

Borough of Coraopolis
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
Regular Council Meeting via teleconference
December 14, 2022
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

Ed Pitassi

Chad Kraynyk

George Mihalyi

Allison Marine

Gary Flasco

David Pendel

Michael Dixon, Mayor

Mayor Dixon said I would like for everyone to stand for a moment of silence for Jack Wylde Lightner and Lyric Keys, the two young children who passed away in a house fire in Sewickley the other day.

Mr. Pendel said I ask that everyone remain standing for a moment of silence to acknowledge the ten-year passing of Charles Chick White. He was a teacher, a mentor, a guardian, a police officer and friend to so many of us and I still miss him dearly.

Mr. Pendel asked if there were any questions on the Agenda. 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 November 9, 2022, Regular Council Meeting. Mr. Kraynyk seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 7, 2022, Council Workshop Meeting. Mr. Pitassi seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Flasco made a motion to approve the Invoices for December 2022 in the amount of \$266,621.29. Mr. Cardimen seconded the motion.

Mr. McCutcheon said this month did have two MEIT bills, so that was an extra \$42,000.00 and we are also approving the payment for the side by side to Snow Polaris and we also had some trees removed at the park by the river, so that is why the invoices are higher than normal.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
Rudy Bolea	Yes
Ed Pitassi	Yes
Chad Kraynyk	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Allison Marine	Yes
Gary Flasco	Yes
David Pendel	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Kraynyk made a motion to approve the Payroll for the month of November 2022 in the amount of \$142,790.60. Mr. Pitassi seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
Rudy Bolea	Yes
Ed Pitassi	Yes
Chad Kraynyk	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Allison Marine	Yes
Gary Flasco	Yes
David Pendel	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Pendel asked for a motion to approve Resolution 22-394 setting the millage for the calendar year 2023 at 12.5 mills and said this is the ninth year in a row without a tax increase.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve Resolution 22-394 setting the millage for the calendar year 2023 at 12.5 mills. Mr. Cardimen seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
Rudy Bolea	Yes
Ed Pitassi	Yes
Chad Kraynyk	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Allison Marine	Yes
Gary Flasco	Yes
David Pendel	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve the 2023 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$6,677,420.00. Mr. Flasco seconded the motion.

Mr. McCutcheon said this is about \$1M over the normal, but that is because of the park, we have capital spending of over \$2M next year.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
Rudy Bolea	Yes
Ed Pitassi	Yes
Chad Kraynyk	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Allison Marine	Yes
Gary Flasco	Yes
David Pendel	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Pendel asked for a motion to approve Partial Payment #4 to Avelli Construction in the amount of \$262,737.00 for the Main Street Roadway Improvement Project.

Mr. Bolea said how much is left?

Mr. McCutcheon said we have about \$90,000.00 in retainage and there is another \$80,000.00 in the work in the Neely Heights area of Main Street, so it's about \$170,000.00.

Mr. Bolea said is this the number that was presented at the meeting last week?

Mr. McCutcheon said yes.

Mr. Bolea said I thought we were going to make a partial amount on that amount.

Mr. McCutcheon said the Engineer has recommended making the entire payment and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Start said my advice to Council is that the Engineer has laid out the situation from his perspective. I do think that more examination is in order, but also think the more than \$90,000.00 that we have in retainage is more than adequate to cover the cost of remediation if any is necessary so I would be hesitant to not issue a partial payment.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to approve Partial Payment #4 to Avelli Construction in the amount of \$262,737.00 for the Main Street Roadway Improvement Project. Mr. Kraynyk seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	No
Rudy Bolea	No
Ed Pitassi	Yes
Chad Kraynyk	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Allison Marine	Yes
Gary Flasco	Yes
David Pendel	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Pendel asked for a motion to approve Partial Payment #2 to El Grande Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$237,259.12 for the 2022 Roadway Improvement Program.

Mr. Bolea asked Mr. Null what has been decided on this after the last meeting.

Mr. Null said the complaint is made that the pavement joint between around the surrounding areas of St. Joseph Church have a gap between them. The Contractor was out and did a strip mill and patched the area of the unlevel surface.

There was a complaint that a little water was being held on the side of the building and we will continue to monitor that. There is still a piece of this between the front entrance and the parking lot that has not been addressed and he continued to explain.

Mr. Null said we are holding ten percent retainage in the amount of \$30,142.13 and that exceeds what it would take to mill and overlay that area and he continued to explain.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to approve Partial Payment #2 to El Grande Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$237,259.12 for the 2022 Roadway Improvement Program. Mr. Bolea seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	No
Rudy Bolea	No
Ed Pitassi	Yes
Chad Kraynyk	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Allison Marine	Yes
Gary Flasco	Yes
David Pendel	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Pitassi said it has come to our attention that the update to the Bylaws that were written and approved by the Library Board in 2019 were never voted on and approved by the Coraopolis Borough Council. This was when the Library Board added staggered term limits to the Bylaws and since that was never voted on by the Coraopolis Borough Council, I would like to make the motion to approve the update to the Coraopolis Memorial Bylaws that approved by the Library Board in 2019.

Mr. Pitassi made a motion to approve the update to the Coraopolis Memorial Library Bylaws. Mr. Cardimen seconded the motion.

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Pendel said we need to make a motion to stagger the term limits for the Library Board Members based on seniority.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve setting staggered term limits for Library Board Members based on seniority.

Mr. Kraynyk seconded the motion.

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Richard Start said I want to wish everyone a safe and Happy Holiday.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Denbow gave the Police Department Report for the month of November 2022.

Chief Denbow said to add to Mr. Pendel's comment concerning Chick White, he was an honorable man, and honorable officer and the same goes for Councilman Flasco's father who was also a Police Officer for a long time. I have learned a lot from both of these men and he continued to explain.

Chief Denbow said I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year's. Be mindful of your neighbors and please keep your vehicles locked and keep nothing of value visible and also beware of scams.

Fire Chief's Report

Chief Spencer said for the month of November 2022, the Coraopolis Volunteer Fire Department answered 11 calls for a total of 82.14 volunteer hours and he continued to explain.

Chief Spencer said make sure your smoke detectors are in working condition and that your batteries are working.

Chief Spence said we accepted two new members on the fire department and he continued to explain.

Chief Spencer said on December 22nd, the Coraopolis Fire Department will be riding Santa Claus through town starting at 6:30 and we'll hit every neighborhood that we can.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Dixon said I have a news letter with everything that I want to cover and ask that you pick one up.

Mayor Dixon said the Coraopolis Youth Creation's Angel Trees are available for purchasing gifts for children and you can find these at Vibrant Styles and Results Fitness and he continued to explain.

Mayor Dixon said I was approached by Age Friendly Pittsburgh and with the assistance of CCDC we were one of three communities in Allegheny County to receive a grant in the amount of \$20,000.00 for a two-year commitment where their mission is to make our community more inclusive to all ages and he continued to explain.

Mayor Dixon said Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and please be safe.

Committee Reports/Comments from Council

Mr. Flasco said I want to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday.

Mr. Mihalyi said I want to wish everyone Happy Holidays.

Mr. Bolea said Happy Holiday's to everyone.

Mr. Kraynyk said in addition to wishing everyone Happy Holiday's I would like to make a comment on a social media discussion that was brought to my attention over the past month regarding some code enforcement. There was advise given that if litter or trash was noticed residents should call the Borough Manager's Office and one individual asked why the Borough of Coraopolis does not hire a Code Enforcer. I want to make everyone aware that we do have Code Enforcement Offices on the payroll and he continued to explain. If you notice any violations, I ask you to report that to the Police Department.

Mr. McCutcheon said we do have a property complaint form in our office that can be completed and then we hand over to the Police.

Mr. Cardimen said I would like to thank members of Council and Mr. McCutcheon for coming together to organize getting the trees cut along the riverbank by our future park. Once the park is done, we really are going to have that million-dollar view that the residents should have and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Cardimen said I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ms. Marine said the Parking RFP is posted and I've received some questions and we've pushed them out to our networks and she continued to explain.

Ms. Marine said on behalf of the Communications Committee I think we have the opportunity to present consistent and accurate plans and to come across as a united voice and she continued to explain.

Ms. Marine said Happy Holiday's to everyone and if anyone sees former Councilman LaRocco, tomorrow is his birthday.

Mr. Pitassi said I too was very sad to see Chick White pass away, I had great admiration for him.

Mr. Pitassi said I wish everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Manager's Report

Mr. McCutcheon said if you look at the financials, we are at 98% of the budgeted revenue so that is very good. Expenditures are at 85%, we have some big payments coming up, but we also have grant funds coming in so we are very solid for the year.

Mr. McCutcheon said the side by side is in and we are going to pick that up soon and find a good storage place for it.

Mr. McCutcheon said I have something to read from the K-9 Division; K-9 Amor has developed a medical condition to which a surgical procedure has been recommended to alleviate his symptoms. The procedure is not a guaranteed solution to the condition and can affect his ability to perform certain tasks. K-9 Amor is a 9-year-old German Shepherd trained in narcotic detection, tracking and patrol duties. K-9 Amor has been an asset to the department being involved in numerous deployments including searches and rescue operations. The request is being made to purchase a 17-month-old German Shepherd named Oscar using K-9 money that has been raised by donations to the Coraopolis Canine Fund. K-9 Oscar will be fully trained and certified in the same areas as K-9 Amor and will be ready to assume all K-9 duties in March of 2023 and the total cost of the K-9 is \$13,500.00. There is a fundraising event planned for January and these events have made it possible to keep funding the K-9 operations.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to continue supporting the K-9 Division. Mr. Kraynyk seconded the motion. Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. McCutcheon said I want to thank Council for being such a good team to work with and I think that having this relationship is why the town has been up and coming for the past ten years.

Mr. McCutcheon said I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Pendel said it is an honor to serve you and represent this body as President of Council and I am grateful for that.

Mr. Pendel said I want to thank our management team for all of their hard work and their efforts throughout the whole year and most importantly thank Mr. McCutcheon for his relentless pursuit and 24/7 commitment to us and the community.

Mr. Pendel said we usually take this time of the year to give a recap of some of the activities through the course of the year;

- The 2022 Road Program was completed and the total contract was \$438,000.00 for asphalt work through town with Columbia Gas reimbursing the Borough \$52,000.00 for the work that was done on Summit Street and St. Clair.
- An ARLE Grant in the amount of \$205,500.00 for traffic light at Mill and 4th Avenue was completed in September 2022.
- A Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant of \$157,000.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority that was used for the Ferree Street Steps and Bicycle Runnel.
- The Borough was awarded a GEDF \$150,000.00 grant for Ridge Ave. Tot Lot Playground which will probably be scheduled for the Spring.
- We had the ground breaking for the Riverfront Park which started in November and is for Phase I and Phase II to be completed by June of 2023. The park phases were partially funded by two DCNR grants of over \$500,000.00.
- The parking study for an RFP was written and advertised for a complete detailed and strategic vision for the future of parking in our town and many thanks to the Parking Committee for their hard work.
- The AHN Montour Junction Sports Complex just had their grand opening and our involvement in that project dates back ten years ago from the point of time that the Borough agreed to turn over the majority of acreage on that parcel.
- The Borough purchased an ATV to help with the shoveling of our sidewalks and the new park.
- We attempted to purchase a new police vehicle and an F550, but neither were available due to supply chain issues.

Mr. Pendel said we have talked a lot about Main Street and I asked Mr. Null for details that really put it into perspective. This was a four-phase project that began two years ago. Phase 1 was the Columbia Gas Capital Improvement where the gas lines were replaced at a cost of \$257,412.00. Phase 2 was the Coraopolis Water and Sewer Authority Lead Joint Waterline Replacement at a cost of \$901,760.80. Phase 3 was the Coraopolis Water and Sewer Authority Main Street Sanitary Sewer Repairs for \$289,194.00 and Phase 4 was the Coraopolis Borough Main Street Roadway Improvements at a cost of \$997,640.00. The total construction value of this project was \$2,446,006.80 so that is quite an investment and illustrates our activities and working in conjunction with other groups to better our community and infrastructure.

Mr. Pendel said I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Holiday's, Happy New Year and be safe.

Comments from the Public

President David Pendel said before opening the meeting to public comments I would like to make the following observations and direct that they may be part of the public record. It is the public's right to comment at public meetings and 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 the members of the public or engage in any dialog with the comments from the public. Council Members shall not comment on matters of personnel, discipline or any legal matter.

Mr. Bill Radocaj said I live on Fleming Street and on School Street near the water tank it has been full of divots, holes and patches for years. I want to see if we can get something done to smooth it out and he continued to complain. Mr. Cardimen said unfortunately that waterline there is very old and will need replaced so we do not want to put large capital expenditure there until the waterlines are replaced. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Travis Hendell from 1st Avenue said I want to bring attention to the sidewalks. My concern is whether the code enforcement is happening by people seeing issues and making complaints or does the code enforcer go out and do spot inspections? While taking walks often times we have to walk on the road which is a big issue in terms of safety and he continued to explain.

Mr. Brian Diggins said I own a couple of businesses in town and would like to discuss trash in the Borough. Do you think that it is the business owner's responsibility to pick up trash in the streets?

Mr. Kraynyk said I would encourage everybody to do their part in town and a discussion pursued.

Daniel Hickton of 1318 Vance Avenue said just listening to this room it appears that we have problems that we cannot afford to fix and some residents here cannot afford to fix either. Maybe it is our duty to all come together and think about what we can do better and he continued to explain.

Mr. Bolea said I was in business in this town for 35 years and I cleaned the front of my building myself. The Borough would street sweep and I would still go out and clean because I was proud of my business. I can't see why a business owner would not clean in front of their business, it is not a complicated issue and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Kraynyk seconded the motion.
Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

MEETING ADJOURNED