

**BOROUGH OF WEST CONSHOHOCKEN**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
September 12, 2023  
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**

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

**OPENING COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Mr. Blumenthal asked for a moment of silence for the remembrance of 9/11. Mr. Blumenthal wanted to acknowledge the Geroge Clay Fire Company for the 2023 analysis response and indicated to the public to mark calendars for fire safety prevention that George Clay will be hosting. Mr. Blumenthal announced that the 5K Registration is open and also addressed the recent crime in the area. Mr. Blumenthal indicated Council will meet for Executive Session and will not be returning.

**ROLL CALL**

Stephen Blumenthal, President	Present
Danelle Fournier, Mayor	Present
Tara Gorney, Vice President	Absent
Tori Conicello-Emery	Present
Jeff Ewing	Present
Kelly Snizavich	Absent
Zachary Nelson	Absent
Amelia Gale	Present
Michael F. English, Borough Manager	Present
Doug Borgerson, Assistant Manager	Present
John Iannozzi, Borough Solicitor	Present
Ted Dmytryk, Borough Engineer	Present

**APPROVAL OF THE AMENDED AGENDA**

Stephen Blumenthal asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motioned by: Amelia Gale  
Seconded by: Jeff Ewing  
Ayes: 4  
Nays: 0  
The motion passes

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA ITEMS**

Walter Gleba, resident, wanted to request that the Council table the motion for 2024 MMO until Council holds a public meeting when Council members Gorney and Nelson are present as Gorney and Nelson had questions at the Finance Committee Meeting. Mr. Gleba also had concerns

appointing Mr. Borgerson as Right to Know officer as Mr. Borgerson is only part time and worried about time constraints. Mr. English addressed Mr. Gleba's MMO concerns and the options that Mr. Duda has suggested. Mr. Iannozzi addressed Mr. Gleba's Right to Know concerns.

### **APPROVAL OF THE BILLS**

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that the bills for this month were a total of \$479,711.84 and asked for a motion to approve the bills.

Motioned by: Jeff Ewing  
Seconded by: Tori Conicello-Emery  
Ayes: 4  
Nays: 0  
The motion passes

### **APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that the grand total is \$15,743,749.31 with a positive difference of \$380,136.66; interest on all investment accounts of \$40,302.62. Pension accounts totaled \$10,003,387.66; Non-uniform pension account \$1,188,270.81 and police pension account \$8,815,116.85. Pension accounts are not included in the total. Mr. Blumenthal and asked for a motion to approve the financial report.

Motioned by: Jeff Ewing  
Seconded by: Amelia Gale  
Ayes: 4  
Nays: 0  
The motion passes

### **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items.

Motioned by: Tori Conicello-Emery  
Seconded by: Amelia Gale  
Ayes: 4  
Nays: 0  
The motion passes

### **PROFESSIONAL REPORTS**

Mr. English indicated that his report is in the packet. Mr. English touched briefly on the 2023 MMO required to certify for the following year which was recommended by the Borough Actuary Joe Duda. Mr. Ewing indicated that he believed that Mr. Duda answered Ms. Gorney and Mr. Nelson's questions. Mr. Duda indicated that the smoothing model and going by the 6.75 % or 6.5% rate and reduce that rate to 6.25 over time. The state will assist with State Aid. The highest recommendation would be 6.5% with smoothing. Discussions took place between council on the best model. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to approve the MMO at 6.5% with 3 year smoothing.

Mr. Blumenthal asked for questions or comments from the public and Mr. Gleba commented that it would be better if Mr. Duda was present.

Motioned by: Jeff Ewing  
Seconded by: Amelia Gale  
Ayes: 4  
Nays: 0  
The motion passes

Mr. English indicated that the road pavement project is underway and started sooner than expected. Mr. Dmytryk met with site super and provided more information.

John Iannozzi announced that the Borough is in receipt of a Settlement Agreement for the Merion Ridge appeal matter. Council originally agreed to three single homes instead of the requested five by the zoning applicant. Mr. Broseman, applicant's attorney, was present at the Council meeting and spoke further about the project. Michael Yanoff, representing a Lower Merion township resident was also present to dispute this settlement agreement. Councilmember Conicello-Emery asked for the exact proposal which John Iannozzi clarified. Mr. Iannozzi indicated that this is only from a five lot up to three lots. Mr. Iannozzi indicated this motion is to accept the Settlement Stipulation.

Motioned by: Jeff Ewing  
Seconded by: Amelia Gale  
Ayes: 4  
Nays: 0  
The motion passes

Mr. Ted Dmytryk indicated that Penmoni's report is in the packet.

509 Apple Street: Final Land Development is before Council under Resolution 2023-14 for a subdivision with an existing lot and a new lot for single family dwelling. The subdivision includes a shared driveway with six parking spaces between the two units. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to adopt resolution 2023-14 to approve final land development for 509 Apple Street

Motioned by: Tori Conicello-Emery  
Seconded by: Jeff Ewing  
Ayes: 4  
Nays: 0  
The motion passes:

Mr. Dmytryk would like to defer the discussion of the Official Map to John Iannozzi. Mr. Iannozzi provided the information as follows for the adoption of the Official Map. A motion is needed to advertise to begin the process. There is a 45 day review period for Montgomery County Planning Commission and adjacent municipalities. No questions were presented from Council or public

Motioned by: Tori Conicello-Emery  
Seconded by: Amelia Gale  
Ayes: 4  
Nays: 0  
The motion passes

Mr. Dmytryk indicated revisions were submitted to DCNR for the MacKenzie Park project.

Mr. Dymtryk discussed some erosion concerns at 20 Union Hill. A Geotech engineer and Pennoni rep was out to visit the property and the issues were addressed.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion to accept resignation letter of Kelly Snizavich from Borough Council. Mr. Blumenthal acknowledged Kelly's service to the Borough.

Motioned by: Jeff Ewing  
Seconded by: Tori Conicello-Emery  
Ayes: 4  
Nays: 0  
The motion passes

2. Motion to accept resignation letter of Michael Snizavich from Borough Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Blumenthal acknowledged Mike's services to the Borough

Motioned by: Amelia Gale  
Seconded by: Jeff Ewing  
Ayes: 4  
Nays: 0  
The motion passes

3. Resolution No. 2023-15 Appointing Assistant Manager as Right-to-Know Officer.

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that Borough Manager is currently the Right to Know officer and there was commentary prior in regard to this potential motion. Councilmember Gale asked Mr. Borgerson if there would be any reason, he would not be able to fulfill as Right to Know Officer. Councilmember Conicello-Emery also indicated that this handoff would be part of the Assistant Manager position, to be an assistant. No other questions were presented. Mr. Davis is concerned about the 5 day extension letter to which Mr. Iannozzi addressed his concerns about transparency

Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-15.

Motioned by: Tori Conicello- Emery  
Seconded by: Amelia Gale  
Ayes: 4  
Nays: 0  
The motion passes

4. Borough of West Conshohocken website design update.

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that the Borough is always looking for better communication and better enhancement of the website. Doug Borgerson touched base on the front-page button and changes to the banner. Accessibility compliance checks periodically, searchability, photography.

5. Motion to accept the recommendation of the Personnel, Finance and Pension Committee to invest the funds that are in the PLGIT-Class in equal thirds in 90-day, 180- day and 270- day funds.

Mr. English indicated that currently the Borough account holds \$2,546,883.23 and the Fire Services account holds \$264,874.00 and the Committee discussed in a maturity range in 90, 180 and 270 day. The rate is 5.56% in 90 day; 5.76% in 180 day and 5.84% in 270 day. The recommendation is to move this into thirds and Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion.

Dave Frankenfield, resident, asked about fire company finances when other accounts were closed out and put in the general fund and indicated that it should be more. Mr. Ewing indicated that all the money has not been brought over yet.

Motioned by: Jeff Ewing  
Seconded by: Amelia Gale  
Ayes: 4  
Nays: 0  
The motion passes

### **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Walter Gleba, resident, thanked everyone for the 9/11 memorial services. Mr. Gleba in addressed the stop sign at Merion Hill and Spruce Lane. Mr. Gleba provided information to Council regarding accidents, traffic concerns calls. Mr. Gleba is yielding the remaining of his time to the residents whom he brought to speak from Merion Hill

Gene Gryga, resident, had concerns regarding the stop sign and trees overgrowth. Mr. English addressed this individuals concerns and notified him that PennDOT is shorthanded. Mr. Blumenthal indicated that he would also reach out to State Rep for additional resources.

Ed McLaughlin, resident of Merion Hill was also concerned about the stop sign and the overgrowth of trees. Mr. McLaughlin commented about the website and provided input.

Tina Reese, resident spoke about the Fire Convention being held in Harrisburg in October. Ms. Reese also made comments about the website.

Jessing Wong, resident of Moorehead Ave, asked to propose an amendment of Section 36.16 - keeping of pigs. Ms. Wong indicates that she owns a pig who is currently in the process of being rehomed. Mr. Blumenthal addressed that the Borough will consider this request.

Guy Davis, resident, spoke about the Planning Commission reports needed at a certain time, and ask for an exception to their report. Mr. Davis also commented about amending the code for invasive species for bamboo overgrowth. Mr. Davis also made suggestions regarding website.

Dave Frankenfield, resident, spoke about the 9/11 memorial, Fire Convention coming up in Harrisburg, the 5K run, and the Fire Company Safety Event and the Fire Company is always looking for volunteer firefighters. Mr. Frankenfield thanked Kelly and Mike Snizavich for their services to the Borough and Fire Company

Mr. Blumenthal thanked everyone for their comments this evening. He encourages everyone to reach out to Dr. Borgerson with any suggestions or comments regarding the website. Mr. Blumenthal indicated that the open Council seat advertisement will be posted within three days and will be appointed by next meeting. There is also an open seat for the Zoning Hearing Board.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that Council would go into Executive Session and will not be returning regarding a matter for potential litigation.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Stephen Blumenthal asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:57pm

Motioned by: Amelia Gale

Seconded by: Jeff Ewing

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

The motion passes

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cristina Meade", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Cristina Meade  
Borough Secretary