

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: Colleen Leonard, Council President
Tina Sokolowski, Vice President
Anita Barton, Council Member
Stacy Ellam, Council Member
Kathleen Kingsley, Council Member
Adrian Serna, Council Member
Karen Tutino, Council Member
Yaniv Aronson, Mayor

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON CDBG APPLICATION

Chris Stetler, Community Development and Grant Coordinator, opened the second public hearing on the 2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application. Ms. Stetler shared that the Borough is eligible to receive \$153,080.00 in federal funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). She recommended that the available funding for community development activities be utilized for the construction of up to eight (8) curb ramps throughout the Borough. She reviewed program costs for administration and construction. There was no public comment.

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. Leonard, Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Leonard announced that an Executive Session was held immediately prior to the regularly scheduled public meeting on property and personnel matters.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for agenda items only)

There was no public comment pertaining to agenda items.

PRESENTATIONS

a.) Proclamation Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

Ms. Leonard introduced Jacqueline Rocco and Jennefer Rivera from the Hispanic Heritage Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania. Ms. Rocco thanked Council for recognizing the contributions Hispanics have made to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States. She shared information about the Hispanic Heritage Association and encouraged everyone to continue to create a culture and community of inclusion. Mr. Serna read the Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation.

Ms. Kingsley made a motion to approve Proclamation 2022-06 which celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month and recognizes the third Friday in September as the Hispanic Day of Celebration in the Borough of Conshohocken, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.

LAND USE MATTERS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES

a.) Consider granting conditional use approval for 1016 Maple Street

Mr. Peters opened the public hearing. He discussed the application, which seeks conditional use approval to permit the demolition of a single-family home which was constructed more than 50 years ago. He reviewed the proposed conditions of approval.

Mr. Serna made a motion to grant conditional use approval for 1016 Maple Street to permit demolition of the existing single-family detached residential structure subject to the conditions of approval, seconded by Ms. Ellam. The motion carried 7-0.

b.) Consider granting conditional use approval for 1125 Wood Street

Mr. Peters opened the public hearing. He discussed the application, which seeks conditional use approval to permit the demolition of a single-family home which was constructed more than 50 years ago. He reviewed the proposed conditions of approval.

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to grant conditional use approval for 1125 Wood Street to permit demolition of the existing single-family detached residential structure subject to the conditions of approval, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0.

- c.) **Consider approving Resolution 2022-24 approving a waiver of land development application the SEPTA Parking Facility Project**

Mr. Peters briefly reviewed the waiver of land development application for the SEPTA which provides parking for the new SEPTA train station. He reviewed the requested waivers and conditions of approval per the proposed resolution.

Mr. Serna made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-24 approving a waiver of land development for the SEPTA Station Parking Facility Project, seconded by Ms. Kingsley. The motion carried 7-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a.) **Approve and adopt the August 3 and August 17 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- b.) **Approve the August-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$510,366.41**

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve and adopt the August 3 and August 17 Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Ms. Ellam. The motion carried 7-0.

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to approve the August-ending Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$510,366.41, seconded by Ms. Kingsley. The motion carried 7-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a.) **Consider approving the Borough's 2023 Minimum Municipal Obligations**

Ms. Cecco explained that the Borough is required to annually satisfy Minimum Municipal Obligations (MMO) for its pension plans. She reviewed the financial requirement for the Police, Fire and Non-Uniform pension plans. She explained the MMO values will be included in the FY2023 budget.

Ms. Ellam made a motion to approve the Borough's 2023 Minimum Municipal Obligations for the Police Pension Plan in the amount of \$598,660.00, Fire Pension Plan in the amount of \$3,929.00 and Non-Uniform Pension Plan in the amount of \$216,956.00, seconded by Mr. Serna. The motion carried 7-0.

- b.) **Consider approving Resolution 2022-25 establishing temporary to-go parking spaces**

Ms. Cecco asked Council to consider approving a resolution to establish two (2) temporary to-go parking spaces on West Fourth Avenue between Fayette Street and Forrest Street for a period of 90 days. She explained that the temporary parking regulations would be evaluated during the trial period before Council considers making the regulations permanent.

Mr. Serna made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-25 establishing two (2) temporary to-go parking spaces on West Fourth Avenue, seconded by Ms. Kingsley. The motion carried 7-0.

- c.) **Consider approving Resolution 2022-26 creating a Main Street Overlay Task Force**

Ms. Cecco shared that the Borough has engaged a planning consultant to review the current and future land use of the Fayette Street Corridor, including potential adoption of a Main Street Overlay Ordinance. She explained that the Borough has also engaged the public to received input on the future of the Fayette Street corridor. Having compiled preliminary information, Ms. Cecco recommended that Borough Council consider appointing a Main Street Overlay Task Force to review this issue in depth. She reviewed the proposed resolution for the creation of the Task Force, which included the composition and duties of the Task Force.

Ms. Ellam made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-26 creating a Main Street Overlay Task Force, seconded by Mr. Serna. The motion carried 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- a.) **Consider approving SORA West financial security escrow release no. 9 in the amount of \$380,023.75**

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve SORA West financial security escrow release no. 9 in the amount of \$380,023.75, seconded by Ms. Kingsley. The motion carried 7-0.

b.) Consider approving a reimbursement request for the Friends of Conshohocken Parks

Ms. Cecco shared that Antoinette Coupe, President of the Friends of Conshohocken Parks, purchased four (4) posters for the upcoming Funfest. She asked Council to consider authorizing reimbursement to Antoinette in amount of \$56.18 for the cost of the posters.

Ms. Sokolowski made a motion to approve a reimbursement request to Antoinette Coupe for the Friends of Conshohocken Parks in the amount of \$56.18, seconded by Ms. Ellam. The motion carried 7-0.

c.) Consider approving Resolution 2022-27 authorizing the sale of Borough vehicles on Muncibid

Ms. Cecco asked Council to consider authorizing the sale of a 2016 Ford Explorer on Muncibid. She asked Council to table a vote on the sale of the 2015 Chevy Tahoe. She explained that the vehicle may be of use to Narberth Ambulance.

Ms. Kingsley made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-27 authorizing the sale of a 2016 Ford Explorer for a minimum bid of \$5,000.00 on Muncibid, seconded by Mr. Serna. The motion carried 7-0.

d.) Consider approving Resolution 2022-28 authorizing the submission of the PECO Green Region Open Space Program grant application for the Fritz Lodge Pocket Park project

Ms. Cecco shared that the Borough plans to apply to the PECO Green Region Open Space Program for a grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the Fritz Lodge Pocket Park. She explained that the required matching funds are budgeted for in FY2023.

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-28 authorizing the submission of the PECO Green Region Open Space Program grant application for the Fritz Lodge Pocket Park project with a grant matching requirement of \$10,000.00, seconded by Ms. Sokolowski. The motion carried 7-0.

e.) Consider approving a revision to the Police CBA disability language to be consistent with the police pension plan

Ms. Cecco asked Council to consider a revision to the Police CBA disability language to be consistent with the police pension plan governing document which indicates that the disability benefit is equal to 50% of the participant’s monthly salary at the time the disability was incurred.

Mr. Serna made a motion to approve a revision to the Police CBA disability language to be consistent with the police pension governing document which indicates that the disability benefit is equal to 50% of the participant’s monthly salary at the time the disability was incurred, seconded by Ms. Kingsley. The motion carried 7-0.

COUNCIL AND MAYOR MATTERS

Mayor Aronson recognized all parties responsible for making Funfest a success. He shared photographs and details from this year’s Restaurant Rally, presented by Conshohocken AMBUCS. He also shared that the Conshohocken Police Department is hosting a shredding event on September 24,2022 at Coldwell Banker.

Ms. Ellam thanked all involved with the Funfest for a great event.

Ms. Sokolowski encouraged those interested in serving on the Borough’s Boards and Commissions to visit the Borough’s website for a list of vacancies.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Anna Marie Travagline, 139 West 10th Avenue, expressed her objection to the installation of pocket parks along Fayette Street. Ms. Sokolowski responded that the proposal for pocket parks is a response to the recommendation from the public at the Main Street Overlay Ordinance Public Forum.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary