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CONYNGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Conyngham Borough Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, July 15, 2014 at 7:06 p.m. in Council Chambers, Municipal building, 215 Main Street, Conyngham, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order by Council President Gary Gregory, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, roll call was taken and the duly advertised Public Hearing for Ordinance 290 Noxious Weed, Grass & Vegetation began.

Roll Call:

Present: Gallagher, Gregory, Hawk, Jones, McKee, Schneider.

Absent: Fuccile.

Others Present: Mayor Carrelli, Solicitor, Secretary, Treasurer.

Absent: None.

Citizens: Elizabeth Fisher, Beth Fisher, Tim Ference, George Oberst, Jim Benjamin, Ron Schadder, John Cotsack, Bill Genetti, Robert Hildebrand, Diane Edwards, Linda Grencavich, Maureen Susa, Barbara Everett, Lee Everett, Carol Evans, Tom Evans, Diane, Edstrom, Joe Kristoff, Ario D'Amato, Ray Croker, Florie Lesko.

President Gregory called the Public Hearing on Conyngham Borough Noxious Weed, Grass & Vegetation to order. Councilman Gallagher spoke on the reasons for the Ordinance to deal with high vegetation on properties, as well as controlling of noxious weeds while allowing for rain gardens.

Public Comment on Hearing: None.

Public Hearing Closed.

Public Comment: None.

Invited Guest: Ed Peers, PE HDR Engineering, Jennifer Borino, Penn Dot & Chris Tomashefski, Penn Dot. Ed Peers the Engineer for the Penn Dot SR 3034 Segment 351 B Proposed Bridge Replacement gave a presentation. It was noted there are significant structural issues on the existing one lane, 90 year old bridge. Penn Dot is proposing to construct a new structure without shifting the alignment. There will be an eleven foot travel lane in each direction with a three foot shoulder to accommodate pedestrians. The entire structure proposed is 550 feet with a small right of way acquisition necessary. Construction is anticipated to begin by early 2017. Estimated completion time is six (6) months with local traffic only. All other traffic will be detoured. Additional signing will be placed on Route 93 indicating the detour.

Residents in attendance voiced their concerns regarding speeding by increasing the bridge to two lanes. Also a major concern was the aesthetics of the new bridge. Residents would like to keep integrity of bridge. Mayor Carrelli and President Gregory stressed to Penn Dot officials that the Borough speed limit is 25mph however SR 3034 is 35mph.

It was noted the life expectancy of the replacement bridge would be 75 to 100 years.

Penn Dot representatives will takes comments back to Penn Dot and have a meeting in the future to discuss the outcome. The representatives left at 8:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion

Motion to Approve Minutes from Work Session, June 12, 2014 and Regular Session, June 17, 2014- Gallagher. Second - McKee.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Fuccile	-	Absent	Gallagher	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Hawk	-	Affirmative
Jones	-	Affirmative	McKee	-	Affirmative
Schneider	-	Affirmative			

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Mayor: June police report with 51 offenses, 7 traffic citations, 4 non-traffic citations and two Ordinance violations. Fines totaled \$370.31.

Councilwoman Hawk questioned if any speed details have been set up. Mayor Carrelli stated police are using the stop watch and stop signs. Chief has been vigilant. Chief advised laws have changed for failure to obey traffic signs all money now goes to the State. Solicitor can draft an Ordinance so money will go to Borough. Speed signs will be placed on Butler Avenue.

Mayor contacted Mary Malone of the Chamber of Commerce to meet on Monday July 21, 2014 at 10:30 am to discuss the Hometown Hero Banner project. The Streets Committee will be present.

President Gregory asked if foot patrols can be instituted at the park. The Mayor stated they drive in as far as they can and flash the spotlight. Vice President Schneider reinforced the importance of Police presence on foot at the park to interact with the residents.

Mayor Carrelli also noted the park program will be hosting the EMS helicopter at the park on Wednesday July 16, 2014.

Treasurer: Treasurer Blasé recommended the approval of the Borough obligations in the amount of \$52,232.86.

Motion

Motion to Approve the Bills – Jones. Second – Schneider.

Vice President Schneider questioned the Kovatch bill for the police weapons rack on whether that was a budgeted expense. Mayor Carrelli advised it was approved last December by the previous Council.

Councilman Gallagher questioned whether the Conyngham Borough Authority bills should be paid to CBA or the newly formed Conyngham-Sugarloaf Joint Municipal Authority.

President Gregory advised he feels payment should go into the Joint Authority's account since the Conyngham Borough Authority has been dissolved.

It was decided the Conyngham Borough Authority would be held until such time as the Joint Authority can invoice the Borough.

Motion to Approve the Bills with the Exception of the Conyngham Borough Authority – Jones. Second – McKee.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Fuccile	-	Absent	Gallagher	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Hawk	-	Affirmative
Jones	-	Affirmative	McKee	-	Affirmative
Schneider	-	Affirmative			

The Treasurer went on to review the June financial report to Council in detail. A copy of the report is available for public inspection as well as on file.

Motion

Motion to Accept the Treasurer's Report for June – Gregory. Second – Schneider.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Fuccile	-	Absent	Gallagher	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Hawk	-	Affirmative
Jones	-	Affirmative	McKee	-	Affirmative
Schneider	-	Affirmative			

Junior Council Representative: Mariah Serra has graduated and moved on to college. President Gregory thanked Mariah for the good job she has done. Vice President Schneider suggested we look into getting a new Junior Council Rep and look at the responsibilities of same.

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Solicitor:

Motion

Motion to Adopt Ordinance 290 Conyngham Borough Noxious Weed, Grass & Vegetation Ordinance - Gallagher. Second – Jones.

Councilwoman Hawk questioned who would enforce the Ordinance. Solicitor replied Code Enforcement Officer or the Police.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Fuccile	-	Absent	Gallagher	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Hawk	-	Affirmative
Jones	-	Affirmative	McKee	-	Affirmative
Schneider	-	Affirmative			

Valley Regional: Vice President Schneider noted on the June 2014 report there were 5 fire and rescue calls; and 12 EMS calls for Conyngham Borough.

Councilman McKee stated they are looking for volunteers.

Recreation: Councilman Jones advised the Park Program has been very well attended and it is already halfway through.

Planning & Zoning:

Councilwoman Hawk is working on getting volunteers for the feral cat program.

Motion

Motion to Expend the Funds from Donations for Feral Cats when Volunteers are in Place - Gregory. Second - Schneider.

Councilman Gallagher stated this is a stop gap measure to initially deal with the feral cat problem in the Borough.

The Solicitor clarified there is \$582.00 remaining in the feral cat fund.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Fuccile	-	Absent	Gallagher	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Hawk	-	Affirmative
Jones	-	Affirmative	McKee	-	Affirmative
Schneider	-	Affirmative			

The Solicitor recommended a motion to accept the Pittinger Minor Sub-division to refer it to Planning which would start the ninety day clock.

Motion

Motion to Approve the Pittinger Minor Sub-division – Gallagher. Second – Jones.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Fuccile	-	Absent	Gallagher	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Hawk	-	Affirmative
Jones	-	Affirmative	McKee	-	Affirmative
Schneider	-	Affirmative			

The Farmer’s Market has been proposed by Mr. Pittinger. Council is awaiting more information and they are reviewing prior documents regarding the deeds and covenants for the property as well as zoning issues that need to be addressed.

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Conyngham/Sugarloaf Joint Authority: Councilman Gallagher stated the Conyngham-Sugarloaf Joint Municipal Authority met on Thursday July 10, 2014 at 6:00pm and their next meeting will be July 23, 2014 at 6:00 pm. Officers were elected and they are in the process of obtaining a bank account, EIN and PO Box number. The Articles of Incorporation have been filed and the permits will be transferred. Attorney Peter O'Donnell has been hired as the interim Solicitor. An Engineering firm will be hired. Everything is in place and moving forward. Hopefully the former Conyngham Borough Authority will cooperate since they already have expended over \$100,000.00 in attorney fees.

Streets: Councilman McKee advised the Streets Department is working on patching holes and getting the mowing equipment in working condition. The Streets Committee meets with the department every Thursday.

Grants:

Motion

Motion to Adopt Resolution 15 of 2014 ARLE Grant for Sidewalk Construction on Sugarloaf Avenue from Sheetz to Liberty Place – Gregory. Second – Schneider.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Fuccile	-	Absent	Gallagher	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Hawk	-	Affirmative
Jones	-	Affirmative	McKee	-	Affirmative
Schneider	-	Affirmative			

Mayor Carrelli questioned whether Sugarloaf was involved – Yes.

Motion

Motion to Adopt Resolution 16 of 2014 GTRP Grant for Signage, Trail & Wetland Crossing and Approve \$100.00 Application Fee– Jones. Second - McKee.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Fuccile	-	Absent	Gallagher	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Hawk	-	Affirmative
Jones	-	Affirmative	McKee	-	Affirmative
Schneider	-	Affirmative			

Motion

Motion to Authorize President Gregory to sign letter committing to a 15% match for GTRP Grant in the amount of \$23,300.35 – Jones. Second – Schneider.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Fuccile	-	Absent	Gallagher	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Hawk	-	Affirmative
Jones	-	Affirmative	McKee	-	Affirmative
Schneider	-	Affirmative			

2015 Community Block Grant - Council is in the process of closing out the existing Downtown Study grant which requires a public meeting. Once that is closed out we can apply for new round of funding for a Streetscape project with sidewalks and street lamps that are period correct.

Conyngham Borough was 1of 11 that received the Wren Grant to address stormwater issues and enhance public awareness. Two workshops will be held on rain barrels and rain gardens. A press release will be issued in the coming weeks.

Shade Tree:

Motion

Motion to Appoint Ray Croker to a Three Year Term Expiring December 31, 2016 –Jones. Second – Hawk.

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Fuccile	-	Absent	Gallagher	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Hawk	-	Affirmative
Jones	-	Affirmative	McKee	-	Affirmative
Schneider	-	Affirmative			

President Gregory thanked Mr. Croker for his participation.

Police Committee: Nothing at this time.

Parking Committee: A meeting will be held Friday, July 18, 2014 at 9:00 am with the Engineer and the Solicitor to further refine the parking proposal.

Personnel:**Motion**

Motion to go into Executive Session @ 8:45 pm– Gregory. Second – Hawk. Unanimous.

Meeting resumed at 8:50 pm.

Motion

Motion to provide Office staff Lynn Falatko with four (4) paid personal days per year and Sandra Marchetti with two (2) paid personal days per year effective immediately – Gregory. Second – Jones.

Public Comment on Personnel: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Fuccile	-	Absent	Gallagher	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Hawk	-	Affirmative
Jones	-	Affirmative	McKee	-	Affirmative
Schneider	-	Affirmative			

New Business: Councilman Gallagher suggested Adopt a Banner for the downtown - Welcome to Conyngham which can be sponsored by businesses which can be a source of revenue. He will provide the information for the August work session.

The VFW would like flags placed throughout the town. The women's auxiliary would like to team with Council for an Adopt a Flag Program. VFW would put up from Memorial Day thru Labor Day.

President Gregory thought it was a great idea and we should also involve the VFW in the Hometown Hero's Program.

Old Business: Councilwoman Hawk advised the timers for the lights at the Borough are out of sync. President Gregory will readjust.

President Gregory addressed the ongoing postal concerns in the Borough. He produced a folder containing the responses from the citizens. The problem is the exclusive use of PO boxes. A lot of institutions will not deliver to a PO Box such as financial institutions for checks and also medical prescriptions. Conyngham residents are required to pay \$56.00 per year while surrounding municipalities get their mail delivered for free. President Gregory has a call into the Director of Operations in Harrisburg. The Borough will continue to work on this issue.

Correspondence: Secretary read into the record and the list is on file.

Catch-All: None.

Public Comment: Mr. Benjamin commented on Walnut Avenue and Brookhill having Sugarloaf addresses and wage taxes were being paid to Sugarloaf Township when they reside in Conyngham Borough. President Gregory noted that it is a problem especially for 911.

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Carol Evans noted she has eight feral cats living in her yard which kills squirrels. Can we do something about prohibiting people from feeding the feral cats?

President Gregory stated we can adopt an Ordinance which prohibits the feeding of cats and vector control to round up the cats.

Councilwoman Hawk noted we are surrounded by Sugarloaf Township and will constantly have cats invade the Borough.

Carol Evans also would like to commend Council for the work they are doing and for not fighting.

President Gregory, in response to resident Carol Evans, asked if there was any sentiment on Council to solicit proposals for vector control for consideration by Council. In the event Council decided to go that route the proposals would be in hand and the process would be shortened.

Motion

Motion to Solicit Bids for Vector Control – Jones. Second – McKee.

Public Comment on Solicitation of Bids: Linda Grenavich supports Vector Control.

Council Comment: Councilwoman Hawk feels people need to stop feeding the animals. Her problem with Vector is she does not want animals destroyed.


ROLL CALL VOTE:

Fuccile	-	Absent	Gallagher	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Hawk	-	Affirmative
Jones	-	Affirmative	McKee	-	Affirmative
Schneider	-	Affirmative			

Tom Evans 31 Lawson Place stated if Council had the problem in their yards that they are dealing with they would have a solution. President Gregory stated that he does have a problem with feral cats.

Motion to Adjourn @ 9:14 PM – Hawk. Second –Jones. Unanimous.

ATTEST:


Secretary