



MINUTES

CONNOQUENESSING BOROUGH

January 6, 2014

The public meeting of the Borough Council of Connoquenessing was called to order at 7:30 pm at the Connoquenessing Borough building by Mayor Rader.

Council members Ronald Kaufman, Mitch Leech, Francis Smith and Steve Miller along with Tax Collector Carol Kaufman were sworn in by Mayor Harold Rader.

Mayor Rader took nominations for President of Council. Miller nominated Lloyd Leslie to the position of Council President. The vote was unanimous for Leslie for President.

Mayor Rader took nominations for Vice President of Council. Leech nominated Ronald Kaufman. Leslie nominated Francis Smith. The vote was unanimous for Smith for Vice President.

Council discussed a nomination for President Pro Tem and decided not to fill the position at this time.

The meeting was turned over by Mayor Rader to President Leslie.

The Current Appointments list was reviewed. Council discussed and agreed to add Steve Miller to the Fire Committee, the Park Committee and the Sewage Financial Committee. All other appointments will stay the same.

Those present were Council members Lloyd Leslie, Pete Kaufman, Mitch Leech, Francis Smith, Steve Miller, and Mayor Harold Rader.

Also present were Len Schoettker, Linda Schoettker, Wolfgang Briggs, Carol Kaufman, Matt Morris, Kim Morris, Attorney Chris Reese, Reuben Pink, Brian Douthett, Lily Greenway, Loren Greenway, Attorney Phil Lope, and Vickie Forbes.

Comments from those opposing gas wells in the Borough along with questions related to the proposed Shipley gas well to be located on the Western PA LTD farm were heard by Council. These comments and questions came from Len and Linda Schoettker of 100 Dogwood Lane, Matt and Kim Morris from 118 Harmony Street, and Lily Greenway of 249 Constitution Avenue. Linda Schoettker read a statement expressing opposition to the gas well from Kelly Noronha of 101 Dogwood Lane.

Attorney Lope reviewed Act 13 and details of the latest PA Supreme Court decision impacting Act 13. Attorney Lope stated that the Borough's ordinances do not address gas drilling in the Borough. He suggested adopting a resolution that would state the intent of the Borough to develop a pending ordinance which would then put on notice any newly proposed wells coming into the Borough of the Borough's intent to move forward with an ordinance which would subject them to the rules of the ordinance.

Attorney Lope explained that the Borough has to have a reason to exclude drilling. He further explained that simply because some do not want something in an area doesn't mean Council has the right to exclude it. Council also represents others that have the right to make use of their property in the way they want to use their property, which may include oil and gas exploration. There has to be a legal basis to deny a property owner the use of his property in the manner that he wants to use it. Council's responsibility is to balance the interests of everyone.

Council agreed to develop an ordinance and to extend this meeting into a work session on Tuesday, January 21, 2014. Smith motioned, Miller seconded to adopt Resolution 2014-02, with the intent to develop an ordinance to provide for Oil and Gas Development. Motion passed.

Wolfgang Briggs updated Council on the status of his brewery located at 126B Main Street. He indicated that he had received the necessary permits and had begun production on January 1.



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Sewage Plant Update

Bocci did not attend the meeting but provided the following update:
Repaired and installed cracked diffuser line.
Pump Station – no issues
No abnormal flows from the excessive rain in December
Sludge removal in holding pattern during winter

Miller motioned, Kaufman seconded, to accept as presented the December 3, 2013, meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Leech motioned, Smith seconded, to accept the submitted November 2013 Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

Smith motioned, Leech seconded, to approve the bills as submitted. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Leech questioned the status of the house at 218 Constitution Avenue. The house was bought back by the bank in November.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fee Resolution 2014-01

Council reviewed the Fee Resolution for 2014. Leech motioned, Smith seconded to adopt Fee Resolution 2014-01. Motion passed.

Gannett Fleming Annual Consulting Engineering Services Agreement

After reviewing the annual agreement, Leech motioned, Kaufman seconded to approve the Gannett Fleming Annual Consulting Agreement. Motion passed.

2014 Butler County Council of Government Dues

Council declined to become members at this time.

Bureau of Recreation and Conservation Grant Application

The Borough did not receive funding from the 2013 application. Smith motioned, Leech seconded to reapply for 2014 grant money for the Trail Project. Motion passed. The Engineer recommended obtaining the right-of-ways for the Trail in order to strengthen the application. Council requested a contact be made with the Engineer for right-of-way agreements for the Church of God and Douthett properties.

Butler County Park Renovation Program

Smith motioned, Miller seconded to make application to the Butler County Park Renovation Program for grant money to continue the Park Trail. Motion passed. Leech motioned, Miller seconded to adopt Resolution 2014-03 for the Butler County Parks Renovation Program Community Grant Program. Motion passed.

Information from Ehrlich for trail treatment was reviewed by Council

Tax Collector Bond

Council reviewed the package bid for all tax collectors by the Board of Commissioners and the invoice from Mitchell Insurance, Inc. providing the Borough a 4-year bond covering 75% of the real estate taxes to be collected by the tax collector for the Borough. Council elected not to carry additional coverage for the amount not covered by the bond.



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Butler County Blight Mitigation Program

Correspondence from the Redevelopment Authority of Butler County requesting information on possible properties in the Borough that should be included in the blight mitigation program was reviewed by Council. Properties identified as blighted are considered unlivable and need to be demolished. No properties were identified to be reported.

Complaint

A complaint by a Constitution Avenue resident about the snow removal on Constitution Avenue was reviewed. Council discussed the variables of road conditions and the effects salt and antiskid have in those conditions.

Indemnity Agreement

The Indemnity Agreement for State Highway Improvements provides protection to the local government in accordance with a Highway Occupancy Permit issued to make improvements to the intersection of Evans City Road (S.R. 0068) and Constitution Avenue. The Agreement was reviewed by the engineer and attorney with recommended changes being made.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Fire:** No Report
- Law and Order:** There was discussion on parking on the east side of South Main Street.
- Streets:** No Report
- Zoning/Planning:** No Report
- Borough Building:** Leslie reported on repairs to the sewage pump system and the pumping of the tank for the building and park restrooms.
- Park:** No Report
- Sewage Financial:** No Report
- Code Enforcement:** No Report

Miller motioned, Kaufman seconded to appoint Kelly Noronha to a two-year term as Auditor by Resolution 2014-04. Motion passed.

Leech motioned, Kaufman seconded at 9:40 pm to adjourn the. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie L. Forbes
Borough Secretary/Treasurer