

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, July 20, 2016

PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: James Griffin, Council President
Karen Tutino, Council Vice-President
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 Conshohocken Borough Hall, 400 Fayette Street, Conshohocken, PA. Mr. James Griffin, Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

PRAYER FOR COUNCIL

Ms. Anita Barton read a Prayer for Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Council President announcements.

PRESENTATIONS

a.) CPW Rotary A-Field Beer Garden Request: Ms. Renee DeCoskey, CPW Rotary Club President.

Mr. Manfredi provided the background of their request and introduced Mr. Matthew Breidenstein, a member of the CPW Rotary to elaborate. Mr. Breidenstein explained that the club was requesting to host their 2016 Conshohocken Beer Festival on October 15th from 1:00 - 5:00 PM at the A-Field. Mr. Breidenstein shared event details and made a request to use the in field during this year's event rather than just the perimeter as in 2014 when they held the same event at that location. Mr. Griffin asked Ms. Stephanie Cecco, Assistant to the Borough Manager, to offer her opinion on the subject and she explained that the turf management schedule, sprinkler system, and the types of events on the field would determine whether or not the club could use the in field without causing damage. Mr. Manfredi asked Ms. Cecco if there were a scenario where there would be no issue and they could setup and hold the event in a manner that it would not interfere with the field and Ms. Cecco replied that it could be accomplished. Council and

the Mayor asked several other clarifying questions about the event and, a resident, Ms. Judy Smith-Kressley, who was a member of the club during both of the previous beer garden events, attested to how clean the venue was left following the prior year's event. Mr. Manfredi inquired if Council was inclined to make a motion.

Ms. Tutino made a motion to grant approval of the CPW Rotary A-Field Beer Garden event as requested conditioned that all conditions as established by the Borough Manager and Borough Solicitor are met, seconded by Ms. Sokolowski. The motion carried 6-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Manfredi explained that he would provide background on each item of the consent agenda. He also shared that there was a gentleman present related to item g.) that he would like to introduce to share prior to Council's vote.

- a.) **Approve and adopt the June 1, 2016 and June 15, 2016 regular public meeting minutes.**
- b.) **Accept the June-ending Treasurer's Report.**

Mr. Manfredi added that the Treasurer's Report included the accounts payable.

- c.) **Approve and adopt Resolution 2016-10 appointing the Borough Manager (Manfredi) to serve as the Borough's delegate on the Montgomery County Tax Collection Committee and appointing the Assistant to the Borough Manager (Cecco) to serve as an alternate.**
- d.) **Approve and adopt Resolution 2016-11 appointing Angela Orr, Accountant, to serve as Applicant Agent for the FEMA Pennsylvania Severe Winter Storm and Snowstorm (DR-4267) Disaster Relief Grant.**
- e.) **Ratify the License Agreement between the Borough of Conshohocken and the Municipality of Norristown for the sale of the Borough's 1998 Ferrara Inferno fire truck.**
- f.) **Authorize the Borough to execute the Mutual Release Agreement for the 212 Wood Street land development.**
- g.) **Authorize the Borough Manager to execute the InR 457 Retirement Plan Consulting Agreement.**
- h.) **Authorize the Borough Manager to engage Cohen Law Group for Verizon cable franchise renewal services as submitted to the Montgomery County Consortium.**

Mr. Savona stated that a correction needed to be made to item e.) because the Borough was not selling the fire truck to Norristown; Norristown would be leasing the truck and the Borough would not be transferring the title.

Mr. Manfredi then explained that, in item h.), the Borough would be using the services of the same special counsel that assisted recently with the Comcast cable franchise renewal. Mr. Manfredi explained that the fee for services would be determined on how many total municipalities participate and other factors.

Mr. Manfredi asked Mr. Savona to explain item f.) and Mr. Savona shared that when a street is laid out in a Borough plan and it is not opened after twenty-one years, the ability to make that street a public street goes away but the street right-of-way remains as a private right-of-way to the property owners adjacent to it. In this case there was a title issued in terms in the existence of an old street right-away that runs from Wood Street along the property owned by Mr. Borkowski that leads to the Borough's 2nd Avenue Meadow; it is not used for any purpose but exists as a paper right-of-way that both the Borough and Mr. Borkowski have rights to. Mr. Savona further explained that, because

it effects the title of Mr. Borkowski's property, it needed to be addressed before the title company would allow him to close on the property. Mr. Savona explained that the most efficient way to do so is to mutually release the access rights that the Borough has to the paper street, which is the agreement's purpose, and executing the agreement would allow the project to proceed as Council had already approved it.

Ms. Sokolowski asked for an explanation of item g.) and Mr. Manfredi shared that he had been asked by two employees who are currently enrolled in DROP Accounts to research other investment alternatives. He explained the Borough had interviewed InR earlier in the year through the Act 44 process and that he had reached out to Mr. Michael Glackin, President of InR, to inquire about how they could assist Borough employees in planning for retirement with their 457 Plan. Mr. Manfredi then introduced Mr. Michael Glackin who was present that evening to provide his and the company's background and explain the 457 Plan.

Following Mr. Glackin's presentation, Mr. Manfredi re-read through the items on the agenda and explained that the only minor change was to item e.) regarding the lease of the fire truck rather than the sale. Mr. Griffin called for a motion.

Ms. Barton made a motion to accept consent agenda items a.) through h.) with the change to item e.) as explained by Mr. Manfredi. Ms. Sokolowski commented that she would vote to approve the consent agenda items including the Treasurer's Report but would abstain from a vote on the accounts payables since she had questions on them. Ms. Tutino seconded the vote and the motion carried 6-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a.) Consider approving or rejecting the bid for the Hector Street Streetscape project.

Mr. Manfredi introduced the item and invited Mr. Paul Hughes, Director of Engineering, Licenses and Inspections, to report on the matter. Mr. Hughes shared that bids were opened for the project on July 14th and there were two bidders; the low bidder was Ramos & Associates. Both bids were within the budgeted amount for the project but he recommends that Council consider a Notice of Intent to Award the project per the Borough's Responsible Contractor Ordinance. Ms. Sokolowski asked Mr. Hughes to share his opinion on why the costs were so high and he replied that it could be due to time of year and the number of bidders. She also asked if there were other options for re-greening than what were planned and Mr. Hughes replied that there were. Mr. Manfredi added that there are many other factors that affect the Hector Street project too besides re-greening such as storm water management systems and features to maintain ADA compliance. Ms. Sokolowski then inquired if the pieces of the project could be separated and Mr. Manfredi replied that it could be and Mr. Savona made a suggestion to ask staff to separate the project into its parts and bid it again with alternates.

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to reject the bid for the Hector Street Streetscape project as submitted and advertised and to break it down with alternates, Ms. Leonard seconded. The motion carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Manfredi commented that he had one final item to add to New Business based on discussions Council had with the Borough Solicitor. He asked if Council would consider authorizing the Borough Manager and Borough Solicitor to advertise a hearing to hear to proposed SP-4 zoning ordinance not earlier than September 2016.

Ms. Barton made a motion to authorize the Borough Manager and Borough Solicitor to advertise a hearing to hear to proposed SP-4 zoning ordinance not earlier than September 2016, seconded by Ms. Tutino. The motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Griffin called for public comment. Mr. Ed Sale, a resident of the Grande, thanked Council for their work regarding the comfort station amenity. He also asked if a crosswalk with white striping could be placed at Washington Avenue and Harry Street; Council consented to the request. His second request was that Council speak to their colleagues in West Conshohocken about the traffic light at the Marriott because it is causing excess traffic congestion. Mr. Manfredi stated that the two Boroughs jointly share a traffic engineer that has applied for grants to mitigate the issue at this location; the Borough is actively working to solve the issue.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi,
Borough Secretary