

Borough of Coraopolis
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
Regular Council Meeting via teleconference
December 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
George Mihalyi
Allison Marine
Gary Flasco
Joe Szabat
David Pendel
Michael Dixon, Mayor

Mr. Pendel said are there any questions from Borough Council on the Agenda? Mr. Pendel said are there any visitor requests and comments regarding these Agenda items? Being none, the meeting continued.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the Minutes of the November 8, 2023 Regular Council Meeting. Mr. Pitassi seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

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

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the Invoices for December 2023 in the amount of \$221,480.12. 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
Joe Szabat	Yes
David Pendel	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the Payroll for the month of November 2023 in the amount of \$139,576.05.
Mr. Pitassi 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
Joe Szabat	Yes
David Pendel	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve Resolution 23-414 setting the millage for 2024 at 12.5 mills. Mr. Pitassi 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
Joe Szabat	Yes
David Pendel	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve the slate of wage increases as discussed in the Workshop Executive Session for the Library Director, Library Aides, Administrative Assistant, Dispatchers Full-time and Part-time, Public Works Foreman and the Custodian. Mr. Szabat 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
Joe Szabat	Yes
David Pendel	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve Resolution 23-415 establishing Public Meeting Rules and Regulations. Mr. Bolea seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve the 2024 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$6,106,187.00. Mr. Szabat seconded the motion.

Mr. Cardimen said this is the eleventh year that we have not raised taxes and this budget has continually gone up. Thank you, Mr. President.

Upon Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Pendel said we have a pay request from the Engineer and asked Mr. Null to explain.

Mr. Drew Null said the 2023 Road Program was completed about two months ago. There were a couple of punchlist items remaining, but have been addressed and we recommend the 5% retainage payment to Youngblood in the amount of \$22,937.19.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve Partial Payment #3 (Final) to Youngblood Construction in the amount of \$22,937.19 for the 2023 Road Improvement Program. Mr. Flasco 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
Joe Szabat	Yes
David Pendel	Yes

Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Richard Start said the Reorganization Meeting per Borough Code is scheduled on the first Monday of the year and that happens to fall on New Years Day next year. Council needs to decide on what day it would like to reorganize.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to hold the Reorganization Meeting on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 6:30 PM. Mr. Cardimen seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Richard Start said there will be a legal advertisement coming up giving notice of a public hearing that the Manager and I have tentatively scheduled for February 7th. This is also the Workshop Meeting night so we would hold this public hearing at 6:00 PM. The purpose of the public hearing is to take public comment on a proposed liquor license transfer from an establishment in the city of Pittsburgh to an establishment here in Coraopolis at the Coraopolis Cash Market. They seek to have a license to sell beer and wine and they would have a very small eating area where they would serve no more than two beers or two glasses of wine. Their intent is to sell retail beer and wine and he continued to explain.

Police Chief's Report

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

Chief Denbow said as I mention during every Council Meeting; please keep your vehicles locked and especially do not keep firearms in the vehicles. I suggest not keeping any valuables in your vehicle, but if you do keep them out of sight and everyone have a safe, healthy and Merry Christmas.

Fire Chief's Report

Chief Spencer gave the Volunteer Fire Department report for November 2023 and said we answered 12 calls. Seven which were mutual aid calls, one rescue call, two false alarms, and two motor vehicle accidents for a total of 89.07 hours for the VFD.

Chief Spencer said the Fire Department will be driving Santa Claus around tomorrow night through the neighborhoods and will start by 6:30.

Chief Spencer said I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe New Years.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Dixon approached the podium and read a proclamation to extend his warmest holiday wishes unto everybody in the Borough (copy will be filed for record).

Mayor Dixon said I would like to take a moment to recognize Council Member Ed Pitassi. This is his last Council Meeting and awarded him with the Outstanding Community Service Award.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Drew Null said I don't have anything more to report on. The Park still has some minor outstanding items.

Mr. Cardimen said have we turned the water on there?

Mr. Null said turned on and winterized.

Mr. Drew Null said Merry Christmas.

Committee Reports/Comments from Council

Mr. Flasco said I would like to thank Mr. Pendel and Mr. Pitassi for their long service and dedication, you both will be missed very much.

Mr. Flasco said I would like to wish all of the residents of Coraopolis a Happy and Safe Holiday.

Mr. Mihalyi said as everyone knows, leaf season is over. The Public Works Department took out over 60 truckloads this year. If you still have leaves you will need to bag them and put them out with the regular trash pick-up.

Mr. Mihalyi said a few weeks ago we had a truck spill nails on the road. A resident saw it and tried to pick them up. Please do not do that, she called the Police and let them handle the situation. The Police called Public Works and they took care of it.

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

Mr. Bolea said I have nothing other than to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season. I want to thank Mr. Pendel and Mr. Pitassi for your service, it has been a pleasure working with you and to say that you will be missed is not enough.

Ms. Marine said the Parks and Recreation Committee met last month and discussed the future outlook and design for the Midtown Square Area. Our committee will be working on quotes and bids in the new year for furnishings to beautify and improve that space.

Ms. Marine said last month we had a Public Meeting for the Parking Study, so thank you everyone who has been part of this journey. The Consultant is close to completing the final report and she continued to explain.

Ms. Marine said I want to give my thanks to the two individuals serving their last meeting. I have worked closely with during my first two years on Council and she continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen said I would like to thank our Public Works Department for getting the end of Ridge Avenue cleaned up and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen said I would like to thank Mr. Pitassi for his service and his years of tenure on Council and a good friend and confidant. Mr. Pendel, you were a great friend and confidant of mine while I was president of Council and I want to thank you for your years of service, you will be greatly missed.

Mr. Cardimen said I want to wish the Borough residents of Coraopolis a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr. Pitassi said last week we started the discussion on the trees and the placement on Midtown Square, have you come up with a conclusion for the number of trees? It was a toss up on either five or seven.

Mr. Bolea said we decided to go with the lesser number of trees and moving some of them from where they were indicated and he continued to explain.

Mr. Pitassi said we need to make a resolution on the nine trees that are going to be on Borough property which includes the five in Midtown Square.

Mr. McCutcheon said does the Pittsburgh Tree Vitalize require a resolution or is it just a motion?

Mr. Pitassi said I believe it is just a motion.

Mr. Cardimen said what is the number of trees that you want the Borough to accept?

Mr. Pitassi said a total of nine.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the placement of nine trees by the Coraopolis Shade Tree Commission.

Mr. Bolea said I thought we were going to include the location of where the trees are being planted in the motion.

Mr. Cardimen amended his motion to approve the placement of nine trees by the Coraopolis Shade Tree Commission to be placed as; five at Midtown Square, two at the top of the Ferree Street Steps and two at the parking lot between the CCDC and Jailhouse. Mr. Bolea seconded the motion.

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Pitassi said the total number of trees to be placed on private property is fourteen. This will be on the corner of Ferree Street and Edgewood Avenue and the corner of Edgewood and Vine.

Mr. Pitassi said I want to thank the Mayor for the beautiful plaque, the recognition and everyone on Council and I am going to miss this Council and it was a pleasure working with you folks and he continued to explain.

Mr. Pitassi said I want to also thank the people who helped me when trying to win the votes.

Mr. Pitassi said everyone have a really nice Christmas and New Year's Holiday.

Mr. Szabat said I would like to thank the Public Works Department, there are a lot of leaves on my block of Hiland Avenue and they made short work of them and it was appreciated by those on the block.

Mr. Szabat said due to a faulty smoke detector in my home a false alarm was triggered. The response from our Police and Fire Department was quick and much appreciated.

Managers' Report

Mr. McCutcheon said I met with Waste Management and the contract expires at the end of February. I was asked if we were going to move forward with the Option Year 2 which will be the final year of the contract and he continued to explain.

Mr. McCutcheon said Mr. Pendel, your leadership and level headedness throughout the years has been great for the Council. Mr. Pitassi, your energy is something that we are going to miss and there will be a lot of slack that will need to be picked up. I appreciate everything you both do for the town.

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

Comments from the Public

Mr. Clarence Sellers of 1227 Vance Avenue said I know a lot of positive things go through the Council here, but it's not always positive, I have some negative things to say. I have a good repour with my Councilman, Gary Flasco and I have brought things up to him before, so I wouldn't have to come down here and voice my opinion or whatever and this is my

opinion. Throughout my living in Coraopolis, we've had four Wards, two Councilmen per Ward. We've gone from a large population to a smaller population doing the same job and not really accomplishing anything substantially. Who do you guys work for? When was the last time one of you Councilmen came up with what you're doing in the Ward, there's two of you. I don't hold any animosity toward anyone, but I am not stupid, I bring these things to you because I believe, you have a love, like me, for our Cory and the changes needed. I pray that I will see a change from the good ol' boys' system of politics that has ruined life in steel towns along the Ohio. I just want to let you know I feel driving through the streets of Coraopolis like the signs say and see how embarrassing they look. It seems like there are no laws and if there are they are not being enforced. So, that is a small thing that is on my mind. I came to Coraopolis in 55, I left here in 67, and I came back in 2010 and it's changed. I don't know if I'm going to live long enough to see a big change in Coraopolis. Coraopolis is changing and I think it's because of the things on the minds of people like myself, we need to go to our Councilmen with problems and talk to them about it and maybe he can come up with a solution to any problem we may have because he will take it and bring it to you guys and try to solve any problems we have. Like I said before, I have no animosity toward anybody I just want good for this Coraopolis. It's changed a lot and I appreciate everything that you guys are doing, I can't do everything and neither can you. There's eight of you, it's a small town, and I see good things happening and it's probably myself and probably not fast enough for me because I'm getting older and I want to see changes now and I want to be part of the changes too. I think if we bring our concerns to our Councilmen, they can do the job.

Mr. Pendel said typically in the December meeting I read our list of accomplishments and share the good news of our labors of this past year. In 2023 the;

Road Program was completed totaling contracts of \$458,000.00 for asphalt work throughout town and in conjunction with the CWSA for stormwater work at the Public Works Plant.

Concrete Road Reconstruction Projects on Chestnut Street between 4th and 5th Avenues which include a new Authority waterline and that project was over \$400,000.00.

New traffic signals at State and Montour Street are almost complete and was partially funded by a Green Light Go Grant of \$160,000.00. This will make a major impact for residents and commuters in this high traffic area.

An ARLE Grant was awarded to replace the traffic signal at Watt Street and 4th Avenue and should get started by early spring of 2024.

The Borough was awarded a Local Share Account from the DCED of \$150,000.00 for the Ridge Avenue Tot Lot Playground. The equipment has been ordered and the project should begin in spring.

The Borough was also awarded a Commonwealth Finance Authority Multimodal Grant of \$325,000.00 for the reconstruction of Mill Street.

Riverfront Park Phase I and II have been completed and the park was partially funded by two DCNR Grants of over \$500,000.00.

A study of the parking meters (as mentioned earlier by Ms. Marine) in the Central Business District utilizing Trans-Associates Engineering is almost at completion and Borough Council will be deciding the next steps and timeline for implementation.

For the tenth consecutive year Borough Council will not increase taxes. The last time taxes were raised dates back to 2014 when we rebuilt Ferree Street between 4th and 5th Avenues.

The Shade Tree Commission had a planting this spring and the work of Eddie Pitassi and Jeff Simonetti was exceptional on our flower pots this year.

The purchase of a new Police vehicle.

The new trash receptacles that we ordered should be delivered by the end of the year.

Mr. Pendel said certainly the ability to not raise taxes and the financial soundness in our town is a direct reflection of the time, effort and dedication put forth by our Borough Manager Ray McCutcheon who was nominated and awarded Distinguished Service Award by the Pennsylvania State Association of Borough's. We are proud of our work and our accomplishments.

Mr. Pendel said tonight is my last meeting serving the Borough not only as a Council Person, but also having the honor to represent this Council as its Council President. Mr. Pendel continued to explain and thanked those who encouraged him, his family, the Coraopolis Volunteer Fire Department, the Coraopolis Police, Borough Engineers, Borough Solicitor, and Borough Management. Mr. Pendel shared some family history and thanked the voters for trusting him to represent their interests and thanked the current body of Council trusting him and appointing him in this capacity.

Mr. Pendel said I want to wish everyone a very healthy and Happy Christmas and Happy New Year.

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

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

MEETING ADJOURNED