

Borough of Coraopolis  
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania  
Council Workshop Meeting by teleconference  
March 6, 2024  
6:30 PM

The Regular Meeting of the Borough of Coraopolis was called to order by Council President, Robb Cardimen.

A Roll Call of Members was then taken.

**Present**

Robb Cardimen

Rudy Bolea Via Teleconference

George Mihalyi

Gary Flasco

Kim Haskins

Mike Harris

Joe Szabat

Michael Dixon, Mayor

**Absent**

Allison Marine

Mr. Cardimen said Ms. Marine advised me that she was going to be out of town for business.

Mr. Cardimen asked if there were any questions on the Agenda by Council Members. Being none, the meeting continued.

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the use of Bliwas Field on March 24, 2024, from 2 pm to 4 pm for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Boy Scouts and the CCDC. Ms. Haskins seconded the motion. Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Szabat made a motion to approve the use of Shelley Jones Memorial Park on May 18, 2024, from 11 am to 6 pm for a graduation picnic for Rich Wooten. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion. Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to approve the use of Shelley Jones Memorial Park on June 1, 2024, from 4 pm to 7 pm for a graduation picnic for Jenifer Madden. Mr. Szabat seconded the motion. Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the closure of Mill Street between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Town Square Parking Lot and Pine Way between Mill Street and the McDonald's exit on June 8<sup>th</sup>, July 13<sup>th</sup> and August 10<sup>th</sup> for the CCDC's 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday events and October 12, 2024, for the Fall Festival. Ms. Haskins seconded the motion.

Mr. McCutcheon said why do they need that entire parking lot? They had this last year and it was partially used on the Cobblehaus side. They are having an event, but taking away all the parking in the lot. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Cardimen said these events do have nice turnouts. I hope that once we get further along with our municipal park that these events will consider moving to that location due to it being much more accommodating.

Mr. McCutcheon said I hope that if they don't have a lot planned for that one side then we can keep it open for parking.

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen said let's ask them if they will be willing to consider that.

Ms. Harris made a motion to approve the use of Bliwas Field and Shelley Jones Memorial Park on July 6, 2024, from 11 am to 7 pm for Honey's Day Celebration for Paulette Stevens. Mr. Szabat seconded the motion.

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen asked for a motion to appoint Anthony Venneri to the Coraopolis Memorial Library Board of Directors and asked Mr. McCutcheon to elaborate.

Mr. McCutcheon said this gentleman has used the library and Ms. Hampe is very comfortable with him and he is highly recommended.

Mr. Szabat made a motion to appoint Anthony Venneri to the Coraopolis Memorial Library Board of Directors.

Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

## **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Dixon said the Coraopolis Masonic Lodge is hosting an Easter Dinner on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and he continued to explain. Mayor Dixon said if anyone wants to attend, please let me know or visit our Facebook page and you can buy tickets there.

## **Public Works Foreman's Report**

Mr. Larry Tollis said we only had one call out in February for snow removal. Throughout the month we cleaned 27 catch basins throughout town. We called Traffic Control for the replacement of a traffic light at 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Watt Street. We cut and removed a tree from Howard Street and fixed a stop sign that was damaged from that tree.

Mr. Larry Tollis said we cold patched Maple Street, School Street, George Street, Hiland Avenue, Vine Street, Howard Street, Ferree Street, Locust, and Sumac.

Mr. Larry Tollis said we picked up leaves from three locations on Chestnut Street that were put out after our leaf season was over.

Mr. Tollis said we replaced a pulley on the 360 zero turn, so it is ready to go.

Mr. Tollis said we used the rainy days to grind, sand, and scrape the rust from the frames on both F-550 dumps and primered and undercoated both.

Mr. Tollis said I spoke with Justin Bryan at Bryan Concrete about the repairs to their turnaround on Pennsylvania Avenue and he continued to explain.

Mr. Tollis said we did various sign replacements throughout town.

Mr. Tollis said we removed the parking meter heads from the permit lot at Rite Aid, Mill Street, Mulberry Street and both sides of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Mulberry Street to Broadway Avenue.

Mr. Tollis said we put out ten of the twelve new trash receptacles throughout the Business District.

Mr. Cardimen said can we put some horses in the Town Square Parking Lot until we get some trees planted to alleviate cars parking and driving in that area? A discussion pursued.

Mr. Tollis said we can block that off tomorrow.

Mr. Cardimen said the trash cans look phenomenal, do we have enough of them? A discussion pursued.

Mr. Tollis said I propose that we remove the garbage can by Eger's. There isn't a business there, but someone has been using it for their personal disposal for the past year or so and he continued to explain.

Mr. Flasco said can we use that somewhere else?

Mr. Tollis said it is a concrete one, so if you want to use any of these at the Tot Lot or anywhere else outside of the business district, they are still in good shape.

Mr. McCutcheon said I think we will order some more, especially if we're doing the Tot Lot with new equipment and a new surface and a discussion pursued.

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

Mr. Flasco said the Personnel Committee met with the Police and we are starting negotiations on the police contract.

Mr. Mihalyi said I have nothing this evening.

Ms. Haskins said I don't have anything this evening.

Mr. Szabat said I have nothing this evening.

Mr. Harris directed everyone to his email and said when Barb Williams spoke of her back tax situation, at some point maybe we can discuss possibly having a hardship program for those behind with their taxes and he continued to explain. I know there will be a lot involved with it, but if we can just look into it.

Mr. McCutcheon directed Mr. Harris to the list of delinquent tax accounts sent by Jordan Tax service and explained that it totals \$1.4M. Delinquent taxes have been collected the past few years and this has helped cover our roads where we haven't had to borrow additional money. If you do it for one, then you are going to have to do it for all. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Harris said I would like to have a discussion on whether we get Committee's or all of us regarding the zoning ordinance on the vehicles that are scattered throughout the Borough. They are anywhere from on streets they are in ordinance violation, they are in driveways, they are in yards. Just to work on a plan to clean this up and then stay on top of it.

Mr. Flasco said I had three incidents like that and I asked the people who complained to come down and file a report and within two weeks those cars were removed. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Harris said the person who came to me with this complaint said she didn't want to get involved because he is a crazy guy. I understand the individual reporting that we see, but I'm talking about a sweep.

Mr. Flasco said if the resident didn't want to do it then I went down to file the complaint and he continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Harris said there are zoning violations with a lot of junk garages in alleys. It looks horrible and can affect property values. I think we should do this along with the scanning for the cars.

Mr. McCutcheon said what if some of these people are elderly and retired, but happen to also be on the delinquent tax list? You want to take care of them, but you are going to force them to get a demo for their garage? And a discussion pursued.

Mr. Harris said I'm not looking for public complaints, but instead we go out and take the responsibility for spotting them and he continued to explain.

Mr. Harris said I had a couple people complain about the commercial properties on Mill Street that are not so called open for business, but they are using them for kind of storage. I don't know much about this, I got Patrick Walsh's email and he did have a lot of information. As far as the revitalization of our business area, if we want to get viable business into Mill Street and our business area and these property owners are not using it to the ordinance then we should probably act and.

Mr. Cardimen said Mr. McCutcheon and I spoke with Woltz and Wind Ford today and possibly our new truck will be ready in two weeks and we are looking forward for when that gets here.

Mr. Cardimen said I know that Ms. Marine sent an email out to the body of Council about the proposal for Mid-Town Square layout, has everyone had a chance to look it over? If everyone likes this layout, I want to make a proposal that we go with this and order these benches and picnic tables. Mr. McCutcheon said the CCDC is going to help with a share of some of the tables and a discussion pursued.

Mr. McCutcheon said I spoke with Snider Recreation and was told we may get a better price, especially on delivery, if we order tables for the park at the same time and a discussion pursued.

Mayor Dixon said have we considered getting dog waste receptacles?

Mr. McCutcheon said we have three in the shed that were given to us by ALCOSAN a few years ago. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to approve the purchase of benches and picnic tables for the Town Square area and the Riverfront Park (through COSTARS) not to exceed \$25,000.00. Mr. Flasco seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call

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

Motion Carried.

### **Manager's Report**

Mr. McCutcheon said Mr. Null has been working with the County concerning the Ridge Avenue Tot Lot, so I think that is finally behind us. There were some issues with COG and their handling the grant, but I think we are in good shape now. The number is \$264,000.00 for the surface and the playground equipment that we are buying and hopefully we will be ordering that soon.

Mr. McCutcheon said the Zoning Hearing Board will have a meeting on Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chamber. It is for Bryan (Riverside Cement Company) and their request is to build a nine-foot concrete wall to run parallel along Pennsylvania Avenue on their property to keep the dust and the noise down and a discussion pursued.

Mr. McCutcheon said we received some good news about the gas station at Ferree Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and they will be leaving in May of this year and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen said the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, Rich Thomas is in the audience and asked if he wanted to speak to Council.

Mr. Rich Thomas said with the Chief having to retire at some point this calendar year, there is a good possibility you are going to have to replace a Patrolman. That process takes six weeks to two months so if you are going to have a test given you have to notify the police by letter and we can start the process. First you put an ad in a local daily paper one time. We have to make the applications available for two weeks and then we set up an agility test, written test, background check and an oral interview before they can have their name submitted with a passing score.

Mr. McCutcheon said there is something we need to think about; we are up to eleven officers including the Chief and we do not have any part timers so when a shift is open, we are paying the rate of a time and a half. Mr. Thomas said this is an issue that all police departments are facing, men and women are not applying for police jobs that come open. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Flasco made a motion to advertise for a Civil Service Test. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call

Mr. Cardimen        Yes

Mr. Bolea            Yes

Mr. Mihalyi         Yes

Mr. Flasco          Yes

Ms. Haskins         Yes

Mr. Harris          Yes

Mr. Szabat          Yes

Motion Carried.

Mr. McCutcheon asked Mr. Thomas to have the Committee get an advertisement together so it can be advertised.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to Adjourn. Mr. Bolea seconded the motion.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Meeting Adjourned.