

Borough of Coraopolis
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
Regular Council Meeting via teleconference
June 14, 2023
6:30 PM

The Regular Meeting of the Borough of Coraopolis was called to order by Council Vice-President Chad Kraynyk.

Police Sergeant Litterini 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
Gary Flasco
Michael Dixon, Mayor

Absent

Allison Marine
David Pendel

Mr. Kraynyk said before we begin, I have a comment to make. My family and I are relocating outside of the Borough, so I am submitting my resignation as of this evening and he continued to explain. Mr. Kraynyk then turned the meeting over to Mr. Bolea.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to accept the resignation of Chad Kraynyk from the Borough Council. Mr. Cardimen seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
Rudy Bolea	Yes
Ed Pitassi	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Gary Flasco	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Bolea said are there any questions on the Agenda?

Mike Harris of 800 Main Street said I have a few questions on the Agenda. Why would the Coraopolis Borough have to approve an action for the Coraopolis Water and Sewage Authority? Second, will my Shade Tree Commission letter be read? Third is regarding Executive Session Meeting on the Agenda and I was just wondering why the Coraopolis Borough Council requires so many Executive Sessions on possible litigation? Seems like we have a lot of possible

litigations. And I was just wondering why these are always Executive Sessions and the public doesn't really have any (he stopped talking.)

Mr. Cardimen said let me answer your first question about the Water and Sewer Authority. You, as a former member of the Water and Sewer Authority know that the CWSA and the Borough work in conjunction once in a while and he continued to explain.

Mr. Harris said I didn't mean the road project; I was talking about this Council approving my resignation.

Mr. McCutcheon said Council appoints everyone to every position. Council appoints, not the Water Authority, so when you turned your resignation in to John Schombert that was incorrect.

Mr. Harris said okay.

Mr. McCutcheon said the reason we have Executive Sessions is when we have a personnel issue or litigation issue. These issues are held privately, everything else is public.

Mr. McCutcheon asked Mr. Harris if he had another question.

Mr. Harris said I was wondering about my Shade Tree resignation.

Mr. McCutcheon said you can read it if you like.

Mr. Harris read his resignation letter for the CWSA and said it was more about my resignation from the Shade Tree that I am concerned about. I mean, if we want to get into it now.

Mr. McCutcheon said no, this was just questions on the Agenda.

Mr. Harris said okay, that's what I figured.

Mr. Harris said as far as the Executive Sessions, we don't really know what the meetings are on or the information and I mean they are just so secretive and I understand if it's personnel, but I mean the residents and tax payers pay for everybody's salary as a Council Member and the Solicitor, so wouldn't we have a right at some point to know what's going on with the Executive Sessions?

Mr. Rick Start said when the matter deals with personnel then no. In matters of litigation that this Borough is taking any action relevant to it, you will know.

Mr. Harris said okay, thank you.

Mr. Bolea said are there any more comments from the public on Agenda items?

Mr. Bolea said Mayor Dixon has a Proclamation to present.

Mayor Dixon read a Proclamation recognizing June as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month.

Mr. Bolea said thank you Mayor Dixon.

Mr. Bolea said I would like to turn the meeting over to Borough Manager, Ray McCutcheon.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 10, 2023 Regular Council Meeting. Mr. Pitassi seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 7, 2023 Council Workshop Meeting. Mr. Cardimen seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the Invoices for June 2023 in the amount of \$166,141.24. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
Rudy Bolea	Yes
Ed Pitassi	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Gary Flasco	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Pitassi made a motion to approve the Payroll for the month of May 2023 in the amount of \$126,001.99. Mr. Flasco seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
Rudy Bolea	Yes
Ed Pitassi	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Gary Flasco	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. McCutcheon said we have four pay requests recommended by LSSE and asked for a Motion to approve Partial Payment No. 1 (Final) to Russell Standard Corporation in the amount of \$18,830.00 for the 2023 Crack Sealing Project that has been completed.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to hold the payment for thirty days pending a meeting between Mr. Mihalyi, Mr. McCutcheon, himself, and Lennon Smith Souleret regarding the unprofessional job they did throughout town. Mr. Bolea seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
Rudy Bolea	Yes
Ed Pitassi	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Gary Flasco	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve Partial Payment No. 5 to CHD Enterprises in the amount of \$107,952.30 for work at the Riverfront Park Project. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
Rudy Bolea	Yes
Ed Pitassi	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Gary Flasco	Yes

Motion carried

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve Partial Payment No. 1 to Niando Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$381,688.54 for work completed as part of the Chestnut Street Roadway & Waterline Project. Mr. Pitassi seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
Rudy Bolea	Yes
Ed Pitassi	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Gary Flasco	Yes

Motion carried

Mr. McCutcheon asked for a motion to approve Partial Payment No. 6 to Avelli Construction Corporation in the amount of \$92,296.00 for work completed as part of the Main Street Roadway Reconstruction Project and said there is an amount being held for the work at Neely Heights and Main Street that is under review.

Mr. Bolea said do you have the amount that is being withheld?

Mr. Null said the amount being withheld is \$27,625.00 which is sufficient based on the unit price bid for that area in question.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve Partial Payment No. 6 to Avelli Construction Corporation in the amount of \$92,296.00 for work completed as part of the Main Street Roadway Reconstruction Project. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
Rudy Bolea	Yes
Ed Pitassi	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Gary Flasco	Yes

Motion carried

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve Change Order No. 1 to Niando Construction, Inc. for an increase to the contract amount of \$21,457.91 for additional work to be reimbursed by the Coraopolis Water & Sewer Authority. Mr. Pitassi seconded the motion.

Mr. Cardimen said just for clarification this is for the valve they changed on 4th Avenue when they shut the water off. Mr. Null said correct, when they isolated the waterline for the project area the valve failed and required replacement. Mr. Null said there was another emergency repair that was sewer related that was added here as well.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
Rudy Bolea	Yes
Ed Pitassi	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Gary Flasco	Yes

Motion carried

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to accept the resignation of Michael Harris from the Coraopolis Shade Tree Committee.
Mr. Pitassi seconded the motion.
Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to accept the resignation of Michael Harris from the Coraopolis Water & Sewer Authority.
Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.
Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to authorize closing Mill Street from 1st Avenue to the entrance to the Water Plant on Saturday, June 24 and 25 for the Coraopolis Summer Jam. Mr. Pitassi seconded the motion.
Mr. Cardimen said is all okay with this and everyone getting into and out of the Towers?
Sgt. Litterini said the entrance on 1st Avenue will be open and we will speak with the Tower's staff before actually closing it down.
Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Richard Start said I noticed that there are some people here who are interested in their homes that are located across from the soccer complex. I want to report to you that the Borough of Coraopolis has joined as a party to that litigation by filing what is known as a position for interpolator which means that we are intervening into the matter to join the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor in support of the decision that the Hearing Board made. The party who is the interest in the property that is the soccer complex have certain interests there. Those interests are not necessarily in accordance with the residents of that area or residents of the town. The judge who is handling this matter handles all Zoning Hearing Board appeals and she has encouraged the parties to meet and explore whether this matter can be amicably resolved. We have met with them once and are having a meeting tomorrow and because the matter involves litigation, we aren't going to detail what the interests of the Borough are in this matter, but will tell you the subject matters that we're interested in exploring;

1. Possible expansion in the future.
2. Discussing the properties across the street from the complex because there has been an adverse impact on those property owners.
3. Having a traffic signal established at the Interstate 79 exit.
4. Having traffic studies done twice a year paid for the owners of the property, not the Borough residents, to determine whether more traffic control should be used.
5. Discussing the progress on a building that is supposedly being constructed in Wexford that houses services for religious service. The crowds there that sometimes occur, the sight may not accommodate those and the building that they are in may not accommodate those.
6. A very clear understanding what future events and attendance numbers that they anticipate there.

This pretty much covers everything that we want to talk about tomorrow along with anything else Shallenberger may want to talk about.

Police Chief's Report

Sergeant Litterini gave the Police Department Report for the month of May 2023.

Sergeant Litterini said I want to thank the Moon Township Police Department and the Allegheny County Sheriff's Department for their assistance with the Memorial Day Parade, along with the Street Department for their help in shutting off the streets that day.

Sergeant Litterini said in the month of May we participated in two Click it or Ticket walks in conjunction with the surrounding Police Departments

Sergeant Litterini said I would like to commend Officer Tapler and Officer Cillo who put themselves in the right place at the right time in order to apprehend the suspect from McKees Rocks last Thursday. They did an outstanding job and I cannot commend them enough.

Fire Chief's Report

Chief Spencer said for the month of May 2023, the Coraopolis Volunteer Fire Department answered 13 calls with a total of 191.42 volunteer hours.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Drew Null directed everyone to his monthly report and said Riverfront Park; the work is moving forward and structures are starting to arrive, the parking lot and walk surfaces have been paved and walkway and landscaping going up. We expect the next step is the restroom to arrive on sight and start fitting in place.

Mr. Drew Null said the 2023 Roadway Improvements; the contract that was awarded to Youngblood Paving and the pre-construction meeting will be tomorrow.

Mr. Drew Null said Chestnut Street; we do not have a change order or final pay request, but expect to have it in the next month. There are a couple of items to work out with the Contractor and he continued to explain.

Mr. Drew Null said Ridge Avenue Tot Lot Improvements; I spoke with the COG and we are working towards moving on with potentially that COSTARS agreement which has a larger lead time associated with it and he continued to explain.

Mr. Drew Null said Verizon Pole Improvements; we received complaints this month regarding the work that Verizon's contractor Osmose is doing. They are assessing the utility poles and chipping out sidewalks so we requested a meeting to discuss restoration and he continued to explain.

Mr. Drew Null said Grant Applications; COG advised the building demolitions were not awarded for the Year 49 Cycle.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Dixon said this evening's report will focus on something that I'm pretty sure the public is probably not aware of. Last Wednesday at this Council's Workshop Meeting at 6:30 PM a motion and a vote was taken regarding the Triko Gazebo in our Borough's parking lot on 5th Avenue. That vote was to demolish the Gazebo instead of repairing it. The vote to destroy our town's landmark moved forward despite there being an offer from the Coraopolis Community Development Corporation and funds from Age Friendly Pittsburgh to provide funds to assist with repairs. Which due to the negligence and care that the gazebo received over its decades of presence some action was desperately needed. So, it was taken during a meeting that unfortunately doesn't have public comment sections in it and is not very well attended either. To that effect the public really had no say what their preference would have been and at this point it is too little too late. Many probably know that the gazebo was a gift to the Borough and has served as a landmark since its installation and many have noted that it has been in a state of disrepair for years. After some recent questions that I have received about the gazebo from a few residents asking if it was going to be repaired, I replied to one of those residents today with the unfortunate news. Mrs. Debbie Barone Rambo had this response and due to a recent loss in her family she was unable to attend this evening however she gave me permission to share her comments on this topic and said these are her words. I am truthfully at a loss for words concerning the ignorance, disrespect and just plain rudeness of the Coraopolis Council and Management. If building the gazebo was something the Borough did on its own it would be different, but it was a gift to them by two families who contributed so much to the town. A dream of my parents and Paul Triko to leave a legacy to the town and he continued to read the letter which ended with Mrs. Barone asking why upkeep was never done on the gazebo after all these years stating she was pretty sure that you have to keep up maintenance on that.

Mayor Dixon said her question is rhetorical and requires no answer, but all of us already know what it is and I am very sorry to the residents of Coraopolis.

Committee Reports/Comments from Council

Mr. Flasco said I have nothing to report this evening.

Mr. Mihalyi said I have nothing this evening.

Mr. Cardimen said to let some of the residents here know what typical council members do; for the month of June 2023 I answered over thirty emails this month, spent six different times on site with Niando Construction at the Chestnut Project for a total of twelve hours. I spent four hours on site with Mr. Rico on Neely Heights for a total of twelve hours. I answered fourteen residential calls and went to ten residential field visits all over town addressing various complaints concerning weeds and grass. I also had a meeting with Jake Watt with Watt Fencing regarding the gates for Ridge Avenue bringing the total hours for this month to 37.5. If you divide that hourly by my salary, I made \$5.33 an hour as your councilman.

Mr. Cardimen asked Mr. Null, if the survey for the McDonald's parking lot was ever completed so that area can be clean up.

Mr. Null said I would expect to have it within the month and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Pitassi said this will be the last month for the CHAR West COG Meetings, because they will be on vacation for July and August and resume in September.

Mr. Pitassi said the library has their summer reading program kicked off and they have a lot of programs for all of the kids, so I hope everyone will take their children there to enjoy everything they have to offer.

Mr. Bolea said I have nothing this evening.

Manager's Report

Mr. McCutcheon said there is a gentleman named Brian Finnegan from Moon Township who walks Coraopolis along with some Coraopolis residents. I want to thank him because he goes around town picking up litter from the town.

Mr. McCutcheon said there will not be Workshop Meetings in July and August.

Mr. McCutcheon said there were three motions made during the Workshop Meeting that I want to mention and they are to demo the gazebo, authorizing the purchase of twenty trash receptacles to be placed throughout town.

Mr. McCutcheon said today I got a note from the State and the ARLE Grant for the new traffic signal for 4th Avenue and Watt Street is signed, so we'll get started on that soon.

Mr. McCutcheon said the poles for the Green Light Go Grant for the traffic signal at State Avenue and Montour Street should be coming in July.

Mr. McCutcheon said I want to thank Councilman Kraynyk, he was a very professional young man who did a very nice job for Council. His agenda was to make the town better and I appreciate the work he did.

Mr. McCutcheon said we also made a motion to purchase cameras for Riverfront Park and we are working to get a contract as soon as possible.

Comments from the Public

George Carr from 103 Chestnut Street said my main issue is that we pass ordinances, but no one seems to enforce them. The house on Broadway and Second looks like Jumanji Jungle and everybody says we don't know who owns it, but the trees are higher than the telephone pole and the weeds are growing out onto the sidewalk. Somebody dumped garbage at 1st and Mulberry and nobody is picking that up. And one more thing I suggest that you don't build a new outlook in the park mainly because you ain't maintaining the one that is there now. You can't see nothing when you go out on the deck because of the weeds, what's the purpose of it? And he continued to explain.

Diana Angelo of 2412 State Avenue said my concern is the Neville Island Bridge going into Coraopolis and why can't they put a no turn on red? I would like that addressed.

Ms. Angelo said is there a form or something for overgrowth?

Mr. McCutcheon said you want to fill out a complaint form, we have them on the website and in the office and he continued to explain.

Ms. Angelo said I think a lot of people in the town do a tremendous job and I thank everybody and she continued to explain.

Ms. Tracy Baker Serba from 1818 Devonshire Road said I have lived here for 13 years and every year for 13 years I have communicated in one form or another including the form from the website about the property at 1816 Devonshire Road. It is a hazard and the backyard is completely overgrown and growing into my yard and she continued to explain. Ms. Serba said there is a dilapidated garage and pieces of that garage blow off into my yard and pose a hazard. Ms. Serba said the entire porch is packed with unknown garbage and asked Chief Spencer if there is a hoarding situation outside does it give reason to believe that there is a hoarding situation inside. I am concerned for my own safety and she continued to explain.

Mr. Paul Klepal from 2339 Stratford Avenue said I was on vacation for the week they did the road work so I didn't see signs and no one notified me that it was going to be done. Plus, the fact there is nowhere to park our cars unless you want us to park on 51. They did Stratford Avenue, it's only two blocks long and there's no place to park the cars. I'm not paying these, just take them off the bill you're going to pay in 30 days and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen said this is one of the things that is going to be addressed sir.

Mr. Klepal said the light you want to put up at 79 will not do us any good. You put it at the bottom of Roberts Street or we'll never get off that hill.

Mr. McCutcheon said I did speak with PennDOT and they said there is not enough traffic there to justify a traffic signal and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Bob Elder from 2334 Stratford Avenue said I have lived here over 40 years and I am here to reiterate what Mr. Klepal said. On our end of the street there are eleven houses and six that don't have garages so I'd like to know where we were to put our cars. The signs were knee high, why weren't we notified more than three days ahead of time and why wasn't a notice put on everyone's door? Mr. Elder said I also had a ticket and I'm not paying it. Does anyone have a suggestion on where we were to put our cars because the whole street was being done, correct? That is what the sign said and he continued to explain. I am just asking for an option because I was issued a ticket and I need an option.

Mr. Start said this is an unfortunate thing, you do have a recourse. You cannot pay it and go to the Magistrate to state your case and she'll dismiss it, but you shouldn't have to do that, we agree with you there and a discussion pursued.

Ms. Karen Murphy said I didn't get a ticket, but I'm going to use part of my time to figure out what the deal is. It is common courtesy to review. When I called the paving company and said the sign was this big by this big and down on the ground, they said, well that was just a stipulation of the Borough. The Borough tells us how big the sign has to be and how many signs we have to put up. They put up three and I find that hard to believe. When you guys submitted it did you only ask for three signs? Did you not think of some common courtesy for the neighbors to put a piece of paper on our doors telling us? And she continued to explain.

Ms. Murphy said another thing; you people don't allow comments at the Workshop Meeting?

Mr. Start said that's correct.

Ms. Murphy said that's another (inaudible.) How is the public supposed to have any input? You guys already voted (inaudible.) No common courtesy at all. Thank you.

Mr. Trevor Reed of 1441 Ridge Avenue said now that Mr. Kraynyk has submitted his resignation what does his seat look like and how does that process work moving forward?

Mr. Start said the Borough Code provides that a replacement has to be made within 30 days from someone who is a resident of the ward that Mr. Kraynyk is from.

Mr. Reed said August 5th this Council has approved that the PA Emergency Response Center in cooperation with the Coraopolis Community Development Corporation will be sponsoring National Night Out at the Riverfront Park. I would like to personally invite all the members of Council and any members of the public to attend, it is from 4 – 9 and he

continued to explain. Mr. Reed said Mayor Dixon will be spending some time in our dunk tank and I would like to invite any members of Council and the public who would like to spend time in the tank to get in touch with me.

Mike Harris of 800 Main Street said I would like to thank Chad Kraynyk for his constant professionalism as a Councilman. Mr. Harris said regarding my resignation with the Shade Tree Commission I want to bring to Council's attention that the president of the Shade Tree, which is a Borough entity, he was a poll representative for Mr. Pitassi on the primary election day and he had to have the police called on him for threatening a 66 year old senior woman at the election polls over something on Facebook which is ridiculous. Along with that, the Shade Tree Commission held a vote to remove Dan Hickton. As the President said, Dan missed three meetings which he put into rule when he took over as President that you couldn't miss more than three meetings. Dan was out of town for two meetings and he offered to phone in for them and was told that was not necessary. The third such stated meeting was a Saturday class held by the Pittsburgh Tree; it was not a Shade Tree Meeting. They took a vote at the Shade Tree Commission and I was the only one who voted no because we had a hard time just finding volunteers to do this work. Dan is a hardworking guy, I understand you want him at the meetings, but, you know, if the rule is three meetings, he didn't miss three meetings. Along with the activity at the poll and the vote with Dan Hickton and there's been four resignations from the Shade Tree Commission since Mr. Simonetti has taken over. So that's why I'd like to speak on my resignation from the Shade Tree Commission.

Mr. Harris said I'd like to kindly ask members of Council and any employees of the Borough to stop telling people I'm only running for a Council Seat to support Mr. Diggins and Mayor Dixon's agenda. I'm running for Council because I can do the job better.

Mr. Harris said I want to congratulate all the winners of the Primary Election including myself.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Mr. Cardimen seconded the motion.

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Pitassi seconded the motion.

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

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

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

MEETING ADJOURNED