

Borough of Coraopolis
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
Council Workshop Meeting by teleconference
May 1, 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
George Mihalyi
Allison Marine
Gary Flasco
Kim Haskins
Mike Harris
Joe Szabat
Michael Dixon, Mayor

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

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve the use of Shelley Jones Memorial Park on Saturday, June 1st from 4 pm to 7 pm for a graduation party for Jennifer Madden. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.
Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve use of Riverfront Park on Saturday, June 1st from 11 am to 8 pm for a graduation party for Kimberly Bryant. Ms. Haskins seconded the motion.

Mr. Bolea said have they filled out the application?

Mr. McCutcheon said they did, and paid the \$25.00, but know it is going to be more.

Mr. Bolea said so both completed applications and paid.

Mr. McCutcheon said yes.

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen said we need to have a discussion on establishing rental rates for the Riverfront Park and a motion for new rates and asked Ms. Marine to elaborate.

Ms. Marine said this is a carryover of the discussion that we had at the last meeting and we are now getting requests so there is a sense of urgency. Ms. Marine said I have researched neighboring communities and their similar sized park shelters and pavilions and continued to explain. Topics covered were capacity, deposits, rental fee structure, if pets, alcohol and tobacco were permitted, park hours, how this might affect the noise ordinance, clean up, number of rentals per day, application verbiage and a discussion pursued.

Ms. Marine said the next steps will be to put the document together and make sure it is okay for everyone withing the Borough Office, and we will also need to maintain an event calendar which will probably have a place on the Borough website alongside of the application.

Ms. Marine said once we have the tables set up here, should we have a ribbon cutting to let people know that this park is here and available to rent and use?

Mr. Cardimen said I think we should have a ribbon cutting and a discussion pursued.

Mr. McCutcheon said we should make a motion to set the rental rates for the park.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to set the rental rates for Riverview Park at \$70.00 for residents and \$125.00 for non-residents with a \$200.00 deposit and a \$30.00 alcohol permit fee. Mr. Szabat seconded the motion.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Dixon said I want to remind everyone that National Day of Prayer is tomorrow at 7 pm at the Town Square.

Public Works Foreman's Report

Mr. Larry Tollis said April was a busy month with all of the rain and flooding going on.

Mr. Larry Tollis said we the plows and salt spreaders from the last remaining two trucks so they are ready for summer.

Mr. Tollis said we set up the speed limit trap signs on Main Street, Maple Street and Vine Street for the Police Department.

Mr. Tollis said April 2nd brought our first storm in, we had to bring five barricades to Montour Street to block off Grace Street, from Grace to Woodcrest and were removed afterwards after PennDOT did their inspection and reopened the road.

Mr. Tollis said we cleaned up during and after the flood on 4th Avenue from Wood Street to Thorn Street. We cleaned out the storm drains on 4th Avenue and Wood, 4th and Chess and 4th and Thorn. We cleaned up flood debris on Brook Street and cleaned the catch basins on Watson and Fleming. We cleaned gravel from the floods on Neely Heights due to the rain.

Mr. Tollis said we removed the remaining parking meters that we had left.

Mr. Tollis said I hope to start removing the poles on Mill Street, Mulberry Street and 5th Avenue before the parade.

Mr. Tollis said the 2020 F-150 was inspected last month and passed. The 2017 F-550 was inspected with new grease fittings for the ball joints and then passed.

Mr. Larry Tollis said grass cutting began in March and we cut all of the Borough facilities.

Mr. Larry Tollis said we weeded the mulch beds at Riverview Park.

Mr. Larry Tollis said April 11th was another heavy rain resulting in flooding which led to more clean up, including a small landslide off of Maple Street and he continued to explain.

Mr. Larry Tollis said we pressured washed the Town Square area in preparation for the tree planting. The trees are in and look nice and we removed the old concrete benches and the flower planters. All of the tables for both Town Square and Riverfront Park have been received and put together so they are ready to go whenever the decision is made to put them out.

Mr. Larry Tollis said we had to remove some concrete at the Tot Lot for the contractors putting in new equipment.

Mr. Larry Tollis said we set barricades out for the Police Department for traffic control during the Sewickley Bridge Closure.

Mr. Larry Tollis said we fixed the steering stabilizer on the new zero turn.

Mr. Larry Tollis said we completed the new tarp hanging at the Tot Lot basketball court on Ridge.

Mr. Larry Tollis said we cold patched Mill Street and Maple Street.

Mr. Flasco said can you put those tables in before Memorial Day?

Mr. Tollis said I can put them in anytime and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Mihalyi said can you put some asphalt in where the stones are coming out on Neely Heights so you don't have to clean gravel up when it storms? Mr. Tollis said yes and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Cardimen said I was out during the floods and the Street Department guys need rubber calf boots or hip boots for when they are in a situation like that. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Tollis said I will look into pricing for these.

Committee Reports / Comments from Council

Mr. Harris said I want to tell Mr. Tollis and the Street Department that they did a really nice job keeping up with all of the catch basins and everything during the storms.

Mr. Harris said I spoke with Mr. Tollis about the flooding on Rose Avenue and I don't know how far Rose Avenue goes, I don't know if it gets into private court battles that the two parties work out what's going on with the flooding coming down off of that private drive. I stopped up there and it is really bad. Mr. Tollis said you can see where that water dug out along the hillside. It is all coming from up there.

Mr. McCutcheon said once you get close to the end of Rose Avenue where it becomes a private drive, there are "No Trespassing" signs there. The Borough put in a catch basin there that they probably never should have done for them and that catch basin goes back towards the first house on Rose Avenue where there is another catch basin. The Authority may put in a catch basin along the road which might help there. I think that private drive is an issue between the people at the top of the hill and the Johnston's and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Harris said somebody bought up three houses on the 800 block that are rented out to college students and it almost becomes a frat/block party because they go from house to house and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Tollis said these people who are renting these houses are single family homes so if they are going to rent to 5-6 college students they should provide ample parking.

Mr. Harris said I don't know if it is permitted in our ordinance to rent to that many people in a single-family dwelling and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Harris said a resident brought up there is a lot of trash in the alley between 5th and 6th Avenue.

Mr. McCutcheon said they should fill out a municipal complaint form and either Ofc. Haring or Mr. Felton will look into it.

Mr. Szabat said I have nothing this evening.

Ms. Haskins said I have nothing this evening.

Ms. Marine said on Saturday, April 20th the Shade Tree Commission had a successful spring tree planting. Nineteen trees were planted with the help of over 30 volunteers. I want to thank Ed Pitassi and Tom Bartnick who represented the Shade Tree Commission, along with Mr. Szabat and Mr. Flasco who came out to help and she continued to explain.

Ms. Marine said we are looking at having the flower planting on Saturday, May 18th for the flower planters in the Central Business District. We are looking for 5-6 experienced volunteers to help with this planting and for ongoing maintenance, we are partnering with business owners in town for the pot upkeep and she continued to explain.

Mr. Flasco said I have had a couple people ask me what the procedures are for having a tree planted in their yard.

Ms. Marine said historically we've looked at the public property and right of ways first. In my opinion we do not have the staff and manpower to solicit private property. She continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Flasco said did Tom talk to you about the free mulch?

Ms. Marine Tree Vitalize provides free mulch as long as your trees have been planted within the last few years. It is good quality mulch and you just need to provide the volunteers and she continued to explain.

Mr. McCutcheon said have you contacted the nursery about when we will pick up the flowers?

Ms. Marine said not yet, when we initially contacted them, we said the 15th or 16th, but I can follow up with them to confirm our order.

Mr. Bolea said I have a request for the Street Department, the parking lot in front of our building needs mulched and weeded and he continued to explain.

Mr. Mihalyi said I have nothing this evening.

Mr. Flasco said I have heard very positive comments on the trees in town from a lot of different people.

Mr. Cardimen said I too have heard a lot of positive things on the tree planting, it was a big success throughout town.

Mr. Cardimen said I'm working with H & L Electric about the possibility of running an electric service from an existing pole on our property at Ridge Avenue to the center of the new playground and setting a pole that we can mount cameras on and a couple lights for the playground, Tot Lot and basketball court. As soon as I get a cost, I will bring it back to Council. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Cardimen said I am waiting on a call back from Mr. Kiernan concerning the sealing of the Borough parking lots throughout town and the painting of the lines and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen said I'm still waiting to hear back from Rally's about the progress of our truck.

Mr. Cardimen said I have a request; can we get those signs for Ferree Street up this month?

Mr. Tollis said you and I should meet to go up there and discuss it together and a discussion pursued.

Mayor Dixon said are all of the meter poles going to be removed from 5th Avenue before the Memorial Day Parade? Because that's where the no parking signs are posted for the parade so we might need some cones. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Cardimen said I have some training again next week so I will not be here for the Regular Meeting.

Manager's Report

Mr. McCutcheon said regarding the flooding, I also want to thank our guys for all the work they did during the event. The reason it flooded was not because of the river, but because of Thorn Run Stream. We are talking with Moon and there is an old railroad crossing bridge that backed everything up and he continued to explain.

Mr. McCutcheon said a resident who lives near Neely Heights has offered to buy some mulch for the Kaboom Playground. I think there is a certain kind of mulch for playgrounds rather than just wood mulch and a discussion pursued.

Mr. McCutcheon said we had a five-year pension audit and got a good report. The market was up last year so we are in very good shape.

Mr. McCutcheon said we are having some more issues with the Riverhounds, they were playing music with the doors closed and people on Cornell Street were hearing the bass. We also had an officer on the Montour Trail and he said he could hear the bass as well. We are not getting anywhere negotiating with them so it will go before a judge and he continued to explain.

Mr. McCutcheon said we do need to pick a date for the Grand Opening of Riverfront Park. Do we want to do that before Memorial Day and maybe have a cook out with hot dogs? A discussion pursued and Mr. McCutcheon said let me know what everyone wants to do.

Mayor Dixon said let me know when you pick a date and I will get the hot dogs for you.

Mr. McCutcheon said a Riverfront Park was mentioned on television which made me think that there are many Riverfront Parks along the Ohio River, so maybe we should refer to it as the Coraopolis Riverfront Park and he continued to explain.

Mr. McCutcheon said Mr. Cardimen and I were looking at the Tot Lot and there are quite a few trees on the west side of the playground area. Rick came out and he will remove about 20 trees for \$4,080.00. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. McCutcheon said there are two other trees along the walkway (if you know where the steps going down to the YMCA were) there are two trees there that he said he will remove for \$1,800.00.

Mr. McCutcheon said Ms. Marine and I met with the STS representative for the cameras and he was happy to hear those trees were coming down, so two cameras will cover everything and he continued to explain.

Mr. McCutcheon said Ms. Marine got a quote for the cameras at Riverfront Park in the amount of \$10,717.00 and he continued to explain.

Mr. McCutcheon said I talked with Dennis (our IT person) and explained we would be using the internet from the CWSA and he was shocked of how old the system is and advised us to contact Verizon to upgrade and a discussion pursued.

Mayor Dixon said if you want me to look over any of that just let me know, I am happy to give my professional opinion.

Mr. McCutcheon said I'd be happy to.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to go into Executive Session. Ms. Haskins seconded the motion.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to Adjourn. Ms. Haskins seconded the motion.

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Meeting Adjourned.