

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

PUBLIC MEETING held via GoToMeeting video/teleconference

PRESENT: Tina Sokolowski, Council Vice-President
Robert Stokley, Senior Council Member
Anita Barton, Council Member
James Griffin, Council Member
Kathleen Kingsley, Council Member
Yaniv Aronson, Mayor

ALSO PRESENT: Stephanie Cecco, Borough Manager
Michael E. Peters, Borough Solicitor

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CDBG APPLICATION

Chris Stetler, Community Development and Grant Coordinator, opened the public hearing on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program application. Ms. Stetler shared that the Borough is eligible to receive \$134,798.00 in federal funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). She explained that the funds must be used to benefit low- and moderate-income residents. She discussed eligible uses for CDBG funds. Ms. Stetler asked for public comment on how the funds should be spent. She provided examples of projects previously funded by the CDBG grant. There was no public comment.

CALL TO ORDER

The Public Meeting of the Conshohocken Borough Council duly advertised, was held remotely using the GoToMeeting platform. Tina Sokolowski, Council Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

PRAYER FOR COUNCIL

Ms. Barton read a Prayer for Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Sokolowski thanked everyone for attending the virtual Council meeting. She reviewed the meeting logistics and participation instructions.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

LAND USE, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES

- a.) **Consider approving Resolution 2021-16 approving preliminary/final land development for 400 West Elm Street**

Mr. Peters provided a brief overview of the application which consists of the construction of a multifamily residential building with 348 units and 427 parking spaces. He explained that the project was granted conditional use approval to permit a multifamily residential use in the SP-3 Zoning District and variances for building bulk and development in the floodplain. Mr. Peters reviewed the requested waivers and conditions of approval per the proposed resolution.

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-16 approving preliminary/final land development for 400 West Elm Street, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 5-0. (Leonard and Tutino absent)

Mr. Peters explained that the applicant is proposing to provide recreational amenities in order to increase the permitted building height by 50 feet to a maximum height of 135 feet. He reviewed the conditions of approval for the height bonus.

Mr. Griffin made a motion to grant a height bonus of 50 feet pursuant to section 1608.8 of the Conshohocken Zoning Ordinance to permit a residential building as described in Resolution 2021-16 with a maximum building height of 135 feet, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 5-0. (Leonard and Tutino absent)

- b.) **Consider approving Resolution 2021-17 approving preliminary/final minor subdivision and land development for 333 West 7th Avenue**

Mr. Peters provided a brief overview of the application which consists of the demolition of all existing structures, the subdivision of the single lot into two (2) lots and the construction a single-family demi-

detached dwelling. He reviewed the requested waivers and conditions of approval per the proposed resolution.

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-17 approving preliminary/final minor subdivision and land development for 333 West 7th Avenue, seconded by Ms. Kingsley. The motion carried 5-0. (Leonard and Tutino absent)

- c.) **Consider adopting Ordinance 06-2021 repealing Ordinance 02-2021 conveying the Sewer Authority to the Borough of Conshohocken**

Mr. Peters stated that Borough Council approved an ordinance related to the conveyance of the Sewer Authority to the Borough of Conshohocken while exploring the potential sale of its sewer system. He explained that following a complete and detailed review of the potential sale, Borough Council voted to retain the asset and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Sewer Authority. Since the exploratory sale process is complete, he asked Council to consider repealing Ordinance 02-2021.

Ms. Cecco asked if Borough Council could reinstate the ordinance which conveys the Sewer Authority to the Borough of Conshohocken. Mr. Peters replied that the Borough could re-adopt the conveyance ordinance.

Mr. Griffin made a motion to adopt Ordinance 06-2021 repealing Ordinance 02-2021 conveying the Sewer Authority to the Borough of Conshohocken, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 5-0. (Leonard and Tutino absent)

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Sokolowski read and reviewed the items included on the consent agenda.

- a.) **Approve and adopt the July 21 Regular Meeting Minutes**
b.) **Approve the July-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable**

Ms. Griffin made a motion to approve and adopt the July 21 Regular Meeting Minutes, second by Ms. Kingsley. The motion carried 5-0. (Leonard and Tutino absent)

Mr. Griffin made a motion to approve the July-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$576,289.06, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 5-0. (Leonard and Tutino absent)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a.) **Consider authorizing the Borough Traffic Engineer to complete a Road Diet Feasibility Study**

Ms. Barton inquired about the project schedule. Ms. Cecco responded that the data collection, analyses and technical report would be completed in approximately eight (8) weeks.

Ms. Barton made a motion to authorize the Borough Traffic Engineer to complete a Road Diet Feasibility Study per the proposal dated July 29, 2021, second by Ms. Kingsley. The motion carried 5-0. (Leonard and Tutino absent)

NEW BUSINESS

- a.) **Consider approving Resolution 2021-18 designating a Section 504 Officer**

Ms. Cecco shared that Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1974 requires all federally funded Borough programs and facilities to be accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. She explained that the Borough must designate an individual as the Section 504 Officer to ensure compliance with the Rehabilitation Act. Ms. Cecco recommended that Council appoint Chris Stetler as the Borough's Section 504 Officer.

Mr. Griffin made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-18 designating Christine Stetler as the Section 504 Officer, seconded by Mr. Stokley. The motion carried 5-0. (Leonard and Tutino absent)

- b.) **Consider approving Resolution 2021-19 affirming the Borough's commitment to Fair Housing for all residents**

Ms. Cecco explained that the Borough is required as recipients of federal funding to affirm its commitment to fair housing for all residents.

Ms. Kingsley made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-19 affirming the Borough's commitment to Fair Housing for all residents, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 5-0. (Leonard and Tutino absent)

- c.) **Consider approving Resolution 2021-20 authorizing the submission of the HOME Program application**

Ms. Cecco stated that the Borough plans to apply for federal HOME Program funds in the amount of \$350,000.00. She asked for Council's approval to submit the application.

Mr. Stokley made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-20 authorizing the submission of the HOME Program application, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 5-0. (Leonard and Tutino absent)

d.) Consider approving a supplemental appropriation to the FY 2021 budget

Ms. Cecco shared that the vehicle lift for the Borough mechanic is broken. She asked for Council's approval to utilize capital reserves through a supplemental appropriation to the FY 2021 budget in the amount of \$24,590.01.

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve a supplemental appropriation to the FY 2021 budget in the amount of \$24,590.01, seconded by Mr. Griffin. The motion carried 5-0. (Leonard and Tutino absent)

COUNCIL AND MAYOR MATTERS

Mayor Aronson shared highlights from Conshohocken Night at the Reading Phils baseball game. He also shared that VFW has been repainted with a new mural by local artist, Kim Robbins. He explained that the VFW is asking members of the community to assist with the repainting by adding handprints to the building. Mayor Aronson announced that Destination Conshohocken would be hosting a ConshyStrong Live Bingo event at the VFW on August 26, 2021. He thanked Borough Administration for a successful Summer Concert Series.

Ms. Barton shared that she hopes that there will be another Conshohocken Night at the Reading Phils.

Ms. Kinglsey expressed her excitement to be serving as the Council member for Ward 5.

Ms. Sokolowski acknowledged a member of the Borough family who is currently stationed in Afghanistan to support the evacuation efforts.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brittany Rogers, Executive Assistant to the Borough Manager, stated that no written public comment was received.

Ana DeSantis, 200 West Elm Street, asked Council to consider offering an option for residents to participate virtually when the Borough returns to in-person Council meetings. Ms. Sokolowski responded that Borough Administration is exploring all meeting options.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary