

**BOROUGH OF WEST CONSHOHOCKEN**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
May 12, 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**

This meeting was held remotely using the Webex platform. 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
Joseph J. McGrory, Solicitor	Present
Khal Hassan, Engineer	Present

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA**

Mr. Borgerson opened the floor for public comment on agenda items.

Mr. Dennis Frankenfield, George Clay Fire Company, stated that the Fire Company was against the Borough allowing the O-1 Zoning District to be changed to allow residential use. All first responders will have an additional dangers because this property located in the floodplain.

Mr. Borgerson thanked Dennis for his input. The Council will be have a discussion on this matter and there has been no decisions made regarding the O-1 Zoning District being changed.

Mr. Borgerson stated we will move on to the presentation from Nicole Zapata about The West Conshohocken Foundation.

## **PRESENTATION ON THE WEST CONSHOHOCKEN FOUNDATION**

Nicole Zapata, President of the Foundation, thanked the Council and Board of Directors for allowing her to serve as the President. She stated that there was an organizational meeting and the board agreed on the components of the survey for any applicants that are looking into receiving assistance. The survey was intended to be short so it is accessible and useable It is going to be put online and on the borough website.

We are using SurveyMonkey to allow people to complete the application on line. The required documentation will be collected in person and the Foundation is looking to award the grants by the June 30<sup>th</sup>. If things go smoothly depending on the the demand and interest. This will be first cycle.

Ms. Zapata asked if there were any questions.

Ms. Zapata said that the Borough has allocated \$20,000.00 to the Foundation. Based on the current situation could be distributed quickly we don't know what the applications are going to look like so we cannot judge at this time how the funds will be distributed. Naturally, we would like to grateful whether there is more in the budget for the Foundation in the future.

Mr. Gonzalez asked if the Foundation has contacted outside businesses to solicit outside support. I would like to help in any way. Just send me an email.

Our plans is to give updates to the Council as it going forward.

Mr. Greenstein stated there should be something on the Borough website for people to donate.

Ms. Zapata stated that the application will be on the Borough facebook page and West Conshohocken Residents facebook page. We do not want to go outside the Borough to contact Donors at this time. We are using a rubix system. We are learning as we go.

Mr. Borgerson asked if there were any other questions for Nicole.

## **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Mr. Borgerson announced the bills total \$340,727.17 and asked if anyone had any questions.

Mr. Borgerson requested a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$340,727.17

Motioned by: John Cooper

Seconded by: Jose Gonzalez

All in Favor, Yes

The motion passed 7 to 0

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Mr. Borgerson announced the current funds of the Borough as of May 11, 2020 is \$14,629,623.35 and asked if there were any questions. No questions were posed.

Mr. Borgerson asked Mr. Gonzalez to explain the difference of \$184,370.21.

Mr. Gonzalez stated there was a redemption on March 30<sup>th</sup> and a redemption in April other than that it is normal.

Interest Earned on investment accounts \$2,049.89

Motioned by: Richard Greenstein

Seconded by: Tori Conicello-Emery

All in Favor, Yes

The motion passed 7 to 0

## **BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. English stated my report is in the drop box. John Walko and Doug Borgerson attended that meeting and traffic work done on Route 23. This is the beginning of the gas main replacement project that will go behind PECO property and behind Portland Road down to Matsonford Road and finish in Marple Township.

## **COMMITTEE, DEPARTMENT, AND MAYOR'S REPORT**

### **PROFESSIONAL REPORTS**

Chief Sinclair stated we have received food donations from residents and businesses.

We have registered with PEMA to participate with the COVID-19 reimbursement.

I have a request for a handicapped spot for 226 228 Moorehead Avenue. The resident does comply with the Borough code and the state. She has a handicapped placard. Chief Sinclair stated the person has always parked in this spot across from her house since there is no parking on her side of the street. The house she parks in front of has off street parking for its residents.

Council members discussed if other residents will be inconvenienced by this spot being an handicapped spot. The Council decided to table this until the residents whose house is being used for this parking spot are notified.

Chief Sinclair referred to information in his report to donate two old vehicles to the Fire Academy.

Mr. Bergerson requested a motion to donate the old vehicles.

Motioned by: Richard Greenstein

Seconded by: Tori Conicello-Emery

All in Favor, Yes

The motion passed 7 to 0

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Chief Frankenfield read his report to the Council. Chief Frankenfield spoke once more against the any decision to change the zoning in the 0-1 to allow residential use. Chief Frankenfield asked if there were any questions for him.

Mr. Borgerson stated that he understands Chief Franenfield's concerns about the zoning change and no decision have been made in regard to this.

Mr. McGrory stated the Borough send a letter to the Board of Elections regarding the change in the polling place in West Conshohocken. We attended the meeting and addressed the Board to request that West Conshohocken not have to change their polling place. The motion did not carry. We reviewed Act 12 and the County has met all the guidelines that allow them to change the polling place.

Mr. Bergerson asked if anyone had any questions for Mr. McGrory.

Mr. Greenstein asked about informing the residents.

Mr. English stated that the information will be put on the Borough website and facebook page.

Mr. Keaveney stated that he would like to add to his report is we have applied for CBDG Grant for additional ADA ramps in the Borough. We are waiting to hear back from them To move forward on the ramps.

Mr. Cooper asked about Balligomingo road.

Mr. English stated that he has been meeting monthly with PennDot. They will be shoring up on the wall they put in and doing guardrail work on the creek side of Balligomingo Rd.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Bogerson asked if there was any old business.

Mr. Gonzlez stated that we had bond investments that were redeemed on March 30th and April 30<sup>th</sup>. We will continue to invest those funds in money markets.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Borgerson stated I just want to remind everyone that we didn't sign a 2 year agreement with Coventa because we wanted look at other options. We want to look into putting together committee to review any other options.

Mr. Borgerson requested a motion to Authorize the Borough Manager to exercise a one-year option for curbside recycling contract with J.P. Mascaro & Sons for a period starting August 2, 2020 to August 1, 2021. For that period will be \$62.40. The current cost per unit is \$60.48. This the second and option year of the current contract with J. P. Mascaro & Sons.

Motioned by: Richard Greenstein

Seconded by: John Cooper

All in Favor, Yes

The motion passed 7 to 0

Mr. Bergerson requested a motion to approve the Mercantile Tax Refund Petition from Liberty Video Company, 300 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, PA. This approval has been recommended by Robert Schaefer, Chief Operating Officer of Tri State Financial Group, LLC (TFG), the Borough's Mercantile Tax Collector, based Mr. Schaefer's review of the Refund Petition filed by Library Video Company.

Motioned by: Richard Greenstein

Seconded by: Jose Gonzlez

All in Favor, Yes

The motion passed 7 to 0

Mr. Borgerson stated this is a discussion of allowing residential use in the O-1 Office Zoning District. There will not be a vote tonight. I just wanted to look down the road so the Borough is prepared for the future. I have seen a commercial property lose tenants and not be able to fill the space. Thank you Dennis for your thoughts in regard to first responders concerns regarding this. The Council wants to hear from everyone in the Borough with their thoughts for this discussion.

Mr. Gonzlez stated I commend you for taking the initiative and looking forward into the future. We need to be seeking solutions to future problems. We have to think of it merits and further analyze what may happen in the future. It is good that you are sharing your experience with the Borough.

Ms. Gorney stated she thinks we should be thinking of the future. My question is what do we need to do to further this discussion?

Mr. Borgerson stated we have the Borough Solicitor on the phone. The Borough can learn what other municipalities did when faced with this problem. This might not be something that would happen it is just having a plan in place for the future.

Mr. McGrory stated that we are in a unique circumstance. What I would propose if I were you, is do it by Conditional Use so the Council could review it. It would be a conversion of office space to permit residential use. That would cure the vacant office space without allowing it anywhere else throughout the zoning district or new construction. I would tailor the ordinance to one specific purpose.

Mr. Gonzalez stated that the component is that this municipality splits the money between the where you live and where you earn.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding working from home and working in the office and how will this will effect EIT earning for the Borough.

Mr. Borgerson stated that this will be discussed further as more information is gathered.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Bogerson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:28p.m.

Motioned by:

Seconded by: Richard Greenstein

All in Favor, Yes.

The motion passed 7 to 0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael English  
Borough Manager

