

BOROUGH OF WEST CONSHOHOCKEN
COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2020
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

Mr. Borgerson stated Council held an executive session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

Douglas Borgerson, Council President, called the meeting to order at and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Douglas Borgerson, President	Present
Tara Gorney, Vice President	Present
Tori Conicello-Emery	Present
John Cooper	Present
Danelle Fournier	Present
Jose Gonzalez	Present
Richard Greenstein	Present
Gregory Wesley-Lynch, Mayor	Absent
Michael F. English, Borough Manager	Present
John Walko, Solicitor	Present
Khal Hassan, Engineer	Present

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA

Mr. English stated starting in 2020, there are some processes I would like to review with regard to Public Comment. Anyone who wants to come forward to speak to the Council to inform on any issues, requests, to inform or update, there will be three minute time limit. The Council has decided that once you are recognized by the President your three minutes will start.

Mr. Borgerson opened the floor for public comment on agenda items. No one came forward.

Ms. Gorney motioned to amend the agenda and suspend the interviews and just go to the right to appointments.

Motioned by: Tara Gorney
Seconded by: Jose Gonzalez

All in Favor, Yes.
The motion passed 7 to 0.

Mr. English stated there is one opening on the zoning hearing board for a three- year term. I received letter of interest from Al Kleinschmidt. Mr. Kleinschmidt, currently serves on the Zoning Hearing Board, and has requested to be reappointed for another term.

Mr. Borgerson asked for motion to appointment Al Kleinschmidt to three-year term on the Zoning Hearing Board.

Motioned by: Tara Gorney
Seconded by: Jack Cooper

All in Favor, Yes.
The motion passed 7 to 0.

Mr. English stated there are two positions on the Planning Commission. There is a four-year term that starts January 1, 2020 and ends December 31, 2023 and an unexpired term that ends on December 31, 2022. I have letter of interest from two individuals that asked to be considered. James Donohue who is currently a member of the Planning Commission and Matt DiPuppo.

Mr. Borgerson asked for a motion to appoint Matt DiPuppo to a four-year term on the Planning Commission that expires on December 31, 2023.

Motioned by: Danelle Fournier
Seconded by: Jose Gonzalez

All in Favor, Yes.
The motion passed 6 to 0. Tara Gorney abstained.

Mr. Borgerson asked for a motion to James Donohue to fill an unexpired term that ends on December 31, 2022.

Motioned by: Jose Gonzalez
Seconded by: John Cooper

Mr. English stated that item three on the agenda is a resolution # 2020-01 that appoints that someone to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Mr. Borgerson asked for a motion to Adopt Resolution 2020-01 appointing Albert Kleinschmidt to serve a three-year term on the Zoning Hearing Board that expires on December 31, 2022.

Motioned by: Tara Gorney
Seconded by: Jose Gonzalez

All in Favor, Yes.
The motion passed 7 to 0.

PRESENTATION ON 400 BARR HARBOR LAND DEVELOPMENT

Amee Farrell, Kaplin Stuart, we are here tonight to ask Council to prepare the resolution for final land development. We have received preliminary land development agreement from Council last year. We had additional meetings with Borough Staff and the Fire Department to go over the last review letter and additional items that were addressed in a new updated letter from Khal Hassan's office. The two items that we have agreed to was a restricted covenant regarding loading docks and installing sprinklers in the garage. We have secured confirmation from the fire company and have letter of agreement, which the fire company has signed. We can answer any other questions you have. We have been over this project several times.

Ms. Gorney stated this is just for drafting the resolution. The approval will appear at next month's meeting.

Ms. Farrell confirmed this.

Mr. Borgerson stated next up is a presentation for 49 Dehaven Street for the preliminary/final land development.

PRESENTATION ON 49 DEHAVEN STREET PRELIM/FINAL LAND DEVELOPMENT

Edward Hughes, attorney for the applicant, we have received zoning relief and conditional use approval for a two lot subdivision on Dehaven Street. We have a review letter from Pennoni and we will comply with those comments. We are asking Council to authorize the solicitor to prepare the resolution for final land development. Mr. Hughes stated as you remember we originally asked for twins and a single-family house.

Mr. Hassan stated that the Borough has received a certified survey plan that clearly shows the property lines that we requested. The project demonstrates they meet the criteria and codes. There are some minor waivers but there is nothing out of the ordinance. The applicant has asked for a waiver from constructing a sidewalk on New Dehaven Street. The slope of this street would make it extremely difficult to put a sidewalk there.

Mr. Hughes stated we are constructing a sidewalk on Dehaven Street but not down New Dehaven Avenue because of the steep slope of the street. We had to reduce the width of each house to conform to code.

Mr. Borgerson asked if there are any comments.

Mike Beck, 395 Dehaven Street, Upper Merion Township, I am the adjacent property owner. I was here back in November at the Planning Commission Meeting and the applicants had three waivers and were asking five more waivers. The waiver I was concerned about is the applicant asked for grading three feet from my property and that is not allowed according to code.

Mr. Hassan stated that the waiver to grade three feet from the property line has been removed. The survey map is at Borough Hall and you can come in to view it. Mr. Hassan stated that the applicant has addressed all the items and only a few waivers have been approved. Mr. Hassan proceeded to answer all of Mr. Beck's concerns regarding property lines and waivers that have been approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Borgerson asked if anyone had any questions or comments on the Workshop Council Meeting Minutes of November 6, 2019.

Mr. Borgerson requested a motion to accept the Workshop Council Meeting Minutes of November 6, 2019.

Motioned by: John Cooper
Seconded by: Jose Gonzalez
All in Favor, Yes.
The motion passed 5 to 0.

Tara Gorney and Tori Conicello-Emery abstained because they were not present.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Mr. Borgerson announced the January 14, 2020 bills total \$739,285.28 and asked if anyone had any questions. No questions were posed

Mr. Borgerson requested a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$739,285.28

Motioned by: John Cooper
Seconded by: Tara Gorney
All in Favor, Yes.
The motion passed 7 to 0.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Decker announced the current funds of the Borough as of January 10, 2020 are \$14,476,530.45 and asked if there were any questions. No questions were posed. The total interest earned on all investment accounts for December was \$61,210.84.

Motioned by: Richard Greenstein
Seconded by: Tara Gorney
All in Favor, Yes.
The motion passed 7 to 0.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. English stated Council has a copy of my report however; I did want to mention a few things for everyone. The January 28th Vision Meeting will be rescheduled for later in the month of February. The Steering Committee will be meeting at the beginning of February. I want to thank everyone as we finish 2019 and go into 2020.

COMMITTEE, DEPARTMENT, AND MAYOR'S REPORT

Chief Sinclair stated Council has a copy of my report. The mayor's Christmas fund drive was a great success. The reindeer visit at Gypsy Saloon had a great turn out. Officer Pagliaro, firearms instructor, provided a refresher course in active shooter training. We are still working to hire a part time officer.

Mr. Gonzalez stated that we have two funds in BB & T Capital Markets performing well. The borough has several funds overall and they are all doing well.

Mr. Fink stated he wanted to thank everyone who came out for the Santa Breakfast. We had our elections and our officers stayed the same. He asked if anyone had any questions for the Fire Company.

No questions were posed.

Ms. Gorney, Chairwoman of the Traffic & Parking Committee, stated that we did not meet this month so I have nothing new to report. I originally wanted to meet the first Tuesday of the month but it conflicts with the Fire Company Meeting. Therefore, I will continue to keep the meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. We will meet in February.

Mr. Borgerson, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, stated we had a good meeting in the month of December about the LOSAP program. This is a program for first responders' retirement. We have allocated some money for that fund. The Fire Company has set up a system to earn points. This can help with retention of our public servants and is used widely around the country. It is an ongoing discussion with the committee. Our next meeting will be on January 22, 2020.

Dave Frankenfield stated we are making good progress.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS

John Walko stated Joseph McGrory could not be here today because he is ill. We will continue to review the parking ordinance and will get the information to the committees. We have been working with the Barr Harbor applicant regarding the covenants concerning the loading docks.

Mr. Gonzalez asked about status of the foundation Council had discussed to benefit people in the Borough. Mr. Walko replied many things need to be completed before the foundation will be up and running.

Mr. Greenstein stated the ball is in our court at this time. We are looking for people to serve on this board that are not Council Members. We need to establish the trustees and then Mr. McGrory's office can move forward with setting up this foundation.

Mr. Walko will follow up with Mr. McGrory regarding this and report back to Council.

Mr. Borgerson asked if there were any questions for John Walko.

Mr. Hassan stated we have completed our review of 400 Barr Harbor Drive and 49 Dehaven Avenue. We completed the yearly report update of the MS4 for DEP. Mr. English and I are in constant contact with representatives of 14 Union Hill Road. We will be meeting with them at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Borgerson asked if there was any old business. No old business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Borgerson asked for a motion to authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare a Final Land Development Resolution for 400 Barr Harbor, LLC., pending Planning Commission recommendation at the February 6, 2020 meeting, that will be acted on by Borough Council at the February 11, 2020 meeting.

Motioned by: John Cooper
Seconded by: Danelle Fournier
All in Favor, No
The motion passed 5 to 2

Tara Gorney voted No
Tori Conicello-Emery abstained because she needed more information on the project.

Mr. Borgerson asked for a motion to authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare a Preliminary/Final Land Development Resolution for 49 Dehaven Street that will acted on by Borough Council at the February 11, 2020 Council Meeting.

Motioned by: Jose Gonzalez
Seconded by: Richard Greenstein

All in Favor: No
Motion Passed 6 to 1

Danelle Fourier abstained.

Mr. Borgerson asked for a motion to direct the Borough Solicitor appear at the February 13, 2020 Zoning Hearing Board in opposition to the zoning application for 218 Brittmuir Avenue.

Mr. Hassan stated that the property owner has submitted an application to build two units at this location. The entire property is in 25% steep slope and the code is very clear about building in steep slopes. The property owner will have to get variances for this project.

The Council led a lengthy discussion about the reasons why they are in opposition to this project and its impact on the Borough.

Motioned by: Tori Conicello-Emery
Seconded by: Jack Cooper
All in Favor: Yes / Motion Passed 7-0

Mr. Borgerson asked for a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement, that would enter the Borough into a four- year collective bargaining agreement effective January 1, 2020 through and including December 31, 2023 with the West Conshohocken Police Department.

Motioned by: Richard Greenstein
Seconded by: Jack Cooper
All in Favor: Yes / Motion Passed 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Steven Curran, 47 Dehaven Street, Planning Commission Chairman, stated there are grants available for borough improvements. The Planning Commission would like to increase public transportation in the Borough and work with incorporating it with the Vison Plan.

Dick Kenna, 1095 New Dehaven Avenue, thanked the Police Department, Public Works and Borough for making the changes at the corner of Elizabeth Street and Ford Street to alert people to stop for the school buses. The changes had really helped with the traffic. Mr. Kenna mentioned a depression around an inlet up on Dehaven Street.

Mr. English stated the Borough knows about it and is in the process of having Public Works take care of it.

ADJOURN

Mr. Borgerson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Motioned by: John Cooper
Seconded by: Richard Greenstein
All in Favor, Yes. / The motion passed 7 to 0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meg Decker
Bookkeeper/Secretary

