

Borough of Coraopolis
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
Regular Council Meeting via teleconference
March 13, 2024
6:30 PM

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

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

A Roll Call of Members was then taken.

Present

Robb Cardimen
George Mihalyi
Gary Flasco
Kim Haskins
Mike Harris
Joe Szabat

Absent

Rudy Bolea
Allison Marine
Michael Dixon, Mayor

Mr. Cardimen said Ms. Marine advised me earlier this week that she was traveling for work and would not make the meeting.

Mr. Cardimen invited the Representative from the Local Steel Chapter Order of the DeMolay to the podium, while a Proclamation prepared by Mayor Michael Dixon was presented. Mr. Cardimen read the Proclamation.

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

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the Minutes of the February 14, 2024 Regular Council Meeting. Ms. Haskins seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 6, 2024 Council Workshop Meeting. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen asked for a motion to approve the Invoices for March 2024 in the amount of \$378,211.36 and said these are a little high due to our new truck being in and we will pay for it by the end of this week.

Mr. McCutcheon said it also includes the payment on the fire truck along with the \$45,000.00 interest on the Debt Service that we pay at the beginning of the year.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to approve the Invoices for March 2024 in the amount of \$378,211.36. Mr. Flasco seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Gary Flasco	Yes
Kim Haskins	Yes
Mike Harris	Yes
Joe Szabat	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the Payroll for the month of February 2024 in the amount of \$132,140.72. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Gary Flasco	Yes
Kim Haskins	Yes
Mike Harris	Yes
Joe Szabat	Yes

Motion carried.

Ms. Haskins made to approve Resolution 24-416 approving the acquisition and subsequent disposition of Lot and Block Number 342-F-361 (118 Broadway Street) through the Allegheny County Vacant Property Recovery Program. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve Resolution 24-417 to apply for a Program Year 2024 Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) Greenways, Trails and Recreation Grant for the Riverfront Park Phase III Improvement Project requesting \$250,000.00 in funding and requiring a 15% local match. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Ms. Haskins made a motion to approve Resolution 24-418 to apply for a Program Year 2024 Pennsylvania DCNR Park Rehabilitation and Development Grant for the Riverfront Park Phase III Improvement Project requesting \$300,000.00 in grant funding requiring a 50% local match of \$300,000.00. Mr. Szabat seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. McCutcheon said the plan is to use the one to offset the other so we wouldn't have to use general funds to pay for it.

Mr. Cardimen asked for a motion to approve COSTARS Contract 14303 to Snider Recreation, Inc. in the amount of \$101,556.00 for COSTARS purchase and installation of poured in-place rubber surface at the Ridge Avenue Tot-lot. Mr. Mihalyi said is this the same contract as those supplying the playground equipment?

Mr. McCutcheon said yes, and we are also using them for the Town Square furniture and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to approve COSTARS Contract 14303 to Snider Recreation, Inc. in the amount of \$101,556.00 for COSTARS purchase and installation of poured in-place rubber surface at the Ridge Avenue Tot-lot. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Gary Flasco	Yes
Kim Haskins	Yes
Mike Harris	Yes
Joe Szabat	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Cardimen asked for a motion to authorize the closure of 2nd Avenue from the westerly corner of Mill Street to 947 2nd Avenue for a Graduation Party for Barb Bachurski and Jessica Sherry. Mr. McCutcheon said this is on a Saturday and we have asked them to talk to the neighbors since there are businesses there along 2nd Ave.

Ms. Haskins made a motion to authorize the closure of 2nd Avenue from the westerly corner of Mill Street to 947 2nd Avenue on June 8, 2024 from 2pm-8pm for a Graduation Party for Barb Bachurski and Jessica Sherry. Mr. Szabat seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Ms. Haskins made a motion to approve a handicap sign for Stephanie Dankis at 845 5th Avenue, Apt 1. Mr. Szabat seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Richard Start said for the last couple of months we've had a lot of talk regarding a proposed liquor license transfer and a public meeting was scheduled for questions and answers. The day of the scheduled meeting I received a call from the Attorney representing the party advising me that they were withdrawing their application and he continued to explain.

Mr. Richard Start said we have been talking over a number of months about the zoning appeal from the Riverhounds owner, Shallenberger. We have tried multiple times to reach an agreement to resolve that appeal, but believe a deadlock has been reached have requested that the matter be adjudicated by a judge. On March 11, 2024 and order was signed by Judge McGinley that all parties will file a brief by April 5, 2024 that she will review and issue her decision and he continued to explain.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Denbow gave the Police Department Report for the month of February 2024.

Chief Denbow said once again I want to remind everyone to keep their vehicles locked and keep nothing of value in them, especially fire arms, and be aware of your surroundings.

Fire Chief's Report

Chief Spencer gave the Volunteer Fire Department report for February 2024 and said we answered 15 calls. Seven were mutual aid calls, one motor vehicle accident, one motor vehicle/pedestrian accident, three elevator entrapments, 2 cooking fires and one false alarm for a total of 121.43 hours for the VFD.

Chief Spencer said I would like to commend three members of the Fire Department; Junior Members Charles Spencer III and Brandon Spencer for completing EMT training through the State, and are qualified EMT's with our department. I also want to commend Colleen Dietz for completing the Fire Academy and was put on as a regular member. She is the only female on our Fire Department at this time.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Drew Null said Riverfront Park; we have an updated punch list letter that was issued and directed everyone to Attachment A. Mr. Null said we are working on finalizing the applications that you did resolutions for this evening.

Mr. Drew Null said the Ridge Avenue Tot Lot; headway was made with the County to get the agreements, so things are moving forward.

Mr. Drew Null said the Mill Street Roadway Improvements; conceptual streetscape plans are being developed and we did a field review in the past month.

Mr. Drew Null said Neely Heights Roadway and Waterline and Sewer Improvements; the bid package is being finalized.

Mr. Drew Null said Grant Applications; Floodplain Management, the Commonwealth Financing Authority has a program accepting applications through the Flood Mitigation Program. There is the potential that you can do the engineering study portion of that and he continued to explain.

Mr. Drew Null said Congressman DeLuzio's appropriations request has made it through the House and included funding in the amount of \$800,000.00 for the School Street Project. This program functions a little differently than the grant programs that you are used to so there is a little bit of time to be expected before that money can be accessed and a discussion pursued.

Mayor's Report

Mr. Cardimen said Mayor Dixon is not here this evening and at this time I would like to ask for a moment of silence in honor of the mayor's father who passed away earlier this week. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the mayor and his family.

Mr. Cardimen said the mayor asked me to bring up the Easter ham dinner sponsored by the Masonic Lodge #674 on Saturday, March 23rd at 5:00 pm. The cost is \$20.00 per adult and \$10.00 for children.

Committee Reports/Comments from Council

Mr. Flasco said I have nothing to report this evening.

Mr. Mihalyi said the tables have been ordered for the Town Square and he continued to explain.

Ms. Haskins said I have nothing to report.

Mr. Szabat said the Library Board met last Tuesday and we are waiting for the deadline for the asbestos bids which is March 22nd. Mr. Szabat said Jeff Simonetti is helping with this project and lending his expertise with this type of hazardous waste removal and he is doing this free of charge so I want to thank him. Mr. Szabat said the next meeting is April 2nd at 6:00 pm at the library.

Mr. Harris said my comments tonight regard the Building Public Works and Infrastructure Committee. I made some good contacts with some folks that told me there are millions of dollars out there in LSA Grants that will fund Borough and Municipal Studies and pay for engineering. There are really millions of dollars that Pennsylvania Municipalities should act on for this Inflation Reduction Act money. Any of our proposed plans should get submitted and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen said the new dump truck is in and we'll be picking it up later this week.

Mr. Cardimen said I will not be in attendance for the April 10th Regular Meeting due to attending a tri-annual drill at Pittsburgh International Airport.

Managers' Report

Mr. McCutcheon said I have nothing tonight.

Comments from the Public

Ms. Barbara Williams said I am here representing Dennis Borne, he is the owner of the property at 513 West End Avenue and I did speak last month on his behalf at the meeting. Ms. Williams said Mr. Borne is having a financial hardship paying his past due taxes and it is my understanding that Councilman Harris has come up with some type of hardship repayment plan that you discussed at your workshop meeting and she continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen said there has been no meeting scheduled at this time. Mr. Harris and I have to get together and then reach out to the others and see if those proposals will make sense and work for us.

Mr. Rick Start said it is a very complex issue. There is an underwriting concern that you must treat all citizens the same in regards to hardships and he continued to explain.

Ms. Williams said I find it hard to believe that with all the vacant homes in the Borough that no one is paying any money to the Borough for taxes on these vacant properties and she continued to explain.

Mr. Harris said I met with President Cardimen before the Workshop Meeting and we spoke privately about having a meeting with probably the Solicitor, and the Tax Collecting Agencies. We will set that up and I can't promise any result, but we will do the best. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Ms. Paulette Stevens of 1415 5th Avenue said was my application to use Shelley Jones Park on July 6th approved?

Mr. Cardimen said yes, that was approved at our Workshop Meeting.

Ms. Stevens said someone purchased the 1415 5th Avenue house which is right next door to me. When this house was built both waterlines ran through my basement. The gentleman asked me if he could switch the lines and I told him yes.

In order to do that he had to dig up a piece of cement in front of my house. Earlier this week, he replaced the cement on his side, but my side still has the cone sitting on it. Can I have that cement put in myself so that my sidewalk is fixed?

Mr. Cardimen said I will have to talk to the Superintendent of the Water and Sewer Authority to get those details and he continued to explain.

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

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

MEETING ADJOURNED