such as registration dates and volunteer opportunities.

Mayor Aronson expressed condolences to the family and friends of Paul McConnell and stated that a memorial celebration is being scheduled in Conshohocken. He shared details about an upcoming CPR class in March and an EAC Neighborhood Cleanup on April 13, 2019.

Mr. Stokley reminded everyone that the St. Patrick's Day Parade is March 16, 2019 at 2:00pm.

Ms. Barton voiced her excitement about the Shade Tree Commission.

Ms. Flanagan shared that the next Mary Wood Park Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 11, 2019.

Mr. Griffin thanked Public Services for their hard work on the snow removal.

Ms. Tutino expressed condolences to the family and friends of Paul McConnell. She provided an update on the Parking Task Force.

Superintendent Metz reminded everyone about the Conshy Classic 5k, which precedes the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Timothy Snyder, 236 West 3rd Avenue, shared that the Conshohocken United Methodist Church would be hosting a Spotted Lanternfly Seminar on March 9, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary