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**CONYNGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION**  
**Tuesday, June 15, 2021**

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Conyngham Borough Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 7:04 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, Reber, Ryba, Schneider, Tihansky.

**Absent:** None.

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

**Absent:** Mayor.

**Citizens:** Cindy Foster, Mary Ann Guglielmini, Linda Grencavich, Louise Skurcky, Jeanne Pesock, Gerald Pesock, Judy Hynes, Agnes Levash, Marina Martin Turnbach, James A. Turnbach, Debbie Nick, Richard Nick, Lee Radley, Ruth S. Toth, Richard Houseknecht, Arthur Riddle, Mary Wolfe, Larry Harmon, Dorothy Anderson, Andy Anderson, Matt Racho, John Skwierz, Maureen Younger, Keith Younger, Dixie Szumilo, Matt Szumilo, Cecelia van Eden, Stephanie Laubach, Joel Laubach, Pete Wilcox, Lynn Lawson, Grace Selkow, Joseph J. Adams, Doris Renninger, Roy Renninger, Nancy DeMara, Jean Ann Alimecco, Shannon Hunsinger, Timothy Hunsinger, Kristy Welch, Ruth Lesavage, John Zikoski, Chris Demko, Anne Snyder, Deborah Santangelo, William Faust, Nick DiSabella, Pamela Holderman.

**Public Comment:** The Solicitor explained the advertising & adoption process for the proposed Zoning Ordinance. The current Ordinance was adopted July 1994 therefore it is prudent for Council to revisit and rewrite. The Zoning Committee met over a period of a year and a half. RJD Engineering prepared the accompanying map. Luzerne County & Conyngham Borough Planning Commissions reviewed. The public was thanked for their attendance.

Dorothy Anderson 485 St Route 93 near proposed B-2 Zone on Route 93. There is extreme truck traffic. She is concerned about her home and animals as well as the safety of vehicular traffic. Andrew Anderson reiterated his wife's concerns and stated the proposed change would cause a disruption to the community.

Larry Harmon, 14 Birch Street, stated Zoning should be to protect property values however this change will decrease property values if commercial business is nearby. Also increased headlights in neighborhood along with trucks idling. Mr. Harmon proceeded to read the deed restrictions contained in his deed. He provided a copy for the Solicitor.

Richard Houseknecht 7 Pine Lane enjoys the wildlife in his neighborhood. The property in question is set up for privacy.

Keith Younger, 9 Pine Lane, the residents went through this five years ago when Dollar General tried to build. Put on the ballot as a Referendum.

Maureen Younger, 9 Pine Lane, stated Route 93 is dangerous. Please consider residents feelings.

Jim Turnbach, 13 Willow Street, stated there will be difficulties obtaining Highway Occupancy Permit for that property. No EDUs available. Zoning change is not in the best interest of the community.

Chris Demko, 494 Route 93, development in that area is a traffic nightmare. Headlights would interfere with neighborhood.

Kristy Welsh, 7 Maple Avenue, concerned for children's safety in Luchi Manor.

Joe Adams, 10 Maple Avenue, stated Luchi Manor offers security with Woodland Avenue as a buffer. Development would cause exposure.

The Solicitor provided observations on planning principles and noted the protections in place which include stronger buffer areas. The Borough cannot consider restrictive covenants when developing Ordinance.

CONYNGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION  
Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Any development would require a Land Development Plan and Engineering Survey to apply along with a sewer permit and Highway Occupancy Permit.

Dixie Szumilo, 7 Willow Street, does not want commercial development near their property.

Mrs. Anderson also has water runoff concerns on Route 93.

President Gregory provided a recap of the process. Consultants were hired to determine best use of entire Borough. Council is fiscally responsible for all the residents. The process was conducted over a period of one and a half years. The Ordinance was reviewed by the Zoning Committee, Conyngham Borough Planning Commission, Luzerne County Planning Commission and Luzerne County Engineering Office. President Gregory appreciates everyone's input.

Council broke for Executive Session at 7:39 PM.

The meeting was called back to order at 7:51 PM.

**Motion**

Motion to Adopt 2021 Conyngham Borough Zoning Ordinance & Map with Change from B-2 to R-3 on Route 93 – Reber. Second – Schneider.

**Questions on the Motion:** None.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

<b>Fuccile</b>	-	<b>Affirmative</b>	<b>Gallagher</b>	-	<b>Affirmative</b>
<b>Gregory</b>	-	<b>Affirmative</b>	<b>Reber</b>	-	<b>Affirmative</b>
<b>Ryba</b>	-	<b>Affirmative</b>	<b>Schneider</b>	-	<b>Affirmative</b>
<b>Tihansky</b>	-	<b>Affirmative</b>			

President Gregory thanked the residents for their civility during the public comment and noted the Luchi's have never approached the Borough to request a zoning change for the parcel in question.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion**

Motion to Approve Minutes from Regular Session May 13, 2021; Continued Session May 19, 2021 – Reber. Second – Fuccile.

**Questions on the Motion:** None.

No Roll Call. Unanimous.

**Mayor:** The Department responded to fourteen (14) offenses, incidents and/or requests for the month of May. Report is on file.

New Police vehicle to be delivered in early July.

**Fire, Rescue & EMA:** Conyngham had zero (0) Fire and Rescue call and nine (9) EMS calls for the month of May.

**Treasurer:** The Treasurer reviewed the May report in detail. A copy of the report is available for public inspection and is on file.

**Motion**

Motion to Approve May Financial Report – Ryba. Second – Tihansky.

**Questions on the Motion:** None.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

<b>Fuccile</b>	-	<b>Affirmative</b>	<b>Gallagher</b>	-	<b>Affirmative</b>
<b>Gregory</b>	-	<b>Affirmative</b>	<b>Reber</b>	-	<b>Affirmative</b>
<b>Ryba</b>	-	<b>Affirmative</b>	<b>Schneider</b>	-	<b>Affirmative</b>
<b>Tihansky</b>	-	<b>Affirmative</b>			

**CONYNGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION**  
**Tuesday, June 15, 2021**

The Treasurer provided the list of obligations in the amount of \$ 64,090.01 to be approved.

**Motion**

Motion to Approve the Bills – Fuccile. Second – Ryba.

**Questions on the Motion:** None.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

**Solicitor:**

**Motion**

Motion to Approve Resolution 8 of 2021 Authorizing Corrective Deed Waschko Parcel – Ryba.  
 Second – Schneider.

**Questions on the Motion:** President Gregory explained this parcel connects the Nature Park and Whispering Willows. It is the former Fredericks Pond.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

**Recreation:**

**Motion**

Motion to Hire Additional 2021 Park Program Substitutes Gianna Corrado, Owen Pollock, Brooke Harmonskey as Recommended by Director - Reber. Second - Ryba.

**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 Onsite Portable Toilets Quote \$135.00/Four Weeks 1 Handicapped Accessible Unit Serviced Weekly for Summer Months at Nature Park - Reber. Second - Fuccile.

**Questions on the Motion:** None.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

Manager provided update on Park Improvements.

**Planning & Zoning:** The Zoning Report was read into the record. There were three (3) concerns addressed/actions taken including one (1) permit issued.

**Department of Public Works:** Nothing at this time.

**CONYNGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION**  
**Tuesday, June 15, 2021**

**Building & Grounds:****Motion**

Motion to Approve Historical Society Community Concert Gazebo & Building Use August 1<sup>st</sup> – Fuccile. Second – Reber.

**Questions on the Motion:** None.

No Roll Call. Unanimous.

**Motion**

Motion to Approve Ackerman Sealcoating LLC Quote \$1,950.00 to Seal Borough Building Parking Lots - Fuccile. Second - Ryba.

**Questions on the Motion:** None.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

<b>Fuccile</b>	-	<b>Affirmative</b>	<b>Gallagher</b>	-	<b>Affirmative</b>
<b>Gregory</b>	-	<b>Affirmative</b>	<b>Reber</b>	-	<b>Affirmative</b>
<b>Ryba</b>	-	<b>Affirmative</b>	<b>Schneider</b>	-	<b>Affirmative</b>
<b>Tihansky</b>	-	<b>Affirmative</b>			

**Motion**

Motion to Approve Greater Hazleton Concert Series Building Use Request 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of Month 1:00 PM – Fuccile. Second – Tihansky.

**Questions on the Motion:** None.

No Roll Call. Unanimous.

**Motion**

Motion to Approve Christmas in Conyngham Parade & Whispering Willows Park Use December 4<sup>th</sup> – Fuccile. Second – Reber.

**Questions on the Motion:** None.

No Roll Call. Unanimous.

**Grants:** Seven (7) proposals were received for LC CDBG Engineering RFP for Streetscape on Main Street from Sugarloaf Avenue to Butler Avenue. Contract to be negotiated for approval at July Council Meeting.

COVID-19 ARPA Grant \$195,417.02 was applied for Stormwater Improvements on Grant Street.

**New Business:** None.

**Old Business:** None.

**Catch-All:** None.

**Public Comment:** Gerald Pesock, 62 Sugarloaf Avenue stated speeding on Sugarloaf Avenue is a problem along with noise.

Vice President Schneider recommended Council consider a Noise Ordinance to address.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:19 pm - Reber. Second – Fuccile.

No Roll Call. Unanimous.

**ATTEST:**

  
Secretary