

BOROUGH OF WEST CONSHOHOCKEN
COUNCIL MEETING
April 9, 2024
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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT & OPENING COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mr. Blumenthal opened this evening's Council meeting and announced that an Executive Session was held before the public meeting to discuss matters of personnel to which no action was taken. Mr. Blumenthal provided a reminder for the West Conshy Clean Up Day on April 27th as well as the Drug Take Back Day. Mr. Blumenthal indicated that the Police Department is in the final stages of the hiring process.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

No Council objections therefore the approval of the agenda passes unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA ITEMS

Guy Davis, resident, wanted to discuss the plastic bag and presented an item that he uses to pick up dog waste.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that the bills for this month were a total of \$511,052.06. There were no questions or objections from Council and therefore the bills were approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that the grand total is \$14,394,792.52 with a difference of \$505,292.72. There were no questions nor objections therefore the financial report was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that the Consent Agenda includes committee reports and without objections, the Consent Agenda was approved unanimously.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS

Mr. English indicated that his report is in the packet. Mr. English began to discuss at last month's Council meeting regarding the agreements with Coventa and JP Mascaro. Mr. English provided two agreements with a 5 year option with Coventa for solid waste. The savings within 5 year option is incredible. Mr. English suggested that Borough Council consider the renewal option at this will be before Council for decision in May. No questions or comments were presented.

Mr. English provided further information on the renewal with JP Mascaro, one of two option years for recycling contract. The savings are high within the renewal. If Public Works would have to purchase a new truck it would take approximately 12-18 months and the cost would be approximately \$300,000.00. Mascaro is responsible as their truck leaves the Borough.

JP Mascaro and Coventa will provide us with more clarification of trash and recycling collection.

Mr. English wanted to revisit the issue on the empty lot on Moorehead Ave. The contractors have installed new fencing materials and Engineering and Architect are moving forward with some changes and should be submitted towards the week of April 22nd. No questions and comments were provided.

Mr. Steven English, Borough Solicitor had nothing to report.

Mr. Khal Hassan wanted to highlight some items. Mr. Hassan indicated that the improvements continue at MacKenzie Park.

Mr. Hassan also wanted to follow up on the open lot situation on Moorehead. Developer had a new screen put along the fence. Updated revised plans will be submitted to the Borough.

EV Charging stations discussions in public space areas, sites will be investigated and reviewed with Council. There are grants that are also being researched. EV stations can also be placed in commercial properties however there are more safety concerns and will be discussed with surrounding municipalities as well as at the Public Safety Meetings and possible changes in ordinances. Mr. Ewing wanted to clarify costs to which Mr. Hassan responded

Mr. Hassan wanted to provide soft lighting options at Elizabeth Street which will not affect residential and provide the safety for the surrounding area.

Mr. Hassan presented the DCED grant for Phase II B for the playground improvement at MacKenzie Park. This Resolution is before Council this evening for approval and if approved Pennoni will submit the application. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to proceed with the application

Motioned by: Tori Conicello-Emery

Seconded by: Amelia Gale

Ayes: 4

Abstention 1

Nays: 0

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Blumenthal present 2024-03 authorizing the advertisement of single use plastics. Tori Conicello-Emery wanted to point out that dog waste bags and bags that are used outside the municipality are not restricted. Mr. Blumenthal motioned for advertisement, and it was seconded by Amelia Gale, with 4 ayes, 0 nays and 1 abstention

NEW BUSINESS

1. Announcement regarding the resignation of Councilperson Zach Nelson from Borough Council.

Mr. Nelson indicated that he will be stepping down as of April 15th as he has a new position which affects the ability of his time to dedicate to West Conshohocken Borough. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to accept the letter of resignation of Zach Nelson effective April 1, 2024

Motioned by: Jeff Ewing

Seconded by: Stephen Blumenthal

Ayes: 3

Nays: 1

Abstaining: 1

The motion passes

2. Announcement pertaining to the process for interested, eligible residents of West Conshohocken to submit a letter of interest and supplemental documentation to Borough Manager to be considered for an upcoming vacant Borough Council seat, which is an appointment to be filled by a majority vote of the members of Borough Council.

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that advertisement will go out regarding Council vacancy and encourage all members who are eligible to apply for the opening on Borough Council.

3. Discuss and take potential action proposed by Councilperson Gale to direct the solicitor to draft a resolution for Borough Council consideration and action to authorize at the May 14th Borough Council meeting, the flying of the Pride Flag at the West Conshohocken Borough Hall for the month of June 2024

Amelia Gale indicated that the past few years it has been passed to fly the pride flag for the members of the community as well as show support for the LGBTQ community. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to allow Solicitor to draft an ordinance.

Motioned by: Amelia Gale
Seconded by: Jeff Ewing
Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
The motion passes

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Walter Gleba, resident, wished Zach Nelson good luck in the future.

Jim Goggin, resident, wanted to make sure there no issues with the trash company as far as pick up. Mr. Goggin wanted to discuss risks and safety with EV stations, single use bags as well as hanging flags for others such as veterans.

Dave Frankenfield, resident, wished Zach Nelson luck. Mr. Frankenfield wanted to thank volunteers for the Fire Company and always looking for more volunteers

Guy Davis, resident, spoke about controversy regarding the LGTBQ flag.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

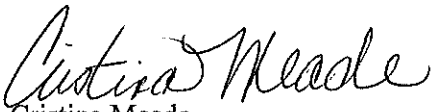
Mr. Blumenthal announced that an executive session will be held for matters of personnel to which no action will be taken and Council will not return.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Blumenthal asked Council for a motion to Adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm

Motioned by: Jeff Ewing
Seconded by: Amelia Gale
Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Abstention: 1
The motion passes

Respectfully Submitted


Cristina Meade
Borough Secretary