
CONYNGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK SESSION *PAGE ONE* JULY 10, 2014

Conyngham Borough Council met in Work Session on Thursday, July 10, 2014 at 7:16 p.m. in Council Chambers, Municipal building, 215 Main Street, Conyngham, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order by President Gary Gregory, the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call were done at the Special Session immediately preceding the work session.

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

Absent: Schneider. (Vice-President Schneider arrived during the work session at 7:40 pm)

Others Present: Solicitor, Secretary, Treasurer.

Absent: Mayor Carrelli, Junior Councilperson Serra.

Citizens: Ron Schadder, Linda Grenavich, Maureen Susa, Carol Ference, Chris Pittinger.

Public Comment: Ron Schadder would like clarification on the Pittinger Minor Sub-division, the farmers market and the feral cats and postal comments. Councilman Gallagher advised they will be discussed this evening under Planning.

President Gregory explained the nature of public comment to Mr. Schadder and added that Council provides for public comment in the beginning and end of the meeting which is more than required under the Sunshine Act.

Mr. Schadder was advised he can comment on the issues at the end of the meeting after Council has discussion on them.

Mr. Schadder would like a phone number to report postal concerns to someone other than voicemail. He advised there is no uniformity in postal offices.

Invited Guests: The Solicitor advised the invited guest has left. The Solicitor and Council President met with Angelo Spazialetti from Tomassecci Electric prior to the meeting. A Stop Work Order was issued for 245 Main Street. The builder received a deficiency letter from the building code official regarding work on the outside. They are trying to work through the deficiencies to lift the Stop Work order for the exterior only. The Conyngham Borough Authority is appealing the Stop Work Order and they have a hearing July 29, 2014 in front of the UCC Board. A conference call was held with Rick Harmon from Barry Isett. President Gregory noted the safety of the public and our workers is first and foremost.

Mayor: Absent. Councilman Fuccile explained the Mayor is setting up a meeting with Mary Malone of the Chamber of Commerce to determine if Conyngham is interested in the Hometown Hero Banner project. More information will be available after their meeting.

Treasurer: Report for Tuesday.

Solicitor: Noxious weed and high grass Ordinance will be ripe for consideration at the Tuesday meeting.

Shannon Tire submitted an acceptable Developer's Agreement which President Gregory has signed, sealed copies of the final plan have been received and the Developer is obtaining his Letter of Credit. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held.

President Gregory did some research and found out the original permit for Shannon was #005 of 2005. He is looking forward to the new neighbor.

Another business, Valley Pets will have a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 19, 2014 as well as Mayme's Restaurant. New businesses are opening and these are exciting times for Conyngham.

Junior Council Representative: None.

Valley Regional: No business at this time however discussion ensued over numerous issues with first responders going to wrong addresses due to GPS. Councilman Gallagher and Jones both had life threatening issues happen at their homes and the ambulance was dispatched elsewhere. President Gregory suggested Vice President Schneider set up a meeting with Luzerne County EMA.

Recreation: Councilman Jones advised the summer program is running very smoothly. 110 children registered. Jones noted the beauty of the park and suggested seeking volunteers to help care for it.

Mulch has been delivered and installed at all three parks.

Hazleton K-9 unit will be on hand for a demonstration.

Planning & Zoning: Councilwoman Hawk spoke on the Pittinger Minor Sub-division. Mr. Pittinger was on hand to present the plans to Council. Planning has copies and the Engineer will provide comments.

Mr. Pittinger also proposed a local farmers market to be held on the Bishop property. Mr. Pittinger will provide Council with a letter and site layout and Council will revisit the issue at that time.

President Gregory thanked Mr. Pittinger for his involvement with the community.

The feral cat issue was discussed at length about the pros and cons of the spay neuter versus trap and relocate. President Gregory noted many local municipalities sub contract Vector Control from Hazleton City.

Councilman Gallagher suggested using donations for feral cat program for the short term. Councilwoman Hawk will look for volunteers to trap the cats.

Conyngham-Sugarloaf Joint Municipal Authority: Councilman Gallagher stated prior to this meeting the Conyngham-Sugarloaf Joint Municipal Authority held their Organizational meeting.

Officers

Chairman – Joseph Gallagher
Vice-Chairman – Jack Wittig
Treasurer – Norman Dick
Secretary – Marc Eble
Interim Solicitor – Atty. Peter O'Donnell
Engineer – Tabled

The next meeting will be held July 23, 2014 at 6:00 pm. Chairman Gallagher stated they are looking forward to work as the new Joint Authority and moving forward with the Act 537 upgrades.

President Gregory stated the newly formed Joint Municipal Authority is the Authority. The previous Conyngham Borough Authority will be dissolved by Ordinance 284 as well as the amendments. The Judge ruled no doubt the Authority can be dissolved the Borough. It is time to move on for the good of the community.

Streets & Property: Nothing at this time other than the paving by Penn Dot on Sugarloaf Avenue. Councilman Fuccile spoke with Penn Dot regarding the water problems near Sheetz. Photos during heavy storms were forwarded to Penn Dot.

Councilman McKee noted a hole developed on Sugarloaf Avenue that took over seven shovels of cold patch. It was filled for safety reasons.

President Gregory noted Sugarloaf Avenue is being repaved by Penn Dot except for short section which Sugarloaf Township owns. Perhaps Sugarloaf & Conyngham can work together and have that short stretch paved.

President Gregory noted Fuccile and McKee working on priority list for streets repair. Edge Trail is one of the main concerns. Council is trying to fund Grant Street, Orchard & Lissa Lane as well.

Councilman McKee noted Street Department repaired Edge Trail but to no avail. Base coat is needed to repair correctly.

President Gregory asked the Streets Committee if the department can use hot asphalt. Vice President noted COG may be able to provide some equipment.

President Gregory also noted Tuesday evening a storm came through town and took a tree down on Butler & Main Streets. The Police maintained the situation until Council & the Fire Department could clean up the tree. Frontier was contacted to repair phone line.

Grants: WREN grant was acquired and a press release will be going out shortly with the help of the Friends of the Nescopeck. There is a short timeline for this grant to be expended. Storm water issues and infiltration will be addressed.

The ARLE grant has been submitted for \$250,000.00 jointly with Sugarloaf Township to place sidewalks from Sheetz to Liberty Place. Senator Gordner recommended applying for a smaller

amount which would be more favorable.

Council is looking at applying for the 2015 Community Block Grant for the downtown area. The prior block grant was for the Comprehensive Downtown Study.

For Tuesday's meeting a Resolution will have to be passed for the ARLE grant.

For Tuesday's meeting a Resolution and \$100.00 application fee will have to be approved for the Greenway Trails & Recreation Grant. Over \$200,000.00 in grant funds is being sought to fund the next leg of the trail at the Bishop Property to extend the trail through the wetland area to the stream.

Barry Isett & Associates are looking into the Gaming grant for September.

President Gregory noted the Downtown Study will be wrapped up by the end of the month. Council received a sample brochure and Mike Cera from Alfred Benesch is spearheading the closeout.

President Gregory advised everyone present that our Solicitor, Attorney Karpowich organized a sports memorabilia auction to benefit the communities he represents on Sunday, July 13, 2014 at 1:00 pm at Capriotti's. The public is encouraged to come out for a day of fun and support their community. A buffet menu will be served and former members of the New York Giants will be on hand to auction off signed sports memorabilia. Tickets are available in the office.

Shade Tree: Councilman Jones noted the tree trimming on Main Street was done to PPL standards of a 10' radius between their lines and vegetation.

Appointment of Ray Croker on Tuesday agenda. Additional volunteers needed to serve on the Shade Tree Commission.

COG: Nothing at this time.

Police Committee: Nothing at this time.

Parking Committee: Vice President Schneider noted the Parking Plan is posted at the Borough building. He suggested meeting with the Solicitor & Engineer to determine the most appropriate proposal to have for the August meeting.

President Gregory thanked Vice President Schneider for his hard work.

New Business: 6 Month Office Staff review. President Gregory stated the Personnel Committee will have their recommendations for the Tuesday meeting. It was noted Council is extremely happy with the job of the Office staff.

Old Business: Last meeting concerns were raised regarding delivery of the mail. One of the biggest problems is the PO boxes with mail not being delivered without PO Box number. A packet of correspondence was received from concerned citizens. Since 9/11 businesses do not want to deliver to PO Box numbers which is a valid concern. President Gregory hopes to go to Postal Service as a

Borough for a unified voice. A possibility is home delivery but it must be rural delivery or cluster boxes and a Sugarloaf address with the exception of Main Street which Ordinance 261 prohibits mail boxes and newspaper receptacles on Main Street. President Gregory hopes Council can address this longstanding problem. He welcomes input from any resident.

Councilman Jones stated Council can gather information to be united however it is not our jurisdiction; it is Federal.

Vice President Schneider added we need to take information and send it to the proper authority and we need a survey completed to see what the residents of the community want particularly on Main Street.

Councilman Jones asked if no mail boxes on Main Street was strictly for aesthetics? Yes

President Gregory noted in prior years residents went to the US Postal Service in Harrisburg.

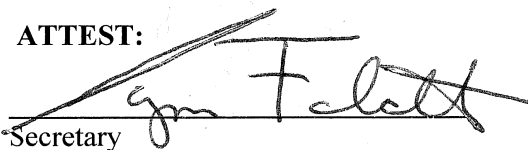
Correspondence: Councilman Gallagher questioned whether we received correspondence for Valley Day? Yes back in March.

Catch All: Solicitor recommended sending any correspondence regarding postal concerns directly to the Postmaster General in Washington, DC.

Public Comment: Ron Schadder noted Harrisburg phone number only voice mail. The 2006-2007 postal problems were strictly for parking. 911 addresses dictated by EMA in Wilkes-Barre. Why doesn't the post office recognize those as legal addresses?

Motion to Adjourn @ 8:35 pm – Jones. Second – Schneider. Unanimous.

ATTEST:


Secretary