

**BOROUGH OF WEST CONSHOHOCKEN  
COUNCIL MEETING  
January 12, 2021  
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 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Douglas Borgerson, President	Present
Tara Gorney, Vice President	Present
Tori Conicello-Emery	Present
John Cooper	Present
Stephen Blumenthal	Present
Jose Gonzalez	Present
Richard Greenstein	Absent
Danelle Fournier, Mayor	Present
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. Borgerson asked for a moment of silence for former Council President, Josephine Scharff and former George Clay Fire Company member Donald Tarr.

There was no public comment on the agenda.

**Presentation - 1075 New Dehaven Avenue**

Mr. David McFadden stated that the building has long been vacant. The owners have tried a number of uses for this site. Mr. McFadden showed the Council Member pictures of the property showing what the owner has in mind for moving forward with developing the property into 8 townhouses. Mr. McFadden proceeded to present all the details of this project.

Mr. Blumenthal asked what the council should be looking for during this presentation.

Mr. McGrory stated that when someone comes in with a proposal the Council looks at the project and can give their feedback to the presenter. This is done ahead of the presenter moving forward with any zoning or design.

Mr. Hassan stated that he has several concerns about this project and one is the location. The issue is there is a police station on one side and warehouse on the other and light industrial across the street and very steep cliff. There is hardly any room for setbacks with this location and there are drainage issues. The project itself is good but the location is not.

Mr. McFadden stated that the footprint of this property is not going to change.

There was a detailed discussion between Mr. Hassan and Mr. McFadden regarding the Storm water management and the engineering challenges.

Council along with Mr. Hassan and Mr. McGrory held a lengthy discussion with Mr. McFadden regarding the details of this project.

Mr. Borgerson asked if Council wanted to make a motion to allow the Borough staff to work with the applicant regarding this location

Motioned by: Jose Gonzalez

Seconded by: Tara Gorney

All in Favor: No 4 to 3

Douglas - Yes

Stephen - No

Jack - No

Tori - No

Tara -Yes

Jose -Yes

Danelle Yes to break the tie

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Mr. Borgerson asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes of the regular Council Meeting of December 8, 2020.

Motioned by: Jose Gonzalez

Seconded by: Stephen Blumenthal

All in Favor: Aye /Motion Passed 6-0

## **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Doug Borgerson announced the bills total \$548,221.18 as of January 11, 2021 and asked if anyone had any questions. Mr. Borgerson stated that he had gone through the list more thoroughly. Did anyone have something jump out at them?

Ms. Gorney asked a question about the Budget Comparison is that the breakdown of the actuals and the forecast.

Mr. English stated that this is for the end of December, 2020. We have scheduled the workshop in February 3<sup>rd</sup> to go over this. An agenda will be put together. Freedom Systems is putting together a program to have the information Council requested.

Doug Borgerson requested a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$548,221.18

Motioned by: Stephen Blumenthal  
Seconded by: Jose Gonzalez  
All in Favor, Aye  
The motion passed 6-0

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Doug Borgerson announced the current funds of the Borough as of, January 12, 2021 was \$14,338,861.79 and asked if there were any questions. No questions were posed.

Doug Borgerson requested a motion to approve the Financial Report.

Motioned by: Jose Gonzalez  
Seconded by: Tori Conicello-Emery  
All in Favor, Yes  
The motion passed 6-0

### **BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. English stated my report is in your packet. There are some couple things I would like to go over. Last week, the Contractor, Pennoni Associates Staff Engineer, Rob Dronitsky and I performed a final inspection of the Merion Ave. Parking Lot. Based on the result of that inspection, I am recommending that the Borough Council open the lot for public use on a trial basis until March 31, 2021. The Parking Permit application process will be start on March 1. Temporary tags for year one will be issued gratis as the Council decided for the first year. Details on the Permit Process will sent out to Borough Property Owners in mid-February. They will go to the Police Station with prove their residency and get their 2021 permit.

The Managers in Conshohocken, Plymouth Meeting and myself will have our first meeting for Covanta to look at their performance. There was a 2-year extension that ends on December 31, 2021.

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

Chief Police Sinclair stated that the Mayor and Carol Martin worked together to provide for the needy families during the holidays. The K-9 Lolli has graduated and is working in the borough. Chief Sinclair asked for questions.

Mr. Blumenthal had questions for the noise reports for the outdoor dining in the Borough which the Chief answered. Mr. Blumenthal asked Mr. English about a meeting in October with the owner of Gypsy Saloon about stopping outdoor dining after Thanksgiving holiday.

Ms. Gorney stated that she was at the meeting. The agreement was that the Wednesday before Thanksgiving the music would stop for outside dining. We did not discuss anything beyond that and we did come to an understanding on how this would be handled in the spring. The Chief was asked to keep reports on this situation.

Mr. English stated that he has a meeting with owner of Gypsy Saloon this week about continuing playing music outdoors. Chief Sinclair stated that the noise readings are being taken when the music is being played and it is not done every day.

Mr. Blumenthal stated that a former resident is keeping in touch with him about this problem. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the noise ordinance with Mr. McGrory, Mr. Hassan and the Council.

Mr. McGrory suggested that the Borough meet with all the restaurant owners and come to some solution between the keeping the restaurants in business and some compromise with the residents.

Mr. David Frankenfield stated that the report is in the drobox for the Council. I assume that everyone got the matrix. Mr. English stated that because of the size of the document it needs to be made into a manageable size to distribute to the Council.

Mr. Hassan stated he would be glad to help with this problem.

Mr. Frankenfield asked if anyone has any questions.

Mayor Danelle Fournier stated that it has been 50 years since the fire on Front Street. There are pictures on the residents facebook page. The event will take place at 8:00pm at Borough Hall on Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. The food drive was a huge success and everyone was very generous. Park and Recreation Council donated to money to the food drive.

## **PROFESSIONAL REPORTS**

Mr. McGrory stated the Council directed me to find out the differences between sewer rates for Conshohocken compared to West Conshohocken. I reached out to the solicitor for the BCA and they broke down borough into two different rates. I requested a copy of the rate studies that were done for both municipalities and I just received that yesterday.

I will ask Mr. Hassan to look at the rate study. If Khal is not comfortable doing this, I would recommend the Borough hire a forensic accountant. BCA's procedure is legally proper. I do not know if the numbers associated with West Conshohocken are reasonable. This is something that is beyond my ability to judge.

Mr. Hassan stated that my report is in your packet. The Borough applied for a CDBG grant in April, 2020 to replace 41 ADA ramps in the Borough. The Borough have used previous grants to place ADA ramps on many streets in the Borough. In 2021, the County has awarded the Borough a CDBG grant for \$200,000.00. The cost of doing this project was \$321,000.00. The Borough has to sign an agreement to drop the scope down to the \$200,000.00. The Borough signing the agreement does not commit to anything.

I will reach out to the County to reduce the scope to \$200,000.00.

Mr. English stated that we received this agreement after the December meeting.

Mr. Hassan discussed the qualifications of getting a CDBG grants. He asked that Borough to sign the agreement.

Mr. Borgerson asked for a motion to approve the Borough Manager the signing the CDBG grant.

Motioned by: Jack Cooper  
Seconded by: Stephen Blumenthal  
All in Favor, Yes  
The motion passed 6-0

Mr. Hassan stated that I have generated a punch list the 8 Merion parking lot has very minor items to be corrected. I will issue the final approval in next week to 10 days. The contractor submits an 18 months' maintenance bond will cover anything that needs to be corrected. The Borough can open the parking lot on a trial basis.

Mr. Hassan discussed the improvements on Route 320 between West Conshohocken And Upper Merion.

Mr. English, Mr. Hassan and Council led a lengthy discussion of this project that is being done from Penn Dot.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Doug Borgerson asked if there was any old business. There was none

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Borgerson read the new committee appointments. Two committees were combined public property and open space. A hard copy of the appointments will be sent to each Council members and volunteers of these committees.

Mr. Borgerson asked for a motion- To Adopt Resolution 2021-01 Condemning Violence at the U. S. Capitol and urging Peaceful Transition of Power.

Motioned by: Stephen Blumenthal  
Seconded by: Tara Gorney  
All in Favor, Yes  
The motion passed 6-0

Council Members asked that Mr. English forward this Resolution to State representative.

Mr. Borgerson asked for a motion to reappointing Ed Pluciennik, Jr. to a three-year term on the Zoning Hearing Board that expires on December 31, 2023.

Motioned by: Stephen Blumenthal  
Seconded by: Tara Gorney  
All in Favor, Yes  
The motion passed 6-0

Mr. Borgerson asked for a Motion to reappoint Steve Curran to a four -year term to the Planning Commission that expires on December 31, 2024

Motioned by: Jack Cooper  
Seconded by: Jose Gonzalez  
All in Favor, Yes  
The motion passed 6-0

Mr. Borgerson asked for a motion reappointing Matt Kuttler to a four- term on the Planning Commission that expires on December 31, 2024.

Motioned by: Stephen Blumenthal  
Seconded by: Jack Cooper  
All in Favor, Yes  
The motion passed 6-0

## **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. David Frankenfield stated that the George Clay Fire Company was requested by Upper Merion to provide Fire coverage of the area of during the Penn Dot project on Route 320. This is a part of the mutual aid with Upper Merion.

Mr. Gonzalez asked if the Borough received any financial compensation for this.

Mr. Frankenfield stated that a mutual aid has been in place for years with no financial compensation for the George Clay or is any given by George Clay to other municipalities who we have mutual aid agreements with.

Mr. Justin Reynolds, 120 George Street, spoke to the Council regarding the noise at the Gypsy Saloon and his concerns regarding the music.

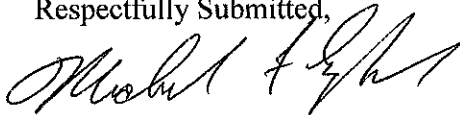
Mr. Blumenthal thanked Mr. Reynolds for coming forward with his concerns. This is an issue that the Borough will be looking into over the next month.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Borgerson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05p.m.

Motioned by: Jack Cooper  
Seconded by: Jose Gonzalez  
All in Favor, Yes.  
The motion passed 6-0

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael English", written in a cursive style.

Michael English  
Borough Manager