

Borough of Coraopolis
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
Regular Council Meeting via teleconference
July 10, 2024
6:30 PM

The Regular Meeting of the Borough of Coraopolis was called to order by Council Vice-President, George Mihalyi.

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

A Roll Call of Members was then taken.

Present

George Mihalyi
Allison Marine
Gary Flasco
Kim Haskins
Mike Harris
Michael Dixon, Mayor

Absent

Robb Cardimen
Rudy Bolea
Joe Szabat

Also Present

Rick Start – Solicitor via video GoToMeeting

Mayor Dixon presented a proclamation recognizing retired Police Chief, Ronald Denbow for over forty years of law enforcement service.

Chief Denbow was presented with additional awards from Officer Shawn Quinn and the Coraopolis Police Department and the Coraopolis Police Association, PA State Representative Anita Kulik, PA State Senator Devlin Robinson’s Office. Chief Denbow thanked everyone for their kind words.

Mayor Dixon swore in the new Chief of Police, Jason Stewart and new Coraopolis Police Officer, Christopher Good, Jr.

Mr. Mihalyi said are there any questions from Borough Council on the Agenda? Mr. Mihalyi 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 June 12, 2024 Regular Council Meeting. Ms. Haskins seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Ms. Haskins made a motion to approve the Invoices for July 2024 in the amount of \$186,928.22. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

George Mihalyi	Yes
Allison Marine	Yes
Gary Flasco	Yes
Kim Haskins	Yes
Mike Harris	Yes

Motion carried.

Ms. Haskins made a motion to approve the Payroll for the month of June 2024 in the amount of \$154,078.29. Mr. Flasco seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

George Mihalyi	Yes
Allison Marine	Yes
Gary Flasco	Yes
Kim Haskins	Yes
Mike Harris	Yes

Motion carried.

Ms. Haskins made a motion to approve the bid of \$248,748.00 by Bruce and Merrilees for the replacement of traffic signal at 4th Avenue and Watt Street utilizing an ARLE Grant. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

George Mihalyi	Yes
Allison Marine	Yes
Gary Flasco	Yes
Kim Haskins	Yes
Mike Harris	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. McCutcheon said the ARLE Grant was awarded in the amount of \$298,000.00, so that will cover the engineering costs for the project, also.

Mr. Mihalyi asked for a motion to approve the Mutual Police Aid Agreement with the Municipalities associated with Char-West COG and asked Mr. McCutcheon to explain.

Mr. McCutcheon said, there are about sixteen municipalities and this is if one of them would need back up then they could call upon us to support them.

Ms. Haskins motion to approve the Mutual Police Aid Agreement with the Municipalities associated with Char-West COG. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Ms. Haskins made a motion to approve Resolution 24-418 approving the acquisition and subsequent disposition of Lot and Block Number 342-F-272 (201 Broadway St.) through the Allegheny County Vacant Property Recovery Program
Mr. Harris seconded the motion.
Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Ms. Haskins made a motion to approve the Rental Agreement and the Alcohol Permit. Ms. Marine seconded the motion.
Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Ms. Marine made a motion to approve the use of Town Square area for food trucks by Cobblehaus Brewing Co. for six months effective July 1, 2024. Mr. Flasco seconded the motion.
Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Ms. Haskins made a motion to approve the use of Bliwas Field for an adult and youth kickball game on Saturday, July 27th and Sunday, July 28th for the Chosen Generation, M. J. Smith. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.
Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Ms. Haskins made a motion to approve the use of Riverfront Park for a Baby Shower on August 3rd for Darlene Stadelman. Ms. Marine seconded the motion.
Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the use of Riverfront Park for the Back 2 School Bash on August 10th from 8 am to 5 pm for the Coraopolis Youth Creation, Lucinda Wade. Ms. Haskins seconded the motion.
Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Ms. Haskins made a motion to approve the use of Bliwas Field and Shelley Jones Memorial Park for an adult and youth kickball game on August 10th from 8 am to 8 pm for Robert Dinkins. Ms. Marine seconded the motion.
Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Mihalyi asked for a motion to authorize the advertising of an ordinance to transfer all rights, titles and interest of the Borough in and to its existing Stormwater Management System, excluding public street and curbs to Coraopolis Water & Sewer Authority and asked Mr. McCutcheon to explain.

Mr. McCutcheon said the Coraopolis Water and Sewer Authority is in charge of the stormwater so this is just a formality. The Rules and Regulations are being looked at for the Authority and we talked about getting an ordinance together to turn everything over and he continued to explain.

Mr. Harris made a motion to authorize the advertising of an ordinance to transfer all rights, titles and interest of the Borough in and to its existing Stormwater Management System, excluding public street and curbs to Coraopolis Water & Sewer Authority. Ms. Haskins seconded the motion.
Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Ms. Haskins made a motion to approve handicap parking space for Frances Griffith at 106 Broadway Street. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.
Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Ms. Marine made a motion to approve the use of Riverfront Park for the Coraopolis NAACP on Sunday, August 25th from 10 am to 4 pm for a community picnic. Ms. Haskins seconded the motion.
Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Richard Start said the biggest event that has occurred since our last meeting is that the Borough prevailed in the case involving the Shallenberger property and he continued to explain.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Stewart gave the Police Department Report for the month of June 2024.

Fire Chief's Report

Chief Spencer said in June 2024 the Coraopolis Volunteer Fire Department answered 14 calls; 6 mutual aid calls, 3 elevator entrapment, 1 carbon monoxide alarm, 1 vehicle fire and 3 false alarms for a total of 68.79 volunteer hours.

Chief Spencer said I would like to congratulate Chief Denbow on his retirement and also Chief Stewart on becoming Chief and he continued to explain.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Drew Null said Riverfront Park; we had a meeting with the contractor concerning the punch list items and it looks like most everything has been addressed.

Mr. Drew Null said the Ridge Avenue Tot Lot; the Contractor is working this week erecting the playground equipment.

Mr. Drew Null said Neely Heights Roadway and Waterline and Sewer Improvements; the contract was awarded last month to Independent Enterprises and we are coordinating the final cost share items with Columbia Gas and CWSA. A preconstruction meeting is scheduled for this week and he continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Drew Null said the Montour Street Roadway Improvements; this is being advertised and tentative bid opening is before the next Council Meeting.

Mr. Drew Null said Grant Applications; there are no updates for this month.

Mr. Drew Null said Water and Sewer Authority; noting the motion that was on the Agenda this evening, the Authority is responsible for the stormsewer system. The Authority and Borough share in the MS4 permit related to storm sewers and as an annual requirement you must complete stormsewer training so we complete that at the September Workshop Meeting.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Dixon said I want to remind everybody about the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish is having their festival this weekend.

Mayor Dixon said Second Saturday is this weekend from 11 am – 3 pm in the Town Square and Mill Street.

Mayor Dixon said a representative from Chris DeLuzio's Office has arrived after our ceremony, so I invite her to come to the podium to do her presentation for Chief Denbow. Inaudible.

Committee Reports/Comments from Council

Mr. Flasco said I want to wish Ron a happy retirement and good luck and also want to wish Chief Stewart good luck. Mr. Flasco said the Personnel Committee has a meeting tomorrow with the police to discuss their contract and we have a second meeting with the Local 1058 next Wednesday to discuss their contract.

Mr. Flasco said I have a midyear report from the Financial Committee. Currently the real estate revenues are at 1.99M which is just under 83% of the budgeted amount. Total revenues are at 63.5% of the budget amount of 6.1M. We plan on using a portion of our reserve to purchase a new street sweeper in conjunction with the CWSA.

Mr. Flasco said for expenditures we have to road program which includes Neely Avenue, Montour Street between 4th and 5th Avenues and the Ridge Avenue Tot Lot Playground and the street sweeper will be expensed in the next six months. Total expenditures are just over 43.5% of the budgeted amount and that is a reasonable amount of what we have to spend for the next half of the year.

Mr. Flasco said to date we have spent over \$492,000.00 on the park, Town Square, road construction, a new work truck and new traffic signals. We are in very solid financial condition for the year.

Ms. Marine said I want to thank the Public Works Department on behalf of the Shade Tree Commission. We received some new flower planters for the Town Square in conjunction with the CCDC and they did a great job putting those together.

Ms. Marine said I want to congratulate and thank Retired Chief Denbow.

Ms. Haskins said I would like to congratulate Chief Denbow.

Ms. Haskins said I am very proud to say to the Public Works that within 48 hours of me asking for signs in the 900 block of 1st Avenue they immediately came and put up Speed Limit 15 MPH and Watch Children and I would like to thank them.

Ms. Haskins said I want to welcome our new Chief; I wish you the best. I also want to welcome Chris to the Coraopolis Police.

Mr. Harris said I want to congratulate Mr. Start and everybody in the Borough that put in the work in the court victories. Mr. Harris said I want to congratulate Chief Denbow on his retirement, congratulate Chief Stewart and welcome Officer Good to our Borough.

Mr. Mihalyi said I want to congratulate Chief Denbow for his years of service and welcome Chief Stewart as the Chief. Mr. Mihalyi said for those renting the pavilions, we have a slight problem with rain dates and a discussion pursued.

Borough Manager's Report

Mr. McCutcheon said we had the Liquid Fuels Audit this week and it was completed with no issues.

Mr. McCutcheon said the general auditor will be here tomorrow and we should finalize that.

Mr. McCutcheon said American Bridge removed the train trestle that was part of the reason for the flooding on 4th Avenue. Moon Township is working with PennDOT and CSX and the private owner of the culvert along the Thorn Run Stream and he continued to explain.

Mr. McCutcheon said we are looking for mulch for the KaBoom Playground, the cost falls under the authorized amount that I am allowed to do, but I want to let Council know that I will purchase it soon. The Public Works Department will spread the mulch.

Mr. McCutcheon said I want to remind everyone that there is not a Workshop Meeting in August. The July and August Meetings are always off for the summer.

Mr. McCutcheon said Chief Denbow and I have been friends for a long time. He has had a great run and the safety of this town is the reason that it is doing as well as it is and I'm sure Chief Stewart will continue to lead that way.

Comments from the Public

Mr. Mihalyi said regarding general matters, please limit your comment to three minutes.

Mr. John Kish of 951 1st Avenue said I was born and raised in Coraopolis and remember the beauty, the manicured lawns, clean streets and the downtown. I remember everyone helping each other and having a Mayor and Council working together for the common good and directed everyone to his handout showing overgrowth of certain areas and a damaged lamp post. I don't feel that the Borough is working for the citizens and he continued to explain.

Pam Snider of 743 6th Avenue said we have a serious rat issue in our neighborhood. We know that they are coming from an abandoned property and she continued to explain. I am imploring the Borough to do something about this. Do you have code enforcers?

Mr. McCutcheon said yes, we do have two officers who do code enforcements. When they get a property complaint, they will check it and then send out citations. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Shelley Quasey from 739 6th Avenue said the house is right next door to me, the raccoons coming out of the second floor and kitchen windows from the fire department not boarding that house up when it caught on fire keep me up. Plus, the rats coming onto my property is unbelievable.

Chief Spencer said let me explain to you, the fire department does not board up buildings and a discussion pursued.

Ms. Quasey said another problem on 6th Avenue is the speeders, they run the stop sign at Wood Street and 6th Avenue. The guy on the corner of Wood and 6th Avenue has so much overgrowth you can't see if someone is coming down Wood Street.

Mr. Harris made a motion to go into Executive Session. Ms. Haskins seconded the motion.
Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Ms. Haskins made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.
Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Harris made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Haskins seconded the motion.
Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

MEETING ADJOURNED