

Borough of Coraopolis  
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania  
Regular Council Meeting via teleconference  
August 14, 2024  
6:30 PM

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

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

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. Szabat made a motion to amend the Agenda that was advertised to add the motion to approve the contract with Avelli Construction Corp in the amount of \$539,587.50 for the Montour Street Roadway Improvements. Ms. Haskins seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen said does anyone in the audience have any questions on that singular motion to the amended Agenda?

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

Mr. Cardimen said are there any visitor comments regarding these Agenda items? [inaudible 2:51] Mr. Cardimen said this is applying for a grant to continue the phase III with grant money. [inaudible 3:16] Mr. Cardimen said that is what we are paying off currently. Have you been to the Riverfront Park? He continued to explain then the meeting continued.

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the Minutes of the July 10, 2024 Regular Council Meeting. Ms. Haskins seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve the Invoices for August 2024 in the amount of \$314,236.28. Mr. Flasco seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
Rudy Bolea	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Allison Marine	Yes
Gary Flasco	Yes
Kim Haskins	Yes
Mike Harris	Yes
Joe Szabat	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve the Payroll for the month of July 2024 in the amount of \$204,843.61. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
Rudy Bolea	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Allison Marine	Yes
Gary Flasco	Yes
Kim Haskins	Yes
Mike Harris	No
Joe Szabat	Yes

Motion carried 7 yea votes to 1 nay vote.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to authorize the Civil Service Commission to test for Police Officers. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen asked for a motion to authorize the Borough Manager to order a Police Vehicle from Woltz & Wind Ford at the COSTARS price and asked for the amount.

Mr. McCutcheon said it is about \$45,000.00 for the vehicle without the equipment added to it.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to authorize the Borough Manager to order a Police Vehicle from Woltz & Wind Ford through COSTARS. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen said ordering this vehicle doesn't mean that we are going to get it, we are still hoping that they are going to build it.

Mr. McCutcheon said they won't build it until we order it and it won't be done until next year.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve Resolution 24-420 to apply for Gaming Economic Development Tourism Fund (GEDTF) Riverfront Phase III Improvements Project. Mr. Szabat seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve Partial Payment No. 1 in the amount of \$194,535.00 to Independent Enterprises, Inc. for the Neely Heights Avenue Roadway and Utility Improvement Project. Ms. Haskins seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
Rudy Bolea	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Allison Marine	Yes
Gary Flasco	Yes
Kim Haskins	Yes
Mike Harris	Yes
Joe Szabat	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve Payment Request No. 9 (Final) in the amount of \$36,971.59 to C.H.&D Enterprises, Inc. for the Riverfront Park Improvement Project. Ms. Haskins seconded the motion.

Mr. Cardimen asked if all of the punchlist items were addressed. Mr. Null said they have.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
Rudy Bolea	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Allison Marine	Yes
Gary Flasco	Yes
Kim Haskins	Yes
Mike Harris	Yes
Joe Szabat	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve the contract with Aveli Construction Corp in the amount of \$539,587.50 for the Montour Street Roadway Improvements. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Mr. Cardimen asked for an explanation.

Mr. McCutcheon said we have a grant for \$456,000.00 and Mr. Drew Null said you received four bids ranging from \$539K to \$727K which is in line with our opinion of probable cost and you have \$456,516.00 committed to CFA funds.

Mr. Harris said is this the road collapse?

Mr. McCutcheon said no, this is between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenues.

Mr. Cardimen said this is money that we were awarded by Congressman DeLuzio's Office and he continued to explain.

Upon Roll Call Vote

Robb Cardimen	Yes
Rudy Bolea	Yes
George Mihalyi	Yes
Allison Marine	Yes
Gary Flasco	Yes
Kim Haskins	Yes
Mike Harris	Yes
Joe Szabat	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the use of the Jailhouse entire parking lot for a Car Cruise and Coffee event for Queen Beans Café on September 29, 2024. Ms. Haskins seconded the motion.  
Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

**Solicitor’s Report**

Mr. Richard Start said the Borough did prevail on the Riverhound property zoning appeal and the losing party (Shallenberger) has appealed to Commonwealth Court. That matter is now scheduled to be briefed and argued in Commonwealth Court. I have spoken with the attorney representing the Shallenberger Party about trying to dissuade them from pursuing the appeal and he continued to explain.

Mr. Start said the Borough is sued in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County as a result of some injuries that someone allegedly incurred on January 28<sup>th</sup> while walking on 800 block of Hiland Avenue and he continued to explain.

**Police Chief’s Report**

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

**Fire Chief’s Report**

Chief Spencer said in July 2024, the Coraopolis Volunteer Fire Department answered 17 calls; 7 mutual aid calls, 2 carbon monoxide calls, 2 medical assists with Valley Ambulance, 2 false alarms, 3 fire alarms and 1 natural gas call for a total of 63.67 volunteer hours.

**Engineer’s Report**

Mr. Drew Null directed everyone to the monthly report and said Riverfront Park; there is nothing to add to the motions of this evening and we’ll move to close the project out with the DCNR

Mr. Drew Null said the Ridge Avenue Tot Lot; a field review was done with the Contractor and it appears that has all been placed at this point pending some minor restoration items.

Mr. Drew Null said Neely Heights Roadway and Waterline and Sewer Improvements; the Contractor started in the past month and is moving forward and anticipate being completed in the next two weeks.

Mr. Drew Null said Grant Applications; in addition to the GEDTF application resolution that you approved this evening, CDBG YR 51 pre applications are being accepted. The plan is to resubmit for building demolitions of those properties on Montour Street.

Mr. McCutcheon said we did get some money through the CDBG, but not nearly enough to do three houses. Have we been awarded some dollar amount that will take care of that house on Chess Street?

Mr. Null said I believe that grant was for \$25,000.00.

Mr. McCutcheon said we have to do asbestos abatement for any house demolished so \$25,000.00 is probably enough for one house and a discussion pursued.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Dixon said last month was a busy month with the celebrations; we had the St. Joe's Parrish Festival, we had Second Saturday in July, National Night Out on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Latin Festival and the Back to School Bash on the 10<sup>th</sup>. All were great ways to get the community together and he continued to explain.

Mayor Dixon said on August 1<sup>st</sup> the Police Department held a departmental meeting to discuss the leadership changes and the expectations of our officers going forward.

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

Mr. Flasco said the Personnel Committee is meeting with Local 1058 next Thursday to discuss their contract.

Mr. Flasco said I viewed the Tot Lot on Ridge Avenue and it looks really nice.

Mr. Mihalyi said Public Works was at the Tot Lot today and removed the rocks and cement that was left, so the contractor will come in to plant grass and then we'll be able to open it soon.

Mr. Mihalyi said there were two lead lines that needed replaced going into the homes of residents on Neely Heights. That has been done and sidewalks are now being put in.

Mr. Bolea said I have previously asked that the weeds in the front of our parking lot be addressed, but so far it hasn't been done. I would appreciate it if it can be taken care of.

Mr. Bolea said there have been two different occasions where kids climbed on top of the restrooms at Riverfront Front. Something should be done, maybe a railing on the top of the wall and he continued to explain.

Ms. Marine said I want to say thank you to Mr. McCutcheon, the Public Works Department and Police Department for all of their help with the construction at the Tot Lot and she continued to explain.

Ms. Haskins said it was brought to my attention that there is a porta potty at the Riverfront Park for use on days when the park isn't being rented out. This is not doing any good for the seniors in a wheel chair, they are having a hard time. I was wondering if the chief could probably get a few hours for your guys to patrol the area and she continued to explain. Mr. Cardimen said maybe we can exchange the existing porta potty for a handicap accessible one and a discussion pursued.

Ms. Haskins said I want to thank the Public Works for immediately fixing the fence. I know it doesn't look real nice, but it's safe and that's what I was worried about. I have a few other things, I guess they are in phase 2, 3, or 4, but they might be able to be patched up quickly, like proactively until we get to phase 4. If anyone would like to see the pictures and I'm just thankful that anything didn't happen with all the people and the kids we had down there this weekend. I also want to thank the Public Works for putting the signs up immediately, I know they said they are ordering more, but it has helped.

Ms. Haskins said Chief I want to ask you for a little bit more police patrolling. The gentleman mentioned it to me you can have all the signs you want, but if the police don't enforce it, it won't do any good and she continued to explain.

Chief Stewart said yes, I will instruct them to go there.

Mr. Szabat said the asbestos abatement project is underway at the library, the transfer company has packed and moved everything from the library to their storage facility. That took about four days and the following day, the contractors were in with their taping equipment and started sealing things off.

Mr. Szabat said my wife was walking the dog and went past the Tot Lot and said it looks nice.

Mr. Harris said I want to explain why I voted "no" to approve the payroll. It is an opinion that I'm developing that the tax payers that elected me don't feel that they are getting these services that their tax dollars are being collected for and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen said I, along with the mayor attended a meeting with the Police Department and all of its members. I got a lot of information and informed the Chief that he was there to support him and he continued to explain.

Chief Stewart said to answer Mr. Harris' comments; we are restructuring things, so things will be taken care of. We've been short with the Chief leaving and Officer Good in training and he continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Cardimen said Chief Stewart and I have talked and the Fire Department has recently purchased a new squad pickup truck through donations and would like to put our current vehicle up for sale. We would also like to list the old Police Chiefs vehicle on the Municibid sight and try to sell them both as emergency vehicles to get the maximum dollar for them.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to advertise selling a fire department 1998 Chevrolet K3500 vehicle and a police department 2011 Ford Expedition through Municibid. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

## **Borough Manager's Report**

Mr. McCutcheon said the audit is being wrapped up, so I will review it.

Mr. McCutcheon said I spoke with the representative of Snyder Recreation and they are going to get us a bid to do the landscaping around the new surface and he continued to explain.

## **Comments from the Public**

Mr. Cardimen said visitor requests or comments regarding general matters, please limit your comment to three minutes and state your name and address.

Mr. George Carr of 103 Chestnut Street said the ordinances in the Borough need to be enforced by the police. There's a car sitting behind where the new bakery is going in and has been there for over a month and a half. It's wrecked with a flat tire and sitting in a permitted parking space. The bakery put all of their trash out and it's over the next lot. There's a certain person who pulls trailers for Sun Rental, he brings trailers and drops them off on the street and he continued to explain. I commend the Road Department and the Park Department because the new fence is damaged and I mentioned it to him today and he said he is going to take care of it.

Alan Cowfer of 733 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue said 735 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue was damaged by fire about seven years ago where the owner died and the house has been vacant. The windows are open and there are raccoons, rats and vermin running around. I try to keep the grass cut, but the house is falling apart and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen said have you made a report with the Police Department?

Mr. Cowfer said no.

Mr. McCutcheon said there is a property maintenance complaint form that needs filled out.

Chief Stewart said we've sent letters out regarding that property, but they are still within the 30 days. The only issue that we have is that they were sent out to the bank that took over that property and he continued to explain.

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

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Ms. Haskins seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

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

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**