

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: Tina Sokolowski, Council President
Kathleen Kingsley, Council Vice-President
Anita Barton, Senior Council Member
Alan Chmielewski, Council Member
Stacy Ellam, Council Member
Adrian Serna, Council Member

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

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Sokolowski announced that Borough Council held an Executive Session prior to the Work Session on personnel and legal matters.

Ms. Sokolowski stated that Borough Administration did not receive any public comments following the July 16th Public Meeting or regarding the August 6th Public meeting agenda.

PRESENTATIONS

a.) Local Climate Action Plan (LCAP) Presentation, EAC, Justin Claffey and Tim Beckel

Tim Beckel, Vice Chair of the EAC, explained that, following the Borough's adoption of a resolution committing to 100% renewable energy by 2035, the EAC entered into a Local Climate Action Plan (LCAP) to measure greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and develop strategies to reduce them. The presentation focused on solar energy, specifically the feasibility of installing solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on borough-owned buildings and utilizing solar power purchase agreements. Justin Claffey, EAC member, discussed the potential impact of solar PV installations on GHG emissions and addressed the feasibility and challenges associated with both solar implementation options. He recommended prioritizing the installation of solar PV systems on high energy-use buildings and considering the use of low energy-use buildings as potential sites for solar farms.

Atiba Kenyatta and Lisa Shulock, representatives from Philadelphia Energy Authority, explained how the Authority supports the implementation of PV systems at no cost and provided information about solar tax credits.

Julian Burnett, a representative of Posigen, provided information about the local residential solar company.

b.) Emergency Management Update, Emergency Management Personnel

Emergency Management personnel were present to provide a Public Safety update.

Megan Klosterman, Fire Captain, accompanied by Arson Detection K9 Watson, conducted a demonstration on ignitable liquid detection. Ms. Klosterman highlighted Watson's certifications and training. She explained that Watson has been instrumental in numerous fire scene investigations and evidence searches.

Steve Young, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator and Deputy Fire Marshal, provided an overview of the Fire Department and the water rescue team. He discussed recent equipment upgrades and how these improvements enhance operational capabilities. He also reviewed ongoing training efforts.

Calvin Perlman, Deputy Fire Chief, presented on the UAV Drone Team, highlighting its role in mutual aid operations. He provided an overview of incidents where drones were utilized and described the equipment used in conjunction with drone deployments.

Sergeant Hall discussed incident planning and special event preparedness. He outlined how the Borough prepares for events, including the development of incident action plans and other preparedness strategies.

Ray Sokolowski, Executive Director of Operations, shared future plans for the department. These include increased use of vehicle barriers, collaboration with the architect on the design of the future Public Safety Services Facility, and continued participation in mutual aid agreements.

Mr. Chmielewski inquired about how the Borough stays current with trends in the field. Mr. Sokolowski responded by highlighting the Borough's commitment to implementing proactive strategies.

Examples of daily services provided by Emergency Management were discussed.

LAND USE MATTERS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES

- a.) **Consider approving Resolution 2025-24 approving preliminary/final land development for 113 West Eighth Avenue**

Ms. Barton made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-24 approving preliminary/final land development for 113 West Eighth Avenue, seconded by Mr. Serna. The motion carried 6-0. (Frey absent)

- b.) **Discussion on an amendment to the Borough's Solid Waste Ordinance**

Mr. Peters explained that the Departments of Licenses & Inspections and Public Services have requested an amendment to the Borough's solid waste ordinance to establish specific requirements for the disposal of mattresses and box springs. He noted that the purpose of the proposed amendment is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Borough employees involved in collecting these items. He reviewed the provisions of the ordinance, which include scheduling pickups, sealing items in proper bags, and placing them at the curb at the designated time. He also stated that improper disposal may result in fines.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

- a.) **Conduct an interview with an applicant for the Friends of Conshohocken Parks**

Ms. Sokolowski introduced Jennifer Briston who was present to interview for a vacancy on the Friends of Conshohocken Parks. Ms. Briston shared her volunteer experience with the non-profit organization to date and discussed how her professional background in marketing could benefit the group. She explained that her focus would be on building sponsorships with local businesses, as well as supporting efforts related to merchandise, events, and fitness and wellness initiatives. She emphasized the importance of raising awareness and highlighted how effective marketing strategies can directly support fundraising efforts.

MANAGER MATTERS

- a.) **Discuss a resolution establishing temporary parking regulations on East First Avenue**

Ms. Cecco stated the Administration received a request from Kurt Benkurt for the creation of two (2) to-go parking spaces on East First Avenue to accommodate an increase in takeout and curbside pickup orders. She recommended that Council consider implementing these parking regulations on a temporary basis to evaluate the effectiveness and overall impact.

- b.) **Consider approving a block party request submitted by Product Investigations Inc. for an event at 151 East Tenth Avenue**

Ms. Cecco stated that Product Investigations, Inc. is proposing to host a block party on Saturday, October 18, 2025, with a rain date of Saturday, October 25, 2025, from 11:00am to 3:00pm. She explained that the applicant is requesting to close Hallowell Street between East 9th Avenue and East 10th Avenue (beginning at the alleyway) for the event. She shared that the celebration would mark the company's 50th anniversary and serve as an opportunity to engage with the community.

- c.) **Consider approving a tuition reimbursement for Sergeant Hall and Detective Bahn for the 2025 fall semester**

Mr. Serna made a motion to approve a tuition reimbursement for Sergeant Hall in the amount of \$1,878.00 plus the cost of books and a tuition reimbursement for Detective Bahn in the amount of \$1,714.00 plus the cost of books, seconded by Ms. Kingsley. The motion carried 6-0. (Frey absent)

DEPARTMENT MATTERS

There were no department matters.

LEGAL MATTERS

There were no legal matters.

COUNCIL MEMBER AND MAYOR MATTERS

Ms. Kingsley, on behalf of a resident, inquired whether the content on the public access channel is the same as what is posted on social media. Ms. Cecco responded that the information should be consistent and confirmed she would verify this.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Verona, a resident of Pleasant Valley Apartments, expressed interest in hosting a block party at the complex in memory of Jessica Logan. Ms. Sokolowski responded that she, along with Council Member Serna, would discuss with her the requirements for a special event application.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary