

BOROUGH OF WEST CONSHOHOCKEN
COUNCIL MEETING
March 12, 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 called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPENING COMMENTS/ANNOUCEMENTS FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mr. Blumenthal addressed changes with visual and audio in Council Chambers. Mr. Blumenthal indicated that authorized members to use the audio visual equipment is Borough Council, Administration and Committee members, professional staff and confirmed appointments. Mr. Blumenthal wanted to thank everyone for the 150th and Groundbreaking event. Mr. Blumenthal thanked West Conshohocken Police for the reduction of crime and George Clay for their response for the month. Mr. Blumenthal summarized discussions this evening such as pig ordinance discussions as well as plastic bag ordinance and EV charging stations. Mr. Blumenthal will be implementing unanimous consent to consider time for other matters.

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
Douglas Borgerson, Asst Borough Manager	Present
John Iannozzi, Borough Solicitor	Present
Khal Hassan, Borough Engineer	Present

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

No Council objections therefore the approval of the agenda passes unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA ITEMS

Walter Gleba, resident, indicated that pigs should not be allowed in the Borough for reasons of pig size, vet care, amount of roaming space needed. Mr. Gleba discussed the plastic ban usage and indicates that he believes this only applies to Wawa and to save solicitor billing to send a letter to wawa discouraging the use of plastics. Mr. Gleba indicated that's instead of using Borough lot for EV Stations, possibility of reaching out to businesses.

Guy Davis, resident, spoke against pigs for the safety of the community as well as our emergency personnel as well as more descriptions of what animals are allowed to be pets. Mr. Davis also discussed the single use plastics as well as recycling contract.

Jim Goggin, resident, was concerned about the prioritizing plastic ban over recycling and the amount of trash that will end up in a landfill. Mr. Goggin also encouraged business such as the gas stations to install EV charging stations.

Dave Frankenfield, spoke about further looking into the safety of the EV charging stations as they could cause fire hazards with lithium batteries.

Nelly Jane Foley, discussed the EV charging stations and single plastic bag use. Ms. Foley had questions regarding the lights being installed at MacKenzie Park which Mr. Blumenthal indicated that Borough Engineer will address during his presentation.

Jessica Wong, resident, wanted to discuss the concerns of the domesticated pig. She indicated that it was a pot belly domesticated pig which does not roam and sleeps the majority of the time and indicated that she provided Council with information.

Joe Williams lives across the street from the empty lot on Moorehead. Mr. Hassan indicated that several meetings have been held with the developer and there will be an update at the next Council meeting

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that the bills for this month were a total of \$691,010.55. There were no questions or objections from Council and therefore the bills was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that the grand total is \$14,900,085.24. Pension accounts totaled \$10,488,026.05; non-uniform pension account \$1,328,226.33 and police pension account \$9,160,555.72. Pension accounts are not included in the total. There were no questions nor objections therefore the financial report was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that the consent agenda includes committee reports and without objections council approves the consent agenda with the abstention of Mr. Blumenthal as he was not present at the February 13th, 2024 Council Meeting

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS

Mr. English indicated that his report is in the packet. Mr. English indicated that Council will meeting to discuss the waste disposal with Covanta and curbside recycling with JP Mascaro. Mr. Blumenthal wanted to indicated that there is no action being taken this evening. Mr. English summarized the costs over the next five-year period. JP Mascaro has two option years- august 2024 to august 2025 increased by 3.5%. \$130, 000 for new body for PW to do . More information coming forth for Council.

Mr. John Iannozzi suspended the public meeting for a public hearing and presented Exhibits B-1 Email to Times Herald, B-2 Proof of Publication, B-3 Petition to Vacate a Portion of Merion Ave, B-4 Letter to West Conshohocken Borough Planning Commission, B-5 Letter to County Planning Commission, B-6 Notice to Lot 1, B-7 Notice to Lot 2, B-8 Letter to Law Library, and B-9 Ordinance, B10 Legal Notice, B11 Aerial to the plan to the record for Petition to Vacant the unimproved and unopened portion of Merion Ave under Ordinance No. 2024-02. Mr. Iannozzi stated that Jeffrey and Betty Stanley own two properties in the Borough. Lot 1 is a single family dwelling and lot 2 is an unimproved lot. Minor subdivision was filed last year, to building on the lot 2 Council would need to vacate a paper street. There were no questions or comments from Council. Mr. Frankenfield wanted to confirm if this was the same discussion as last year and wanted to confirm that it will not affect any roadway. Mr. Iannozzi closed the public hearing and proceeded back to the public meeting for a motion. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to approve ordinance 2024-02.

Motioned by: Chris Cella
Seconded by: Amelia Gale
Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Abstentions: 1- Tara Gorney Abstained
The motion passes

Mr. Khal Hassan indicated that his report is in his packet. MacKenzie Park work is on schedule and hopes to stay on track for the Summer Program. Mr. Hassan wanted to address and read a memo that was received by the Borough back on March 14, 2024 from Mr. Gleba. Mr. Gleba indicated that there was never any discussion on the lights at the park. Mr. Hassan clarified that there were lights on the plan when the concept plan was approved. Mr. Hassan clarified that these are not stadium lights, the lights being installed are 12 ft in height, LED and shielded from residential properties were included in Phase I and this is for safety. Council would approve the times that the lights are on. Mr. Hassan wanted to reiterate the lights have been on the plan since day 1. Mr. Gleba has also raised questions previously and is raising the concern again regarding organizations that had requested the lights on the field. Mr. Hassan indicated that he is not aware of any such request and that Council would never ever entertain such request by using taxpayers money to install lights for any organization.

- Ms. Gorney asked Mr. Hassan about the current lights differ from the new lights. Mr. Hassan are LED, have the same functionality with a more efficient system.
- Mrs. Conicello-Emery revisited the topic of purpose and hours. Mr. Hassan indicated that the lighting hours are not changing and the purpose of the lights for safety.
- Mayor Fournier asked if these specific lights would help at the Elizabeth Street Park and Mr. Hassan indicated that it would be further researched to place lights there.
- Amelia Gale indicated that even with daylight saving times it would be beneficial.

Mr. Hassan indicated that they have been working with Public Safety Meeting for traffic and pedestrian improvements, modification of traffic signal timing. Discussions to took place regarding 76 new exist ramp to Woodmont and Crawford. Widening Matsonford Road, Matsonford Road bridge, 1-76 slip ramp being revisited, pedestrian bridge over the River, pedestrian bridge over Matsonford. DCNR 2024-05- no questions were presented from Council

Mr. Hassan asked Council to adopt Resolution 2024-05 for the submission of a grant for Phase II to DCNR which consists of Concession stand, bathroom and ADA ramps.

Motioned by: Tori Conicello-Emery

Seconded by: Tara Gorney

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

The motion passes

Mr. Hassan asked Council to adopt Resolution 2024-06 for the submission of a grant for CDBG.

Motioned by: Tori Conicello-Emery

Seconded by: Chris Cella

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

The motion passes

OLD BUSINESS

Discussions to update on Borough Code 36-13 related to domestic pigs. Mr. Iannozzi was authorized to draft an ordinance to clarify more information for domestic pigs. This amendment would allow domesticated pigs in the Borough with certain conditions. Mr. Iannozzi provided options on moving forward, Montgomery County Board of Health does not get involved. Mr. Blumenthal opened the floor to questions and comments to Council. Amelia Gale thanked Mr. Iannozzi for all the research that has gone to this. Amelia Gale made a motion to amend the Ordinance which was seconded by Chris Cella. Mr. Blumenthal asked other member comments. A member of Council asked if this ordinance would relate to a weight to which Mr. Iannozzi indicated that there could be many challenges with clarification to domesticated pig. Tori Conicello-Emery was concerned because the County does not get involved. Further discussions took place regarding the animal control officer. Tara Gorney was concerned about the wording regarding code enforcement officer/zoning officer. A few members of Council wanted to further research the enforcement and had concerns. Councilmember Amelia Gale and Chris Cella withdrew their motion and second after hearing concerns from other Councilmembers. Mr. Iannozzi indicates that the current ordinance still stands which indicate that there are no pigs allowed in the Borough and anyone that would have a pig is in violation.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion to accept the recommendation of the Borough Manager and Public Works Foreman to hire Joe Gertenitch as a Public Works laborer.

Mr. English indicated that two applications were received for the full-time public works position and both candidates were interviewed. Mr. Gertenitch has been working for the Borough part time. Joe has been known as a hard worker and team player. Jeff Ewing indicated that

Motioned by: Jeff Ewing

Seconded by: Tori Conicello-Emery

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

The motion passes

2. Discussion on Resolution No. 2024-03, creating a new International Fire Code Board of Appeals.

Mr. Iannozzi summarized ordinance of West Conshohocken Fire Code Board of Appeals

3. Discussions on regulation of single use plastics. Mr. Blumenthal addressed the concerns of single use plastics and this would benefit the safety and health of our environment. Mr. Blumenthal indicated that there would be an introductory period and asked Council for any discussions or motion to draft an ordinance for single use. Councilmember Gale wanted to address Mr. Davis' comment earlier this evening regulations on personal use of plastic bags. The specific motion would to authorize Borough Solicitor to draft ordinance of the regulation for single use plastics.

4.

Motioned by: Chris Chella

Seconded by: Amelia Gale

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

The motion passes

5. Discussion of EV charging stations opportunities within the Borough of West Conshohocken. The motion is to allow Borough Solicitor to move forward with the research regarding charging stations, locations

Motioned by: Tori Conicello-Emery

Seconded by: Tara Gorney

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

The motion passes

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Walter Gleba, wanted to stand by his letter and address the fact that they weren't aware of any lights being installed at MacKenzie Park. There has been no information for what the costs of the lights would be and questioned if anyone reached out to the homeowners directly affected by the lights

Kevin Farrell, resident, wanted to clarify the discussion on EV charging stations. He wanted to make sure that this didn't affect residential dwellings that already have charging abilities. Mr. Farrell believes that homeowners and businesses may install on their own. Mr. Blumenthal indicated that there may be grants available and this is just to begin the dialog regarding EV stations.

Resident, name not provided, wanted to ask Council not to change the pig ordinance as he lives in the immediate area.

Jessica Wong, resident, ask that Council revisits the pig ordinance at the next Council meeting as the current ordinance reads specifically to a pig and not other animals. The ordinance should be clarified further for the enforcement.

Name inaudible, lives on Moorehead Ave indicated that a pig would not decrease the value of homes

Guy Davis, resident, questioned why the voting and discussion changed as to which Mr. Blumenthal addressed. Mr. Davis also discussed the single use bags, and also discussed the change. Mr. Davis asked for an ordinance addressed animals as well as an ordinance regarding invasive growing plants such as bamboo

Joe Williams, resident on Moorehead, also indicated that there is a large amount of stormwater that runs down the property on Moorehead and Elizabeth. Councilmember Conicello-Emery wanted to address the accountability on the property owners . Mr. Iannozzi indicated that property maintenance/secure will be addressed.

Dave Frankenfield, resident, thanked all resident who came to support the Spaghetti Dinner. George Clay will host breakfast with the East Bunny on March 24th Mr. Frankenfield wanted to address the concerns of EV charging stations, regulations and costs/income to the Borough.

Mr. Blumenthal thanked everyone for their attendance and indicated that the new equipment in Council chambers will be fixed at the next council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Blumenthal asked Council for a motion to Adjourn the meeting at 9:19 pm

Motioned by: Chris Cella
Seconded by: Tara Gorney
Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
The motion passes

Respectfully Submitted



Cristina Meade
Borough Secretary