

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, February 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 6:59 PM.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Council President announcements.

PRESENTATIONS

a.) Introduction of Full-Time and Part-Time Firefighters

Ray Sokolowski, Executive Director of Operations, reviewed the qualifications, certifications and professional backgrounds for each of the new part-time firefighters, Anthony Rambo, Michael Kopp, Wayne Masters and Robert Curl. He introduced the new full-time firefighter, Steve Young, who was present, and provided a summary of his resume.

b.) Hearing regarding a waiver of off-street parking for 100 Fayette Street, Nudy's Café

Ms. Cecco introduced the item and invited Aaron Weems, the applicant's attorney, to the podium. Mr. Weems presented a proposal for off-street parking for Nudy's Café. He explained that the applicant is working to finalize an agreement with St. Mary's Church to lease twenty (20) parking spaces. He reviewed the terms of the agreement. Mr. Weems added that the applicant would also provide to its employees a shuttle service from the Park-and-Ride on Matsonford Road to the restaurant.

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve the waiver of off-street parking for 100 Fayette Street, Nudy's Café, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.

c.) Presentation of EAC Annual Report, Matthew Breidenstein, Chair of the EAC

Matthew Breidenstein, Chair of the EAC, and Domenic Rocco, Vice Chair of the EAC, presented the EAC Annual Report. Mr. Rocco provided an overview of the 2018 programs and initiatives, which included an increase in community outreach through social media and the Friends of the EAC and the establishment of the Green Conshy Business Recognition Program, the Green Energy Team, the Shade Tree Commission and a non-profit corporation to facilitate fundraising for initiatives and a newsletter. Mr. Rocco also discussed the EAC's continued commitment to recycling and community cleanup and green stormwater management.

Mr. Breidenstein discussed goals for 2019, which included continuing community engagement and education, fully implementing the Rain Barrel Program, launching the Green Business Recognition Program, passing a green energy resolution and transition plan, conducting a planting event and community cleanup events and assessing shade trees in the Borough.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

a.) 113 West Fourth Avenue Zoning Hearing Board Application

Chris Stetler, Zoning Officer, provided an overview of the application. She stated that the applicant is proposing to convert a carriage house, formerly used as a home business, into an apartment. She explained that a variance is required to restore the additional dwelling unit and for off-street parking.

The applicant, Joseph Miller, was present to answer any questions. Mr. Miller provided photographs of existing conditions, additional information about the history of the site and current requests for zoning relief. He confirmed that tenants of the proposed apartment would be prohibited from parking in the alley.

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve sending a letter of recommendation to the Zoning Hearing Board for 114 West Fourth Avenue, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 7-0.

b.) 720 Fayette Street Zoning Hearing Board Application

Ms. Stetler explained that the applicant is requesting to lease flex space in the building for social and community events, which expands the accessory uses beyond those of the real estate business.

Gary Jonas of HOW Property Group was present to answer any questions. Ms. Leonard asked about the type of public events that would be held there. Mr. Jonas replied social functions, such as baby and bridal showers, birthday parties and business luncheons. Ms. Flanagan inquired about total occupancy for the space. Susan Callanen of HOW Property Group stated that she is working with the Department of Licenses and Inspections to determine occupancy of the flex space.

Mr. Griffin made a motion to approve sending a letter of recommendation to the Zoning Hearing Board for 720 Fayette Street, seconded by Ms. Leonard. The motion carried 7-0.

c.) Consider authorizing the Montgomery County Saint Patrick's Parade Committee to hold the 2019 St. Patrick's Day Parade in Conshohocken

Ms. Cecco stated that the Montgomery County Saint Patrick's Parade Committee requested permission to hold the 2019 annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade in Conshohocken on Fayette Street on March 16, 2019.

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to approve the Saint Patrick's Day Parade, the sale and public consumption of alcoholic beverages and the waiver of Borough personnel fees, seconded by Ms. Leonard. The motion carried 7-0.

d.) Consider approving the Annual Conshy Classic 5k

Ms. Cecco explained that the annual Conshy Classic 5k is held prior to the St. Patrick's Day Parade and is fundraising event for the Conshohocken Fire Company No. 2.

Ms. Leonard made a motion to approve the annual Conshy Classic 5k, seconded by Ms. Flanagan. The motion carried 7-0.

e.) Consider authorizing advertisement of a Request for Proposals for Police Consulting Services

Ms. Cecco stated that the Borough plans to solicit proposals for advice regarding the operation and staffing of the police department, including specifically the aid in the Borough's search for a new Chief of Police. Ms. Cecco asked Council to review the draft request for proposal (RFP) and proposed timeline.

MANAGER MATTERS

a.) Consider 538 Spring Mill Avenue Financial Security Release in the amount of \$17,957.00

Ms. Cecco shared that the Borough received a request for a release of escrow for the land development project located at 538 Spring Mill Avenue. She explained that the Borough Engineer inspected the completed site improvements and prepared a recommended escrow release for approval by Council.

Mr. Griffin made a motion to authorize the release of 538 Spring Mill Ave Financial Security in the amount of \$17,957.00, seconded by Ms. Leonard. The motion carried 7-0.

b.) Consider approving Resolution 2019-02 authorizing the sale of Borough vehicles through Municibid

Ms. Cecco explained that Borough Administration has identified certain vehicles no longer of use to the Borough per the vehicle depreciation schedule. She reviewed the minimum bids for each vehicle and the conditions of the sale.

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-02 authorizing the sale of Borough vehicles through Municibid, seconded by Ms. Tutino. The motion carried 7-0.

c.) Consider approving Resolution 2019-03 establishing temporary one-way traffic restrictions on West First Avenue and Robinson Alley

Ms. Cecco explained that due to the construction currently occurring at the SORA West location, administration identified the need for one-way travel on West First Avenue between Fayette Street and Robinson Alley and on Robinson Alley. Ms. Cecco stated that traffic would be limited to one-way travel temporarily for a period of 90 days.

Ms. Flanagan made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-03 establishing temporary one-way traffic restrictions on West First Avenue and Robinson Alley, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.

d.) Consider authorizing advertisement of Ordinance No. 03-2019 Vehicles and Traffic Ordinance Amendment

Ms. Cecco explained that the proposed ordinance amendment would establish two 15-minute parking spaces at the intersection of Hollowell Street and East 8th Avenue and three 2-hour parking spaces in front of Borough Hall. Ms. Flanagan shared that she received feedback from residents of East 8th Avenue and asked Council to consider creating one 15-minute parking space on Hollowell Street only. After some discussion, Council decided to remove the parking regulations on Hollowell Street and East 8th Avenue from the proposed ordinance amendment and agreed to allow the Parking Task Force to evaluate parking regulations in that area.

Ms. Leonard made a motion to authorize advertisement of Ordinance No. 03-2019 amended to include only the addition of parking regulations to Fayette Street, seconded by Ms. Tutino. The motion carried 7-0.

Ms. Cecco added an item to the agenda. Ms. Cecco asked Council to consider authorizing administration to limit traffic on West Second Avenue to one-way traffic in the westerly direction (Fayette Street towards Forrest Street) and to restrict traffic in the easterly direction (Forrest Street towards Fayette Street). Mr. Sokolowski provided reasoning for the recommendation, which included safety concerns and increased traffic. Council authorized Borough Administration to restrict traffic on West Second Ave from Forrest Street to Fayette Street.

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

Tina Friend, 144 West 8th Ave, commented on the Vehicles and Traffic Ordinance Amendment. She asked Council to consider creating one 15-minute parking space on Hollowell Street only.

Donald Morrison, 303 East 6th Avenue, asked residents and Council to be considerate of business owners during the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Mayor Aronson announced that vendor applications are being accepted for the 2019 Arts Festival and Car Show. He reminded residents that the Conshohocken Police Department will be hosting a CPR Class at the Conshohocken Brewing Company on March 23, 2019.

Mr. Stokley inquired about the vacation of Burns Plaza. Mr. Peters confirmed that he would research the history the roadway and vacation procedures.

Ms. Barton provided a Sewer Authority update, which included the reorganization of the Board.

Ms. Sokolowski thanked Council and administration for making the Fire Department a priority.

Ms. Flanagan announced that the Conshohocken Free Library will be hosting its annual Murder Mystery fundraiser on March 1, 2019.

Mr. Griffin voiced a concern about residents leaving their trash and recycling at the curb following a holiday.

Ms. Tutino shared that Council interviewed applicants for the Parking Task Force.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary