

BOROUGH OF WEST CONSHOHOCKEN
COUNCIL MEETING
September 8, 2020
MacKenzie Park Pavilion
6:30 PM

Pursuant to the provisions of the "Open Public Meeting Agenda/Sunshine Act" public notice was provided to the Times Herald Newspaper and posted on the bulletin board in the Borough Hall as required by law.

CALL TO ORDER

Douglas Borgerson, Council President, called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Douglas Borgerson, President	Present
Tara Gorney, Vice President	Present
Tori Conicello-Emery	Present
John Cooper	Present
Jose Gonzalez	Present 6:48 PM
Richard Greenstein	Present
Danelle Fournier, Mayor	Present
Michael F. English, Borough Manager	Present
Joseph J. McGrory, Solicitor	Present
Khal Hassan, Engineer	Present

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA

Mr. Borgerson opened the floor for public comment on agenda items. There was no public comment.

Mr. Borgerson announced that since Mr. Gonzalez was in route, Council will delay the interviews with candidates for the vacant Borough Council seat and move to other new business agenda items until Mr. Gonzalez has arrived.

Presentation of the Financial Requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the year 2021. Mr. English and Mr. Greenstein reviewed the Minimum Municipal Obligation requirements by the Commonwealth's Auditor General each year. There were no questions by Council and Mr. English signed off that this document was presented to Council.

Mr. Borgerson asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-11 declaring the Borough's intent to follow the schedule and procedures for the disposition of records as set forth in Municipal Records Manual.

Motioned by: John Cooper
Seconded by: Richard Greenstein
All in Favor: yes
Motion passed 5-0

Mr. Borgerson asked for a motion to authorize the Borough Manager to advertise an Ordinance establishing a Length of Service Award (LOSAP) for the members of the George Clay Steam Engine and Hose Company. Ms. Gorney asked what the next step is. Mr. Borgerson reviewed the work that the Public Safety Committee along with Mr. Greenstein had done on this topic and stated that there would be a public hearing at the October Council meeting when the Ordinance would be considered by Council. Mr. Gonzalez asked about a contribution by the Fire Company's financial contribution to the program.

Motioned by: John Cooper
Seconded by: Richard Greenstein
All in favor: Yes
Motion passed 6-0

Mr. Borgerson asked for a motion to authorize the Borough Manager to advertise an Ordinance amending Chapter 109, Vehicles and Traffic. Ms. Gorney reviewed what took place at the traffic and parking committee meeting that took place earlier in the evening, prior to the Council meeting.

Motioned by: Tara Gorney
Seconded by: Richard Greenstein
All in Favor: No, 5 in favor with John Cooper opposed.
Motion passed 5-1

INTERVIEWS OF CANDIDATES FOR THE VACANCY ON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr. Borgerson reviewed the names of the persons that submitted letters of interest and resumes for the vacancy on Borough Council. The candidates interviewed expressed their reasons for wishing to serve on Council as well as reviewing their life experiences. The list of residents interviewed were; Stephan Blumenthal, Abbie O'Brien, Kevin Flanagan, Dave Frankenfield, Christopher Manchin, and Patrick Miller. As each candidate finished their remarks, Mr Borgerson asked if the Council members had any questions of the candidates and a question and answer period followed. At the end of the question and answer period, Mr. Borgerson asked Solicitor McGrory to review the process to nominate and vote to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Borgerson asked for nominations. Mr. Cooper nominated Dave Frankenfield. Mr. Gorney nominated Steve Blumenthal . Mr. Gonzalez nominated Christopher Manchin.

Mr. Borgerson took roll call.
Tori Conicello Emery – Steve Blumenthal
Richard Greenstein – Steve Blumenthal
Tara Gorney - Steve Blumenthal
Jack Cooper - Steve Blumenthal
Jose Gonzalez – Chris Manchin
Doug Borgerson – Steve Blumenthal

Mr. Borgerson wanted to thank everyone and stated that we appreciate your time. There are plenty of opportunities for person in our small community which is very special to all of us.

Mr. Borgerson asked for a motion- To adopt Resolution 2020-12 appointing Steven Blumenthal to serve on West Conshohocken Borough Council until January 2, 2022.

Mr. Borgerson took roll call.

Tori Conicello Emery – Yes

Richard Greenstein – Yes

Tara Gorney - Yes

Jack Cooper - Yes

Jose Gonzalez – Yes

Doug Borgerson – Yes

The motion passed 6 to 0.

Mayor Danelle Fournier swore in Steven Blumenthal as the new Councilperson.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Borgerson requested a motion to accept the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of August 11, 2020.

Motioned By: Tara Gorney

Seconded By: Tori Conicello-Emery

All in Favor, Yes.

The motion passed 6 to 0.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Mr. Borgerson announced the bills total \$29,762.29 and asked if anyone had any questions.

Mr. Borgerson requested a motion to approve the bills for \$29,762.29

Motioned by: Tori Conicello-Emery

Seconded by: Richard Greenstein

All in Favor, Yes

The motion passed 7 to 0

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Borgerson announced the current funds of the Borough as of September 3, 2020 was 15,177,315.42 and asked if there were any questions. No questions were posed.

Doug Borgerson requested a motion to approve the Financial Report.

Motioned by: Tori Conicello-Emery

Seconded by: Tara Gorney

All in Favor, Yes

The motion passed 7-0

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. English stated the Council has my report. I have some items that I would like to report. Public Worker Supervisor, Rob Dronitsky, asked if some items that are no longer of use to the borough sold on Munic-Bid. This has done several times in the past. I need Council to make a motion to advertise these items for sale.

Mr. Borgerson asked for a motion to advertise equipment to be sold on Munci-Bid.

Motioned by: Tara Gronney

Seconded by: Tori Conicello-Emery

All in Favor, Yes.

The motion passed 7 to 0

Mr. English stated the old Trash Truck that is used for Bulk Trash needs to be repaired. The cost would be roughly \$80,000.00. The cost of a new truck will be significantly higher. I will get back to Council with the final cost.

COMMITTEE, DEPARTMENT, AND MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fouriner stated the newsletter is online and has been mailed. There will be the 9-11 ceremony this Friday at Borough Hall. Robyn Dronitsky is coordinating an event at MacKenzie Park for the children to make signs of support that will be placed throughout the Borough. Once again, Janeway Towing will be generously giving away bicycles to the children.

We are working on details of still having a Halloween Parade but it will be different this year. I will be updating the community as we go forward.

Mr. Borgerson asked if Mr. Frankenfield had any items from the Fire Company that he wished to report.

Mr. Frankenfield stated that Council has received the report and asked if anyone had questions. No questions were posed.

Mr. Bergerson praised the volunteers of the Fire Company and all the work they do for the Community. He reminded everyone that volunteers are needed at George Clay.

Chief Sinclair stated Council has a copy of my report. I am asking Council if I can continue looking for part-time officers. The Borough has only one crossing guard on duty, Sue Defuso, who is doing a phenomenal job for the schools that are currently holding in person class.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS

Mr. Hassan stated that his report in the Council's packet. Update to Balligomingo Road has been substantially finished. In the next week or the week after here will be a final walk through. Pertaining to the detour even through the project is going to be even though the project is deemed complete. The agreement between PADot and 14 Union Ave extension until January regarding the change approvals for Union Hill to get the retaining wall in place.

Mr. Hassan stated that 8 Merion Avenue parking lot discussed with the parking committee there is notice to proceed. The project is scheduled to be completed before the next meeting on permit parking. We will make sure that the project is completed as the Council has envisioned it.

The next matter is MacKenzie Park updates. There is proposal in front of Council to authorize a topographic survey for the entire park property. We are asking for guidance from the Council to move forward to prepare a plan to update and remodel the park. The Council members had a lengthy discussion regarding improvements done in phases, obtaining grants and reaching out to local business for funds.

Mr. Borgerson asked for a motion to authorize a survey of McKenzie Park.

Mr. Borgerson polled Council

Tori Conicello Emery – Yes

Richard Greenstein – Yes

Tara Gorney - No

Jack Cooper - Yes

Jose Gonzalez – No

Doug Borgerson – Yes

Steve Blumenthal - Yes

Motion Passed 5 - 2

Mr. McGrory stated he had nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Borgerson asked if the November Election will be held at St Gert's church.

Mr. English stated that the St. Gert's will be the polling place in the Borough. The building is being cleaned and any repairs needed are being taken care of.

Mr. Bergerson stated that the police dog Office Jaxx is being retired. For everyone's clarification what purpose does the dog serve for our community?

Chief Sinclair stated the Borough has had several police dogs. Office Jaxx is 7 years old and that is the average time for a canine officer. The main purpose for the dog is a supplement to our officers and is used in searches for drug, finding persons and also used for helping other departments with mutual aid. Also he is a great ambassador at Borough events.

Mr. Gonzalez asked questions regarding the cost of care of the dog as well as training.

Chief Sinclair answered Mr. Gonzalez questions.

The Council members had a discussion regarding the benefits of having a dog and how having a canine officer is an asset to the community.

Mr. Bergerson asked what action item from Council to need to fund the dog. What would be the cost of continuing to have a new canine officer.

Chief Sinclair stated that the additional cost of \$9,000.00 would be added to the budget.

Mr. Blumenthal asked if the dog stays with his trainer at all times and what other municipalities have canine officers that we share our canine with.

Chief Sinclair stated that Plymouth Meeting Township, Whitmarsh Township and Upper Merion Township all have canine officers.

Mr. Bergerson asked for a motion for additional funding for the police dog.

Mr. Borgerson polled Council

Tori Conicello Emery – Yes

Richard Greenstein – No

Tara Gorney - Yes

Jack Cooper - Yes

Jose Gonzalez – No

Doug Borgerson – Yes

Steve Blumenthal - Yes

Motion Passed 5 - 2

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Michael Beck, 395 Dehaven Street, Upper Merion Twp, asked how the new parking lot once it is completed how is and how will the parking places be handed out.

Ms. Gorney stated there was a Parking Traffic Meeting tonight and through the end of year every residential dwelling will have one permit for parking. Beginning January 1st that will change.

Mr. Beck asked Mr. Hassan about PennDot has given 14 Union Hill a deadline to finish the work at the top of Balligomino Road.

Mr. Hassan stated that the deadline is January 31, 2021. PennDot has made it perfectly clear that no further extension would be given.

Pat Zapien, 247 Moir Ave, stated that there is one opening for a polling person to work on Election Day. It is a very long day. Pat asked that if anyone was interested to reach out to the Borough and Mike English could forward the names to her.

Due to Covid-19 Recreation programs had to be cancelled this year but the Recreation Committee would like to help Danelle with the Halloween events. She spoke about the Children's and Senior Christmas parties and asked if anyone who would like to help out the Recreation Council.

Mr. David Frankenfield stated that Fire Protection Week will be next month. The Fire Company will work out some way to visually provide information in place of the Open House. The Fire Truck will be riding through the community for Halloween. In regard to the survey of MacKenzie Park, the Borough needs to make sure to define the Borough property and what is the private property.

ADJOURN

Mr. Borgerson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Motioned by: Steven Blumenthal

Seconded by: Richard Greenstein

All in Favor, Yes.

The motion passed 7 - 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael English
Borough Manager

