

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: James Griffin, Council President
Karen Tutino, Council Vice-President
Robert Stokley, Senior Council Member
Anita Barton, Council Member
Tina Sokolowski, Council Member
Colleen Leonard, Council Member
Jane Flanagan, Council Member
Robert Frost, Mayor

ALSO PRESENT: Richard J. Manfredi, Borough Manager
Michael J. Savona, 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. Mr. James Griffin, Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PRAYER FOR COUNCIL

Ms. Jane Flanagan read a Prayer for Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Manfredi announced on behalf of Mr. Griffin that an Executive Session was held immediately prior to the meeting to discuss matters of litigation and real estate.

PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Manfredi shared that the first item on the agenda was the Comprehensive Plan consulting proposals. He explained that representatives from the two consulting firms that submitted proposals for consideration were present to review their proposals that evening and answer any questions that Council may have.

a.) Simone Collins - Peter Simone

Mr. Griffin then invited Mr. Peter Simone, Principal of Simone Collins Landscape Architecture, to the podium. Mr. Simone shared the history of the firm and introduced two other team members that were also present, Mr. Pankaj Jobanputra of Simone Collins and Ms. Natasha Manbeck of McMahon Associates, that would work with the Borough if his firm were retained. Mr. Simone then shared a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the key elements of the Simone Collins proposal and distributed a handout to Council. Mr. Simone invited Council to ask any questions that they may have on the proposal and Ms. Flanagan, Ms. Sokolowski, and Mr. Stokley asked questions of Mr. Simone prior to the conclusion of the presentation.

b.) Boucher & James - Judy Stern Goldstein

Mr. Griffin invited Ms. Judy Stern Goldstein of Boucher & James to the podium to share her proposal next. Ms. Goldstein, one of the firm's managing directors, shared information about the

company, the team who would work on the Comprehensive Plan and the approach that her firm would take if retained. Ms. Goldstein invited questions and Council inquired about the proposal before moving to the next agenda matter.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Manfredi read and introduced the consent agenda items.

- a.) **Accept the February-ending Treasurer's report and approve accounts payable.**
- b.) **Approve and adopt the curb cut permit ordinance.**
- c.) **Authorize Ordinance Amendment for Dog Friendly Park.**

Ms. Tutino made a motion to approve consent agenda items a.) through c.) as listed, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a.) **Public hearing for the historic conservation overlay**

Mr. Manfredi requested that Mr. Savona conduct the public hearing for the historic conservation overlay. Mr. Savona opened the hearing at 7:35 PM. Following his testimony and a call for public comment for which none was received, the hearing was adjourned at 7:41 PM. Following the hearing, as advertised, Mr. Savona requested that the Council consider a motion to approve the ordinance.

Ms. Barton made a motion approve the adoption of the ordinance, seconded by Ms. Tutino. The motion carried 7-0.

- b.) **Authorize advertisement of SP-4 Ordinance**

Mr. Manfredi then requested that Mr. Savona address the second matter of unfinished business. Mr. Savona explained that the Council had been considering various iterations of the SP-4 Ordinance and had completed the required public hearings for the ordinance; as a result, the ordinance has been revised to address Council's concerns and he highlighted the significant changes that were made. Mr. Savona explained that, because the changes that were made were substantive changes, the Borough would be required to re-submit the ordinance to the Borough and County Planning Commissions for another review and advertise an additional public hearing.

Ms. Flanagan made a motion to authorize advertising the SP-4 Ordinance as amended for it to return for a hearing at a later date on another agenda, seconded by Ms. Sokolowski. Mr. Stokley recused himself from the vote and the motion carried 6-0.

- c.) **Authorize advertisement of Ordinance for medical marijuana zoning use**

Mr. Manfredi introduced the matter and explained that Mr. Savona has had discussions both with other entities and Council and it was Mr. Manfredi's recommendation that the item be removed from the agenda that evening and placed on a future Council agenda if it is necessary; Council did not voice any objection. Mr. Manfredi also shared that he would be adding an item g.) that he would explain with Council's consent and then requested that Ms. Sokolowski address the remaining items d.) and e.) as they relate to the Comprehensive Plan Task Force.

- d.) **Consider Applicants for Comprehensive Plan Task Force: Ms. Sokolowski, Member**

Ms. Sokolowski shared that the Borough had received sixteen applications in total for the Comprehensive Plan Task Force and that the final three interviews were being conducted that evening.

- i. **First Interview**

Ms. Sokolowski called for Mr. Edward Garbacz to interview first before Council for the Comprehensive Plan Task Force. Ms. Sokolowski began by asking Mr. Garbacz to tell Council about himself; Mr. Garbacz shared that he is a native of Conshohocken and is now retired but he

had been a teacher for forty-seven years. Ms. Sokolowski inquired about what interests him in becoming involved with the task force and Mr. Garbacz replied that he is retired and he would like to give back and help better the community; he also shared several other volunteer activities that he participates in. Mr. Garbacz shared that he would like to see the Comprehensive Plan address the growing number of renters in the Borough to make the municipality more family-oriented and that he would also like to build on the children's programming as well as programming for seniors. Ms. Sokolowski also asked other questions about what he believed his role would be in getting the word out about the new plan to Borough residents and if he had anything that he would like to share with the Council and he added that he is a good listener and that he would like to get involved and give back. Mr. Garbacz was permitted to ask any questions that he had for Council and he inquired about the timelines and meeting for the new plan; Ms. Sokolowski addressed his questions in detail before thanking him for his time.

ii. Second Interview

Mr. Griffin then called for the second interviewee, Ms. Stacy Ellam. Ms. Ellam shared that she grew up in the Borough, is now raising her daughter here and that she had previously worked as a schoolteacher. In response to Ms. Sokolowski's second question, Ms. Ellam shared that she is interested in getting involved with the task force because the Borough is at a crossroads and there are a lot of big plans and ideas being discussed that may or may not happen but she would like to preserve the community she loved and grew up in for her daughter. Ms. Ellam shared that her special interests that she would like the Comprehensive Plan to address included thoughtful use of open space and that the constituents are heard. Ms. Sokolowski asked how Ms. Ellam could see the new plan getting socialized following adoption and Ms. Ellam replied that personal contact and talking with people would be a great way to ensure that the message is shared. Before concluding Ms. Ellam's interview, Ms. Sokolowski asked Ms. Ellam if there was anything that she would like to share with Council and Ms. Ellam shared that she would love to be part of the task force and that she is excited about moving the Borough into the 21st century while still retaining the small-town feel. Ms. Sokolowski then thanked Ms. Ellam for her time and requested the final interviewee.

iii. Third Interview

Mr. Manfredi announced that Mr. Thomas Lonergan, Jr. was scheduled as the third and final interview that evening but he was not present for his interview.

e.) Consider Appointments to Comprehensive Plan Task Force

Ms. Sokolowski then distributed a listing of all of the candidates that had interviewed to be on the Comprehensive Plan Task Force and requested that the members of Council review the information and rank the candidates so that the results could be forwarded to Mr. Manfredi by the following Wednesday. Mr. Manfredi received confirmation from Ms. Sokolowski that it was her intention to have the new task force members ratified at a future meeting.

f.) Consider approving Planning Consultant for Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Manfredi also received confirmation from Ms. Sokolowski that she would like to approve the planning consultant at a future meeting.

Mr. Manfredi then explained that he had asked Council at the work session for authorization to bind the Borough for insurance for the year beginning April 1, 2017 through 2018. He shared that he and Ms. Cecco, the Assistant to the Borough Manager, had been working with Cohen Partners to justify all the Borough's premiums and shared that the annual cost will be within two thousand dollars of the current year's premium that is expiring. The renewal will be \$608, 307.00. Mr. Manfredi also requested that Council authorize the binding of the insurance for the 2017 renewal at a number to not exceed the \$608, 307.00, with the premiums to the broker to not exceed \$31, 507.80, in broker fees. Travelers Insurance would provide the insurance with the exception of the worker's compensation for the volunteer fire company and the Pennsylvania State Workers Insurance Fund.

Ms. Barton made a motion to bind the insurance with Travelers and the State Workers Insurance Fund at \$608, 307.00 with the commissions at \$31, 507.80, seconded by Ms. Sokolowski. The motion carried 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Manfredi announced that no new business had been scheduled.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Griffin called for public comment. Mr. Steve Forino of 5th and Maple then approached the podium and inquired if any other insurance proposals were offered and Mr. Manfredi explained that the Borough had selected Cohen Partners as its broker of record the prior year and that Travelers has been the only company to work with the Borough to provide a quote on all requested insurances.

Ms. Esther Pulver of 1205 Hallowell asked for clarification on the FAR and height included in the second half of the zoning amendment that was approved that evening. Mr. Savona explained that the amendment allows for a conditional use hearing to be held to address increased height in the SP-1 and SP-2 districts so long as there is demonstrated compliance with the conditional use criteria that resolves the issue between floor area ratio that is permitted and building height.

Mr. Don Heebner and Mr. Tom Cassidy of the Conshohocken Plymouth Whitemarsh Rotary Club shared information about the organization and made a request that Council permit the Beer Festival fundraiser, that helps them fund their community-based service initiatives, to be held at the A-Field on October 14th with Sunday the 15th as a rain date.

Ms. Devin Boyle, who resides at 79 Harry Street, asked if it was too late to submit her name for the Comprehensive Plan Task Force and, if so, what other ways she could become involved. Ms. Sokolowski replied that the task force was closed but Ms. Boyle should provide her contact information so that she can be contacted when another opportunity to get involved arises.

Ms. Leonard commented that the St. Patrick's Day Parade was a great time and that there was an excellent turnout.

Mr. Stokley expressed that Public Works did a great job clearing the streets during the winter storms.

Ms. Flanagan agreed with Mr. Stokley regarding the roads and added that they also did wonderful work assisting with the parade. Ms. Barton shared that she was especially impressed with the cleanup efforts following the parade.

Ms. Sokolowski commented that March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month and shared that the spring activities guide is now available and included upcoming events at the Community Center at the Fel and the Conshohocken Rowing Center as well.

Finally, Mr. Griffin stated that he was very happy to see the audience turnout that evening at the meeting and invited everyone to come back and attend the public meetings when they are able.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi,
Borough Secretary