

BOROUGH OF WEST CONSHOHOCKEN
COUNCIL MEETING
January 9, 2024
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

Council President Stephen Blumenthal called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Blumenthal thanked Council and is confident in each member to help the health and welfare of West Conshohocken Borough. Mr. Blumenthal thanked Administration, Public Works, Police Department, George Clay for the integrity and collaboration and announced the members of the Open Space, Public Safety and Finance Committees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that an executive session for personnel matters will take place with no action being taken therefore Council will not be returning.

OPENING COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that there has been lower crime within West Conshohocken. There is also significant advancements within the Police Department with Interim Chief Carfagno's selection of Aspirant to work on the department. Mr. Blumenthal spoke of George Clay Fire Company and volunteer/shared task force which will be further discussed later this evening

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motioned by: Chris Cella
Seconded by: Amelia Galey
Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
The motion passes

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA ITEMS

Walter Gleba, resident, wanted to follow up on the discussion and questions of the stop signs at Merion Hill and stop sign at Bullock. Mr. Gleba also suggested that Council hold off on the new hire of a full-time public employee position as new equipment was just purchased for Public Works to assist with manpower. Mr. Gleba commented on the shared fire services and would like to be a part of that committee when that position become available

Dave Frankenfield, resident, spoke about fire services. Discussions have been held at Public Safety but surprised to see it on the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that the bills for this month were a total of \$613,999.51 and asked for a motion to approve the bills. There were no questions from members of Council

Motioned by: Jeff Ewing
Seconded by: Chris Cella
Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
The motion passes

APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that the grand total is \$14,953,940.18 with a negative difference of \$348,589.24; interest on all investment accounts of \$34,859.80. Pension accounts totaled \$10,403,804.73; non-uniform pension account \$1,291,039.66 and police pension account \$9,112,765.07. Pension accounts are not included in the total. There were no questions from members of Council. Mr. Blumenthal and asked for a motion to approve the financial report.

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

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Blumenthal asked Council if there were any questions to which none were presented. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motioned by: Tara Gorney
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 also indicated that Pennsylvania Borough Code allows budgets to be opened in January following a municipal election. The amended Budget has to be adopted by February 15th to which Mr. English recommends utilizing this based upon the grants received. Mr. English indicated that there is new visual equipment being installed within the next two months. Mr. English indicated that there more cyber security issues on the rise and suggested that that Council approve additional premium to increase coverage to one million dollars with a \$25,000 deductible which will be covered by PA Intergovernmental Association. The increase in premium would be \$4,937. No questions or comments were presented from Council or the public. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to increase coverage for cybersecurity. There were no questions or public comment

Motioned by: Amelia Gale
Seconded by: Tara Gorney
Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
The motion passes

Mr. John Iannozzi suspended the public meeting and proceeded to a public hearing for Ordinance 2023-05. Mr. Iannozzi marked Exhibits into the record: B-1 Email to Times Herald, B-2 Proof of Publication, B-3 letter of proposed Ordinance to West Conshohocken Planning Commission, B-4 Letter to Montgomery County Planning Commission, B-5 Notice to adjacent property owner, B-6 Notice of Posting, B-7 Letter to Law Library, B-8 Ordinance and B-9 Legal Notice. This is for an unimproved unopened alley between 309 Church Street and tax parcel 24000500016. This Ordinance will vacate this paper alley and be divided between the two parcels. No questions were presented. Mr. Iannozzi closed the public hearing and proceeded back to public meeting. There were no questions from the public. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-05

Motioned by: Amelia Gale
Seconded by: Jeff Ewing
Ayes: 5
Nays:0
Abstentions: 1 Tara Gorney
The motion passes

Mr. Iannozzi suspended the public meeting and proceeded to a public hearing for Ordinance 2024-01. Mr. Iannozzi marked Exhibits into the record: B-1 Email to Times Herald, B-2 Proof of Publication, B-3 letter of proposed Ordinance to West Conshohocken Borough Council, B-4 Letter to Law Library, B-5 Proposed Ordinance and B-6 Legal Notice establishing a new stop sign on Spring Garden Street at Spruce and Merion Hill Lane. No questions were presented from Council. Mr. Iannozzi closed the public hearing and opening up to public meeting. No questions were presented from the public. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion for adoption.

Motioned by: Amelia gale
Seconded by: Chris Cella
Ayes: 6
Nays:0
The motion passes

Mr. Khal Hassan wanted to discuss Phase I of MacKenzie park. A Pre-construction mtg took place on December 22nd with contractor to discuss fire safety, schedule, scope, material and expectations for public projects. On January 4th contractors were issued with notice to proceed. Blacktop, concrete and other materials have been submitted to Pennoni which are currently under review and comments have been provided. Pennoni will keep everyone up to date along with future grant updates. No questions were presented.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Confirmed appointment for 17-37 Front Street

Mr. Iannozzi briefed Council and the public on the definition of a confirmed appointment. Mr. Iannozzi clarified that no plans have been submitted and Council has no knowledge of what is being presented.

Mr. Jim Garrity was present and announced his team which included their Architect, Mark and Jeff Brown of Korman Communities, Chris McGarrity and Mike Sloan along with Nate Burns for the potential to build a mixed-use residential/ retail building at the block of 17-37 Front Street and incorporating this with the Vision Plan. Mr. Garrity discussed the plan a 25-floor building, consisting of 7 floors of parking, 2 parking garages, 258 living units, such as studios, one and two bedrooms, 15,000 square feet of retail, high end restaurants and amenities. Also discussed was outdoor sitting along with entrances. Mr. Garrity also indicated that a tax study is being completed to show the increase in tax revenue. Mr. Korman and his architect also discussed drawings in more detail and working on green energy.

Council had concerns of the traffic and building height. Borough Engineer questioned the calculations behind parking and calculations of living units. Presenters confirmed that these would be apartments only. Council has concerns of parking for residents, businesses and also the demand on the housing market. Council requested that more discussions could take place when the information was further clarified. Mr. Blumenthal indicated that public comment will be taken at the end

2. Confirmed appointment for 218 Britton Avenue regarding Vacation of Paper Street Request.

John Iannozzi indicated that the attorney Mark Danek filed an application to vacate a paper alley for current project of a subdivision which was already approved in zoning. Mr. Danek represents Jeffrey and Betty Stanley who own two parcels and currently working on a single-family development so vacating this paper alley would allow a driveway into the residence. Borough Engineer Khal Hassan indicated that the paper alley ends and doesn't serve the Borough. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to begin procedure to advertise. There were no questions from Council or the public. John Iannozzi indicated that this will be before Council at public hearing in March.

Motioned by: Amelia Gale
Seconded by: Jeff Ewing
Ayes: 5
Nays:0
Abstentions: 1
The motion passes

3. Resolution 2024-01 approving the procedure for disposition of records as set forth in the Municipal Records Manual.

Mr. English indicated that this is a housekeeping item to dispose of 2016 financial and payroll records and 2023 digital audio files

Motioned by: Chris Cella
Seconded by: Amelia Gale
Ayes: 6
Nays:0
The motion passes

4. Public works full-time employee position update

Mr. English indicated that this was discussed at the December Council meeting and Robert Dronitsky was present. Mr. English indicated that advertisement for the full time position will move forward and will provide an update at next Council meeting. Amelia Gale had indicated that it was getting more difficult in locating a seasonal employee.

5. Supplemental Fire Services Equipment Update

Mr. English wanted to clarify the supplemental request for air packs and turn out gear more specifically. Mr. English indicated that there is \$113,000 at Truist for the fire company can be used to purchase these items. Dennis Frankenfield indicated that the air packs won't be purchased this year and would like to order them next year and it turn would cost approximately \$25,000 each. The turn-out gear would be replacing 5 sets this year for approximately 40,000.00. Mr. Blumenthal discussed options on amending the budget or using the money market account. Mr. Ewing wanted to clarify the correct amounts of 40,000 for turnout gear and \$25,000 to be held aside for next year for the air packs. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to set the money aside and not amend the budget this year.

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

6. Shared Fire Services Discussion

Mr. Blumenthal stated that for many years George Clay had been requesting a new fire truck. Before investing in those expenditures however wanted to take the information from the DCED report and looking into regionalization.

Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to allow Borough Manager to submit Letter of Intent on behalf of West Conshohocken Borough to Center for Local Government and DCED for additional services for problem solving services

Motioned by: Chris Cella
Seconded by: Amelia Gale
Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
The motion passes

Public Comment on the Shared Fire Services

Dave Frankenfield indicated they have been working on manpower for the fire company and working with different equipment. Mr. Frankenfield indicated that the boats will be here this week.

Dennis Frankenfield, George Clay Chief, spoke about the mutual aid, concerned about the new fire truck being pushed back. Dennis Frankenfield also had fire concerns on the high-rise concept.

Jaso Saro, Assistant Chief, spoke about the apparatus and replacement of the fire truck

Walter Gleba, resident, wanted to comment on the progress made with the fire company services

Chad Piper, resident, wanted to thank Council for support of the Fire Company

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Tina Reese, resident, indicated that Joe Biden was in the area and shared info on decommissioned fire departments and concerns about eliminating a new fire truck. Ms. Reese had several concerns about the concept of a 25 story building

Kevin Fallon, resident, indicated the agenda was not clear enough for residents regarding the confirmed appointments. Mr. Iannozzi indicated that there was no knowledge of the what was being proposed. Mr. Fallon questioned the reversal of the pig ordinance and wanted to make sure that neighbors were aware of this as he is a resident that has concerns.

Jessica Wong, resident, wanted to address Mr. Fallon's concerns with failure to abide by Borough Ordinance. Mr. Iannozzi gave Ms. Wong an update regarding a proposed ordinance.

Mr. Blumenthal thanked everyone for their time for the lengthy meeting this evening and the cooperation of the shared fire service discussions. Mr. Blumenthal indicated that there would be better explanation on future agendas.

ADJOURNMENT

Stephen Blumenthal indicated that Council will be going into Executive Session on matters of litigation and will not be returning and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 pm

Motioned by: Amelia Gale

Seconded by: Tara Gorney

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

The motion passes

Respectfully Submitted



Cristina Meade
Borough Secretary