

CONYNGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION
Monday, December 8, 2014

Conyngham Borough Council met in Special Session on Monday, December 8, 2014 at 6:05 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 and roll call was taken.

Roll Call:

Present: Fuccile, Gregory, Hawk, Jones, Schneider.

Absent: Gallagher, McKee.

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

Absent: None.

Citizens: Linda Grencavich, Andrew Andbason, Kenneth J. Temborski, Betty Lou Utt, Doris Renninger, Todd Eyerly, Richard Nick, Pete Wilcox, Roy Renninger, Jeanne & Lee Radley, JL Brost, Barbara & Dick Sebring, Nancy Diez-Luckie, Ruth S. Toth, Sherry McBride, Jael Mave, Joyce Berezna, Rich Houseknecht, Nick DiSabella, Lisa M. Molendini, Lorraine Montoni, Raymond J. Montoni, Keith Younger, Maureen Younger, Michael Younger, Tim Ference, Dan Eury, John A. Zola, Brian Holderman, Jason Seiwel, Alan Kost, Alex Ray, Kent Jackson.

Public Comment: Ray Montoni, former member of Council, is upset over the decrease in number of police hours. Conyngham is not immune to crime.

President Gregory addressed Mr. Montoni's concerns advising the budget is an ongoing process. Council has worked very hard to make ends meet and accomplished that through cutting costs were possible. The most recent cost saving measure was a \$15,000.00 savings on employee healthcare. The budget concerns over police hours were due to the Affordable Care Act with the amount of hours being worked a concern. Police hours will remain the same, all services will be maintained and the tax rate will remain unchanged.

Keith Younger has concerns over Pine Lane and Rte 93 parcel. Are there any proposed changes to the Zoning for that piece of land? Land is currently being timbered.

The Solicitor responded said property is zoned Residential. No applications have been received to rezone the property or develop it as of this date. Forestry is not regulated on the local level. Luzerne Conservation District controls timbering which requires an Erosion and Sedimentation Plan to be filed through them. The Borough can check to determine if an E&S plan has been filed. Rezoning of the property would require legal advertising, posting of the property and property owners notified.

President Gregory added the last contact from Dollar General has been at least six months ago with no follow-up.

Mr. Younger also supports maintaining police protection. The Solicitor advised the budget is a working document with discussions. Reporting of police cuts was a miscommunication.

President Gregory would like to see more public presence at Council meetings and thanked the public for coming out.

Alex Ray – Woodland Drive is grateful nothing is going on with plot of land on Pine Lane and Rte 93 however it is being cleared.

The Solicitor identified two types of tree cuts, clear cut and selective cut. In 2001 the law changed to allow forestry activities. President Gregory questioned the Solicitor if the Borough can temporarily halt the timbering for further investigation. The Solicitor replied no, only the Luzerne Conservation District has jurisdiction over the process.

Richard Houseknecht noted that the Pine Lane parcel has had nothing transpire there for years. Was there a reason to leave the land in tact?

Dick Sebring headed the Streets Committee for years and stated there was a water problem in that area.

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The Solicitor stated now stormwater ordinances are in place to prevent that problem.

Ruth Toth has leaves in her development to be picked up.

Councilman Fuccile thanked the residents for keeping leaves off of the Borough streets.

Roy Renninger Pine Lane has a split rail fence and from the plows pushing snow against it two (2) posts were broken last year. This year can Streets Department please put the snow on the other side?

President Gregory asked Mr. Renninger to please contact the Borough in the future if he ever sustains damage to his property.

Richard Houseknecht added that the Streets Department used to place posts near properties to prevent damage. Mr. Renninger questioned where posts can be placed because he would place on his property himself.

President Gregory requested Councilman Fuccile research the policy for the placement of markers.

The Solicitor asked any resident who would like to be notified if there is ever a request for zoning or development of Pine Lane property to please come forward and provide their mailing address.

Mayor: Nothing at this time.

Treasurer: Treasurer Blasé advised Council that Valley Regional is in attendance to renegotiate the Fire Service Agreement. Jim Walck Secretary/Treasurer of Valley Regional stated he is open to any negotiations. Council and the Solicitor will meet with Valley Regional representatives after the Special Meeting to negotiate terms of the Agreement which will be voted on at a public meeting.

Treasurer Blasé discussed the list of assumptions regarding draft 4 of the 2015 Budget. The major change was in healthcare with \$13,000.00 in savings to the Borough. The Solicitor noted the employees are in agreement with the switch in healthcare. Everything is satisfied with a balanced budget. Staffing of police will remain the same for 2015.

Motion

Motion to Change Healthcare for the Employees from Traditional to Blue Cross PPO – Gregory. Second – Jones.

Questions on the Motion: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Motion

Motion to Advertise the 2015 Budget and make available for Public Inspection – Hawk. Second – Schneider.

Questions on the Motion: Mayor Carrelli wanted to clarify the budget includes police at 32 hours @ 2014 rate of pay. President Gregory answered - Correct. Full Time Officers will receive their contracted raises while the Part Time Officers will remain at the same rate as 2014.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Solicitor: Two bids were received for the 2015/2016 Equipment Bid.

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Franzosa Trucking Co., Inc – Bid Equipment with and without Operator
Bids ranged from \$15.00/hr to \$250.00/hr

M&J Excavation Inc – Bid Equipment with and without Operator
Bids ranged from \$30.00/hr to \$400.00/hr

Council wanted to bid for a two year period in order to save the Borough money. If an emergency arises we already have a contractor with established rates. More roads can be paved utilizing this process.

President Gregory added that our Street Department does not have the capability to utilize hot asphalt and this process will provide the necessary equipment. Butler Township has offered to assist.

The Solicitor recommends tabling the bids for his review.

Motion

Motion to Table 2015/2016 Equipment Bids – Fuccile. Second – Gregory.

Questions on the Motion: None.

No Roll Call – Unanimous.

Two projects have been developed with the Engineer for LSA Grant. Resolutions will be needed for the application process.

The first project requests \$274,000.00 for Storm Sewer Improvements on Edge Trail and Grant Street.

Motion

Motion to Approve Resolution 22 of 2014 for LSA Grant Requesting \$274,000.00 in Storm Sewer Improvements on Edge Trail and Grant Street – Gregory. Second – Fuccile.

Questions on the Motion: None.

Public Comment: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Motion

Motion to Approve Resolution 23 of 2014 for LSA Grant Requesting \$273,000.00 in Sidewalk Improvements on Sugarloaf Avenue Jointly with Sugarloaf Township – Schneider. Second – Jones.

Questions on the Motion: Councilwoman Hawk questioned whether matching funds were required – No. Vice President Schneider pointed out the benefits of the project including the possibility of connecting the walking trails. President Gregory added that a master plan is being developed at this time.

Public Comment: Joseph Brost resides at Liberty & Sugarloaf Avenue. What side of street will sidewalk be located on – Sheetz or other? Solicitor replied Sheetz side. President Gregory noted stormwater is an issue. Mr. Brost added that if the owner has to maintain the sidewalk that will pose a problem. President Gregory’s main concern is public safety.

Ray Montoni questioned if the project requires movement of PPL poles and advised Council to check with PPL. He is in favor of the safety aspect however the maintenance issue is a problem.

Councilman Gallagher arrived.

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ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

The Solicitor advised Council the Preliminary Final Subdivision Plan of Chris Pittinger is due to expire on December 11th. The Planning Commission's recommendation on the subdivision is for Mr. Pittinger to seek Zoning Variances. Action needs to be taken however Mr. Pittinger signed a Waiver of Time Extension until January 30, 2015. It is the Solicitor's recommendation to grant Mr. Pittinger an extension to January 30, 2015.

Motion

Motion to Grant Pittinger Final Subdivision Plan a Time Extension until January 30, 2015 – Gallagher. Second – Jones.

Questions on the Motion: None

Public Comment: Citizens questioned the subdivision request and variances required. The Solicitor made the plans available for public inspection and explained the process. President Gregory noted the only action being taken this evening was to grant the applicant a time extension.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

New Business: None.

Old Business: None.

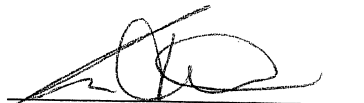
Catch All: None.

Public Comment: None.

President Gregory thanked the residents for coming out this evening and urged them to please call the Borough office with any concerns.

Motion to Adjourn at 7:06 PM – Jones. Second – Fuccile. Unanimous.

ATTEST:


Secretary