

Borough of Coraopolis
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
Regular Council Meeting
August 11, 2021
6:30 PM

The Regular Meeting of the Borough of Coraopolis was called to order by Council President David Pendel.

Police Chief Denbow led the gathering in the Pledge to the Flag.

A Roll Call of Members was then taken.

Present

Robb Cardimen
Rudy Bolea
Danny LaRocco
Ed Pitassi
Chad Kraynyk
George Mihalyi
Jason Shazer
David Pendel

Absent

Shawn Reed, Mayor

Mr. McCutcheon said Mayor Reed is traveling.

Mr. Pendel asked if there were any questions on the Agenda. Being none, the meeting continued.

Mr. Pendel said we have a couple of visitors from out of town who would like to do a quick presentation.

Mr. McCutcheon said there is a company who is looking to do a sitcom called Sprung and they want to use the 900 Block of 1st Avenue. Jason Calabro and Chris Bamonte are here tonight with some details.

Mr. Calabro said thank you for having me. As you mentioned the name of the show is Sprung and will be produced by Amazon and will be streaming sometime next year. We will use the 900 Block of 1st Avenue and Montour Industrial Supply as our veterinary office. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Pendel said are there any comments from the public regarding Agenda Items? Being none, the meeting continued.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2021 Regular Council Meeting. Mr. Pitassi seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the Invoices for August 2021 in the amount of \$93,407.02. Mr. LaRocco seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
Rudy Bolea	Yes
Danny LaRocco	Yes
Ed Pitassi	Yes
Chad Kraynyk	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Jason Shazer	Yes
David Pendel	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Pitassi made a motion to approve the Payroll for the month of July 2021 in the amount of \$185,555.47. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Mr. McCutcheon said this is a three-payroll month and the Police Department is being utilized as traffic control with the 79 closure and the State Avenue work and we do get reimbursed for that and he continued to explain.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
Rudy Bolea	Yes
Danny LaRocco	Yes
Ed Pitassi	Yes
Chad Kraynyk	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Jason Shazer	Yes
David Pendel	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to award the Mill Street and 4th Avenue Traffic Signal Upgrade to Bronder Technical Services for the amount of \$181,274.14 utilizing the Automated Red-Light Enforcement (ARLE) Grant. Mr. Pitassi seconded the motion.

Mr. McCutcheon said the ARLE Grant is for \$215,000.00 so that will cover the construction and most of the engineering work, so it is basically a free traffic signal upgrade.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
Rudy Bolea	Yes
Danny LaRocco	Yes
Ed Pitassi	Yes
Chad Kraynyk	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Jason Shazer	Yes
David Pendel	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Pendel said we need a motion to hire a Full Time Dispatcher for the Police Department.

Mr. McCutcheon said the recommendation from the Personnel Committee is Jason Moran.

Mr. Kraynyk made a motion to hire Jason Moran as a Full Time Dispatcher for the Police Department. Mr. Bolea seconded the motion.

Mr. Pendel said I should have mentioned at the top of the agenda that we had an Executive Session at 6:00 PM that lasted until 6:25 PM to discuss personnel matters and this motion relates to that Executive Session.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
Rudy Bolea	Yes
Danny LaRocco	Yes
Ed Pitassi	Yes
Chad Kraynyk	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Jason Shazer	Yes
David Pendel	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. McCutcheon said we also met with a gentleman for the part time dispatching position that I did not get on to the agenda and his name is Cory Russi and the Department does need some Part-time Dispatchers.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to hire Cory Russi as a Part-Time Dispatcher for the Police Department. Mr. Bolea seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
Rudy Bolea	Yes
Danny LaRocco	Yes
Ed Pitassi	Yes
Chad Kraynyk	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Jason Shazer	Yes
David Pendel	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to hire Jessie Baker, Darlene Parke and Allison Ricketts as Part Time Library Aides. Mr. Pitassi seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
Rudy Bolea	Yes
Danny LaRocco	Yes
Ed Pitassi	Yes
Chad Kraynyk	Yes

George Mihalyi Yes
Jason Shazer Yes
David Pendel Yes
Motion carried.

Mr. LaRocco made a motion to approve a Block Party for the 1100 Block of Hiland Avenue on September 18th from 1 pm to 9 pm. Mr. Pitassi seconded the motion.

Mr. Bolea said did they file the proper paperwork?

Mr. McCutcheon said yes, they have and they did speak to all of the neighbors on that block.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to authorize CharWest COG to make payment to Minniefield Demolition Services for the demolition of 1730 Montour Street and 1528 5th Avenue with the approval of the Borough Engineer of the completed project. Mr. LaRocco seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen Yes
Rudy Bolea Yes
Danny LaRocco Yes
Ed Pitassi Yes
Chad Kraynyk Yes
George Mihalyi Yes
Jason Shazer Yes
David Pendel Yes
Motion carried.

Solicitors Report

Mr. Rick Start said I do not have any matters that would require a motion from Council tonight.

Mr. Rich Start said it was my intention to be present for the meeting this evening, but I find myself indisposed at the time.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Denbow gave the Police Department Report for the month of July 2021.

Chief Denbow said the closure of the I79 NB ramp will be in effect this weekend so detoured traffic will be a little heavy through town and he continued to explain.

Chief Denbow said the number of fraud cases have been up and reported to the Police Department so be careful who you talk to on the phone or email. Do not give out any of your personal information out to anyone for any reason. Also do not keep valuables in your car and do keep your cars locked at all times.

Mayor's Report

Mr. McCutcheon said the Mayor did want me to mention that we are working with the VFW to plan a parade to honor the troops from Afghanistan. It will be held on Saturday, September 11th starting at 11 am at the Park and Ride and will come down to Broadway and he continued to explain.

Chief Denbow said the traffic patterns will be changed just like it is for the Memorial Day Parade.

Mr. McCutcheon said the group that does the Second Saturday events is going to use Mill Street for the same day so there will be events for the entire day and he continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Engineers Report

Mr. Drew Null directed everyone to the monthly report and said Riverfront Park; we did get the permit, the next step in the process is approval to advertise from DCNR and we expect to have that shortly and then it will go out to bid.

Mr. Drew Null said Ferree Street Stairway; this is the same Contractor that is working on Main Street and they are going to be doing the work on Vine Street as authorized by Council, and then they will move to Ferree Street.

Mr. Drew Null said Euclid Avenue Stormwater Improvements; we need Right of Ways from several surrounding property owners and we have been reaching out to them to get that taken care of.

Mr. Drew Null said 2021 Roadway Improvements; we talked to Mele this evening and they are looking to be out here at the end of the month. We did get a change order for Pine Alley and a small portion of Vance Avenue to be added.

Mr. Null said CDBG Year 46 Grant; this is another round of demolitions and the bid opening for that is tomorrow.

Mr. Null said Main Street Sidewalk Replacement: we did get a grant application into the State to request funding for the road reconstruction and replacement of the other side of the sidewalk. The CWSA was successful in obtaining funding to replace the waterline, so that should come first and we remain hopeful that the Borough will be successful in getting funding for the road portion of it.

Mr. McCutcheon said that is Main Street and the 1800 block of Ridge Avenue down to State Avenue.

Mr. Null said the Authority was awarded \$1.1M so that will take care of the main on Main Street and Ridge Avenue.

Mr. Null said Allegheny County Act 157 Blight Remediation Program; we did get an update from COG this past month and the County is still working through those, but it sounds like they might have awards by the end of the month. That was submitted for 1403 and 1430 5th Avenue.

Mr. Drew Null said Wood Street Roadway; the bid opening is set for August 31st for the repair, reconstruction and asphalt for Wood Street and replace the waterline and line the sewer and this is a joint project with the Authority.

Mr. Pendel said is it too early to know how long this project will take?

Mr. Null said based on the past, we have seen it usually takes 30 – 45 days and he continued to explain.

Mr. Drew Null said CDBG Year 48 Grant Cycle; the County will be accepting applications again and the preapplications are due September 3rd. I have talked to the Manager and we are looking at resubmitting the building demolitions for 1110 Montour Street and 1013 Montour Street that were filed with last year's application.

Mr. Drew Null said O'Reilly Auto Parts Development; we did receive proposed development for O'Reilly Auto Parts for 845 4th Avenue. We do have a package in for review and the Borough does not have a subdivision land development ordinance so that portion of the review will be funneled to the County and we will take care of the review for stormwater and zoning.

Mr. Mihalyi said why is there so much cement there?

Mr. McCutcheon said they took everything from Main Street there until they are ready to haul it away. A discussion pursued.

Mr. Drew Null said Chess Street Roadway Improvements; over the past month damage occurred to a portion of Chess Street and 5th Avenue. It looks like a recent storm penetrated through the brick and pushed the brick up so we are reviewing options with the Borough to repair that road and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen said can we make this an alternate to the Avelli contract?

Mr. McCutcheon said I did speak to Mr. Start about this and he recommends doing a separate bid because this would almost double the Main Street Contract and this is not considered an emergency because people can go to Locust Street and get around it.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion for the Borough Engineer to prepare the specification for road repair of the 500 Block of Chess Street and then advertise the project. Mr. Bolea seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
Rudy Bolea	Yes
Danny LaRocco	Yes
Ed Pitassi	Yes
Chad Kraynyk	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Jason Shazer	Yes
David Pendel	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Drew Null said Coraopolis Memorial Library; COG recently circulated a listing of grant opportunities that are available. You have filed for the ADA Chair Lift, so we'll look at the opportunity to resubmit.

Mr. Bolea said is this a different grant than what we have been applying for?

Mr. Null said yes, you've applied with the County through the CDBG program for this. There are some other opportunities through the State that are specific to libraries and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Drew Null said Water and Sewer Authority; the PENNVEST award is the biggest news, PENNVEST is typically a loan program so with a lead line initiative you were able to get all grant.

Mr. Null said the MS4 Program; in the past week we did have DEP out for the inspection and there were no violations. I think we want to get the Council training during the September 1st Workshop Meeting.

Mr. Bolea said I have a question on the flood plain, is that what we were talking about to try and get the FEMA insurance reduced?

Mr. Null said yes.

Mr. Bolea said has that not gone anywhere at all?

Mr. Null said at this point no, we were talking about Army Corps opportunities and get a letter to them. We do have another community that is getting some funding and the feedback that we've had is that they did contact State Representatives and the Representatives did push for them. They also did the design up front, so they were able to push forward and he continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. McCutcheon said do we have a start date for Vine Street?

Mr. Null said I haven't talked to him about that, but I know that they were finishing up other work in the Borough, so probably two weeks.

Mr. Cardimen said I think we need to work closely with them and the Police because school is going to be starting and he continued to explain.

Committee Reports / Comments from Council

Mr. Shazer said I took my children to the Wildcat Trail and it is a great addition.

Mr. Shazer said Cornell Big Brothers and Big Sisters have reached out to me to see if I could help find volunteers. I know there is a link on our website, but they are looking for mentors for this upcoming school year.

Mr. Mihalyi said the repairs on the Borough roof and gutters were done as well as the roof of the library.

Mr. Mihalyi said the question came up about cutting the grass by the guardrails on Rt. 51 by the soccer fields. I would like to forgo that this year because there is a lot of activity happening there and it would be very dangerous.

Mr. Bolea said the house on the corner of Broadway and 2nd Avenue is one of many houses in this Borough where the weeds, trees and bushes are growing rampant and I know that we've tried to contact the owner of that property. I just wonder if the thought to raise the fines to some exorbitant amount of money it would get the attention of banks or companies so that they would come take care of it. There has to be something that we can do to control the people who don't cut their grass. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Bolea said along the lines of Vine Street and how traffic flies on there. I know that we have talked about speed bumps before, but they are supposedly illegal, how do other communities get away with having them?

Chief Denbow said look into the facts of getting speed bumps put in.

Mr. Start it is not that they are illegal, it is that you have to do it first with a traffic study and then you incorporate the terms of that traffic study into the ordinance that ordains "Speed Humps."

Mr. Bolea said once the street is done and paved, then we can do a study on it and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Bolea said what about stop signs at every intersection.

Chief Denbow said we can do that.

Mr. Cardimen said I think that we need to take into consideration advertising for 3 – 4 part time Public Works leaf collection help.

Mr. Pendel made a motion to advertise for 3-4 part time seasonal workers for the fall leaf collection. Mr. Pitassi seconded the motion.

Mr. Bolea said can we expand this to cover more than just the leaf collection?

Mr. McCutcheon said I think it is best to start with just leaf collection.

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Kraynyk said I would like to welcome Mr. Jason Moran to the team, along with the part time employees for the library and also the Part-time Police Dispatcher. The majority of the personnel Committee work has been interviewing and vetting these employees for the past month.

Mr. LaRocco said the Street Department has been cleaning the trucks and other odd jobs around the plant. They have been cutting grass and hot patching and we do have some work at the playground that needs done.

Mr. LaRocco said I am so happy that the house on Montour Street is down and he continued to explain.

Mr. Pitassi said I still have two seats open for the Shade Tree Board. We did reach out to the three members who resigned, but they have yet to turn in their registration forms. One did respond, but we still have two who haven't replied. We do have two people who are interested and we'd like to have them.

Mr. McCutcheon said first we need to accept the resignations of Ken Maye, Michael Harris and Gene Batdorf.

Mr. Pitassi made a motion to accept the resignations of Ken Maye, Michael Harris and Gene Batdorf from the Shade Tree Committee. Mr. LaRocco seconded the motion.

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Pitassi said Terri Kujawa and Heather Dixon have both shown great interest in joining our program and we would like to have them on board if it is Council's pleasure.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the addition of Terri Kujawa and Heather Dixon to the Shade Tree Commission.

Mr. Kraynyk seconded the motion.

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Pitassi said thank you Council, I appreciate this.

Manager's Report

Mr. McCutcheon said concerning the demos, the one on Montour looks really good, and they have started on 5th Avenue and the two that we have done with Tom Sipes on Broadway and on 7th Avenue. We continue to keep the town moving forward and I know that a lot of people would like to buy those properties as a side lot and he continued to explain.

Mr. Pendel said is there an update to the deal that fell through at the 1000 block of 2nd Avenue?

Mr. McCutcheon said the gentleman who fixed the house on Montour is the same person who got the house you are talking about and he continued to explain.

Mr. McCutcheon said this Saturday is the Second Saturday from Noon to 4 and they will have live music, food trucks, shopping and from 12:00 – 3:00 the Back-to-School Bash will be held in the parking lot between the Jailhouse and the Scuba shop.

Comments from the Public

Mr. Pendel called for public comments and said I would like to make the following statements and direct that they be made part of public record. The public's right to comment at public meetings is limited to residents of the Borough or persons who pay taxes to the Borough and that is why we ask each person who desires to comment to give your name and address of the residence of property that you own in the Borough. Each person who seeks to comment is limited to three minutes and comments are limited to matters that are or may be before the Borough. Council Members are not required to answer any questions posed by members of the public or engage in any dialog with comments of the public. Council Members shall not comment on matters of personnel discipline or any legal matter.

Ms. Lucinda Wade of 802 Hiland Avenue said as Mr. McCutcheon mentioned we are having our annual Back to School Bash in the lot next to the Jailhouse. We will be giving out backpacks that are filled with school supplies like we do every year and we'll also have food and games like and you all are invited.

Ms. Wade said the Coraopolis Youth Creations is a nonprofit that has been a legal entity since 2005 and I changed the name in 2013. We work with the youth in the community and we recently found a new home at 912 4th Avenue. I have brought my partner with me today for you all to meet and her name is Jennifer Patterson and she continued to explain.

Mr. Bolea said how is the facility working out?

Ms. Wade said we are having a problem getting the permit.

Ms. Jennifer Patterson of 114 Venita Drive said I own the building at 912 4th Avenue and I have been working with the inspectors since April and I was told that I needed some architectural drawings of which I provided. From there I was told by Dan that he could not inspect my building because I needed the ADA compliant inspector Ron. Ron did his inspection in May and in June he needed another set of drawings for the mechanical issues and I took those to his office and now he claims that he never received the drawings. She continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Bolea said I will have a conversation with Dan and will approach this subject and see what we can do to help alleviate some of these headaches.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bolea seconded the motion.

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

MEETING ADJOURNED