

**BOROUGH OF WEST CONSHOHOCKEN
COUNCIL MEETING
November 14, 2023
7:00 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

Stephen Blumenthal, Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPENING COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mr. Blumenthal announced that an Executive Session will be held after the Council meeting for a possible litigation matter, no action will be taken and Council will not be returning. Mr. Blumenthal would like to thank the dedicated members of the community for the election and Veterans' Day. Mr. Blumenthal addressed that crime has declined in the area and traffic violations have increased. Chris Cella is now appointed on the Public Safety Committee, Parking and Traffic Committee. Mr. Blumenthal indicated that questions regarding the proposed budget would take place during the general public comment.

ROLL CALL

Stephen Blumenthal, President	Present
Danelle Fournier, Mayor	Present
Tara Gorney, Vice President	Absent
Tori Conicello-Emery	Present
Jeff Ewing	Present
Zachary Nelson	Present
Amelia Gale	Present
Chris Cella	Present
Michael F. English, Borough Manager	Present
Doug Borgerson, Assistant Manager	Present
Stephen English, Borough Solicitor	Present
Khal Hassan, Borough Engineer	Present

PRESENTATION OF THE WEST CONSHOHOCKEN 5K AWARD

Mayor Danelle Fournier presented the West Conshohocken 5K award to Colton Bower and Kristen Zeiset for the fastest times for the 5K Run.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Stephen Blumenthal asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.

Motioned by: Zack Nelson
Seconded by: Amelia Gale
Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
The motion passes

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA ITEMS

David Frankenfield indicated that he doesn't agree with the Church St Vacation. Mr. Frankenfield doesn't feel that the minutes are accurate and reflected upon specifically the open vacancy on Council.

Guy Davis also indicated that he feels the minutes only reflect a summary.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that the bills for this month were a total of \$608,689.58 and asked for a motion to approve the bills.

Motioned by: Jeff Ewing
Seconded by: Tori Conicello-Emery
Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
The motion passes

APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that the grand total is \$15,236,155.64 with a positive difference of \$385,935.35; interest on all investment accounts of \$23,781.56. Pension accounts totaled \$9,475,159.09; non-uniform pension account \$1,166,283.30 and police pension account \$8,308,875.79. Pension accounts are not included in the total. Mr. Blumenthal and asked for a motion to approve the financial report.

Motioned by: Jeff Ewing
Seconded by: Amelia Gale
Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
The motion passes

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items.

Motioned by: Zach Nelson
Seconded by: Tori Conicello-Emery
Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
The motion passes

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS

Mr. English indicated that his report is in the packet. Mr. English highlighted the Council Re-organization meeting will be held on January 2, 2024. The Tree Lighting event will take place on November 25th and Borough Hall will be closing early on November 22nd, closed on November 23rd and 24th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Mr. Stephen English indicated that there are two assessment appeals for 300 Conshohocken State Road and 1001 Conshohocken State Road. Mr. English suggested the Borough to hold escrow 25% of the bill which would be \$48,000.00 for both properties as a cushion and this is already in the budget. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to approval Motion to approve or block motion. No questions were presented.

Motioned by: Zack Nelson to approve to hold escrow

Seconded by: Jeff Ewing

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

The motion passes

Mr. Khal Hassan wanted to discuss Church St vacation. This vacation was done previously however there was a discrepancy in the deeds. Since then it has been rectified and Mr. Hassan is requestingd a motion to advertise for next meeting. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to advertise.

Motioned by: Zach Nelson

Seconded by: Tori Conicello-Emery

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

The motion passes

Mr. Hassan indicated that on November 9 bids were opened for Phase 1. 14 bids were received and the lowest recommended bid in the amount of \$460,0000 84,974.41 goes to received.

Recommendation to award 484,974.41 to Joseph Daniel of Aston, PA. Councilmember Conicello-Emery asked Mr. Hassan for any feedback or personal dealings with this company to which Mr. Hassan indicated that he hasn't but others have had dealings with Joseph Daniel construction, and it was all positive. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to award Joseph Daniel of Aston the bid

Motioned by: Zach Nelson

Seconded by: Tori Conicello-Emery

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

The motion passes

Mr. Hassan wanted to discuss a new grant which has min 25,000 min and max 1,000,000. There is no Borough match. A resolution and application has to be completed before the end of the month. The purpose of the Grant for Phases 2, 3 and possibly 4 bundle for MacKenzie Park. Mrs. Conicello-Emery wanted to reiterate to the public that this will expedite the project, a percentage will cover engineering and administrative fees. Resolution 2023-18 was presented, and Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to approve

Motioned by: Tori Conicello-Emery

Seconded by: Amelia Gale

Ayes: 6

Nays:0

The motion passes.

Mr. Hassan wanted to discuss the Official Map. Per Montgomery County Planning Commission copies were sent to adjacent municipalities, no comments were provided and MPC issued a review letter. The Planning Commission also sent their comments and recommendations. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to authorize Pennoni to make those revisions.

Motion: Jeff Ewing
Seconded Zach Nelson
Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
The motion passes

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion to Adopt Resolution 2023-17 authorizing the expenditures of General Municipal Pension System State Aid and meeting the 2023 Minimum Municipal Pensions Obligation.

Mr. English summarized the 2023 MMO. Borough has received \$110,936.59 from the Commonwealth. The Borough is mandated by Resolution to distribute to \$54,428.59 Pension and non- uniform \$56,508.00. Mr. Ewing wanted to clarify that this offsets what was approved. Mr Blumenthal asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-17.

Motion Jeff Ewing
Second: Amelia Gale
Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
The motion passes

2. Motion to adopt the 2024 Proposed Preliminary Budget. Mr. Blumenthal indicated that Items 410 and 411 will be reviewed at the Public Safety Meeting and will be tabled until the next meeting.

Motioned by: Amelia Gale
Seconded by: Jeff Ewing
Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
The motion passes

3. Review the 2024 Proposed Preliminary Budget. Mr. Blumenthal asked if any members of Council wanted to take a 5- minute recess prior to the review of the preliminary budget. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to recess.

Motioned by: Tori Conicello-Emery
Seconded by: Zach Nelson
Reconvened at 7:56pm.

Council reviewed line by line of Section 300 Revenue and 400 Expenditures.

An error on Item 351-CBGB should read CDBG Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to change where Zach Nelson made the motion and seconded Tori Conicello-Emery, motion passes.

Questions were presented for due to the large increase of 408-Engineering Services, which Mr. English indicated there are several projects coming up.

Chris Cella asked about the increase in 426- Recycling Collection, which Michael English indicated that the recycling bin prices increased

Mr. English address 430-Public Works, discussions took place regarding healthcare, overtime, rental equipment, vehicle and equipment purchases. Motion to table to December for further information on life span/warranty on equipment. Motioned by Zach Nelson and Seconded by Tori Conicello-Emery and passed 6-0.

Mr. Nelson questioned section 434, questioned specific light or just general. Mr English indicated that he will provide a list of lights that need to be repaired.

Questions were raised for line item 459 to which Mr. English indicated that it aged out and will investigate and report back at the December meeting,

Amelia Gale had questions regarding 480-Miscellaneous Expenses 480, this was for the board of assessment appeal escrow

Mr. Blumenthal asked for a Motion to table 410 & 411 for Fire Company and Police to December meeting.

Motioned by: Jeff Ewing
Seconded by: Amelia Gale
Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
The motion passes

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that there is no tax increase for 2024

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Guy Davis, resident, wanted to know when Phase I wanted to be completed. If the last three phases will be bundled there are still concerns of the dog park. Mr. Davis wanted to know if Simone Collins has been engaged for zoning ordinance? Mr. Davis wanted to know the status of establishing the Shade Tree Commission. Mr. Blumenthal indicated that we are having an issue with getting members for the zoning board and working on the Shade Tree Commission. Now that election has been completed and full Council and work will begin on working on Official Map and then working on the zoning overlay. Mr. Hassan indicated that the phases II, III and III the dog park is not included. The completed project would be between 90 or 120 days from start to finish. More accurate dates are forthcoming.

Dave Frankenfield, resident, spoke about storm drains crates that need to be replaced and street lights that need to be repaired and also requested additional fire hydrants. Mr. Frankenfield indicated that there are holiday events that will be held at George Clay. Mr. Blumenthal addressed Mr. Frankenfield's concerns of lights around the Elizabeth Street area.

ADJOURNMENT

Stephen Blumenthal indicated that Council will be going into Executive Session and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 pm

Motioned by: Amelia Gale

Seconded by: Zach Nelson

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

The motion passes

Respectfully Submitted,



Cristina Meade
Borough Secretary