

BOROUGH OF WEST CONSHOHOCKEN
COUNCIL MEETING
December 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 indicated that Council held an Executive Session at 6:30pm for a personnel matter to which no action was taken. There will be an additional executive session following the Council meeting for a personnel matter and no action will be taken. Mr. Blumenthal wished everyone happy holidays and thank everyone for their engagements to the Borough.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Stephen Blumenthal asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.

Motioned by: Amelia Gale
Seconded by: Tori Conicello-Emery
Ayes: 5
Abstention: 1- Tara Gorney
Nays: 0
The motion passes

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA ITEMS

None

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that the bills for this month were a total of \$416,665.94 and asked for a motion to approve the bills.

Motioned by: Jeff Ewing
Seconded by: Chris Cella
Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
The motion passes

APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that the grand total is \$15,302,529.42 with a positive difference of \$66,373.78; interest on all investment accounts of \$15,733.23. Pension accounts totaled \$10,025,484.52; non-uniform pension account \$1,243,829.53 and police pension account \$8,781,654.99. 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: Tori Conicello-Emery
Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
The motion passes

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items, which includes, November 14th minutes, Public Safety report, Mayors report, Police and Fire Company report.

Motioned by: Amelia Gale
Seconded by: Jeff Ewing
Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
The motion passes

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS

Mr. Michael English indicated that his report is in the packet. Mr. English indicated Civil Service commission will be Monday, November 18th at 7pm. Mr. Blumenthal thanked Mayor, George Clay, Police Department and Public Works for the holiday event at Borough Hall. No questions were presented

Mr. John Iannozzi suspended the public meeting into a public hearing and presented Exhibits for the Official Map. Mr. Iannozzi indicated that there were no comments from the neighboring municipalities and the MCPC provided their recommendation on the Official Map Ordinance as well as the West Conshohocken Borough Planning Commission which were incorporated into the Official Map. No questions were presented from the public and Mr. Iannozzi closed the hearing and proceeded back to public meeting. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to adopt the Official Map Ordinance 2023-04

Motioned by: Tara Gorney
Seconded by: Chris Cella
Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
The motion passes

Mr. Khal Hassan indicated that their report is in the packet. Mr. Hassan wanted to highlight two items. The MacKenzie Park contract has been executed and the first meeting is scheduled for 12/22/2023.

Motioned by: Zach Nelson
Seconded by: Tori Conicello-Emery
Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
The motion passes

Mr. Hassan wanted to discuss the stop sign concerns at Spruce and Spring Garden. Mr. Hassan indicated that the intersection does meet the requirement. The options would be to reduce the speed limit from 25 to 15 or install a stop sign and waive the trial period. Tara Gorney has questions as to why a stop sign is being recommended if the criteria is not met. Mr. Hassan indicated that the sightline is a safety factor. Discussions took place within Council members regarding the one stop sign to be installed. Mr. Iannozzi indicated that the motion would be for Solicitor to draft a proposed ordinance for the stop sign. Public member Walter Gleba, resident, would like to thank members who are in favor. Mr. Iannozzi indicated that the resolution would be before Council in January.

Motioned by: Jeff Ewing
Seconded by: Amelia Gale
Ayes: 5
Abstention: 1- Tara Gorney
Nays: 0
The motion passes

OLD BUSINESS

1. Review of 410, 411 and 430 of the 2024 Proposed Preliminary Budget.

Rob Dronitsky, Public Works Foreman was present at the meeting to discuss 430 for request of additional vehicles and equipment and potential of another full-time employee. Discussions took place of the costs for a mini excavator and snow aerator. Mr. Dronitsky indicated that there are grants for street sweeper. Lengthy discussions took place regarding the use of and life span of the equipment and time length to receive and breakdown of costs for each piece of equipment and the opposition to purchase used equipment Amelia Gale made a motion to accept Section 430 in full amount of \$220,000.00

Motioned by: Amelia Gale
Seconded by: Jeff Ewing
Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Abstention: 1- Tara Gorney
The motion passes

There is a question in bringing in Joe Gertrich as a full-time employee. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion for another full-time public works employee. Discussions took place regarding the increase of costs of section 430 as well as loosing the manpower and budget. Mr. Blumenthal asked for motion to employee new hire of a full time public works employee and provide financials to potentially reopen the budget in January.

Motioned by: Jeff Ewing
Seconded by: Tara Gorney
Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
The motion passes

Mr. Blumenthal wanted to discuss Section 410- Police Budget. Interim Chief Carfagno was present to discuss police budget needs. Discussions took place regarding one-time costs, new hires, taser replacement costs and ticket machines. Discussions took place regarding retiring Officer Lolli. Mr. Blumenthal thanked Carfagno for the exemplary changes that have been made this year.

Mr. Blumenthal wanted to discuss Section 411 Fire Company for supplemental requests. Jeff Ewing made a motion for a five-minute recess and seconded by Tori Conicello-Emery, the motion passes with one abstention due to Amelia Gale stepped out of the room. The meeting resumed at 8:31pm. Mr. Dennis Frankenfield discussed the supplemental requests for turnout gear and air packs. The costs decreased by half from last year, and second gears purchasing. George Clay is requesting \$230,000 appropriation which covers expenditures, ESO, radio pagers, new boat, community outreach. Kelli Scarlett was also present to discuss budget requests and community outreach. Mr. Blumenthal indicated that the larger expenses, basement renovation, truck request, bay doors, will need to be revisited at another council meeting. A Motion was made to reopen the budget in January for the turn out gear and air pack replacement.

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

Mr. Blumenthal wanted to review Section 411 and no questions were presented.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion to adopt proposed Preliminary 2024 Budget.

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

2. Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-19, Affixing Tax Rates for 2024.
Mr. Blumenthal read aloud Resolution 2023-19 affixing the tax rates for 2024

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

3. Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-20 authorizing the reappointment of Ed Pluciennik Jr. to the West Conshohocken Borough Zoning Hearing Board to serve as a member for a term until December 31, 2026.

Motioned by: Amelia Gale
Seconded by: Chris Cella
Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
The motion passes

4. Motion to Adopt Resolution 2023-21 authorizing the appointed of _____ to the West Conshohocken Borough Zoning Hearing Board to serve as a member for a term until December 31, 2024.

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that the ad for the open vacancy had been advertised four different times to which only one applicant applied. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to open nominations by Jeff Ewing. Tori Conicello Emery made a motion to appoint Matt DiPuppo and a motion to close nominations was made by Amelia Gale and seconded by Jeff Ewing. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to appoint Matt DiPuppo to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Motioned by: Tori Conicello- Emery
Seconded by: Chris Cella
Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Abstention: 1
The motion passes

5. Motion to ratify a four year agreement with the West Conshohocken Police bargaining until effective January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2027.

Mr. English indicated that the contract reads the following increases: 4% in 2024, 3.75% in 2025, 3.50% in 2026 and 3.5% in 2027 with an addition of Juneteenth as a holiday, Officers with 23 years or more shall allow 40 additional hours of vacation time and adjustments of Bereavement leave

Motioned by: Jeff Ewing
Seconded by: Amelia Gale
Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
The motion passes

6. Motion to modify the non-uniform, non-union employee vacation schedule to include a fifth week of vacation after fifteen (15) years of serviced.

Mr. English indicated that the non-uniform, non-union employees requested a fifth week after 15 years of service. At this time it would only apply to two employees, the remaining three employees would not be eligible for approximately another 6 or 7 years.

Motioned by: Tori Conicello-Emery

Seconded by: Chris Cella

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

The motion passes

7. Discussion of the Ordinance 36-13 as related to domesticated pigs.

Mr. Iannozzi summarized Ordinance 36-13 indicating that no pigs are allowed in the Borough. Jessica Huang, resident, brought this before Council due to her ownership of a pig. Discussions took place regarding domesticated. Council member Gale asked Ms. Huang, specific questions regarding her care of the pig. Further discussions took place to which John Iannozzi indicated that with the concerns of the council, possible neighboring residents, to contact the Montgomery County Health Department as well as veterinarian to for the potential of allowing pigs in the Borough with certain conditions. A motion was made to allow Solicitor to create a draft to present of the keeping of pigs at the next Council Meeting on January 9, 2024.

Motioned by: Amelia Gale

Seconded by: Tori Conicello-Emery

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

The motion passes

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Guy Davis, resident, asked about the process of asking for public comment regarding drafting the pig ordinance. President Blumenthal indicated that he had clearly explained when there would be Public Comment on Agenda Items at the beginning of the meeting. Guy Davis suggested that the public could comment before Council voted on an agenda item.

Walter Gleba, resident, asked Council to receive three bids for the equipment that he is requesting. Mr. Gleba also wanted to note that the One Tower Bridge building does have an office space for lease sign outside which could impact the revenue received and to take that into consideration during budget discussions.

ADJOURNMENT

Stephen Blumenthal indicated that Council will be going into Executive Session and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 pm

Motioned by: Amelia Gale

Seconded by: Tara Gorney

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

The motion passes

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cristina Meade". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first and last letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Cristina Meade
Borough Secretary