

COOPERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2024

The meeting of the Coopersburg Borough Council was held in Borough Hall on Tuesday, August 20th & was called to order by Council Vice President Poot at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

All present were Mayor Hovis, Council Members Ellenberger, Norman, Poot, Ritter, Yeager, Manager Paashaus, Solicitor Gross McGinley, McCarthy Engineering, Police Chief. Council Members Dietz & Dowdle were absent.

AGENDA

A Motion was made by Yeager & seconded by Norman to approve the Agenda with 2 Additional Action Items (Resolution 2024-15 & 2024-16). **The Agenda was adopted as amended by a vote of 5-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

A Motion was made by Yeager & seconded by Norman to receive the Monthly Reports (Financial Statements, Council Information Report, Police Report, Fire Report, Engineer Report), & approve the previous meeting Minutes from July 16, 2024. Ellenberger removed the Minutes for discussion at the end of the meeting. **The Consent Agenda, without the previous meeting minutes, was approved by a vote of 5-0.**

ACTION ITEMS

1. A Motion was made by Ellenberger & seconded by Norman to accept the resignation of William Knittle from the Water Authority Board. Mayor Hovis requested a letter of appreciation be sent to Knittle. **The Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.**
2. A Motion was made by Yeager & seconded by Norman to appoint Ricki Snyder to fill the vacancy on the Water Authority Board. **The Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.**
3. A Motion was made by Norman & seconded by Ellenberger to approve the final settlement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania & PennDot regarding the Kriger phase of the Streetscape project. There was further discussion about the project & settlement. **Resolution 2024-12 passed by a vote of 5-0.**
4. A Motion was made by Ellenberger & seconded by Norman to approve the closing of multiple roads for the annual Halloween Parade on October 13, 2024. Council members were encouraged to RSVP to ride in the parade. **Resolution 2024-13 passed by a vote of 5-0.**
5. A Motion was made by Ellenberger & seconded by Norman to approve the closing of E State Street to 5th Street for the annual Tree Lighting on November 30, 2024. **Resolution 2024-14 passed by a vote of 5-0.**
6. A Motion was made by Norman & seconded by Ritter to approve the First Reading of a draft non-smoking ordinance for multiple Borough owned recreational properties in the Borough. There was further discussion regarding the ordinance, the enforcement of the policy, penalties, & legal fees. **The Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.** The Second Reading is scheduled for September 17, 2024.
7. A Motion was made by Ellenberger & seconded by Norman to approve the First Reading of a draft DROP ordinance to establish a Deferred Retirement Option Plan for the full-time police officers at retirement. There was further discussion regarding the details of the program, costs to the Borough, examples of participants, & the newly approved possibility of purchasing service at other departments for credit to retirement years. That concept will be discussed by the committee & dealt with at a future meeting. **The First Reading of the DROP Ordinance passed by a vote of 5-0.** The Second Reading is scheduled for September 17, 2024.
8. A Motion was made by Yeager & seconded by Ritter to approve the application & signer to pursue an LSA funding of a new, fully equipped police cruiser. **Resolution 2024-15 passed by a vote of 5-0.**
9. A Motion was made by Yeager & seconded by Ritter to approve the application & signer to pursue an LSA funding of a new, fully equipped John Deere Compact Track Loader. **Resolution 2024-1 passed by a vote of 5-0.**

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Infrastructure – Council Member Dietz gave the following updates:
 - 9th Street Wetland/Tree Issue – LCCD will take actions for enforcement, & property owner has engaged Gilmore & Associates. No further update.
 - Tree Ordinance – An Ordinance Draft is being prepared.
 - A 2nd grant was received for planting trees at Meadow Park. This grant was funded by WDIY.

- Ashford Reserve – Construction & site preparation is continuing.
 - Oxford Ridge – No further update. Still waiting on a Mod Plan.
 - Stone Harvest – The Notice of Termination is still pending.
 - MSK – Site work has started.
 - MS4 – Public Works staff is continuing to work on MS4 procedures, education, & projects.
 - Oil & Chip – Oil & Chip of S 9th Street & Young Avenue is scheduled for August 26th.
 - Water Authority – The meter replacement program is complete, & an Ad-hoc committee was formed to plan for future Capital Improvements.
 - Comprehensive Plan – The Citizen Survey has had almost 500 participants, & the information is being reviewed. The update is moving along well.
 - Liberty Trolley Culvert – Funding sources are being researched for replacement, & the Public Works Department has made improvements to the entry side of the culvert.
 - Water Source Protection Plan – The Water Authority agreed that a plan would be helpful. The applications will be made in the next few weeks.
2. Public Safety – Chief Struss was present to answer questions, & there was further discussion regarding an electronic sign for the Fire Department, lighting at the Town-Center Park, signage at Locust Street by the Liberty Trail crossing, & the possibility of flashing beacons on Main Street at crosswalks.
 3. Administration & Finance – The committee reminded Council Members about the Budget Hearing on October 1st & to give suggestions on any larger items to be considered for the 2025 Budget.

REPORTS OF PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

1. Solicitor: No additional report
2. Engineer: Engineer Perelli stated that Ashford Preserve was continuing site improvement & that MSK had started site construction.
3. Borough Manager: No additional report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

1. Oxford Ridge remains.
2. Tree Ordinance remains.
3. 314 S 9th Street – Tree Clearing, remains.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Council Member Ellenberger clarified the attendance listed on the previous meeting minutes. A Motion was made by Ellenberger & seconded by Norman to approved the Minutes from July 16, 2024 as amended. The Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion was made by Ellenberger & seconded by Norman to adjourn the meeting. The Meeting ended at 7:56PM.