

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: Colleen Leonard, Council President
Tina Sokolowski, Council Vice-President
Anita Barton, 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

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 7:00 PM.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Council President announcements.

LAND USE MATTERS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES

a.) Public Hearing on a Waiver of Off-Street Parking, 319 Forrest Street, Natalia's Muse Dance Studio

Allison Lee, Zoning Officer, explained that the applicant is proposing to utilize the first floor of the mixed-use building for a professional dance studio. She provided an overview of the site and stated that the applicant is seeking a waiver from the off-street parking requirement. The co-owners of the dance studio, Dominic Zinni and Natalia Greene, were present. Mr. Zinni provided an overview of the business. He explained that they expect parents to drop off their children and for adults to walk to classes. Ms. Greene discussed the types of classes that would be offered.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

a.) Conduct an interview for Board and Commission reappointment

Ms. Leonard introduced Liz MacNeal who was present to interview for reappointment to the Planning Commission. Ms. MacNeal expressed her interest in continuing to serve on the Planning Commission. She discussed how Conshohocken has changed since her original appointment to the Commission in 2016. She confirmed that the Planning Commission is provided the necessary information and resources to make recommendations to Borough Council. She explained that, in the future, she would like to see applications that align with the Borough's Comprehensive Plan.

PRESENTATIONS

a.) Composting Presentation, Justin Claffey, EAC

Justin Claffey, member of the EAC, was present to discuss composting. Mr. Claffey defined composting and explained its importance given current conditions regarding waste management. He reviewed the benefits and methods of composting.

Domenic Rocco, Chair of the EAC, stated that the EAC would like to host a special event, Greenfest, at the Mary Wood Park and the Community Center on April 22, 2023. He explained that local businesses, non-profit organizations, and government agencies would set up interactive booths to inform residents about sustainable living and environmentally conscious practices.

b.) Fayette Street Road Diet Presentation, Brian Keaveney, Borough Traffic Engineer

Ms. Leonard introduced Brian Keaveney, Borough Traffic Engineer, who was present to discuss the results of the road diet feasibility study for Fayette Street. Mr. Keaveney reviewed the current configuration of Fayette Street and explained that the goal of the road diet is to reduce traffic speeds and improve pedestrian safety. Mr. Keaveney explained that the road diet lane configuration would consist of the reduction of travel lanes for through traffic and the creation of a center left-turn lane and additional shoulder area.

Mr. Keaveney stated that the concept is feasible beginning at Second or Third Avenue through the upper Avenues of Fayette Street. He explained that the study showed a reduction in average travel speed by 6 to 8

mph. He reported that travel times were not significantly impacted. He also discussed the average delay and queue conditions for vehicles making a left turn on to Fayette Street from the side streets.

Mr. Keaveney reviewed potential benefits of the road diet configuration, including uniform traffic speeds, a reduction in overall crashes, and improved safety for pedestrians.

He explained that the study utilized pre-covid traffic numbers and included all pending land development projects. He discussed next steps, which included coordination with PennDOT and the identification of funding sources.

MANAGER MATTERS

- a.) **Consider approving 212 Wood Street financial security escrow release no. 13 (final) in the amount of \$41,665.05**

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve 212 Wood Street financial security escrow release no. 13 (final) in the amount of \$41,665.05, seconded by Mr. Serna. The motion carried 6-0. (Ellam absent)

- b.) **Consider approving the First Amendment to the AFSCME Contract**

Ms. Cecco explained that the amendment includes the removal of the lead worker position and the increase of compensation for employees hired after January 1, 2014. She stated that the amendments have been approved by the union and are included in the proposed budget for FY2023. She asked Council to review the proposed changes for consideration of approval on November 16, 2022.

- c.) **Consider approving a special event request for the EAC Green Fest**

Ms. Kingsley made a motion to approve a special event request for the EAC Green Fest event on Saturday, April 22, 2023 and waive all Borough fees as applicable contingent upon final review and approval of event details, seconded by Ms. Barton. The motion carried 7-0. (Ellam absent)

DEPARTMENT MATTERS

There were no department matters.

LEGAL MATTERS

- a.) **Consider approving a Public Pocket Park License Agreement with 612 Fayette Association**

Mr. Peters reviewed the details of the Pocket Park License Agreement with 612 Fayette Association.

- b.) **Consider approving a Public Pocket Park and Public Parking License Agreement with Fritz Lodge**

Mr. Peters reviewed the details of the Public Pocket Park and Public Parking License Agreement with Fritz Lodge.

- c.) **Consider approving a License Agreement with Fanatics for use of the Borough helipad**

Mr. Peters reviewed the details of the License Agreement with Fanatics for use of the Borough helipad.

- d.) **Consider approving a License Agreement with GI Aviation for use of the Borough helipad**

Mr. Peters reviewed the details of the License Agreement with GI Aviation for use of the Borough helipad.

- e.) **Consider approving the Second Amendment to the Lease Agreement with Washington Fire Company**

Mr. Peters explained that the proposed amendment extends the lease through December 31, 2024.

COUNCIL MEMBER AND MAYOR MATTERS

Mayor Aronson shared photographs from this year's Halloween Parade. He also shared that Conshy Stuff and the Hussey Mortgage team held its annual food drive for the Colonial Neighborhood Council. He reminded everyone that the Christmas Tree Lighting is November 25, 2022. Mayor Aronson thanked the Public Services Department for their hard work with leaf collection.

Ms. Barton thanked all who participated in the Halloween Parade.

Mr. Serna reminded everyone that November 8, 2022 is election day.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Domenic Rocco, 111 East 10th Avenue, asked Borough Council to consider installing an electric vehicle charging station at the proposed public pocket park and parking lot at the Fritz Lodge.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary