

CONYNGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION  
Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Conyngham Borough Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 6:04 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:** Bartlinski, Evancho, Gregory, Keegan, Tihansky, Veet.

**Absent** Kubitz.

**Others Present:** Mayor, Solicitor, Manager, Zoning Officer.

**Absent:** None.

**Citizens:** Louise Zybura, Linda Grencavich, Marc Eble, Dan Rymond, Carol Rymond, Ray Schneider, Tara Lilley, Charlotte Marnell, Anita Reber, John Daugherty, Ray Croker.

**Public Comment:** Marc Eble, CSJMA Secretary expressed the need for better communication with Municipal Leadership. Recommendation was made to have CSJMA as a line item on Borough Agenda moving forward. Mr. Eble advised it is not prudent to meddle with the CSJMA Board at this crucial time.

Discussion ensued regarding EDU allocation. CSJMA establishing policy for distribution.

The Solicitor added CSJMA is under a Consent Order due to excessive flows.

Councilman Tihansky remarked removal of one of five Board members should not derail project.

Discussion ensued on excessive cost of litigation as well as Authority use of virtual meetings.

The Solicitor stated the Authority cannot pay for Mr. Gallagher's defense.

Discussion shifted to cost of Sewer Plant Construction, Pilot, and Inflow & Infiltration.

Anita Reber questioned reason to remove Joseph Gallagher from Authority Board. Solicitor stated cost and time delays are creating a hardship on ratepayers and taxpayers.

Anita Reber questioned if replacement would be Ken Temborski – Yes.

Ray Schneider stated his displeasure at the removal of Joe Gallagher & appointment of Ken Temborski. Councilman Bartlinski stated too many assumptions are being made.

Ray Schneider also expressed his dismay at filling a vacancy on Council without an opportunity for the public to apply.

Councilman Tihansky stated he contacted as many people as possible and only received one letter of interest.

Tara Lilley, Butler Avenue is concerned about the impact of the Nature Trail on her property. The trail will be in the rear of her property and she would like it delineated so trespassers do not become a problem.

Charlotte Marnell has witnessed people walking dogs loose on the trail behind the Lilley home.

Mayor Marnell spoke with the Police Department regarding loose dogs.

Ray Croker, Conyngham Crimewatch, thanked the Board for the use of Whispering Willows Park for National Night Out along with the Police and First Responders that made the event a tremendous success.

President Gregory stated he has been on Council fifteen years and it has taken thirty years to construct sewer plant. Only the lawyers and engineers have benefited from delay. It is time to move forward to completion.

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Approval of Minutes:

Motion

Motion to Approve Minutes from Regular Session August 20, 2024 – Bartlinski. Second – Veet.

Questions on the Motion: None.

No Roll Call. Unanimous.

Mayor: LC 911 Center received twenty-eight (28) calls for offenses, incidents, and/or requests for the month of August for Conyngham Borough. Additionally, while on duty CBPD responded to eighteen (18) incidents and/or requests. Thirteen (13) traffic warnings and five (5) traffic citations were issued. Report is on file.

Mayor Marnell attended the Crimewatch Picnic over the weekend which was a great success.

Fire, Rescue & EMA: Conyngham had three (3) Fire and Rescue calls for the month of August.

Hydrant testing underway.

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

Motion

Motion to Approve August Financial Report – Keegan. Second – Evancho.

Questions on the Motion: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Bartlinski	-	Affirmative	Evancho	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Keegan	-	Affirmative
Kubitz	-	Absent	Tihansky	-	Affirmative
Veet	-	Affirmative			

The Treasurer provided a list of obligations in the amount of \$ 183,252.76 to be approved.

Motion

Motion to Approve the Bills – Bartlinski. Second – Tihansky.

Questions on the Motion: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Bartlinski	-	Affirmative	Evancho	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Keegan	-	Affirmative
Kubitz	-	Absent	Tihansky	-	Affirmative
Veet	-	Affirmative			

Motion

Motion to Approve 2025 Police \$0.00 & Non-Uniformed Employee \$ 18,613.00 MMO's – Veet.  
Second – Tihansky.

Questions on the Motion: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Bartlinski	-	Affirmative	Evancho	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Keegan	-	Affirmative
Kubitz	-	Absent	Tihansky	-	Affirmative
Veet	-	Affirmative			

Motion

Motion to Approve Resolution 10 of 2024 Eliminating Police Pension Contributions for 2025 – Veet  
Second - Keegan.

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Questions on the Motion: None.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Bartlinski	-	Affirmative	Evancho	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Keegan	-	Affirmative
Kubitz	-	Absent	Tihansky	-	Affirmative
Veet	-	Affirmative			

Council broke for Executive Session for Potential Litigation at 7:15 pm. Meeting Resumes at 7:42 pm.

Solicitor:

Motion

Motion to File a Petition to Remove Joseph Gallagher from the CSJMA Board – Tihansky. Second – Bartlinski.

Questions on the Motion: President Gregory stated with all due respect to his fellow Council members he cannot justify spending additional legal fees that will impact the taxpayers & ratepayers.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Bartlinski	-	Affirmative	Evancho	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Negative	Keegan	-	Affirmative
Kubitz	-	Absent	Tihansky	-	Affirmative
Veet	-	Affirmative			

Recreation: Nothing at this time.

Planning & Zoning: The Zoning Report was read into the record. There were seven (7) concerns addressed/actions taken including three (3) permits issued.

NOV will be sent to owner of 59 Walnut Avenue & Cuz-n-Joe's.

Department of Public Works: 2024 paving completed on Park Circle, Maple Avenue & Smith Drive.

President Gregory thanked Mr. Luchi & Mr. Benjamin for agreeing to dedicate Smith Drive to the Borough.

Building & Grounds:

Motion

Motion to Approve CVHS Halloween Stories Borough Building Use October 27, 2024 3:00 pm –6:00 pm - Veet. Second – Bartlinski.

Questions on the Motion: None.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Bartlinski	-	Affirmative	Evancho	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Keegan	-	Affirmative
Kubitz	-	Absent	Tihansky	-	Affirmative
Veet	-	Affirmative			

Park maintenance of trimming trees and weeding underway.

Grants:

LC CDBG RFP for Engineering Services Received:

Benesch  
Barry Isett & Associates  
Peters Consultants

Motion

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Motion to Award RFP Engineering Services 2024 LC CDBG Butler Avenue Streetscape to Benesch Pending Luzerne County Approval – Tihansky. Second – Evancho.

Questions on the Motion: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Bartlinski	-	Affirmative	Evancho	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Keegan	-	Affirmative
Kubitz	-	Absent	Tihansky	-	Affirmative
Veet	-	Affirmative			

Motion

Motion to Approve Resolution 8 of 2024 LSA Grant Application & Authorized Signers Whispering Willows Park Restroom & Pavilion Renovation & Pedestrian Walkway Installation – Veet. Second – Bartlinski.

Questions on the Motion: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Bartlinski	-	Affirmative	Evancho	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Keegan	-	Affirmative
Kubitz	-	Absent	Tihansky	-	Affirmative
Veet	-	Affirmative			

Motion

Motion to Approve Resolution 9 of 2024 LSA Grant Application & Authorized Signers Whispering Willows Park Water Study – Tihansky. Second – Veet.

Questions on the Motion: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Bartlinski	-	Affirmative	Evancho	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Keegan	-	Affirmative
Kubitz	-	Absent	Tihansky	-	Affirmative
Veet	-	Affirmative			

Motion

Motion to Approve LC ARPA Grant Request for Funds Drawdown # 3 Columbia Excavating \$406,500.00 Benesch \$ 19,700.00 Total \$426,200.00 – Bartlinski. Second – Keegan.

Questions on the Motion: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Bartlinski	-	Affirmative	Evancho	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Keegan	-	Affirmative
Kubitz	-	Absent	Tihansky	-	Affirmative
Veet	-	Affirmative			

New Business:

Motion

Motion to Accept Resignation of Councilman Kubitz with Regret – Veet. Second – Evancho.

Questions on the Motion: Resignation letter was read into the record. Mr. Kubitz was thanked for his service.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Bartlinski	-	Affirmative	Evancho	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Keegan	-	Affirmative
Kubitz	-	Absent	Tihansky	-	Affirmative
Veet	-	Affirmative			

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Motion

Motion to Appoint Anthony Ryba Jr. to Fill Vacancy on Council Term Ending 12/31/25 – Tihansky.  
Second – Bartlinski.

Questions on the Motion: Councilman Tihansky read Letter of Interest from Anthony Ryba Jr. into the record. Mr. Ryba was congratulated on his appointment.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Bartlinski	-	Affirmative	Evancho	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Keegan	-	Affirmative
Tihansky	-	Affirmative	Veet	-	Affirmative

Old Business:

Motion

Motion to Approve Coordination of Engineer & Tara Lilley Property Line Tree Installation –  
Evancho. Second – Veet.

Questions on the Motion: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Bartlinski	-	Affirmative	Evancho	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Keegan	-	Affirmative
Tihansky	-	Affirmative	Veet	-	Affirmative


Catch-All: None.

Public Comment: None.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:12 pm – Tihansky. Second – Veet.

No Roll Call. Unanimous.

ATTEST:



Secretary