Borough of Coraopolis

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Council Workshop Meeting by teleconference

September 7, 2022

6:30 PM

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

A Roll Call of Members was then taken.

**Present**

Rudy Bolea

Ed Pitassi

Chad Kraynyk

George Mihalyi

Allison Marine

Gary Flasco

David Pendel

Michael Dixon, Mayor

**Absent**

Robb Cardimen

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

Mr. Pendel said before we get started, I would like to offer a moment of silence for the passing of David Rossi on August 12th. He was the founder and part owner of Suburban Landscaping and Floral Shop.

Mr. Pendel said we need to discuss an Ordinance regarding non-discrimination.

Mayor Dixon said the idea of a non-discrimination ordinance has been brought up in the past, but there has been a recent incident that causes me to bring it up again and directed everyone to an email that was received by a professor or Robert Morris stating a student was discriminated against in Coraopolis and he continued to explain.

Mr. Richard Start said it is my opinion that the protection that this provides for in this generation is already established in both federal and state laws. There are other Commissions and Agencies that are vested with the authority, talent, skill and enthusiasm to protect the civil rights and anti-discrimination rights. I do not think that forming a Commission of lay people as this Ordinance suggests, would work in a manner that would be economically feasible for the Borough of Coraopolis. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Kraynyk said I recommend posting a link on our website listing the agencies that one could utilize if they feel that they have been discriminated against and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Start said I would like to give an introductory comment to the members of Council before you consider the motion of a proposal for vacating a section of a street and since street vacations do not happen often, I would like to refresh everyone on the procedure to do so and he continued to explain.

Mr. Pendel asked for a motion to authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare an ordinance to vacate a section of Chestnut Street just south of Sylvan Way and a portion of an un-named street perpendicular to Chestnut Street adjacent to Parcel Number 342-P-143, 913 Chestnut Street, for the vacation requested by Karen Romasco.

Mr. Bolea said I would like to make everyone aware that these areas that we are talking about are not streets, they are tree growth and grass growth and have never been a drivable street.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare an ordinance to vacate a section of Chestnut Street just south of Sylvan Way and a portion of an un-named street perpendicular to Chestnut Street adjacent to Parcel Number 342-P-143, 913 Chestnut Street, for the vacation requested by Karen Romasco. Mr. Pitassi seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call

Mr. Bolea Yes

Mr. Pitassi Yes

Mr. Kraynyk Yes

Mr. Mihalyi Yes

Ms. Marine Yes

Mr. Flasco Yes

Mr. Pendel Yes

Motion Carried.

Mr. McCutcheon said there is a sewer manhole in Sylvan Way just below Chestnut Street where the trees are, so they will have to work their way around that area and a discussion pursued.

Mr. McCutcheon said I sent an email making everyone aware that the Chief is getting rid of ammunition and guns they no longer use and trading it for guns and ammunition that they do use for a very small cost.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve the firearms exchange with Witmer Public Safety Group, Inc. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Kraynyk made a motion to approve Resolution No. 22-385 requesting a Gaming Economic Development Tourism Fund Grant in the amount of $200,000.00 for the Salt Storage Facility Project. Mr. Bolea seconded the motion.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Kraynyk made a motion to approve Resolution No. 22-386 requesting a Gaming Economic Development Tourism Fund Grant in the amount of $230,000.00 for the Ridge Avenue Tot Lot Improvement Project. Mr. Pitassi seconded the motion.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve Partial Payment #3 to Avelli Construction Corp. in the amount of $79,092.23 for the Ferree Street Stairway and Bicycle Runnel Project. Mr. Pitassi seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call

Mr. Bolea Yes

Mr. Pitassi Yes

Mr. Kraynyk Yes

Mr. Mihalyi Yes

Ms. Marine Yes

Mr. Flasco Yes

Mr. Pendel Yes

Motion Carried.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to Approve Change Order No. 1 to Avelli Construction in the amount of $6,500.00 for additional segmental wall for the Ferree Street Stairway. Mr. Kraynyk seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call

Mr. Bolea Yes

Mr. Pitassi Yes

Mr. Kraynyk Yes

Mr. Mihalyi Yes

Ms. Marine Yes

Mr. Flasco Yes

Mr. Pendel Yes

Motion Carried.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve Change Order No. 1 to El Grande Industries for an amount not to exceed $35,000.00 for additional roadway repairs to be reimbursed by CWSA for the 2022 Roadway Improvements. Mr. Pitassi seconded the motion.

Mr. McCutcheon said there are around twenty locations where the Water Authority has dug up the road and this is repairing all of those spots while they are in town and he continued to explain.

Upon Roll Call

Mr. Bolea Yes

Mr. Pitassi Yes

Mr. Kraynyk Yes

Mr. Mihalyi Yes

Ms. Marine Yes

Mr. Flasco Yes

Mr. Pendel Yes

Motion Carried.

Mr. Pendel asked for a motion to approve Change Order No. 2 and Final to Jet Jack, Inc in the amount of $16,325.00 for additional sanitary sewer repairs to be reimbursed by CWSA for the Wood Street Roadway Project.

Mr. Null said there is a reduction of $2,000.00 to this charge due to mobilization so the total is $14,325.00.

Mr. Bolea made a motion approve Change Order No. 2 and Final to Jet Jack, Inc in the amount of $14,325.00 for additional sanitary sewer repairs to be reimbursed by CWSA for the Wood Street Roadway Project. Mr. Kraynyk seconded the motion.

This is for sanitary sewer work they did in Pine Alley near Montour Street.

Upon Roll Call

Mr. Bolea Yes

Mr. Pitassi Yes

Mr. Kraynyk Yes

Mr. Mihalyi Yes

Ms. Marine Yes

Mr. Flasco Yes

Mr. Pendel Yes

Motion Carried.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve Partial Payment #2 to Jet Jack, Inc. in the amount of $14,325.00 for the Wood Street Roadway Project. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call

Mr. Bolea Yes

Mr. Pitassi Yes

Mr. Kraynyk Yes

Mr. Mihalyi Yes

Ms. Marine Yes

Mr. Flasco Yes

Mr. Pendel Yes

Motion Carried.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to Approve Partial Payment #1 to Avelli Construction in the amount of $132,016.50 for the Main Street Roadway Improvement Project. Mr. Kraynyk seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call

Mr. Bolea Yes

Mr. Pitassi Yes

Mr. Kraynyk Yes

Mr. Mihalyi Yes

Ms. Marine Yes

Mr. Flasco Yes

Mr. Pendel Yes

Motion Carried.

Mr. McCutcheon said Main Street is coming along, they have poured the curb, but I am unsure if they have paved the sidewalk yet.

Mr. Null said they have paved a portion of it and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve the closure of Mill Street on October 8th from 4th Avenue to 5th Avenue and the east side of the Borough’s 935 5th Avenue Parking Lot for the Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat from 9 am to 4 pm. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Bolea said are we having Trick or Treat?

Mr. McCutcheon said yes, it will be the last Thursday in October.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve the closure of Mulberry Street from Pine Way to 5th Avenue for the annual Cookie Walk on December 3, 2022, from 8 am to 2 pm. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Pitassi made a motion to advertise for two Temporary Public Works Employees for the Leaf Collection Season. Mr. Kraynyk seconded the motion.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Pendel said we have an update on the CCDC Train Station Project. A couple of weeks ago I established a temporary Train Station Committee consisting of Mr. Bolea, Mr. Flasco and Mr. Mihalyi and they have had a meeting with Mr. Faux and Mr. Snow.

Mr. McCutcheon said there have been a couple of meetings with Mr. Faux and Mr. Null is also involved. They have changed their proposal to Mr. Snow, and Mr. Faux is requesting a meeting for Monday, and he has changed the offer to see if Mr. Snow will vacate. A discussion pursued.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to accept the resignation of Heather Dixon from the Coraopolis Shade Tree Commission. Mr. Kraynyk seconded the motion.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Dixon said I do not have anything this evening.

**Engineer’s Report**

Mr. Drew Null said Riverfront Park; we have advertised and the bid opening is set for September 28th so we should have bids to consider for the October Meeting.

Mr. Null said there isn’t an update for the COSTARS component for Phase I and Phase II.

Mr. Null said Phase III was the last application that was filed and we did get a response from DCNR that the project was not selected for funding. The DCNR is opening a special round of funding from now through the end of October so we will resubmit Phase III for this.

Mr. McCutcheon said has the bathroom, pavilion and amphitheater been ordered?

Mr. Null said yes, through COSTARS and he continued to explain.

Mayor Dixon said is there a timeline for breaking ground?

Mr. Null said we are opening bids in September and depending on availability it is likely that it will be next year. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Drew Null said the Ferree Street Stairway; you did the change order and the pay request this evening. The Contractor has done the handrailing and hope to have everything done within the next two weeks, including the additional retaining wall.

Mr. Drew Null said the 2022 Roadway Program; the Contractor is looking to start the week of September 26th.

Mr. Drew Null said Main Street Roadway; there is no other update other than the pay request that was approved earlier this evening and directed everyone to the schedule projecting the project to be completed by the end of October and he continued to explain.

Mr. Drew Null said Grant Applications; CDBG Year 49 the pre-applications for the building demolitions for 1110 Montour Street, 1013 Montour Street and 607 Chess Street will be filed this week and next month we’ll have the resolutions for you.

Mr. Null said GEDF, these are the resolutions that you approved this evening. These are a resubmission and the ask is for 100%, there is no match requirement.

Mr. Drew Null said Water and Sewer Authority, for Main Street, the waterline work is complete pending punchlist items. The Authority did get sewer repairs and the lining was complete and he continued to explain.

Mr. Null said MS4 you have the annual progress report that is due this month.

Mr. Bolea said the 5th Avenue property across from Van Balen, is that still scheduled to be torn down?

Mr. McCutcheon said that was rejected under the Act 125.

Mr. Null said you were awarded money at one time through the county, but the owner objected and that was removed. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

**Comments from Council**

Mr. Flasco said I reviewed Ordinance No. 1255 for grass and weeds. The fine is only for $25.00 and the Ordinance has not been reviewed or updated since 1960 so I recommend that we look at possibly raising that fine. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Mihalyi said I have nothing this evening.

Mr. Bolea said I have nothing this evening.

Mr. Kraynyk said my comments will be reserved for Executive Session.

Mr. Pitassi said I have a question for Mr. Null, will Avelli do the work on the Ferree Street Steps within the next two weeks?

Mr. Null said yes.

Mr. Pitassi said we are going to do a spring planting of trees and we would like to put a tree line of miniature trees there and he continued to explain.

Mr. Pitassi said I was at the bike runnel of the Ferree Street Steps and there is a crack going completely across it.

Ms. Marine directed everyone to the Parking Committee presentation and said we have been in contact with parking infrastructure providers, parking consultants and other municipalities to help us understand what kind of an undertaking we will be up against regarding our parking meters and updating the parking infrastructure. Ms. Marine said we are recommending a Request for Proposal to pursue a Parking Study and she continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Bolea made a motion for the Borough of Coraopolis to advertise for an RFP Parking Study. Mr. Kraynyk seconded the motion.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

**Borough Manager’s Report**

Mr. McCutcheon said I received a quote of $1,500.00 to trim the trees on the east side of Watson Street above Hiland Avenue going along the Cooper property. Mr. McCutcheon said a bucket truck is needed for this work and we did have an employee injured cutting trees in the past so I just wanted to make you aware that we were going to have this work done. Mr. McCutcheon said there was also a tree that fell on State Avenue near Ridge Avenue and he’s willing to do that for $400.00, so I will have that done too.

Mr. McCutcheon said they are planning to paint a mural on the Cobblehaus Building and they will need two parking spaces at a time, so I have given them permission to do so.

Mr. McCutcheon said the VFW originally talked about having a membership drive on August 27th, but that fell through so they are going to move that to October 8th, so they will block Mulberry Street from Pine Alley to 5th Avenue.

Mr. McCutcheon said I am going to buy a couple pieces of furniture for files because we are running out of room. The cost is just under $1,000.00 and it will be with Perpetual Enterprises.

Mr. Pendel said do you have any information on the leaking sprinkler that you mentioned the other day?

Mr. McCutcheon said Firefighters came out and worked for a couple of hours, so that is done.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to go into Executive Session. Mr. Kraynyk seconded the motion.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to hire Patricia Burrell and Charlene Cunzolo as Circulation Clerks for the Library. Mr. Kraynyk seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call

Mr. Bolea Yes

Mr. Pitassi Yes

Mr. Kraynyk Yes

Mr. Mihalyi Yes

Ms. Marine Yes

Mr. Flasco Yes

Mr. Pendel Yes

Motion Carried.

Mr. Pitassi said it was brought to our attention that there is a Board Member for the library who doesn’t live in Coraopolis anymore. The bylaws for the library state that in order to serve on the Board you should live in Coraopolis so we would like to remove this individual.

Mr. Pendel said for clarity, you are sure that the bylaws state that it is a requirement to live here.

Mr. Pitassi said the bylaws state should live here and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Bolea said should is not must so at this point we really can’t do anything about that.

Mr. McCutcheon said the Library Board does not have term limits, and all others do. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Kraynyk made a motion to Adjourn. Mr. Bolea seconded the motion.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Meeting Adjourned.