

Borough of Coraopolis  
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania  
Regular Council Meeting via teleconference  
July 12, 2023  
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

George Mihalyi

Allison Marine

Gary Flasco

David Pendel

Michael Dixon, Mayor

Mr. Pendel said note for the record; we met at approximately 6:00 for an Executive Session to discuss potentially legal and personnel matters.

Mr. Pendel said at this point I would like to turn the meeting over to Allison Marine.

Ms. Marine said I have a special recognition that I would like to talk about and she continued to explain as she presented the Pennsylvania State Association of Borough's 2022 Distinguished Service Award to Coraopolis Borough Manager Raymond McCutcheon. Ms. Marine then turned the floor over to State Representative Anita Kulik and Jeff King, Chief of Staff for Senator Devlin Robinson as they both commended Mr. McCutcheon for this award.

Mr. McCutcheon expressed his gratitude for everyone who helped contribute to this award.

Mr. Pendel said are there any questions from Borough Council on the Agenda? Mr. Pendel said are there any questions from the Public regarding Agenda items? Being none, the meeting continued.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 14, 2023 Regular Council Meeting. Mr. Pitassi seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the Invoices for July 2023 in the amount of \$263,871.31. Mr. Bolea seconded the motion.

Mr. McCutcheon said there were a couple of MEIT Insurance invoices, so it is a little higher.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen            Yes

Rudy Bolea                Yes

Ed Pitassi                 Yes

George Mihalyi Yes  
Allison Marine Yes  
Gary Flasco Yes  
David Pendel Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the Payroll for the month of June 2023 in the amount of \$204,060.34. Mr. Pitassi seconded the motion.

Mr. McCutcheon said this is a three-pay period, so it is a little higher than normal.

Upon Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to close Chestnut Street between 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue for the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Festival from Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup> from 4 pm to 11 pm daily and the closure of Pine Alley between Chestnut Street and the eastern end of Sanvito Funeral Home Parking Lot. Mr. Cardimen seconded the motion.

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to authorize overtime pay for up to 4 Police Officers to attend the National Night Out event. Mr. Pitassi seconded the motion.

Mayor Dixon said it was originally scheduled to take place at the Riverfront Park, but has been moved and will be at the Cornell Football Field.

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve 36-Month Electric Contract with World-Kinect Energy Service with rates of \$0.06905/kWh. Mr. Cardimen seconded the motion.

Mr. McCutcheon said this is the same company that we've been with. Electric rates are going up, but this was the lowest of the three quotes that we received.

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Pendel said we are going to open the floor for nominations for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Council seat that has been vacated.

Mr. Pitassi said I would like to nominate Mark Scholl.

Mr. Pendel said are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

Being none Mr. Pendel asked for a motion to close nominations.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to close nominations. Mr. Cardimen seconded the motion.

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Pendel asked for a Roll Call Vote in favor of Mark Scholl.

Upon Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Pendel said Mark Scholl is a 46-year resident of Coraopolis and is married with three children and four grandchildren. Professionally, he recently celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Janney Montgomery Scott, where he is First Vice President. Regarding volunteer activity, he served as a board member of Ohio Valley Hospital for 25 years on the finance and audit committees and the last four years of his tenure with Ohio Valley Hospital he served as Chairman of the Board. He was also a member of the Coraopolis Kiwanis Club and took over the Little League Program from Kiwanis.

Mr. Pendel said we need to discuss the Romasco Chestnut Street and unnamed alley vacation and possible motion.

Mr. Drew Null directed everyone to Attachment N of his report and said they have provided everything that we have asked for to our satisfaction. They want to vacate properties, but also extend into properties and the way vacation works you're entitled to the center line of the portion directly abutting your property and they are giving us a plan that extends beyond that and he continued to explain.

Mr. Rick Start said there will be a Public Hearing that has to be advertised and all the adjoining property owners must be given notice of the hearing and the petition of the vacation and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to advertise a Public Hearing for the Romasco Street Vacation. Mr. Bolea seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried.

### **Solicitor's Report**

Mr. Richard Start said I don't have a report to issue, but would like to join the accolades for Mr. McCutcheon. I have been the Solicitor for over 40 years and can honestly say I have never worked with a better or more competent and trustworthy person than Ray McCutcheon.

## Engineer's Report

Mr. Drew Null said I'm sharing the sentiment and Congratulations to Mr. McCutcheon; it's been a pleasure and we consider you a friend.

Mr. Drew Null directed everyone to his monthly report and said the Commonwealth Financing Authority Multimodal Transportation Program is open again and they are meeting on July 31<sup>st</sup>. The proposed project we have is the replacement of Montour Street between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenues and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen made a Motion to approve Resolution No. 23-400 to apply for a Commonwealth Financing Authority Multimodal Transportation Fund Program Grant to request \$565,000.00 in funding for the Montour Street Roadway Improvements Project. Mr. Pitassi seconded the motion.

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen said does that include CWSA upgrades to the water and sewer in that area?

Mr. Null said this grant does not and he continued to explain.

Mr. Drew Null said Riverfront Park; the restrooms, pavilion and amphitheater have been placed, top soil and seed has been done. There is still some outstanding work and he continued to explain. The structures were facilitated through COSTARS Contracts and he directed everyone to Attachment A and said we do recommend payment for Partial Payment No. 6 to CHD Enterprises in the amount of \$60,343.42.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve Partial Payment No. 6 to CHD Enterprises in the amount of \$60,343.42 for work at the Riverfront Park Project. Mr. Bolea seconded the motion.

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Bolea said is the cracked sidewalk part of their responsibility?

Mr. Null said they did replace that in the past month.

Mr. Drew Null said we received a pay request from Russell Standard for the 2023 Crack Sealing Project in the amount of \$18,830.00. We did meet with the Contractor to discuss concerns that we had with that project with members of Council present and directed everyone to Attachment F explaining that it is the Contractor's position that they fulfilled the work of that project.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve Partial Payment No. 1 (Final) to Russell Standard Corporation in the amount of \$18,830.00 for work completed as part of the 2023 Crack Sealing Project. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried 6 Yea, 1 Nay.

Mr. Drew Null said Chestnut Street Roadway and Waterline Improvements; and directed everyone to Attachment H for the final change order for Chestnut Street by Niando Construction. This is a decrease of \$19,270.50 to the contract amount and is a net slightly above due to change orders related to water and sewer work of the valve replacement.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve Change Order No. 2 to Niando Construction, Inc. for a decrease to contract amount by \$19,270.00 for final in-place quantities and work completed. Mr. Bolea seconded the motion. Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Drew Null said Partial Payment No. 2 (Final) to Niando Construction in the amount of \$42,678.87 for work completed to rectify final in place quantities and release of retainage and we do recommend payment.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve Partial Payment No. 2 (Final) to Niando Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$42,678.87 for work completed as part of the Chestnut Street Roadway and Waterline Improvement Project. Mr. Pitassi seconded the motion. Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Drew Null said the next three motions are related to the Riverfront Park:

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve payment of Invoice No. 7303 to Snider Recreation, Inc. in the amount of \$110,597.00 for COSTARS purchase and installation of the pavilion at Riverfront Park. Mr. Pitassi seconded the motion. Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve payment of Invoice No. 7304 to Snider Recreation, Inc. in the amount of \$79,050.00 for COSTARS purchase and installation of the amphitheater at Riverfront Park. Mr. Bolea seconded the motion. Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Null said No. 90064030 to CXT Incorporated in the amount of \$193,392.00 for COSTARS purchase and installation of the restroom at Riverfront Park. I will note that this is payment of 90%, they just got the restroom there and we recommend holding 10% until the final fixtures have been up and tested.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve payment of Invoice No. 90064030 to CXT Incorporated in the amount of \$193,392.00 for COSTARS purchase and installation of the restroom at Riverfront Park. Mr. Cardimen seconded the motion. Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Drew Null said you were awarded two grants for the Ridge Avenue Tot Lot, one is \$150,000.00 through the CFA which is a LSA local share and the other is \$150,000.00 grant through the Gaming Economic Development GEDTF Fund with the County. The COG is the administrator for the GEDF and has suggested that you not take any action without having a formal agreement in place. While working with the Manager we broke out the equipment portion and Snider is saying it is a 16-week lead time and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve COSTARS Contract No. 014-e22-255 (13011R) in the amount of \$152,000.00 for the purchase and installation of playground equipment from Snider Recreation as part of the Ridge Avenue Tot-Lot Improvement Project. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion. Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Drew Null said the 2023 Roadway Improvements; we did have a pre-construction meeting with the contractor, Youngblood and they predict starting by the end of the month, weather permitting.

Mr. Drew Null said Main Street Roadway Reconstruction; we discussed payment, including retention last month for an area of the project where some surface concerns were noted. Avelli engaged a professional and who states the surface failure is not reflective of failure for the entire road and was caused in part by salt laying on the surface. The recommendation of that report is for the Borough to have that roadway cleaned and sealed and we suggest completing that work. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Drew Null said the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Parking Lot survey was completed and the property corners were staked.

Mr. Drew Null said Verizon Pole Improvements; Verizon had maintenance done to poles throughout the Borough. We had a meeting with their Contractor Osmose, who worked the maintenance and they have provided a list for the Borough to review if there are concerns and he continued to explain.

Mr. Drew Null said unrelated to that project there was an additional complaint that a pole was replaced and resulted in damage to the Borough underground electrical utility. We have reached out to Verizon and they responded that they have reached out to the appropriate department.

Mr. Drew Null said 2020 Roadway Improvements; we had questions related to outstanding crack sealing and that Contractor was put on notice requesting to complete a maintenance seal as part of their maintenance bond requirement.

Mr. Drew Null said Developments; we did a review at the soccer field and noted some outstanding items, mainly related to stormwater and the developer was notified.

Mr. McCutcheon asked if there was going to be paving next to the second soccer field.

Mr. Null said we haven't been notified of their intent, but the approved set of plans reflect that it is to be paved and he continued to explain.

### **Police Chief's Report**

Chief Denbow gave the Police Department Report for the month of June 2023.

Chief Denbow said on July 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 PM to 3:00 AM the West Hills DUI Task Force did a sobriety check point in the Borough of Coraopolis. This is a joint effort with surrounding communities and we move from community to community on different months and he continued to explain.

Chief Denbow said please keep your doors and windows locked and keep nothing of value in sight of your vehicle and please do not store firearms in your vehicle, keep them in your house.

Chief Denbow said I would also like to congratulate Mr. McCutcheon; I have known him a long time and it has been a pleasure working with him and he continued to explain.

## **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Dixon said for the month of June I fielded 15 phone calls, met twice for coffee, attended the Summer Jam, and cooked the food, I also attended the Saturday event for the CCDC, I fielded 36 emails, I wrote three letters of support, I wrote one proclamation, I appeared as the mayor by invitation twice, and I volunteered at the CYC. Messages, including emails and text messages, with police related issues were 197. Approximately 66 hours total were worked for the month of June for me. Keeping with my promise, year to date, I have donated all my mayor's paychecks to non-profit organizations and he continued to explain.

Mayor Dixon said it is my pleasure to take a moment to praise IsaaH Neely and his organization for Summer Jam and he continued to explain and presented Mr. Neely with a Key to the Borough of Coraopolis.

Mr. Neely said thank you for presenting me with a Key to Coraopolis and continued to thank all involved in supporting him.

Mayor Dixon said congratulations Mr. McCutcheon, and he continued to explain.

## **Committee Reports/Comments from Council**

Mr. Flasco said I'd like to give the Financial Committee's mid-year report on the financial status of the Borough. The current real estate revenues are just under 87% of the budgeted amount, the total revenues are 57.5% of the budgeted amount. We planned on using a significant amount of the reserve for the Riverfront Park construction and the paving of Chestnut Street and that amount is not reflected in the revenue numbers so far. With regards to the expenditures, most expense classifications are close to 50% of budget and the total expenditures are 54% of the budgeted amount. To date, we've spent over \$1.4M on the park, road construction, a new police vehicle and traffic signals. We are in very solid financial condition for the year.

Mr. Flasco said I also want to congratulate Mr. McCutcheon.

Mr. Mihalyi said I have nothing this evening.

Mr. Bolea said I have nothing other than to say congratulations to Mr. McCutcheon.

Mr. Cardimen said congratulations Mr. McCutcheon and continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen said July 2023, I answered six emails, two onsite meetings, one with Watt Fencing to look at the Tot-Lot, and a site walkthrough at the soccer complex and walked the length Stratford Avenue to check the noise levels due to complaints from some of the residents in that area. I met with a resident regarding a sewer problem and was able to have an emergency repair there. I had a meeting with LSSE to discuss work done by the crack sealing people for a total of 28 hours and 2 minutes for the month.

Ms. Marine said I want to thank Mr. Null for your report, a lot of those line items are the grant money and projects that we talked about at the end of last year coming to fruition this year and she continued to explain.

Ms. Marine said on behalf of the Parking Committee, we will be hosting a public meeting on Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 PM here at the Borough Building. This will be the report output meeting with the consultant and she continued to explain.

Mr. Pitassi said I do not have a report this month, but do want to congratulate Mr. McCutcheon.

Mr. Cardimen said I have been working with H & L Electric to see if the drivers on our new lights to be installed at Bliwas Field are covered under warranty and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen said I would like to get Council's permission to have Mr. McCutcheon direct H & L start that repair work on that Verizon pole on Mill Street and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to have H & L Electric start the repair work to a subsection damaged on Mill Street due to Verizon moving a pole. Mr. Bolea seconded the motion.

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

### **Manager's Report**

Mr. McCutcheon said I want to thank Council for all their support and I feel very fortunate to have a Council that works with me and he continued to explain.

Mr. McCutcheon said Mr. Cardimen and I met with Watt Fencing at the Tot-Lot. We are putting in a double gate closer to the basketball court to allow entrance for our lawn equipment. We also met at Ridge and State and he will be doing that work there as well.

### **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 of the public. Council Members shall not comment on matters of personnel, discipline, or any legal matter.

Olesha Johnston of 1032 Hiland Avenue said I respect each and every one of you, the Police Department, the Mayor, the Fire Department and Mr. McCutcheon I congratulate you on your recognition, it is very well deserved. I am in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward and a Republican and submitted my interest in serving on the Borough for the vacancy on the night that it happened. I am highly disappointed that I wasn't contacted by any of you, I wasn't interviewed, you didn't want to get to know me. My reason for running is I want to volunteer my time to do this, but wasn't given the opportunity. Flasco and I were the only two that stepped up for the primary, we're both on the ballot. Is this your crony that you appointed



to Council? That's not the correct way to say anything, but did he volunteer? Were there any other interests that were put forth? That's all I wanted to know; I wanted the public to know that there was interest, but no effort was made by any of you.

Diana Angelo of 2412 State Avenue said this past week we had to call the Police Department. The noise level at the Montour Sports Center was up and they were using amplifiers and the noise level was unbelievable and went on until 11:00. They were using their own people for traffic coming out and had traffic backed up. Something really needs to be done about this situation. Our neighborhood is very quiet and it is a shame that we have to deal with this.

Mr. Rick Start said I want you to know that the Borough is involved with the Soccer Complex and we are currently in a negotiating stage of trying to settle it. Your voices are heard and he continued to explain.

Mr. Bob Angelo said it's not just the noise coming from them, they are holding their services out in the field and he continued to explain.

Karen Murphy of 2320 Strafford Avenue said what bothered most of us is that the ordinance states until 9:00 and they had services for a week. We were here for the Zoning Hearing Board Meeting and they were told they couldn't meet like this so I don't know how they got away with it.

Mr. Rick Start said they appealed it and a judge has been assigned the case.

Ms. Murphy said are they still allowed to have those meetings?

Mr. Start said yes, right now they are because the matter is on appeal.

Ms. Murphy said can you stop them for being out there after 9:00?

Mr. Start said there are other avenues we are pursuing.

Ms. Murphy said now it's to the point that the people who go in there know about Stratford and they are parking on our street, so they can get out and I think they realize they can't get out.

Mr. Aden Harding of 1050 Rose Avenue (via telephone) said I am here tonight on behalf of Fire and Ice Jewelry and I have a prepared statement (inaudible, request prepared statement; never received)

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

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**