

BOROUGH OF WEST CONSHOHOCKEN  
COUNCIL MEETING  
July 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 & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**OPENING COMMENTS**

Mr. Blumenthal thanked Council and first responder to their commitment to the Community. Mr. Blumenthal was pleased to announce a new member of the Police Department who will be sworn in later this evening. Mr. Blumenthal also indicated that a discussion would take place regarding maintenance and service of vehicles in our streets and concerns of fluids that are going into our stormwateruids to be discharged from vehicles undergoing service work on our streets, as well as discussions regarding short term rentals. Mr. Blumenthal also indicated that Council will also evaluate and take potential action on the recommendation of the Civil Service Commission to fill the vacancy in the Police Department Mr. Blumenthal announced that an executive session where no action will be taken.

**ROLL CALL**

Danelle Fournier, Mayor	Present
Stephen Blumenthal, President	Present
Tara Gorney, Vice President	Present
Tori Conicello-Emery	Present
Jeff Ewing	Present
Amelia Gale	Absent
Chris Cella	Present
Richard Marr	Present
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**

Mr. Blumenthal asked for approval of the Agenda and with unanimous consent the Agenda is approved

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA ITEMS**

Guy Davis, resident, wanted to discuss the RQ for overlay map and questioned why Simon Collins is no longer involved and wanted to clarify getting open space and planning commission more involved and also have the more insight as far as the dog parks.

Walter Gleba, resident, indicates that the Open Space Committee minutes from last month are inaccurate and nothing that he had brought up were in the minutes including the Park. Nothing that he had said was mentioned on the minutes and indicates that his name is spelled incorrectly.

### **APPROVAL OF THE BILLS**

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that the bills for this month were a total of \$541,445.91 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 \$15,218,705.60 with a negative difference of \$142,621.89, interest earned on investments accounts was \$150,481.54, and pension accounts total \$10,706,062.84. Pension accounts are not included in the total. No questions or comments were presented. Mr. Blumenthal 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**

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

### **PROFESSIONAL REPORTS**

Mr. English indicated his report is the packet. Mr. English indicated that he will be submitting his letter of retirement effective of September 6, 2024. Mr. English spoke in length about the professional and administrative staff that he has worked with over the last 13 years in making the Borough a better place to reside. Mr. English also recommended that Doug Borgerson be considered for the Borough Manager position.

Council president thanked Mr. English for his commitment to the Borough and asked for a motion for a discussion at the August council meeting for Mr. English's recommendation to promote Doug Borgerson to Manager.

Motioned by: Tori Conicello-Emery  
Seconded by: Tara Gorney  
Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0  
The motion passes

Mr. Michael English also indicated that the Borough has received several calls regarding concerns of Air BNB's in the Borough. Solicitor's office has been briefed and will investigate several options that would benefit the Borough

Mr. Steven English wanted to first congratulate Mr. English on his retirement. Mr. English had nothing to report this evening but happy to answer any questions that will come up this evening.

Mr. Khal Hassan had two items requests this evening:

1. Council shall evaluate and take action of the defining scope for the RFQ to hire a planner for the overlay district. Mr. Hassan indicated that this is for the scope defining to be explored. It will take several months to prepare the scope and then several months to secure the appropriate planner. This will be brought before the Open Space Committee as well as the Planning Commission. No questions or comments were presented. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion.

Motion: Tara Gorney  
Seconded: Richard Marr  
Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0  
The motion passes

2. The Council shall evaluate and take potential action to authorize the 2024 paving project bid award. Mr. Hassan opened the bids on June 27, 2024 and received 2 bids, Glasgow Inc. and Associated Paving Contractors. The estimate was 171,397.00.that Pennoni had and lowest Glasgow \$179,477.20. The paving would include Bliss St., Merion Hill and Barr Harbor. No questions or comments were presented

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

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Swearing in of new West Conshohocken Police Officer George Rucker

Police Officer Brandon Rucker was sworn in by Mayor Fournier and congratulated by members of Council and public.

2. Council shall evaluate and take potential action on the recommendation of the Civil Service Commission to fill the vacancy in the West Conshohocken Police Department.

Interim Chief Carfagno highlighted the Civil Service Commission meeting and indicated that there were four individuals. Elizabeth Moran has scored the highest. No questions or comments were presented. Ms. Moran finished the Academy on June 12th. Mr. Blumenthal asked for a motion to hire Elizabeth Moran as per Interim Chief Carfagno's recommendation.

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

3. Council shall evaluate and discuss taking potential action approving the Police Department to begin the process of conduction a promotional exam for four (4) Corporal to fill the upcoming vacant supervisor positions. These promotions would not take effect until January of 2025.

Chief Carfagno indicated that one Sargent will be leaving at the end of this year and they would like to promote Corporals with a 5% increase starting in 2025. If this passes before Council, 4 officers will be eligible and in the long run this will reduce pay by 5% and provides different structure. Aspirant Group will complete this at a cost of approximately \$1,000 per officer. Jeff Ewing indicated that this has been discussed in public safety and agrees that this provides growth

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

## **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Walter Gleba, resident, commented on the Air BNB situation and read the West Conshohocken Borough Ordinance and wanted to address a letter from Obermeyer and indicated that short terms rentals can be made illegal by municipalities. Mr. Blumenthal indicated that our solicitor would review and thanked Mr. Gleba for the literature he provided.

Christine Corazza, resident, indicated that there is a possibility of 14 homes in the Borough that are being advertised as BNB. She has had countless encounters with the unruly people living specifically on Ford Street which has caused a disturbance with her and other residents. Mrs. Corazza was advised that the police need to be contacted when these incidents are occurring.

Lisa Stiefel, resident, has had an Air BNB next door to her for the last 5 years. At times she has noticed parties, attempted thefts of her personal property and unsafe with the thought of retaliation if she contacted the police for disturbance calls. Mr. Stiefel feels that the Borough is losing money and rental applications and EIT forms are not submitted and strongly wishes that the Borough would prevent these short term rentals

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that members of Council will move into an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and will not be returning as there is no action being taken.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Blumenthal asked Council for a motion to Adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm

Motioned by: Chris Cella

Seconded by: Tori Conicello-Emery

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

The motion passes

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cristina Meade". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cristina" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Meade".

Cristina Meade  
Borough Secretary