

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: Colleen Leonard, Council President
Tina Sokolowski, Council Vice-President
Robert Stokley, Senior Council Member
Anita Barton, Council Member
Jane Flanagan, 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. Colleen Leonard, Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Leonard announced that an Executive Session was held immediately prior to the meeting regarding legal and employment matters.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

LAND USE MATTERS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES

a.) Public Hearing on Conditional Use Application for 826-828 Fayette Street

Mr. Peters opened the public hearing and introduced the application. He explained that the applicant is seeking conditional use approval to expand the existing doctor's office located at 828 Fayette Street into the first and second floors of 826 Fayette Street. Chris Stetler, former Zoning Officer, provided the history of the site including prior approvals. Mark Danek, the applicant's attorney, presented an existing site plan and discussed the expansion proposal to the property. The applicant, Dr. Brett Neal, explained the business' need for expansion. He shared that the expansion would allow for additional waiting area and exam rooms. Dr. Neal discussed the number of employees and patients per doctor. He confirmed that the façade design would remain consistent with the building current façade. Mr. Peters called for public comment. There was no public comment. Mr. Peters closed the public hearing.

b.) Hearing regarding a Waiver of Off-Street Parking, 108 ½ Fayette Street

Ms. Stetler explained that the property owner is partnering with the owner of Edwards Freeman to operate a candy store at the site. She provided details about the property and reviewed the history of the site. She shared that the site has no off-street parking. The owner of the property, Karen Little, was present to answer any questions. Ms. Little provided an overview of the business and explained that she expects the candy store to be more of a pedestrian destination.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

a.) Conduct an interview for the position of Zoning Hearing Board Alternate

Ms. Leonard introduced Bernadette Moyer who was present to interview for the position of Zoning Hearing Board Alternate. Ms. Moyer discussed her interest in being involved with local planning decisions and shared her prior experience serving on the Borough's Shade Tree Commission. She described how zoning relates to her work in the landscape construction industry and reviewed the role of the Zoning Hearing Board.

MANAGER MATTERS

a.) Consider approving an RFP for Sutcliffe Park Basketball Courts

Ms. Cecco reviewed the draft RFP for the renovation of the Sutcliffe Park basketball court. She reviewed the proposed scope of services and timeline for the RFP.

b.) Consider approving a fee waiver request for an informational event at Sutcliffe Park

Ms. Cecco shared that a resident is requesting a fee waiver for the use of Sutcliffe Park on February 22, 2020 to hold an informational meeting for adult residents to discuss park safety and vandalism.

Mr. Stokley made a motion to approve the fee waiver request for an informational event at Sutcliffe Park conditioned upon the final event details being approved by the Chief of Police, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.

- c.) Consider approving 304 East Hector Street financial security release no. 1 in the amount of \$10,395.00

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve 304 East Hector Street financial security release no. 1 in the amount of \$10,395.00, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.

- d.) Consider approving 239-301 West Fourth Avenue (Phase II) financial security release no. 1 in the amount of \$70,032.50

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to approve 239-301 West Fourth Avenue (Phase II) financial security release no. 1 in the amount of \$70,032.50, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.

- e.) Consider approving Resolution 2020-02 authorizing the execution of the Municipal Winter Traffic Services Supplemental Agreement with PennDOT

Ms. Cecco shared that the Borough has an existing Winter Traffic Services Contract with PennDOT. She explained that PennDOT changed the way miles are computed and that a supplemental agreement is required to reflect the revised mileage.

Mr. Griffin made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-02 authorizing the execution of the Municipal Winter Traffic Services Supplemental Agreement with PennDOT, seconded by Ms. Flanagan. The motion carried 7-0.

- f.) Consider approving the submission of a grant application to the Transportation and Community Development Initiative through DVRPC

Ms. Cecco stated that the Borough of Conshohocken and Borough of West Conshohocken Administrations are recommending that Council consider submitting a joint municipal grant application for the Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI). She discussed that the application would focus on studying traffic improvement options to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow across the Matsonford Bridge. She explained how a study would allow the Borough to be eligible for future transportation infrastructure grants through PennDOT.

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve the submission of a grant application to the Transportation and Community Development Initiative through DVRPC and approve the allocation of approximately \$20,000.00 in matching grant funds should the application be selected, seconded by Ms. Flanagan. The motion carried 7-0.

- g.) Consider appointing Council Members to serve as the Voting Delegate and the Alternate Delegate at the 2020 PSAB Annual Conference

Ms. Cecco shared that Anita Barton expressed interest in serving as the Voting Delegate at the 2020 PSAB Annual Conference.

Ms. Tutino made a motion to appoint Anita Barton as the Voting Delegate for the Borough of Conshohocken at the 2020 PSAB Annual Conference, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 7-0.

- h.) Discussion on proposed parking regulations on Maple Street per the Parking Task Force

Ms. Cecco shared that the results of a recent study of the Parking Task Force identified an increase in construction employee vehicle parking on Maple Street. She explained that the Task Force is recommending that Council enact regulations to reduce the impact of construction employee parking in that area. Ms. Cecco reviewed the proposed regulations, which would establish a residential Permit Parking District on Maple Street between West Elm Street and West 3rd Avenue by resolution and establish 2-hour parking limit within the residential Permit Parking District from 6:00am to 6:00pm by ordinance. Council discussed the proposed regulations in more detail.

DEPARTMENT MATTERS

- a.) Consider approving Resolution 2020-03 resolving to collaborate with the National Fitness Campaign to implement an outdoor Fitness Court

Lauren Irizarry presented information on the National Fitness Campaign (NFC). She explained that the business model for the National Fitness Campaign is to partner with municipalities to help build funding and install an outdoor Fitness Court in communities. She provided details about the fitness elements of the Fitness Court. She explained that the Borough submitted a grant application to the NFC for participation in the 2021 initiative to install an outdoor Fitness Court. She asked Council to consider providing a local match of approximately \$100,000.00. She explained that final costs would be determined in the FY2021 budget cycle. Ms. Irizarry recommended installing the Fitness Court in Haines and Salvati Park.

LEGAL MATTERS

There were no legal matters.

COUNCIL MEMBER AND MAYOR MATTERS

There were no Council Member and Mayor matters.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dennis Beaver of the 400 block of West 10th Avenue spoke in support of appointing Bernadette Moyer as the Zoning Hearing Board Alternate. Mr. Beaver requested that Council exercise due diligence and inform the public on matters of the sewer system sale exploration. He suggested that an increase in public presence at Sutcliffe Park could help prevent vandalism. Mr. Beaver discussed parking near alleyways, specifically vehicles parking too close to the entrance or exit of alleys.

Ms. Sokolowski shared that several residents have reached out to her with concerns related to speeding in alleyways. Chief George Metz provided information related to traffic enforcement in the alleyways.

Bernadette Moyer, 416 West 10th Avenue, discussed issues related to commercial vehicles utilizing and parking in alleyways. Mr. Peters reviewed Borough code relative to commercial vehicles and alleyways.

Mayor Aronson thanked everyone who donated to the victims of the fire at Sherry Lake Apartments. He shared that he participated in Weeks of Welcome at Conshohocken Elementary School.

Mr. Stokley requested viewer statistics for the Borough’s TV channel. He inquired about the next phase of the rear house number ordinance that would require the installation and maintenance of rear house numbers for non-rental properties. Ms. Cecco shared administration’s plan to implement the requirement through the Use & Occupancy permit process.

Ms. Barton thanked Council for appointing her as the Voting Delegate at the PSAB Conference. She reviewed the process for submitting or supporting a resolution to be considered for formal adoption of the PSAB Conference.

Ms. Sokolowski provided an update on the Friends of Conshohocken Parks. She shared that the non-profit organization’s event scheduled for May 2020 has been canceled in order to focus on fundraising and promotion.

Ms. Tutino shared that Temple University graduate students have begun work on their Borough wide parking study. She explained that the students are requesting to utilize a Borough facility to host a public forum to gather information for their parking study. Council supported this request.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary