

BOROUGH OF WEST CONSHOHOCKEN
COUNCIL MEETING
November 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 & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

OPENING COMMENTS

Mr. Blumenthal stated that an Executive Session took place prior to the Council meeting this evening regarding matters of litigation and personnel, no action was taken. Mr. Blumenthal would like to thank the individuals that helped with the election and acknowledged the Veterans. A \$500,000 grant was issued to West Conshohocken Borough with no match required from the Borough.

ROLL CALL

Danelle Fournier, Mayor	Present
Stephen Blumenthal, President	Present
Tara Gorney, Vice President	Present
Tori Conicello-Emery	Present
Jeff Ewing	Present
Amelia Gale	Present
Chris Cella	Present
Richard Marr	Present
Douglas Borgerson, Borough Manager	Present
Stephen English, Borough Solicitor	Present
Khal Hassan, Borough Engineer	Present

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Blumenthal asked for approval of the Agenda and with unanimous consent the Agenda was approved

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA ITEMS

None

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

Mr. Blumenthal stated that the bills for this month were a total of \$360,906.25 and asked for a motion to approve the bills.

Motioned by: Jeff Ewing
Seconded by: Tori Conicello-Emery
Ayes: 7
Nays:0
The motion passes

APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Blumenthal stated that the grand total is \$14,707,061.17 with a negative difference of \$413,080.40.14, Interest earned on investments accounts was \$889.78. The pension accounts total \$11,323,791.05, and pensions accounts are not included on the total. No questions or comments were presented. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to approve the financial report.

Motioned by: Jeff Ewing
Seconded by: Chris Cella
Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
The motion passes

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Blumenthal stated that the Consent Agenda includes committee reports, fire and police reports and Mr. Blumenthal indicated that the consent agenda is approved with unanimous consent.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS

1. Borough Manager Dr. Borgerson stated that a copy of his report is in the packet. Mr. Borgerson stated that the website has been redesigned with a new company and asked for feedback.
2. Borough Solicitor Stephen English had nothing to report but will speak under New Business for Resolutions
3. Borough Engineer Khal Hassan stated that his report is in the packet. Mr. Hassan wanted to highlight a few items. The Church St project and repaving project has been completed.

Mr. Hassan provided dates for the Elizabeth St lighting: Advertisement for bids would be on November 18th and November 25th with a Pre-Bid meeting on November 27th. Bids will open on December 6th and recommendations to Council will be on December 10th.

Mr. Hassan stated that there were 10 bids for Phase 2 of MacKenzie Park. The lowest bidder was Claymar with a total of \$127,175.00. Phase 2a is a continuation of the trail and lights. No questions or comments were presented, and Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion.

Motioned by: Tara Gorney
Seconded by: Tori Conicello-Emery
Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
The Motion passes

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. The Council Shall evaluate and take potential action on Resolution No. 2024-21, which amends Resolution No. 2024-18, to provide for utilization of a bond as the financial security for the project at 237, 239, 303 Moorehead Ave.

Mr. Stephen English stated that last month a resolution 2028-18 for the Moorehead Ave project passed for firewall specifics and also identified financial security. 2024-21 amends ordinance 2024-18 to allow a bond, which is allowed by the NPC, for financial security. The attorney for the developer was present at the meeting and apologized for not making this amendment earlier. No questions or comments were presented. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-21.

Motioned by: Jeff Ewing
Seconded by: Amelia Gale
Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Abstentions: 1- Tori Conicello-Emery
The motion passes

2. The Council shall evaluate and take potential action on Resolution No. 2024-22, which authorizes the submission of an application for a Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant for the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the MacKenzie Park renovation project.

Mr. Hassan stated that this application is due November 21, 2024, which includes concession stands, bathrooms and playgrounds for a total amount of \$900,500. This grant has no match. No questions or comments were presented

Motioned by: Tara Gorney
Seconded by: Amelia Gale
Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
The motion passes

3. The Council shall evaluate and take potential action on Requests for Proposals from Planners for potential Overlay.

Dr. Doug Borgerson stated the recommendation at the last open space meeting was to move forward with the RFP for the overlay. There are dates missing from the draft and for Council to discuss further. Looking to take action in December. Mr. Hassan indicated that this has been discussed at Planning Commission and Open Space meetings. Amelia Gale wanted to confirm that this was for the whole Borough and not one specific area. Mr. Blumenthal indicated that there was no need for any action tonight, to which no one made a motion and therefore Mr. Blumenthal tabled this to December

Motioned by: Jeff Ewing
Seconded by: Amelia Gale
Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
The motion passes

4. The Council shall evaluate and take potential action on the 2025 Preliminary Proposed Budget.

Mr. Borgerson began to itemized revenues and noted that there is no property tax increase in 2025. Mr. Borgerson also stated that franchise fees have decreased due to individuals cutting the cord with cable. Mr. Borgerson discussed 341 Investments and no questions or comments were provided. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to approve the Revenues of the 2025 Budget.

Motioned by Jeff Ewing
Seconded by: Richard Marr
Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
The Motion passes

Mr. Borgerson began the breakdown of Expenditures. 400 (Governing Body) are locked in, no questions or comments. Amelia Gale made a motion to approve Section 400 and it was seconded by Chris Cella with the motion passing 7-0. Mr. Borgerson discussed 401 (Administration) and stated this was a lesser due to personnel changes and internal IT company changes. Mr. Borgerson indicated that the Police Department will eventually need new desktop computers and will be revisited. Jeff Ewing made a motion to approve 401 and it was seconded by Tori Conicello-Emery with the motion passing 7-0. Mr. Borgerson discussed 403 (Tax Collection). There were no questions or comments. Amelia Gale made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Tori Conicello-Emery with the motion passing 7-0. Mr. Borgerson addressed Section 404 (Legal Services), there was no questions or comments. Chris Cella made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Jeff Ewing, the motion passed 7-0. Mr. Borgerson stated that Section 408 (Engineering Services) is self-explanatory and there was no questions or comments. Tori Conicello-Emery made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Richard Marr with the motion passing 7-0. Mr. Borgerson discussed section 409 (Bldgs & Properties) and Mr. Borgerson wanted to highlight the increase in St. Gert's Church. Amelia Gale asked for updates for St. Gert's projects. There were questions regarding janitorial and repairs to Borough Hall and Mr. Borgerson indicated that public works had completed some painting and repairs to the interior of Borough Hall. A motion to approve Section 409 was made by Tori- Conicello Emery and it was seconded by Jeff Ewing with the motion passing 7-0. Mr. Borgerson began 410 (Police) stating that there would be a change in line item 410-404 to reflect \$9,000 for the computers which will be reflected in December. Mr. Carfagno spoke about the Civil Services of hiring new officers and the contractual changes of wages. No questions or comments were presented. A motion to approve 410 was made by Amelia Gale and seconded by Jeff Ewing with the motion passing 7-0. Mr. Borgerson discussed 411 (Fire Department). Dennis Frankenfield was present. The main discussion will pertain to 411-543 therefore Mr. Blumenthal asked if there were any questions of members of Council or any other discussions regarding line-item numbers 411-141 to 411-542. There were none. Mr. Frankenfield indicated this would cover replacement equipment for 6 people, EV blankets, hoses which costs \$54,000 not to \$45,000 listed in budget. Amelia Gale wanted to table this until December and to be able to further discuss in public safety committee. Amelia Gale made the motion, and it was seconded by Tori Conicello-Emery with 7 Ayes and 0 Nays. 411-543. All other line items have been preliminary approved.

A motion to recess was made by Tara Gorney, seconded by Amelia Gale with 6 in favor and 1 abstention.

The meeting was called back to order at 8:23pm and budget discussions reconvened at UCC & Code Enforcement (413) to which Mr. Borgerson indicated that all items under 413 are self-explanatory. No questions or comments were presented. Amelia Gale made a motion to approve Section 413 which was seconded by Jeff Ewing, with the motion passing 7-0. Mr. Borgerson indicates that 414 (Planning & Zoning) is self-explanatory and there were no questions or comments. Chris Chella made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Jeff Ewing, with the motion passing 7-0. Mr. Borgerson stated that 419 (Crossing Guards) is self-explanatory, and no questions or comments were presented. Richard Marr made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Chris Cella with the motion passing 7-0. Mr. Borgerson stated that Section 426 (Recycling Collection) is self-explanatory and there were no comments or questions. Jeff Ewing made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Tara Gorney with the motion passing 7-0. Mr. Borgerson stated that Section 427 (Solid Waste Disposal) is self-explanatory, and no questions or comments were made. A motion to approve Section 427 was made by Amelia Gale and seconded by Jeff Ewing with the motion passing 7-0. Mr. Borgerson discussed Section 430 (Public Works General) line item 377, indicating that the new piece of equipment would be beneficial to clean the undercarriage of the vehicle, especially during the winter months. There was further discussion between Council for line items 260-376. Tori Conicello-Emery made a motion to approve Section 430 Line Items 130-320 and it was seconded by Amelia Gale with the motion passing 7-0. Tori Conicello-Emery made a motion to approve Section 430 Line Items 374-465 and it was seconded by Amelia Gale with the motion passing 7-0. Mr. Borgerson stated that Section 431 (Snow Removal) is self-explanatory. Tara Gorney had a question regarding the contracted services to which Mr. Blumenthal believes that there is a duplication inside the budget and that line item can be removed. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to remove Section 431-line item 450. The motion to remove was made by Tara Gorney and seconded by Tori Conicello-Emery with the motion passing 7-0. Tara Gorney made a motion to approve Section 431 and it was seconded by Tori Conicello-Emery with the motion passing 7-0. Mr. Borgerson line items 433 (Traffic Control Devices) was self-explanatory, and no questions or comments were presented. Tori Conicello-Emery made a motion to approve Section 433 and it was seconded by Amelia Gale with the motion passing 7-0. Mr. Borgerson stated that Section 434 (Street Lights) was self-explanatory. Mr. Cella asked if the Elizabeth St project was included in Section 434 and Mr. Borgerson indicated that the lighting at Elizabeth Street is listed under major projects. Tori Conicello-Emery made a motion to approve Section 435 and it was seconded by Jeff Ewing with the motion passing 7-0. Mr. Borgerson stated that Section 436 (Storm Sewer & Drains) was self-explanatory and there were no questions or comments. Rich Marr made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Jeff Ewing with the motion passing 7-0. Mr. Borgerson discussed Section 438 (Roads & Bridges) stating the numbers have increased due to the amount of line painting and materials to fill cracks. Tori Conicello-Emery made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Jeff Ewing with the motion passing 6-0-1 (Chris Cella abstained). Mr. Borgerson stated that Section 451 (Recreation & Culture) that there are a few that are no profit donations, some have been increased as far as community events. Amelia Gale questioned the SPCA donation if this was strictly for Conshohocken and concerns of the mismanagement with this facility. Mr. Ewing questioned if these donations were obligations. Mr. Blumenthal stated along with other members that Section 451 should be tabled until we have more clarification. Tara Gorney made a motion to table Section 451 until December, and it was seconded by Amelia Gale with the motion passing 7-0.

Mr. Borgerson explained Section 454 (Parks) showing that the majority of the funds are due to the grant and the funds were not budgeted appropriately. Richard Marr questioned the St. Gert's increase to which Mr. Borgerson indicated there was new fencing and flooring and questions pertaining to utilities. Amelia Gale made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Tori Conicello-Emery with the motion passing 6-0-1- Chris Cella abstained.

Mr. Borgerson discussed Section 480 (Misc Expenses). Richard Marr questioned item 250 to which Mr. Borgerson stated that this would be for real estate tax refunds which was advised to place by Solicitor. Amelia Gale questioned 201 for COVID funds. Mr. Blumenthal made a motion to change the name from Emergency Expenses COVID-19 to Emergency Expenses and it was seconded by Amelia Gale with the motion passing 7-0. Tori Conicello-Emery made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Chris Cella with the motion passing 7-0. Mr. Borgerson stated that Section 487 was discussed in September and these numbers are set by the tax administrator. No comments or questions and a motion to pass preliminary approval was made by Jeff Ewing, seconded by Tori Conicello-Emery. The motion passes 7-0. No discussion further for Section 492.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Walter Gleba, resident, looks forward to discussing the AIR BNB in January. Mr. Gleba expressed concerns on the cracks in the concrete at MacKenzie Park and warranty. Mr. Gleba did access the new website and had no comment. Mr. Gleba thanked Council along with Pennoni on the grants. Mr. Gleba asked that Council address the painting of the windows at Borough Hall as they are in terrible shape and stated that St. Gerts building needs a lot of maintenance and attention. Mr. Gleba wanted to address Section 377 of the budget and washing of vehicles. Mr. Gleba would like more information on the \$80,000 piece of equipment as the vehicles and trucks worked without them all these years. Mr. Gleba questioned the Shade Tree Commission and wanted to know where the all the money is going. Council responded to the funds are used to planting trees and contractors.

Guy Davis, resident, had concerns about the electrical panel and water at St. Gert's. Entrance to the parking lot is in poor condition. Mr. Davis asked about monitoring the water level during the drought.

Dave Frankenfield, resident, had concerns that the firehouse seems to be overlooked and without property maintenance deterioration gets worse such as St. Gert's. Mr. Frankenfield indicates that he is pleased with the equipment that public works is looking to purchase for vehicle and truck cleaning.

Mr. Blumenthal thanked everyone for their patience this evening during the budget. Mr. Blumenthal wished everyone a happy thanksgiving and encouraged people to apply for the Open Space Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to Adjourn the meeting at 9:27 pm

Motioned by: Tara Gorney
Seconded by: Amelia Gale
Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
The motion passes

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cristina Meade'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Cristina' written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name 'Meade'.

Cristina Meade
Borough Secretary