

Borough of Coraopolis
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
Reorganization and Regular Council Meeting by teleconference
January 8, 2024
6:30 PM

The Reorganization and Regular Council Meeting of the Borough of Coraopolis was called to order by Mayor Micheal Dixon.

Police Chief Denbow led the gathering in the Pledge to the Flag.

Mayor Dixon said Mr. Gary Flasco, you have been elected to two 3rd Ward positions in the Borough, a four-year position and a two-year position. Which position do you reject and which do you accept?

Mr. Flasco said I reject the two-year and I will accept the four-year.

Mayor Dixon asked Mr. Flasco, Ms. Haskins and Mr. Harris to rise and raise their right hand as he conducted the Oath of Office to swear in the newly elected Council Members.

A Roll Call of Members was then taken.

Present

Robb Cardimen

Rudy Bolea

George Mihalyi

Allison Marine

Gary Flasco

Kim Haskins

Mike Harris

Michael Dixon, Mayor

Mayor Dixon asked for nominations for President of Borough Council.

Mr. Mihalyi nominated Robb Cardimen for Borough Council President.

Mr. Harris nominated Alison Marine for Borough Council President.

Mayor Dixon said are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

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

Mr. McCutcheon said a yes vote will be for Mr. Robb Cardimen.

Upon Roll Call

Mr. Cardimen Yes

Mr. Bolea Yes

Mr. Mihalyi Yes

Ms. Marine Yes

Mr. Flasco Yes
Ms. Haskins No
Mr. Harris No

Motion Carried 5 yea votes to 2 nay votes.

Mr. McCutcheon said congratulations Mr. Cardimen, you are the President of Council.

Mr. Cardimen continued on with the Agenda.

Mr. Cardimen asked for nominations for a Ward 3 Council Member.

Mr. Mihalyi nominated Joe Szabat for Ward 3 Council Member.

Mr. Harris nominated Ray Kinneman for Ward 3 Council Member.

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

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

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen said the first roll call will be for Mr. Szabat.

Upon Roll Call

Mr. Cardimen Yes
Mr. Bolea Yes
Mr. Mihalyi Yes
Ms. Marine Yes
Mr. Flasco Yes
Ms. Haskins No
Mr. Harris No

Motion Carried 5 yea votes to 2 nay votes.

Mr. Cardimen said Mr. Joe Szabat will be the 3rd Ward Council Member and he asked for Mr. Szabat to step forward so that Mayor Dixon could give the Oath of Office.

Mayor Dixon conducted the Oath of Office for Mr. Szabat.

Mr. Cardimen asked for nominations for Vice-President of Borough Council.

Mr. Bolea said I nominate the honorable George Mihalyi.

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

Mr. Harris said I nominate Gary Flasco.

Mr. Cardimen said are there any other nominations? Being none, he asked for a motion to close nominations.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to close nomination for Vice-President of Borough Council. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen said the first roll call will be for Mr. George Mihalyi.

Upon Roll Call

Mr. Cardimen	Yes
Mr. Bolea	Yes
Mr. Mihalyi	Yes
Ms. Marine	Yes
Mr. Flasco	Yes
Ms. Haskins	No
Mr. Harris	No
Mr. Szabat	Yes

Motion Carried 6 yea votes to 2 nay votes.

Mr. Cardimen asked for nominations for President Pro Tem of Borough Council.

Mr. Cardimen nominated Rudy Bolea. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Harris made a motion to close nominations. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen said are there any questions on the Agenda by Borough Council on Agenda items?

Mr. Harris said I have a few important questions. The first one is regarding these nominations and appointments. We are just wondering how we are supposed to efficiently vote on the appointments without adequate knowledge on the positions and the individuals seeking them. I was wondering if they can be explained before we all vote on them? Also, I was wondering, what is the process for notifying the public of the openings on these positions so they could express interest?

Mr. McCutcheon directed Mr. Harris to the handout and said these are the incumbents listed and we just ask the incumbents if they are still interested. We do mention it in previous meetings that we will have it. We do not put it on Savvy Citizen or anything like that so anyone who comes to the meetings will know.

Mr. Cardimen said this is usually done in December or if we get a vacancy we may advertise. Traditionally they are incumbents and in the past few years we have had trouble filling these spots.

Mr. McCutcheon said we do ask them if they are interested in continuing to serve.

Mr. Harris said my other big question is on the five professional services that we are going to vote on. They are bundled together as one and without any executive discussion on these professional services before we vote on some of them are lengthy contracts shouldn't we be at least voting on each of the five separately?

Mr. Cardimen said traditionally these contracts run concurring for two years and asked Mr. Start to verify.

Mr. Rick Start said yes, and I know as Solicitor I serve from the pleasure of Council, and I can be removed at anytime or for any reason at all and I believe that applies to everyone of these people.

Mr. Cardimen said traditionally we have approved a Slate of Professional Services during the Reorganization Meeting and this has been done like this for years. If you have someone else that you know of for Professional Service.

Mr. Harris said it's not that. I may not vote yes for all of the five and that's why I think we can break them down separately.

Mr. Cardimen said sure, we do this to keep the meeting flowing.

Mr. McCutcheon continued to explain each Professional Service and the functions they perform.

Mr. Harris said can we single them out?

Mr. Cardimen said sure.

Mr. Cardimen said are there any other questions on the Agenda? Are there any comments from the visitors on the Agenda items? Being none, the meeting resumed.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve a two-year contract for the Borough Manager Raymond McCutcheon. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call

Mr. Cardimen Yes

Mr. Bolea Yes

Mr. Mihalyi Yes

Ms. Marine Yes

Mr. Flasco Yes

Ms. Haskins Yes

Mr. Harris Yes

Mr. Szabat Yes

Motion Carried.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve the professional services of Amato, Start and Associates for Solicitor Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Mr. Cardimen said are there any other nominations for this professional service? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

Motion Approved by 7 yea votes, 1 nay vote.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve the professional services of LSSE Civil Engineers and Surveyors for the Borough Engineer. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Mr. Cardimen said are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations for this professional service?

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve the professional services of Mark Turnley, CPA for Auditor. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Mr. Cardimen said are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations for this professional service?

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve the professional services of First National Bank for Depository for the Borough of Coraopolis. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

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

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve the professional services of The Times for Legal Notices for the Borough of Coraopolis. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

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

Motion Approved by 6 yea votes to 2 nay votes.

Mr. Harris made a motion to set the Workshop Meetings for the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 PM excluding the July and August meetings and the Regular Meetings for the second Wednesday of every month at 6:30 PM. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen said we are moving onto nominations for positions and asked for nominations for Director of the Coraopolis Water & Sewer Authority through December 31, 2028 and the current incumbent is John Schombert.

Mr. Mihalyi nominated John Schombert for Director of the Coraopolis Water & Sewer Authority through December 31, 2028. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

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

Being none Mr. Cardimen moved to close nominations.

Mr. Cardimen called for a Voice Vote in favor of John Schombert as Director of the CWSA.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen asked for nominations for the position of the Coraopolis Civil Service Commission through December 31, 2026, with the current incumbent being himself.

Mr. Bolea nominated Robb Cardimen for the position of the Coraopolis Civil Service Commission through December 31, 2026. Mr. Szabat seconded the motion.

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

Being none Mr. Cardimen made a motion to appoint himself to the Coraopolis Civil Service Commission and called for a Voice Vote.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen asked for nominations for the position of Hearing Officer for the Coraopolis Zoning Hearing Board through December 31, 2026 and said the current incumbent is Don Haney.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to nominate Mr. Donald Haney to the position of Hearing Officer for the Coraopolis Zoning Hearing Board through December 31, 2026.

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

Being none, Mr. Cardimen asked for a Voice Vote to retain Donald Haney for the position of Zoning Hearing Officer.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen asked for nominations for the position on the Coraopolis Memorial Library Board through December 31, 2028, and said the current incumbent is Annie Demaree.

Mr. Bolea nominated Annie Demaree for the Coraopolis Memorial Library Board through December 31, 2028.

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

Being none, Mr. Cardimen motioned for Annie Demaree to continue on the Coraopolis Memorial Library Board through December 31, 2028.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen asked for a nomination for the position on the Property Maintenance Appeals Board through December 31, 2026, and said the current incumbent is Dallas Stewart.

Mr. Bolea nominated Dallas Stewart for the position on the Property Maintenance Appeals Board through December 31, 2026.

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

Being none, Mr. Cardimen motioned for Dallas Stewart to remain on the Property Maintenance Appeals Board through December 31, 2026.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen asked for nominations for the position on the Riverview Sanitary Authority through December 31, 2028, and said the current incumbent is John Schombert.

Mr. Bolea nominated John Schombert for the Riverview Sanitary Authority through December 31, 2028.

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

Being none, Mr. Cardimen motioned to retain John Schomber for the Riverview Sanitary Authority through December 31, 2028.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen asked for nominations for the position on the Shade Tree Commission through December 31, 2028, and said the current incumbent is Jeffrey Simonetti.

Mr. Mihalyi nominated Jeff Simonetti for the Shade Tree Commission through December 31, 2028.

Mr. Cardimen said are there any other nominations?

Mr. Harris nominated Ed Pitassi.

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

Being none, Mr. Cardimen said the first Roll Call will be for Mr. Simonetti.

Upon Roll Call

Mr. Cardimen	Yes
Mr. Bolea	Yes
Mr. Mihalyi	Yes
Ms. Marine	Yes
Mr. Flasco	Yes
Ms. Haskins	No
Mr. Harris	No
Mr. Szabat	Yes

Motion Carried.

Mr. Cardimen said Mr. Simonetti gets the Position.

Mr. Cardimen asked for nominations for the position on the Valley Ambulance Authority.

Mr. Mihalyi nominated Pete Miles for the Valley Ambulance Authority.

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

Mr. Harris said what was with Gary Hutsler, is that for the same thing?

Mr. McCutcheon said Mr. McBain moved out of Coraopolis so he had to resign the position. This vote is for a five-year term and if you appoint Mr. Hutsler, he is replacing Jeffrey McBain. It is two different seats.

Mr. Harris said thank you.

Mr. Cardimen said all those in favor for Pete Miles to retain a position on the Valley Ambulance Authority through December 31, 2028 signify by saying aye.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen asked for nominations for the position of Vacancy Board Chairman through December 31, 2024, and said the current incumbent is Henry Bobro.

Mr. Bolea nominated Henry Bobro for the position of Vacancy Board Chairman through December 31, 2024.

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

Being none, Mr. Cardimen said signify by saying aye for Henry Bobro for the Vacancy Board Chairman through December 31, 2024.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen asked for a motion to approve Option Year 2 with Waste Management for trash collection and Hazardous Household waste collections.

Mr. McCutcheon said there has been a lot of talk going around about other communities having to go with the 95-gallon cans and that is not in our community yet, it may in the future, but this is the third year of the contract that we have so nothing changes with us and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen asked about E-Waste and Mr. McCutcheon said E-Waste is still included and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve the Option Year 2 with Waste Management for trash collection and hazardous household waste collections. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call

Mr. Cardimen	Yes
Mr. Bolea	Yes
Mr. Mihalyi	Yes
Ms. Marine	Yes
Mr. Flasco	Yes
Ms. Haskins	Yes
Mr. Harris	Abstain
Mr. Szabat	Yes

Motion Carried.

Mr. Harris made a motion to appoint Gary Hutsler to the Valley Ambulance Authority to finish Jeffrey McBain's term until 2027. Mr. Bolea seconded the motion.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to accept the resignation of Phillip DiCicco from the Coraopolis Memorial Library Board. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to appoint Ed Pitassi to the Coraopolis Memorial Library Board until December of 2027. Mr. Bolea seconded the motion.

Motion Approved 7 aye votes to 1 nay vote.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 13, 2023 Regular Council Meeting. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve the Invoices for January 2024 in the amount of \$181,177.07. Mr. Flasco seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call

Mr. Cardimen	Yes
Mr. Bolea	Yes
Mr. Mihalyi	Yes
Ms. Marine	Yes
Mr. Flasco	Yes

Ms. Haskins Yes
Mr. Harris Yes
Mr. Szabat Yes
Motion Carried.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve the Payroll for the month of December 2023 in the amount of \$238,883.70. Mr. Flasco seconded the motion.

Mr. McCutcheon said this is a three-pay period along with some holiday pay so it is a little higher than normal.

Upon Roll Call

Mr. Cardimen Yes
Mr. Bolea Yes
Mr. Mihalyi Yes
Ms. Marine Yes
Mr. Flasco Yes
Ms. Haskins Yes
Mr. Harris Yes
Mr. Szabat Yes
Motion Carried.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Rick Start said I would like make all the Board Members aware, along with everybody in attendance to know that next month before the Workshop Meeting on February 7th at 6:00 PM we will be holding a Public Hearing on an application for a liquor license for the Coraopolis Cash Market. They have filed an application with the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board to sell beer and wine by retail and serve customers if they so choose. If anyone has an opinion on it, please attend the Public Hearing next month and you will have a chance to express your opinion.

Police Chief's Report

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

Fire Chief's Report

Chief Spencer gave the Volunteer Fire Department report for December 2023 and said we answered 26 calls. Eight of which were mutual aid calls, two motor vehicle accident, two CO alarms, two gas leaks, two medical assists, five false alarms, one elevator entrapment, one public assist, one fire alarm, and two reported fires. We had a total of 293.71 hours for the VFD. For the year of 2023 the Fire Department answered 202 calls for the year which is the most the Fire Department ever answered in the history of the department.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Dixon said this past January 9th was Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and we received a letter from our Senator Devlin Robinson. Mayor Dixon recited the Senator's letter expressing his gratitude for our Police Department. Mayor Dixon added his appreciation for both the Coraopolis Police and Fire Departments.

Comments from Council

Mr. Flasco gave the Finance Committee Year End Report explaining the revenues and expenditures. Mr. Flasco said overall we are very close to our budget and will continue to make improvements to our town.

Mr. Mihalyi said I have nothing this evening.

Mr. Bolea said I have nothing this evening.

Ms. Marine said I have nothing this evening.

Ms. Haskins said I don't have anything to say this month.

Mr. Szabat said thank you for the reappointment, I appreciate that. I would like to wish Mr. Bolea a happy birthday which is coming up in a few days.

Mr. Harris read a prepared statement emphasizing issues he refers to as legacy problems on outdated procedures that may have persisted for generations potentially hindering businesses, communities and relationships and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen said thank you all for your confidence in me for serving as Borough President again. I will be reaching out to each and every Council Member individually to put standing committees together and he continued to explain.

Engineers' Report

Mr. Devanté Miles said Happy New Year, we are looking forward to working with you all in 2024.

Mr. Miles said Riverfront Park; we have a meeting scheduled with the Contractor for Wednesday to address some punchlist items. There isn't a payment request today a couple of those punchlist items still remain and he continued to explain.

Mr. Devanté Miles said Neely Heights Roadway and Waterline Replacement; design is underway and we are coordinating with Columbia Gas to get a meeting scheduled.

Mr. Cardimen said are we going into Woodlawn with that or does that line go directly to Main Street over to Wood to connect?

Mr. Miles said Main Street over to Wood.

Mr. McCutcheon said we are going to talk to Columbia Gas because they should do a mill and overlay going up Woodlawn because they have 4-5 patches there and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Devanté Miles said we received a minor comment on the PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund, that is for the Mill Street Roadway Improvements and that comment was addressed.

Borough Manager's Report

Mr. McCutcheon said I would like to thank Council for their continued support on my position. I am starting my 13th year here and I just see the town continuing to flourish and he continued to explain.

Mr. McCutcheon said at the February Regular Meeting we are going to have a Black History Presentation. We will start the meeting at 6:00 PM, giving the first half hour to the presentation and our meeting will start at 6:30 so both February meetings will start at 6:00.

Visitor Request and Comments

There were no visitor comments.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion. Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Harris made a motion to increase the salary of the Borough Manager by 7.5%. Ms. Haskins seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call

Mr. Cardimen	Yes
Mr. Bolea	Yes
Mr. Mihalyi	Yes
Ms. Marine	Yes
Mr. Flasco	Yes
Ms. Haskins	Yes
Mr. Harris	Yes
Mr. Szabat	Yes

Motion Carried.

Mr. McCutcheon said thank you, I appreciate that very much.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to Adjourn. Ms. Haskins seconded the motion. Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Meeting Adjourned.