

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: James Griffin, Council 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: Stephanie Cecco, Interim 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 7:01 PM.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Council President announcements.

PRESENTATIONS

a.) FY 2018 Budget Presentation, Stephanie Cecco, Interim Borough Manager

Ms. Cecco provided an overview of the budget process and highlighted 2017 accomplishments for each department.

With regard to the 2018 proposed budget, Ms. Cecco reviewed the primary sources of revenue, which included various taxes and the fund balance. Ms. Cecco explained real estate tax in more detail, specifically highlighting how those revenue dollars are utilized. Ms. Cecco provided a breakdown of the specific categories that make up the operating revenues and of the operating expenditures by department. She noted that the overall increase in expenditures from 2017 to 2018 is 2.81% with the majority of the increase coming from contractual obligations, an increase in Recreation personnel and the Recreation operating budget. Ms. Cecco also provided an analysis of the general fund.

She shared highlights from the proposed 2018 budget, which included no tax increase, low renewal rate of health insurance, personnel additions and continued investment into future financial stability, public safety, Public Services, Parks and Recreation, grant matching, and professional services. Ms. Cecco also discussed departmental goals for 2018 and next steps in the budget process.

MANAGER MATTERS

a.) Consider approving an Addendum to the Police Collective Bargaining Unit for years 2018-2019.

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve an addendum to the Police Collective Bargaining Unit for the years 2018-2019, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 7-0.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

a.) Interview Consultant for Professional Services, Mary Wood Park House and Community Center at the Fellowship House Renovation, Seiler + Drury Architecture

Ms. Cecco provided an overview of the RFP process, detailing the timeline and tasks that were performed by Borough staff. She explained that Borough Administration made the recommendation to select Seiler + Drury for an interview based on the fact that the firm had a competitive low fee proposal for both projects and the firm also received positive recommendations from the references provided to the Borough.

Mr. Douglas Seiler approached the podium and introduced himself and his partner, Mr. Michael Drury. Mr. Seiler provided general information about the history of the firm and qualifications for all personnel and sub-consultants based on the scope of work described in the Request for Proposals. Mr. Seiler provided a summary as to why Seiler + Drury is a good fit for the Borough, specifically citing team proximity, expertise in building reuse and preservation, and experience with goal setting and budgeting when working with municipalities.

Ms. Flanagan asked which project in the firm's portfolio is most similar to the Community Center. Mr. Seiler referenced several projects, including the Private Foundation Recreation Center, the Montgomery School and various library projects, which demonstrated the firm's experience with planning, design and construction management related to recreational facilities.

Ms. Flanagan asked the same question regarding the Mary Wood Park House. Mr. Seiler provided a description of the firm's experience working with historic structures, specifically the Black Horse Inn and Selma Mansion. Mr. Seiler shared that the firm has assisted with creating appropriate reuse programs for historic buildings. These programs included replacement of roofs, new historic stucco, and rehabilitation of porches.

Ms. Flanagan asked how the firm plans to balance facility improvements to increase usefulness and efficiency, while maintaining historic character and physical preservation. Mr. Seiler shared that the firm is familiar with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Renovation of Historic Buildings and alternatives to such standards, which will assist with maintaining the integrity of the Mary Wood Park House.

Ms. Sokolowski asked Mr. Seiler to describe the firm's experience with space planning as it relates to recreational facilities. Mr. Seiler explained how his firm approaches space planning. He mentioned identifying use and function of the space, researching standards and discussing ideas based on those findings with stakeholders. Ms. Sokolowski also asked Mr. Seiler to explain how the firm steers stakeholders in the right direction. Mr. Seiler responded that having a budget discussion early on in the process is important.

DEPARTMENT MATTERS

There were no department matters for discussion.

LEGAL MATTERS

There were no legal matters for discussion.

COUNCIL MEMBER AND MAYOR MATTERS

There were no Council Member and Mayor matters for discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stephanie Maerten, 202 West 7th Avenue, discussed an issue regarding stray cats in her neighborhood. Ms. Barton inquired about ordinances, which pertain to stray animals and pets. Ms. Leonard suggested that Borough staff work with a local animal rescue organization. Ms. Cecco stated that she would contact Ms. Maerten to develop a plan of action.

Debbie Ellis, 149 West 4th Avenue, thanked the Conshohocken Police Department for hosting the Gun Safety Course. Ms. Ellis shared that the course was hands-on and informative and encouraged others to attend.

Carolee Rounsaville, 405 West 11th Avenue, discussed the issue of parking, specifically around her home. Ms. Sokolowski stated that the Comprehensive Plan Task Force would address the parking issue in the Comprehensive Plan.

Julian Miraglia, 529 Fayette Street, voiced his concerns related to Provco Pineville Fayette, LP and the proposed Wawa. Mr. Savona encouraged Mr. Miraglia to advocate on this issue during the scheduled public hearing.

James Latta, 218 East 7th Avenue, asked Council to comment on an article from a local website, which detailed an issue between a Montgomery County elected official and a Conshohocken business owner. Council urged individuals involved in the article to report any transgressions to the appropriate parties.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Cecco,
Interim Borough Secretary