

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

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
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 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. Barton read the Prayer for Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Council President announcements.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations scheduled.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Griffin introduced the consent agenda and asked Mr. Manfredi to read and explain the items. Mr. Manfredi shared that items a.) through g.) were shared with Council and asked that they remove item g.) because only one bid was received and there were some concerns about it so it will be re-bid and, besides the removal of item g.), the items are as written and are in order for a motion, a second, and any questions. Mr. Stokley commented that, regarding the appointment of the solicitor on the agenda, he had asked that interviews be conducted. Mr. Savona clarified that Rudolph Clarke was being re-affirmed as the solicitor for the Civil Service Commission and that the Council does not actually appoint the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor. Mr. Manfredi reiterated the recently-adopted Council policy that, every vacancy for any board or commission, beginning immediately, will be interviewed.

- a.) Approve and adopt the December 2, 2015 and December 16, 2015 Borough Council Meeting Minutes.
- b.) Approve the December-ending Treasurer's Report.
- c.) Ratify the Investment Policy Statement for the Borough's Police and Fire Pension Plans.
- d.) Authorize the advertisement of the revised Floodplain Ordinance for the Borough.
- e.) Approve and adopt the Agreement Between the Colonial School District, Conshohocken Borough, the County of Montgomery and MC Roseland Washington Street LP.
- f.) Re-appoint Rudolph Clarke, LLC as Borough Civil Service Commission Solicitor and Borough Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor.
- g.) Award Leeland Mansion Flat Roof Replacement bid to Russell Roofing Company, Inc.

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve consent agenda items a.) through f.) Ms. Tutino seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-1, with Ms. Leonard in opposition.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a.) Consider Council vacancy.

Mr. Manfredi stated there was no other unfinished business other than the council vacancy that was included on the agenda in the event that Council wished to take action that evening. Mr. Manfredi asked council if it was their inclination to move the item forward and not to take action that evening and Council confirmed that they would not take action.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Manfredi had no new business for Council. Mr. Griffin asked Council if they had anything to share. Mr. Stokley shared that he was asked if there would be a flag pole installed at the new Borough Hall and Mr. Manfredi confirmed that there would be.

Mayor Frost commented that a child was hit at the alley down from 11th and Maple a few weeks ago because the driver of the vehicle did not stop before moving onto the street and struck the child on the sidewalk; the child did not suffer major injury but it could have been a disaster. Mayor Frost received an email from a resident requesting that a stop sign be placed at the street before the sidewalk and Mayor Frost asked that, if the Borough did place the stop sign, would it need to be replicated at every similar alley intersection. Ms. Barton and Mr. Stokley shared that they have experienced similar problems at the alleyways in their wards.

Mr. Savona commented that Council and the Borough do not control the alleys but they do control the access onto the streets. He suggested that either Mr. Harvey Buek, Public Works Superintendent, or the police department conduct a survey of all of the similar locations with this issue so they could all be addressed uniformly. Mr. Savona continued that the Borough is due to update its traffic ordinance and this issue can be addressed in it but, to address the matter immediately, the Mayor has the authority under the Borough Code to order the erection of a stop sign on a temporary 90-day basis and would do so by issuing the Public Works Superintendent a letter of direction to do so.

Mr. Stokley commented that the Borough needs to take the alleys back and to maintain them and that the signs in the crosswalks should be removed from Fayette Street because traffic moves too quickly for crossing to be safe. Mr. Manfredi suggested that, if the Police Chief were inclined to

remove the signs, he should place the matter on a work session agenda to allow all of Council to comment. Ms. Barton commented that she has shared concerns about the street before and asked questions about which signs were required by law and which signs could be removed. Ms. Leonard inquired if signs could be erected stating that, for pedestrian safety, they should cross at an intersection with a stoplight. Mr. Manfredi then made a recommendation that, as this is a public safety matter, the Police Chief direct his traffic division to identify the locations they are concerned about and public works can erect signs in those locations. Council consented to follow Mr. Manfredi's recommendation to place the matter on a future agenda once the police have conducted their survey.

Mr. Griffin called for other comments and Ms. Barton stated that she would like to know the residents' thoughts on the matter. Mr. Joe Malzita commented that the issue is on-going and it happens at every street with a stop sign; only frequently placing an officer at each alley to ticket drivers for moving violations at the alleyways will rectify the situation.

Mr. Stokley commented that the Borough also needs to revisit their initiative to make sure all streetlights are in working order as well as alley lights. Mr. Manfredi stated that, because it was a Council goal, the Borough will continue to work on the project this year.

Mr. Dennis Beaver commented that there were issues with the alleys when he first moved to Conshohocken and, shortly thereafter, the Borough decided to pave the alleys; once the alleys were paved, people started to view the alleys as streets and there is no speed limit which he would suggest adding.

Ms. Rosemary Northcutt commented that, at Fayette Street, there is a speed limit of 25 MPH that needs to be enforced with additional signage and ticketing and that, once people start getting ticketed, it will make a difference. Mr. Manfredi replied that Ms. Barton advocated for crosswalk signals on Fayette at 4th and 7th and they have been budgeted for in 2016 and that will be ordered by mid-February and, also, the police have a presence on Fayette and he has seen them ticket individuals. Mr. Griffin reminded all that Fayette Street is a state road and the Borough is limited in what they can do by the state. Mr. Beaver commented that the Borough needs to go to the state to get assistance with traffic safety and, if they cannot assist, they should go to higher levels. Mr. Savona explained that the situation on Fayette Street would not have an easy solution.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi,
Borough Secretary