

BOROUGH OF WEST CONSHOHOCKEN
COUNCIL MEETING
May 14, 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT & OPENING COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mr. Blumenthal opened this evenings Council meeting and briefed the public on agenda items. Mr. Blumenthal indicated there will be appointing a new council member.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

There were no Council objections therefore the approval of the agenda passes unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA ITEMS

Guy Davis, resident, expressed reservations on Resolution No 2024-10 with displaying the pride flag on Borough property and treating everyone equally. Mr. Davis also recommends the replacement of the flags at St. Gerts as they are

Lisa Stiefel, resident, also expressed reservations on the pride flag and the equality of everyone not just for gay pride.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that the bills for this month were a total of \$632,747.40. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to approve the bills.

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

APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that the grand total is \$14,831,835.41 with a positive difference of \$437,482.89. Pension accounts total \$10,307,693.27. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to approve the financial report.

Motioned by: Jeff Ewing
Seconded by: Tara Gorney
Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
The motion passes

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that the Consent Agenda includes committee reports and without objections, the Consent Agenda was approved unanimously.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS

Mr. English indicated that his report is in the packet. There is an outstanding item regarding concerns of 169 Cedar to which Mr. Hassan indicated that violation notices were given from the Codes Department as well as Pennoni identified oils that would affect stormwater management. The Police Department has also issued notices for abandoned vehicles. Public Works has also painted no parking lines to help alleviate any sight line distractions. The DEP is also now involved, and this is continually being monitored. Council will be updated at the next meeting with further updates.

Mr. Steven English has two Ordinances to discuss this evening:

Mr. English closed the public meeting and opened a public hearing 2024-03 reading as follows: Ordinance of Borough of West Conshohocken, Montgomery County Pennsylvania amending the Code of the Borough of West Conshohocken to create a new chapter Single Use Plastic Regulations to regulate the distribution and use of .Single Use Plastic Bags, Single Use Plastic Straws, Single Use Plastic Utensils and expanded polystyrene food service products by commercial establishments in West Conshohocken Borough. Mr. English entered the following exhibits: B-1 Email to Times Herald, B-2 Times Herald Proof of Publication, B-3 Letter to Law Library, B-4 Ordinance, B5- Legal Notice, and B-7 Letter to Law Library of enacted Ordinance. Mr. English asked for questions from council and no questions or comments were presented. Mr. English turned to members of the public for questions and comments.

Guy Davis expressed his concerns the Boroughs involvement on the fees that businesses charge.

Denise Malecki, resident, expressed concern that this will impact businesses as the economy is doing so poorly and asked that this be considered.

Jamie Stewary wanted to know if businesses were aware of this.

Mr. English closed the public hearing and opened it up to public meeting. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-03.

Motioned by: Amelia Gale

Seconded by: Stephen Blumenthal

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

The motion passes and the ordinance is adopted.

Mr. English opened up to Resolution No. 2024-10 Authorizing of the flying of the Pride Flag at Borough Hall during the month of June. Mr. English asked members of Council for any questions or comments to which Amelia Gale wanted to address some members of the public. Councilmember Gale and acknowledge the concerns of public and indicated that this flag is the most inclusive and up to date. Mr. English indicated that members of the public addressed during public comment on the Agenda. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-10.

Motioned by: Amelia Gale

Seconded by: Jeff Ewing

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

The motion passes

Mr. Blumenthal wanted to address the public to indicate that restaurants and business were provided a copy of the Ordinance and no comments were provided to the Borough or Council.

Mr. Khal Hassan indicated that his report is in the packet. Mr. Hassan indicated that the Phase I will wrap up in the next few weeks at MacKenzie Park and getting a punch list for the contractor. This will wrap up in time for the summer program at MacKenzie Park.

Mr. Hassan discussed the 2024 paving project. This project is scheduled for advertisement on May 17th and May 21st. This is a milling overlay project to open bids on June 4th and will come back to Council. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to authorize Pennoni to move forward.

Motioned by: Tara Gorney

Seconded by: Amelia Gale

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

The motion passes

Mr. Hassan wanted to discuss the removal of the architectural barriers which is funded by CBDG. Pennoni is proposing to advertise for bids on May 17th and May 21st. Bids will open on June 4th bids open. There will not be a preconstruction meeting. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to move forward.

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

Mr. Hassan indicated that at the June Council meeting, Pennoni will be bringing the drainage project at the end of Church Street for advertisement. Mr. Hassan also indicated that at the June Council meeting, discussion will take place regarding Phase II of MacKenzie Park which includes, sidewalks in between playground and concession stand with a couple light. DCED provided a grant in the amount of \$250,000.00. Mr. Hassan also indicated that the he local shared grant was submitted for the largest amount for the largest scope of the project.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Mr. Michael English recommend that Council exercise the 5-year option with Covanta for municipal waste disposal. This has been discussed at previous council meeting. This extension would begin on January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2029 with the following rates per ton. 2024 \$64.57; 2025 rate \$64.57; 2026 \$66.51; 2027 \$68.50; 2028 \$70.56 and 2029 \$72.67. Mr. English indicated that Plymouth Township and Conshohocken have already exercised their extensions.

Mr. Blumenthal asked for questions to which Councilperson Gorney asked about neighboring municipalities besides Plymouth and Conshohocken. Mr. English is unaware of the other companies besides Plymouth and Conshohocken. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to extend the 5 year option.

Motioned by: Amelia Gale
Seconded by: Jeff Ewing
Ayes: 4
Nays: 1
The motion passes

2. Mr. English proposed the 1 year extension of curbside collection with JP Mascaro for recycling. The new rate \$126.24 per unit. We are currently contracted with 685 units. In 2023 it was \$122.04 per unit. Mr. Blumenthal asked if any there were any questions or comment to which none were presented. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to accept the one year extension with JP Mascaro for the recycling collection.

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. Evaluate and consider action to adopt Resolution 2024-14 honoring Jack Coll for his contributions to West Conshohocken Borough's Sesquicentennial celebration. Mr. Jack Coll was present at the Council meeting to accept recognition of his contribution with his assistance of the Sesquicentennial celebrations. Mr. Coll encourages the community to join in at the Memorial Day.

Councilmember Jeff Ewing wanted to acknowledge Jack Coll for all of this hard work and time contributed.

Motioned by: Jeff Ewing
Seconded by: Tara Gorney
Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
The motion passes

Mayor Danelle Fournier read aloud Resolution 2024-14. Mr. Coll took a few minutes to speak on the event and asked everyone to attend the Memorial Day event if families are able.

2. Evaluate and consider taking potential action to authorize the appropriate action to execute a settlement agreement to resolve an outstanding personnel issue. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to authorize settlement agreement.

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

3. Evaluate and take potential action on Resolution No. 2024-11 authorizing advertisement for bids and sale of two Borough-owned vehicles by public auction to the highest responsible bidder.

Mr. English indicated a 2009 Ford F50 and 2008 Ford F50 and these two vehicles have been replaced with two new vehicles. This will be before Council with highest responsible bidder.

Motioned by: Tara Gorney
Seconded by: Amelia Gale
Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
The motion passes

4. Evaluate and consider Resolution No. 2024-12 for potential action appointing one member and one alternate member to the West Conshohocken Borough Planning Commission.

Mr. English indicated that one member moved from the Planning Commission to the Zoning Hearing board leaving a four-year term full time position and an alternate position available. There were two applicants, and both were present at the Council meeting. Both applicants also provided resumes and they were in Mr. English's packet.

Dr. William Lucht and Mr. Fred Reinhart presented to Council and public their history and interest in the Planning Commission. Questions were presented by Council on their ability and willingness to perform as an active and alternate member.

Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to open nominations which Jeff Ewing made a motion and seconded by Jeff Ewing. The motion passes 5-0. A nomination was made by Tara Gorney for Dr. Lucht to which no other nominations were made. A motion to close nominations was made Amelia Gale and seconded by Jeff Ewing. The motion passes 5-0. A roll call vote was taken for Dr. Lucht to which it passes 5-0.

A motion was made by Amelia Gale to open nominations for the alternate member of the Planning Commission and it was seconded by Tara Gorney. The motion passes 5-0. A nomination for Mr. Reinhart was made by Amelia Gale. A motion to close nominations was made by Tara Gorney and seconded by Jeff Ewing. The motion passes 5-0. A roll call vote was taken to appoint Fred Reinhart as an alternate member and the motion passes 5-0.

5. Evaluate and take potential action on the recommendation of the Civil Service Commission to fill a vacancy in the West Conshohocken Police Department. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to fill a conditional offer for George Ruchert for a West Conshohocken Police Officer.

Motioned by: Jeff Ewing
Seconded by: Tara Gorney
Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
The motion passes

6. Evaluate and take potential action on Resolution No. 2024-13 accepting the resignation of Council Member Zachary Nelson and appointing a registered elector of the Borough to serve as a member of the Council for the Borough of West Conshohocken.

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that Council had already accepted the resignation of Zachary Nelson as of April 15, 2024. Mr. Blumenthal spoke about the procedure and questions that would be asked of applicants that applied for the Council seat. Mr. Blumenthal called applicants by alphabet starting with Dave Frankenfield, Walter Gleba, Richard Marr and Chad Peiper. Each candidate was provided with 5 minutes to speak and each candidate was also provided with a few questions from Council.

Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to open nominations to which Amelia Gale and seconded by Jeff Ewing and the motion passes 5-0. Amelia Gale made a motion to nominate Mr. Marr. No other nominations were made and Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to close nominations. Tara Gorney made a motion to close nominations, and it was seconded by Jeff Ewing. The motion passes 5-0. A roll call vote was taken for the appointment of Richard Marr. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-13 accepting the resignation of Zachary Nelson as Councilmember and appointing Richard Marr as new Councilmember.

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

Mr. Marr was sworn in and took seat. Mr. Marr will also be on the Open Space, Parks and Recreation Committee which is chaired by Tori Conicello-Emery.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Guy Davis, resident, wanted to address the falling ceiling in the utility room of St Gert's and potential mold along the back wall at St. Gert's. Mr. Davis also wanted to discuss the clarification of animals (wild and domesticated) that reside in the Borough for the safety of residents and first responders and that the Council look into this further. Mr. Davis suggested that Council revisit the ordinance for clarity of what is not a domesticated animal. Mr. Davis also suggested we revisit the definition of evasive plants/nuisance from plants and could apply to vicious animals. Mr. Blumenthal wanted to address Mr. Davis that the administrative team is working on clarifying those definitions.

Dave Frankenfield, resident, congratulated Mr. Marr and wanted to know Mr. Marr's address to which Mr. Blumenthal indicated that Mr. Marr does not have to state his address in public forum. Mr. Frankenfield wanted to thank and congratulate the members of the Planning Commission. July 12th Red Cross Blood Drive at George Clay Fire House from 1pm to 6pm. Mr. Frankenfield indicated that he would like more communication at the Council meetings for the public.

Jim Goggin, resident, wanted to discuss better communication on meetings and future events. Mr. Goggin wanted to address an article on what contaminations are in our water. There was a motion made to extend Mr. Goggin's time made by Amelia Gale and seconded by Tara Gorney and passed 5-0 to for an additional one minute and 30 seconds to which Mr. Goggin continued his d

Ms. Struwe, resident, to address concerns about the park project, regarding lights, gravel and stormwater. Ms. Struwe had questions about the brightness and timing of the lights, the length of time of the gravel project with a lot of shaking in the surrounding homes and also had questions regarding flooding. Ms. Struwe also asked about if dog waste bags were included in the plastic ban ordinance and wanted to know who the Right to Know Officer is. Mr. Hassan addressed the concerns of the lights, gravel and stormwater and Right to Know Officer's name was provided. Councilmember Tara Gorney indicated that more discussions regarding the park is discussed at the Open Space Committee Meeting.

Name inaudible, resident, indicates her house has been invaded by bugs and needs exterminators. The trucks are disruptive. Resident also wanted to discuss her concerns about the diversity of the Council and doesn't believe that the members of the council represent all of the residents.

Walter Gleba, resident, wanted to address Mr. Hassan wanted to talk about the end of the trail walking into the woods where there is a very steep hill leading to a very dangerous situation. Mr. Hassan indicated that this trail was discussed many times at public meetings and open space meetings that it was designed and constructed properly. Engineers will inspect and address any issues with the contractors and DCNR have reviewed and approved the design and construction.

Jason Saro, resident, wanted an update to the repairs of the blue matting at St. Gert's, updates on the lighting project at Elizabeth St Park and Matsonford Bridge with PennDOT. Mr. Hassan completed a concept plan for the lighting and will be discussed within the next few months. PennDOT has been contacted on several matters including the Matsonford Bridge and Pennoni will continue to follow up on this. Mr. English indicated that they are waiting for a few more prices to complete the work at St. Gert's.

Lisa Stiefel, resident, wanted to know if there was any update on the front street, high rise building. Mr. Blumenthal indicated that there have been no further discussions regarding the building.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Blumenthal announced that an executive session will be held for matters of personnel to which no action will be taken, and Council will not return.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Blumenthal asked Council for a motion to Adjourn the meeting at 9:14 pm

Motioned by: Tara Gorney

Seconded by: Amelia Gale

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

The motion passes

Respectfully Submitted



Cristina Meade
Borough Secretary