

CONYNGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL CONTINUED SESSION

Thursday, April 29, 2021

Conyngham Borough Council met in Continued Session on Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 6:02 p.m. in Council Chambers, Municipal building, 215 Main Street, Conyngham, Pennsylvania. The April 20, 2021 meeting was called back to order by Council President Gary Gregory, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and roll call was taken.

Roll Call:

Present: Fuccile, Gallagher, Gregory, Reber, Ryba, Schneider, Tihansky.

Absent: None.

Others Present: Solicitor, Manager, Chief, Police Department.

Absent: Mayor.

Citizens: Claudette Angelo, Richard Long, Amy Long, Amanda Ackerman, Fred Jaxheimer, Jennifer Ochs, Andy Ochs, Debby Eyerly, Debbie Cara, John M. Cara, Leonard Heller, Steven Williams, Matt Cara, Vanessa Cara, Barry R. Jones, Jordan Coats, Dorene Coats, Walter Ackerman, Stephanie Delman, Prudence Mumich, Larry Rossi, Lorine Ogurkis, Rev. Graham Truscott, Robert Hoppy.

Public Comment: None.

New Business:

Motion

Motion to Approve SL Pecora Electric LLC Quote Whispering Willows Pavilion \$1,950.00 - Reber. Second - Schneider.

Questions on the Motion: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Fuccile	-	Affirmative	Gallagher	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Reber	-	Affirmative
Ryba	-	Affirmative	Schneider	-	Affirmative
Tihansky	-	Affirmative			

Motion

Motion to Approve DeAngelo Contracting Services LLC Line Painting Main Street & Banks Avenue \$2,851.20 - Fuccile. Second - Tihansky.

Questions on the Motion: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Fuccile	-	Affirmative	Gallagher	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Reber	-	Affirmative
Ryba	-	Affirmative	Schneider	-	Affirmative
Tihansky	-	Affirmative			

Old Business:

Motion

Motion to Approve Sherwin Williams LineLazer 3400 Quote \$3,869.00 - Tihansky. Second - Ryba.

Questions on the Motion: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Fuccile	-	Affirmative	Gallagher	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Reber	-	Affirmative
Ryba	-	Affirmative	Schneider	-	Affirmative
Tihansky	-	Affirmative			



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Motion

Motion to Approve Resolution 6 of 2021 Adopting Official Joint Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update Revision & Implementation Schedule - Reber. Second – Ryba.

Questions on the Motion: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Fuccile	-	Affirmative	Gallagher	-	Abstain
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Reber	-	Affirmative
Ryba	-	Affirmative	Schneider	-	Affirmative
Tihansky	-	Affirmative			

Catch All: None.

Public Comment: Debra Cara, Mainview Property expressed how upset her entire family is over Verizon cell tower. She listed the many community activities her family has participated in and tireless work during pandemic. Her husband John and son Matt have attended previous Council meeting to state their opposition to cell tower. Concerns were expressed concerning notification.

Stephanie Delman, Sugarloaf stated during COVID 19 quarantine six members of Council underhandedly voted to approve cell tower. She also expressed concerns of constant radio frequency waves.

Jordan Coats, 42 Ackerman Lane is disappointed members would go after \$340.00 monthly income.

Bob Washick, 360 Main Street is in favor of proposed cell tower due to poor service.

Fred Jaxheimer, 156 Lakeview Trail, Sugarloaf stated loss of trust by community. Christ Lutheran Church objects to placement of cell tower.

Matt Cara, Conyngham stated he knew nothing about cell tower. Expressed disappointment that his previous objections were disregarded.

Lori Ogurkis, Conyngham is blown away by what is going on. She has devoted time to reviewing documents, minutes, leases etc. pertaining to cell tower. Objects to Council approving lease during pandemic. Stated negotiations were nefarious.

John Cara bought land to maintain beauty of the valley and expressed his feelings regarding placement of a cell tower near his land.

Amy Long, Ackerman Lane, Sugarloaf expressed concerns of her view obstructed by a cell tower.

Steve Williams, Ackerman Lane, Sugarloaf supports the sewer plant expansion but opposes cell tower.

CeCe Lushen, Conyngham is sympathetic to community concerns, however she expressed the need for better cell reception.

Barry Jones, Frederick Drive, Conyngham stated he had cell reception issues, but his carrier sent him a new chip which solved his issues.

Robert Hoppy, Frederick Drive, Conyngham questioned whether Council can rescind lease agreement.

Rich Long, 49 Ackerman Lane, Sugarloaf stated location of tower is bad. Council needs to relocate.

Rev. Graham Truscott is new to the area and stated his congregants are terribly upset. Notification would have gone a long way.

President Gregory wanted to correct the record regarding the cell tower. In 2013 Council was approached by Verizon Wireless to construct a cell tower. Over 54% of people no longer have land lines. The Borough was informed by Verizon due to the increase in usage service will continue to degrade. The Babe Ruth Field was originally the proposed location site however there were issues with the ingress/egress having multiple owners. Verizon has stated Conyngham Borough was one of the longest negotiations they have ever handled due to Council doing their due diligence. A major

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factor in the location selected was the grounds currently house a sewage treatment plant. The area also has one of the lowest housing densities.

Council has partnered with many community groups to develop a Master Plan for the existing park structures and the cell tower income could help fund the planned renovations. Over \$500,000.00 would be received over the course of the lease to offset the costs.

Taxes have not been raised in ten years. \$2,000,000.00 grants funded upgrades to Sugarloaf Avenue & Main Street. Twenty+ acres were added to the park and trail systems. Paving projects were completed in Brookhill and Luchi Manor.

Verizon Lease was first signed in 2016 and was discussed almost a dozen times which is reflected in minutes and newspaper articles.

Original lease was between CSJMA, Sugarloaf Township and Conyngham Borough and signed by all three entities.

Verizon has completed all necessary surveying and environmental studies for proposed location.

Debbie Cara accepted President Gregory's response.

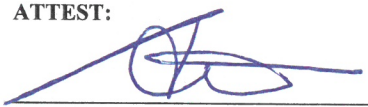
Lori Ogurkis questioned proposed salt shed on subdivision plans as opposed to cell tower. President Gregory stated land was subdivided for essential government services.

Discussion ensued regarding proposed location.

Motion to Adjourn at 7:08 pm - Ryba. Second - Tihansky. No Roll Call. Unanimous.

An Executive Session was held for potential litigation.

ATTEST:



Secretary