

Borough of Coraopolis  
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania  
Regular Council Meeting via teleconference  
September 13, 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 6:52 Arrival

George Mihalyi

Allison Marine

Gary Flasco

Joe Szabat

David Pendel

Michael Dixon, Mayor

Mr. Pendel said for the record, Mr. Pitassi said he may be a few minutes late.

Mr. Pendel said are there any questions from Borough Council 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 August 9, 2023 Regular Council Meeting. Mr. Cardimen seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve the Minutes of the September 6, 2023 Regular Council Workshop Meeting. Mr. Cardimen seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve the Invoices for September 2023 in the amount of \$384,906.70. Mr. Cardimen seconded the motion.

Mr. McCutcheon said this does include the \$194,000.00 invoice for the Road Program.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen Yes

Rudy Bolea Yes

George Mihalyi Yes

Allison Marine Yes

Gary Flasco Yes

Joe Szabat Yes

David Pendel                Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve the Payroll for the month of August 2023 in the amount of \$140,238.62. Mr. Cardimen seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen            Yes

Rudy Bolea                Yes

George Mihalyi            Yes

Allison Marine            Yes

Gary Flasco                Yes

Joe Szabat                Yes

David Pendel              Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve Partial Payment No. 7 to CHD Enterprises in the amount of \$97,726.05 for work related to the Riverfront Park Improvement Project. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen            Yes

Rudy Bolea                Yes

George Mihalyi            Yes

Allison Marine            Yes

Gary Flasco                Yes

Joe Szabat                Yes

David Pendel              Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve Resolution 23-405 for filing a Gaming Economic Development and Tourism Fund (GEDTF) Program application to request funding in the amount of \$211,000.00 for a Salt Storage Facility. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the use of the Ridge Avenue Tot-Lot and basketball court on Saturday, September 24, 2023 from 11 am to 8:30 pm for a basketball tournament and a barbeque. Mr. Szabat seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

### **Solicitor's Report**

Mr. Richard Start said I have a status report on the Shallenberger Zoning Appeal. Since the last public meeting, Mr. McCutcheon, myself, and Attorney Steve Bovan (who represents the Coraopolis Zoning Hearing Board) have met three times with the attorneys representing Mr. Shallenberger to see if an agreement can be met outside of having a decision made by the Court. We have made significant progress and I want to thank the residents of State Avenue who live directly across from the soccer fields for their cooperation and help and he continued to explain. Mr. Start said Judge McGinley signed an order postponing the filing of legal briefs until October 20<sup>th</sup> and he continued to explain. As he said

the October 20<sup>th</sup> date is going to be a hard date and if an agreement cannot be met, we will have to prepare what promises to be some challenging legal arguments.

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

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

Chief Denbow said on September 12<sup>th</sup> our department was involved with the "Click it or Ticket Campaign" and we have a big focus on child safety. I do have two certified officers who can inspect car seats for children and make sure that they are installed properly. If you need help just call the station and we will get that done.

### **Fire Chief's Report**

Chief Spencer gave the Volunteer Fire Department report for August 2023 and said we answered 19 calls. Six of which were mutual aid calls, five were natural gas leaks, one recreational fire, two malfunctioning smoke detectors, one EMS assist, one fire, one storm related call, one illegal burning and one smoke investigation. We had a total of 166.95 hours for the VFD.

### **Engineer's Report**

Mr. Drew Null directed everyone to his monthly report and said the Riverfront Park; nothing new to report, there is a pay request that you authorized this evening. There is a punchlist attached to our report and the contractor is working through those and we expect those to be completed within the next month or two.

Mr. Drew Null said 2023 Road Program; Youngblood (the Contractor) is finishing up on the Public Works site this week and that pay request was authorized as well.

Mr. Drew Null said Grant Applications; the CDBG Year 50 grant pre applications were filed last week for building demolitions and for some park amenities. The final applications are due in November.

Mr. Null said the GEDTF application is due at the end of September and the resolution was authorized this evening for the Salt Storage Facility.

Mr. Drew Null said Street Opening Permits; there are several that we have received and have been tracking and directed everyone to Attachment G.

Mr. Drew Null said Water and Sewer Authority; the MS4 annual report due and part of this annual requirement is to train the Public Officials. Mr. Null continued with the MS4 Training Program.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Dixon said I have nothing to report for this evening.

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

Mr. Flasco said I have nothing to report tonight.

Mr. Mihalyi said I have nothing to report for tonight.

Mr. Bolea said I have nothing this evening.

Ms. Marine said I want to extend thanks to the Public Works Department. I received a call from a neighbor in my ward who called the office to report a pot hole. The Public Works Department had been out patching and the neighbor saw the result and wanted to say thank you.

Mr. Cardimen said I would like Council's approval to instruct the Borough Manager to get a charge card with Speedway on Neville Island for diesel fuel and gasoline as needed for the Coraopolis Volunteer Fire Department and Police Department. We do need to have access locally for this and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to authorize the Borough Manager to get a charge card with Speedway on Neville Island for diesel fuel and gasoline as needed for the Coraopolis Volunteer Fire Department and Police Department. Mr. Bolea seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen said we locked in a Chassis and an F-600 body with Woltz and Wind Ford.

Mr. Szabat said I have nothing this evening.

Mr. Pitassi said I want to thank everyone from Coraopolis for all the complements they are giving us on our flower pots, we appreciate the positive feedback.

### **Managers' Report**

Mr. McCutcheon said we are very fortunate to have our Police Department. I have seen things going on in town that they have to handle and it is a very stressful job. We are lucky to have such a well-rounded department and the leadership of Chief Denbow. Also, the Fire Department is always there, they've been called out more and more it seems like. The Public Works Department did a lot of clean up after the flash flood as well as the Water and Sewer Authority. We have a good group of people and it makes my job easier.

Mr. McCutcheon said I have been working on the 2024 budget, so I'll be meeting with the Finance Committee in the near future.

### **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.

Doug Johnston of 1032 Hiland Avenue said I want to thank the Public Works and Fire Departments for their help with the flash flood last week. I do have a request; is it possible to get the catch basin at the end behind Rose Avenue cleaned out? It is completely filled with dirt and rocks. In relation to that is there anything that can be done to make the water go into the storm sewer? Any time there is a hard rain it is like a river going down our driveway and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen said I will address this next Tuesday at the CWSA Meeting.

Daniel Hickton of 1318 Vance Avenue said I know the parking thing is ongoing and I have just a public recommendation that I want to put out there because I didn't get a chance to do the actual surveys. We can look at what other Boroughs are doing with their zoning and have zone districts and that fund potentially with all these runoff issues, with these culverts and whatnot could be used to where people can actually park in front of their house. Now your biggest challenge as our Council Members is to make sure our millage doesn't go up or our cost doesn't go up. If we can figure out a way where you guys come together and do that, I think you would find yourselves with a larger budget to work with and operate with and also know where cars are supposed to be parked.

Mr. Hickton said I would like to say thank you Chief for what you are doing with those car seats. Anybody who has an issue with that I encourage you to come to town because there is no excuse when our Police Department is so supportive and available to help you out. I think it's great having officers interact with young people. Accommodations to you all and keep it up with the good work.

Ms. Marine said are you referring to residential area parking?

Mr. Hickton said yes, everyone in the Borough could get a sticker on their window or something and if you pay taxes here you get to park in front of your house. If you don't pay taxes here and you're just leaving cars on the road we would know and can tow them out.

Ms. Marine said I used to live in the city and understand the residential zoning permit structure but the scope of the parking study is focusing on the Central Business District but I think residential parking is an additional step in the future and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Clarence Sellers from 1227 Vance Avenue said I came to thank Mr. Flasco for helping me. A couple months ago I took my problem to the Lord and he led me to Mr. Flasco who jumped on it and eliminated the problem that I had and I want to publicly thank him.

Mr. Flasco said thank you, I appreciate your comments.

Ms. Morgan Amber from 914 ½ Fleming Street said I have been in contact with multiple people, same as Mr. Johnston, I am his direct neighbor with the catch basin and the water going on. My yard floods every time it rains, not because of a flash flood warning but literally every time it rains. It pours off of Rose Avenue and directly into my yard and into my basement. The Borough did a lot of work in the alley a couple of years ago and put a huge draining system in the Alley and it seems like all the water that comes down Rose Avenue goes through my yard and in to that drainage system. I know someone has already come up and looked at it but every time it rains, I get water in my basement. I had four to six inches this last time. Yesterday it rained a little bit and I had puddles in my yard. I'm the only flat spot on the hill so anything you guys can do I will appreciate it.

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

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**