

Borough of Coraopolis  
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania  
Council Workshop Meeting by teleconference  
March 1, 2023  
6:30 PM

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

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

**Absent**

Michael Dixon, Mayor

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

Mr. Bolea made a motion approve the Coraopolis Summer Jam at Shelley Jones Memorial Park and Bliwas Field on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Cardimen seconded the motion.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. McCutcheon said the CCDC is requesting a street closing for the portion of Mill Street to 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, to Pine and across Pine to the Gazebo Lot to hold their Second Saturday Events and the Fall Festival. They are requesting to close off the western side of the Gazebo Lot.

Mr. Cardimen said have we ever done that before?

Mr. McCutcheon said we always had them use the eastern side of the Jailhouse Lot. They feel there is a disconnect because it's too far and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Bolea said we should ask a member of the CCDC to come to our meeting and explain how they intend to use the lot.

Mr. McCutcheon said I can ask Mr. Willard to come next month.

Mr. McCutcheon said I have two more requests that I just received today. The CCDC and the Boy Scouts want to use Shelley Jones Park and Bliwas Field for an Easter Egg Hunt on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the CCDC and the Boy Scouts request to use Shelley Jones Park and Bliwas Field for an Easter Egg Hunt on April 1<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 AM-12:00. Mr. Bolea seconded the motion.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. McCutcheon said the second request is from Revival Today who wants to use Shelley Jones Park this Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> for a toy and clothing give away from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Mr. Bolea made a motion approved the request from Revival Today to use Shelley Jones Park this Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> for a toy and clothing give away from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Mr. Pitassi seconded the motion. Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Pendel said we need to discuss the 2023 Road Program and asked Mr. McCutcheon to elaborate.

Mr. McCutcheon said I have given everyone a handout and the \$475,000.00 includes a little extra so it is contingent, but I think the \$475,000.00 is a little high, so it will not go to that. I did budget \$400,000.00 for the roads so this is close.

Mr. Cardimen said I think the only safe bet for us right now is around the Public Works complex. We have invested a lot of money into a lot of equipment for the Public Works Department. It is a nightmare down there to wash something because it is a dirt road in and out. The safe bet is to pave that now and maybe throttle back because what's not on this list is Chestnut Street between 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, we don't know what the price for that will be.

Mr. McCutcheon said last year we received some grant money, so we put about \$400,000.00 away and that is what we're using for Chestnut Street, so I would like to do both. My thoughts on School Street are we are not going to replace that waterline for a long time. The buses use that every day and this road beats the buses up and he continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. McCutcheon said I will discuss with Mr. Null so we can get it advertised and out for bid.

Mr. Pendel said we need to discuss the status of the Ridge Avenue Tot Lot.

Mr. McCutcheon said I have been looking at some playground equipment and there are a couple of COSTARS where we wouldn't have to put it out for bid. Ms. Marine told me that while gathering information for the security cameras she was told it would be more expensive to go through COSTARS. I still haven't received the contract for the \$150,000.00 grant that we were awarded for the Tot Lot, so I won't sign anything until I receive that. I will to keep working on it so we will be able to start on it as soon as possible.

Mr. Pendel asked Ms. Marine to elaborate on the security cameras.

Ms. Marine said we have discussed researching security camera's previously so we got a recommendation from COG that many other municipalities use this company out of New Kensington. I contacted them and asked if they were listed on COSTARS and the sales rep said we are not and that the COSTARS equipment is way more expensive and she continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Pitassi said will we be using wood chips for the playground area?

Mr. McCutcheon said no, because it has to be ADA compliant.

### **Comments from Council**

Mr. Flasco said I think we need to have a discussion and make a decision regarding the gazebo. My opinion is to repair and paint it and asked for Mr. McCutcheon to get some bids. It really is an eyesore and in bad condition.

Mr. Pendel said just to clarify; you want to repair it, not tear it down.

Mr. Flasco said I think we should repair it, if possible. I don't think we need to tear it down. How many parking spots would we gain by doing that?

Mr. McCutcheon said I don't know if we would even make parking spaces. We may put benches there and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Pendel said is it the consensus of Council that we want to keep the Gazebo?

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to keep the Gazebo with the cost to repair it being under \$5,000.00. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Mr. Bolea said I would like to see us get rid of the gazebo and put a tree there with park benches and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Bolea said Mr. Cardimen, would you consider amending your motion to get bids for under \$5,000.00 for the repair of the gazebo?

Mr. Cardimen motioned to get bids for the repair of the gazebo. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.  
Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Mihalyi said our Borough Employees will be cutting the grass this year. We are not going to put it out for bid.

Mr. Cardimen said what about the dangerous areas like out on Rt. 51?

Mr. Mihalyi said I think what we should do is get in touch with Moon Township when they cut with the flail mower.

Mr. McCutcheon said we should talk to Friends of Pittsburgh Professional Soccer and tell them to cut along the road because it's their property.

Mr. Bolea said are they going to cut the grass at this building and continue with the lawn care?

Mr. Mihalyi said yes, we will still have the lawncare here.

Mr. Pitassi said what about the dirt perimeter that we have around this building?

Mr. Mihalyi said we have discussed this in the past, but have never come up with anything and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Cardimen said the building was constructed with mulch and we had bugs in the building. We should consider one-foot pavers all around the perimeter of the building and he continued to explain.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to get a bid to have pavers installed around the Borough Building. Mr. Pitassi seconded the motion.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Bolea said I noticed that someone has dug up the landscape area near the entrance to the building. I spoke with Mr. McCutcheon today and he suggested that we widen the area and asphalt more of an angle there.

Mr. Cardimen said we can add it to the Road Program as an add alternate.

Mr. Kraynyk said I will not be in attendance next week due to being out of town for business.

Mr. Kraynyk said since I will not be in town next week, I will defer my time to Ms. Marine and I want to mention that the RFP for the parking study is excellent work.

Mr. Cardimen said I would like to know the status with the Personnel Committee on hiring another Public Works employee.

Mr. McCutcheon said they interviewed three and Jake was the best, but he is going to the Water Authority. Mr. Tollis has a couple of people and I need to get in touch with a local gentleman who claims to have put in an application, but we haven't seen it yet.

Ms. Marine directed everyone to the Parking Study update that she handed out and said when we presented out last month, we had received six RFP's and we have been going over them. Within this scope we are allowed to hold seconded interviews and it also allows us to negotiate and she continued to explain.

Mr. McCutcheon said we met with the Principal of Trans Associates and this is a company that we have worked with several times for the Green Light Go Program and they did all of the traffic signals on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The gentleman was very professional and knowledgeable and he wants to work with us. It is up to Council on how far we want to go with this.

Mr. Bolea said being that the meters have not worked since November, I have not heard a positive nor a negative regarding parking. Has anyone heard anything regarding this? The reason I ask is, do we need parking meters?

Mr. McCutcheon said I think that is something that the Parking Study will tell us and he continued to explain.

Mr. Kraynyk said in the response there is value that will give us actual insights above and beyond just parking. I believe it will give us a forecast of traffic in general. However, I do think there is a disconnect in what we are looking for and what the output that they are going to provide is. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Ms. Marine made a motion to not to exceed \$20,000.00 towards a parking study with Trans Associates. Mr. Cardimen seconded the motion.

Mr. McCutcheon said I would like to approach them with \$15,000.00 and if we need to make it more then we can.

#### Upon Roll Call

Mr. Cardimen	Yes
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 April 1<sup>st</sup> is the day that we are going to do the tree planting on the Ferree Street steps. It will be from 8:00 AM to 12:00 and we will meet at the bottom of the Ferree Street steps for anyone who is interested in helping. We will have coffee and donuts in the morning and will serve pizza around noon.

Mr. Pitassi said April 22<sup>nd</sup> is our Cory Clean-up Day from 8:00 AM – 12:00 and we will meet where the old overlook is by Riverfront Park and we will serve pizza.

Mr. McCutcheon said I haven't been to the park lately, so I don't know how far they have moved up with the equipment.

Mr. Cardimen said it is not up to the overlook yet.

Mr. Pitassi said Thomas Bartnik wants to join the Shade Tree Commission. He is highly qualified and a tree tender and is involved with urban development working with Penn State and he continued to explain.

Mr. Pitassi made a motion to appoint Thomas Bartnik to the Shade Tree Commission. Mr. Bolea seconded the motion.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. McCutcheon said one of your members from the Shade Tree Commission sent an email out this morning and I do not know what he's talking about. He was going on about some grants that we would not get involved with and he continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

### **Borough Manager's Report**

Mr. McCutcheon said we had a meeting for the Memorial Day Parade which will be held May 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM. Usually, we make a donation of \$700.00, so I can put it on the agenda for next week.

Mr. McCutcheon said there is an issue with one of the microphones and I have a quote in the amount of \$709.00 from Hollowood Music and Sound and I would like to have this done.

Mr. McCutcheon said with regards to the roads, I am asking for a motion that we can do up to \$20,000.00 for crack sealing throughout town.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve crack sealing not to exceed \$20,000.00. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. McCutcheon said I understand that there is an emergency management meeting tomorrow night taking place here. I am wondering if any members of Council were made aware it.

Mr. Cardimen said as the Assistant Fire Chief I was made aware of it today by the Fire Chief. It is going to be by our Mayor, the Emergency Management Coordinator for the Borough; Larry Byrge and Coraopolis Volunteer Fire Chief; Charles Spencer, Jr.

Mr. McCutcheon said Chief Denbow was also invited and he invited me because I didn't know anything about it. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. McCutcheon said we did have a meeting with Penn State and one of the members said “money is not an issue” everyone knew this wasn’t reality because money is an issue with everything.

Mr. McCutcheon said Chief Denbow will not be here next week due to a medical procedure and he may not be here for the next four to six months. Sergeant Litterini will be in charge while Chief Denbow is off and he may attend the meetings.

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

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Meeting Adjourned.