

CONYNGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Conyngham Borough Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 7:00 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, Gallagher, Gregory, Hawk, Jones, McKee, Schneider.

Absent: None.

Others Present: Mayor, Solicitor, Secretary, Treasurer.

Absent: None.

Citizens: Jacqui Bonomo, Linda Grencavich, Maureen Susa, Tim Ference, Ray Crocker, Maureen Younger, Billie Shaffer, Deborah Santangelo.

Public Hearing: President Gregory opened the floor to the public for comment on Ordinance 293 Conyngham Borough Snow and Ice Sidewalk Ordinance. No comment was given. Hearing closed.

Invited Guests: Scout Troop 207 & Pack 207 were in attendance with their leader, Wayne Oberst to receive Kids Kudos awards. Councilman Jones commended the Scouts on their Community Food Drive which netted 2015 items for the Valley Food Pantry. Maureen Younger and Billie Shaffer represented the Valley Food Pantry. President Gregory & Councilman Jones presented certificates to the Troops and extended their appreciation for a job well done.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion

Motion to Approve Minutes from Work Session December 11, 2014, Regular Session December 16, 2014, Continued Session December 23, 2014 - Jones. Second - Gallagher. No Roll Call. Unanimous.

Mayor: 47 calls for December, five traffic citations, one non-traffic citation and one Ordinance violation. Fines totaled \$229.31 with an additional \$25.00 for local Ordinance citation. Report is on file.

Treasurer: Treasurer Blasé commended the hard work of all parties involved for coming in under budget based on the challenges presented. Due to the hard work of Council the 2015 budget is realistic and attainable. President Gregory thanked Treasurer Blasé for his outstanding job providing guidance and direction.

Motion

Motion to Accept the December 2014 Treasurer's Report - Schneider. Second – Gallagher.

Questions on the Motion: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Treasurer Blasé would request a Motion to approve the list of obligations in the amount of \$42,292.67.

Motion

Motion to Approve the Bills- Fuccile. Second – Jones.

Questions on the Motion: None.

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ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Solicitor:

Motion

Motion to Adopt Ordinance # 293 Conyngham Borough Snow and Ice Sidewalk Ordinance – Hawk. Second – Fuccile.

Questions on the Motion: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

The Solicitor is waiting for a response from Valley Regional regarding the Lease Agreement and Addendum to the Fire Service Agreement.

Mockenhaupt Benefits Group needs to return the Service Agreement as well as bonding documents.

The 2015 Fee Schedule needs to be adopted via Resolution. Council will discuss at their next Work Session.

Valley Regional: There was one Fire and Rescue call for the month of December.

Correspondence was received from Luzerne County 911 for municipal input regarding call out and emergency response procedures. Vice President Schneider forwarded information to Chief Bogner for comments. A response is due to the County by January 31, 2015.

Recreation:

Motion

Motion to Approve Ty Shaffer Eagle Scout Service Project to Install Two Outdoor Bulletin Boards at Borough Building & Whispering Willows Park – Jones. Second – Schneider.

Questions on the Motion: None.

No Roll Call. Unanimous.

Vice President Schneider stated the Rec Board is planning upcoming events.

Planning & Zoning:

Motion

Motion to Approve Extension of Waiver to March 1, 2015 Pittinger Minor Subdivision – Gregory. Second – Jones.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Councilman Gallagher advised Council two appointments are up on the Zoning Hearing Board. Ms. Duffy is interested in remaining however Mr. Marnell advised he can no longer serve. Interest has been expressed by Mr. Yuhas.

Motion

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Motion to Reappoint Karen Duffy and Appoint Wister Yuhus to the Zoning Hearing Board for a Three Year Term Ending December 31, 2017 via Resolution 1 of 2015 – Gallagher. Second – Gregory.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

President Gregory expressed his appreciation to Mr. Marnell for his years of service on the Zoning Hearing Board.

Councilman Gallagher noted a seat is also open on the Planning Commission and the Solicitor advised the appointment can be a member of Council.

Motion

Motion to Appoint Jill Hawk to the Planning Commission for a Three Year Term Ending December 31, 2017 via Resolution 2 of 2015 – Gallagher. Second – Schneider

Public Comment: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Councilwoman Hawk thanked Council for their support.

Conyngham-Sugarloaf Joint Municipal Authority: A reorganizational meeting was held January 7, 2015 and the following Officers were elected:

Chairman – Joseph Gallagher
Vice-Chairman – Jack Wittig
Secretary – Marc Eble

Unfortunately Treasurer Dick has resigned. The position of Treasurer will not be filled until Sugarloaf Township has a chance to reappoint a replacement Board member. The next meeting will be held January 28, 2015 in Conyngham.

Board Member Cotsack's term is up.

Motion

Motion to Reappoint John Cotsack to a Five Year Term Ending December 31, 2019 via Resolution 3 of 2015 – Gregory. Second – Hawk.

Questions on the Motion: None.

Public Comment: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Streets & Property:

Motion

Motion to Approve the Building Use Requests of Brookhill Association, Friends of the Nescopeck, Eckrote Gazebo Wedding February 14th, Historic Brainerd Church, Conyngham Bridge Group, Have

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Yarn Will Knit, Conyngham Valley Historical Society, Zoning Hearing Board February 26th – Jones. Second – Hawk.

Questions on the Motion: None.

No Roll Call. Unanimous.

Motion

Motion to Approve the Luzerne County Polling Place Agreement – Jones. Second – Gallagher. No Roll Call. Unanimous.

Councilman Fuccile stated the 2015-2016 Salt Contract is in place.

Councilman McKee noted the Streets Department has been out before sunrise to salt the roads.

Grants: The LSA Grant has been awarded to the Borough for energy efficient renovations to the Authority building. The Engineer has inspected the Streets Department side however access was denied on the Authority side. Specs are being prepared. The grant was awarded for \$163,000.00 with an original estimate for the roof of \$30,000.00 however upon inspection costs will be significantly more.

A meeting was held with Barry Isett & Associates today to determine upcoming grant submission. A proposal to develop a Master Plan for Whispering Willows was received for review. It consists of a \$16,000.00 grant with equal match to be submitted to DCNR C2P2.

At Council's next Work Session a Conceptual Master Plan will be presented as an aerial photograph depicting proposed nature parks, pavilions, shade trees and trail connectors.

President Gregory added that the Borough is doing everything in their power to facilitate the LSA grant however no cooperation has been given by the Conyngham Borough Authority. The CBA Board needs to put their differences aside and step up for the betterment of the community and ratepayers.

Shade Tree:

Motion

Motion to Approve Submission of the TreeVitalize Grant – Jones. Second – Schneider.

Questions on the Motion: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Jacqui Bonomo commented on the outstanding information needed for submission of the grant.

COG: Vice President Schneider advised Council of a presentation given by Northeast Revenue at the January 16th COG meeting which allows municipalities to collect 100% of their delinquent real estate taxes under a new hybrid law. Previously 95% went to the Borough and 5% to Tax Claim. In 2014 the Borough's 5% amounted to \$2,800.00.

Motion

Motion to Authorize Solicitor to Prepare Delinquent Tax Collection Ordinance and Advertise – Schneider. Second – Jones.

Questions on the Motion: Councilwoman Hawk questioned the advertisement of the Ordinance prior to Council's review. Vice President Schneider advised sample Ordinances were provided. Discussion ensued over Ordinance preparation.

Motion

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Motion to Table Preparation and Advertisement of Delinquent Tax Collection Ordinance – Hawk.
Second – Gregory.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

COG is pursuing a grant for pothole filler which would allow municipalities to use hot patch year round by heating up old asphalt. If a grant is not received interested municipalities can purchase together and share equipment.

The second annual Municipal Auction will be held this summer. Details will be forthcoming.

Police Committee: Councilman Gallagher held discussions with the Chief regarding the crosswalk by the Lutheran Church and the Historical Society. The Chief recommended a flashing light be installed. The solar panel is the most expensive part. Councilman Jones noted the need for crosswalk.

All Police Officers have been qualified with their handguns. Additional qualifications will be held for shotguns and rifles.

The Chief has requested advertising for additional part time police to add to the roster.

Motion

Motion to Advertise for Part Time Police Officers – Schneider. Second – Fuccile.

Questions on the Motion: None.

Public Comment: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

New Business:

Motion

Motion to Retain Elliot Greenleaf & Dean as Special Counsel at Current rate of \$100.00/Hour – Fuccile. Second – McKee.

Questions on the Motion: None.

Public Comment: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Old Business: Councilman Gallagher reviewed quotes received for Hometown Hero banners, flags and Welcome to Conyngham banners as well as provided sample pictures for review.

President Gregory recommended a committee be formed to spearhead project with members of Council, the community, Valley Vets and the Historical Society. The Banner Committee will consist of Councilmen Gallagher and Jones with Mayor Carrelli.

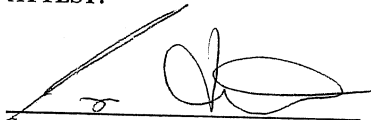
Catch-All: None.

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Public Comment: Maureen Susa questioned if the flags being purchased will be made in the United States. Councilman Gallagher responded - Yes. Vice President Schneider reminded everyone buntings must be in place prior to May 30th. Councilman Gallagher will check on prices with same company providing banners.

Motion to Adjourn @ 8:08 pm - Gallagher. Second – Jones. No Roll Call. Unanimous.

ATTEST:


Secretary