

Borough of Coraopolis  
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania  
Council Workshop Meeting by teleconference  
September 4, 2024  
6:30 PM

The Workshop 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

**Absent**

Michael Dixon, Mayor

Mr. Cardimen said are there any comments on agenda items by Council Members? Being none, the meeting continued.

Mr. Cardimen asked for a discussion amending Ordinance No. 1255 (the grass and weed ordinance) to have an escalating fine amount. Currently the fine is \$25.00 and after speaking with the Chief and Sergeant, I recommend increasing it, so that the Police can use it as a tool and use it accordingly. My idea would be to do a \$75.00 fine for the first time, a \$150.00 for the second time and \$300.00 the third time and if they don't respond by the third letter then fine them \$300.00 a day until they pay and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Bolea said I like what Mr. Cardimen suggested.

Mr. McCutcheon said that the Ordinance reads

Mr. Bolea made a motion to authorize the Solicitor to amend Ordinance No. 1255 for the height of the grass to be no higher than six inches and amend the fines every ten days to go from \$75.00, to \$150.00, and to \$300.00.

Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen said Ordinance No. 1793 needs amended from prohibiting parking on the south side of Neely Heights Avenue, currently from Main Street to Woodlawn Drive. It needs to be amended to go from Main Street to Wood Street.

Mr. McCutcheon said we just paved this road, so when buses come up Wood Street and come around it gives extra room for them along with emergency vehicles and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to authorize the Solicitor to amend Ordinance No. 1793 and to advertise. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen said we need to discuss the possibility of joining SHACOG. Mr. McCutcheon and Mr. Szabat recently visited the SHACOG.

Mr. McCutcheon said we spoke with Executive Director who has been there for 20+ years. Right now, they have 22 communities and want communities to pay for what they are getting, so there is an initiation fee of \$10,000.00 and an annual fee thereafter of \$5,000.00. We would definitely want to participate in the Cooperative Energy Response Program, which is like their SWAT Team that they call Critical Incident Response Team, of which a couple of our officers would probably want to participate. They have Accident Reconstruction Teams, and Cooperative Investigation Team and the coordination of training classes. That is an additional \$5,000.00 per year plus an .06¢ per resident for about another \$800.00. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. McCutcheon said we have to contact CharWest and see if there is a departure fee, and I don't know when our agreement expires with them and we will have to do a resolution to join SHACOG. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. McCutcheon said I will prepare the resolution.

Mr. Szabat said Mary Hampe lost a couple of Library Clerks recently and would like to advertise for more.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to advertise for Library Clerks. Mr. Szabat seconded the motion.

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen asked for a motion to authorize the Police Department to apply for State Accreditation

Mr. McCutcheon said the application fee is \$250.00 and it can take up to 24 months to get accredited and he continued to explain.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to authorize the Police Department to apply for State Accreditation. Ms. Haskins seconded the motion.

Motion approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

## **Mayor's Report**

Mr. McCutcheon said the mayor notified me that he has some work going on and couldn't get here tonight.

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

Mr. Larry Tollis said in the past couple of summer months we hot patched several areas throughout town totaling 81 holes and will finish remaining holes through September 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Larry Tollis said normal grass cutting and park maintenance went on as usual.

Mr. Tollis said multiple street marking signs were replaced with what we had left in our shop.

Mr. Tollis said we repaired several sections of old fencing at the Riverfront Park and closed off the overlook for safety reasons.

Mr. Tollis said we put 35 yards of new mulch in the play area of Shelley Jones Park.

Mr. Tollis said we fixed the wash out on Grace Street with gravel and top soil tamping both areas and planted new grass seed to secure the ground area.

Mr. Tollis said we assisted with the unloading and storage of the ground material at the Tot Lot and delivery to the crews as needed and he continued to explain.

Mr. Tollis said thanks to all of you we have received our new F-550 plow truck for this season.

Mr. Cardimen said I am still working on getting them lines renewed, I'm giving them until next week to call me back.

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

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

Mr. Mihalyi said there were two homes on Neely Heights with lead lines, and one home had a sewer line that had to be replaced and the individuals hired the contractors who were there working for us to do this work separately. None of this work was done by the Borough and he continued to explain.

Mr. Bolea said I have nothing to report, but will not be available to attend the meeting next Wednesday.

Ms. Marine said we are going to officially open the Tot Lot Playground this week and I want to thank the Public Works Department for their help there, we are officially opening the playground this week. Security cameras have been installed and will cover the basketball court, playground and parking lot for the State Manor Apartments. We are working with the State Manor Apartments to gain 5 – 7 parking spots dedicated for park parking.

Mr. McCutcheon said we made an agreement with State Manor to use their WIFI, so we didn't have to get our own and that's why we had two cameras facing their lot and he continued to explain.

Ms. Marine said concerning restrooms, I followed up with my contact from Moon and they do winterize their restrooms from October to May for pipes freezing and that is when they use porta johns. During the summer months they use a digital lock and she continued to explain.

Ms. Marine said the Shade Tree Commission got notification that the fall tree planting grant was not awarded to us and she continued to explain. Ms. Marine said we did receive a truck load of free mulch from Tree Vitalize and had volunteers go around town to mulch tree beds. I want to thank our board member Tom, who put brick borders at Town Square and he also recycled and repurposed bricks from Neely Heights.

Ms. Marine said the Shade Tree Commission is going to have a clean up day on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to noon, this is in partnership with the CCDC and she continued to explain.

Ms. Marine said I think it is a good idea to consider increasing our proficiency and knowledge around social media security and policy as it relates to different current laws and she continued to explain.

Mr. McCutcheon said the CCDC canceled their trees for the fall because they want to put a mural on their building and don't want trees there to block it.

Ms. Marine said the CCDC requested five trees, three for the train station and two next to their building and she continued to explain.

Ms. Haskins said I want to thank Mr. Tollis and his crew for putting the signs up on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. I want to thank the police for being more present in the area to enforce the signs.

Ms. Haskins said I have some questions from the residents in my area; they want to know when the opening will be for Riverfront Park. I know that we've talked about it, but haven't decided anything so I just want to know what to tell them.

Ms. Marine said do you want to plan something?

Ms. Haskins said no, I thought you were the Planning Committee, aren't you? I will help.

Ms. Marine said we can use the cleanup day as an unofficial opening and the Fall Festival is the same day and a discussion pursued.

Ms. Haskins said is there any idea of when those poles that used to be parking meters are going to be pulled up?

Mr. Cardimen said I have an update for this on my report.

Ms. Haskins said I have witnessed kids playing on them and feel this can be bad.

Ms. Haskins said do we have any idea on Mill Street?

Mr. Cardimen said we were just awarded another grant on Mill Street and I believe LSSE is in the process of putting together design for Council to review. This is probably a project that will take place under the budget of 2025. We have \$700,000.00 in grant money through Representative Anita Kulik and Representative Chris Deluzio.

Ms. Haskins said so you are not going to try to repair anything, you are just going to leave it like it is until you completely do it.

Mr. Cardimen said yes and he continued to explain.

Ms. Haskins said I mean the safety part; I don't mean to beautify it.

Mr. Cardimen said Public Works did work to sure some of the poles up.

Ms. Haskins said those and safety issues, like the sidewalks and how they are crumbled.

Mr. McCutcheon said sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owner and a discussion pursued.

Ms. Haskins said thank you for the handicap porta john that was requested by the Towers residents, but they still feel like it isn't good enough to use the bathroom and she continued to explain.

Mr. Szabat said I had a couple of people mention that as they are walking on the 600 & 700 blocks of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue there are a couple of places where dogs charge out onto the sidewalk after them. My advice is to call the police right away and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Szabat there were no Library Meetings July through September and he continued to explain. He said, Ms. Hampe needs some help there, so she asked if we could advertise for Circulation Clerks. She also needs room for her various programs, the final program for the summer reading had 80 people in the little meeting room downstairs. The Historical Society has the room next to it and there is nothing that goes on there due to no one being available to run it. The CCDC agreed to take over the artifacts to display in their building. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Szabat said the asbestos removal has been completed and Allegheny County Air Quality tested the air and it has passed. He continued to explain and is hoping for the library to reopen in early November.

Mr. Harris said I want to thank Mr. Tollis and the Public Works for checking out the problem Mr. Delmonico had at his house.

Mr. Harris said I had a really good meeting with Chief Stewart and we should all be pleased to hear of all of the ordinance violations that have been written up and I think we are going to see a lot of good changes with our Police Department.

Mr. Cardimen said I met with Kernan Asphalt yesterday and am waiting for a price bid to reseal all of our Borough Parking Lots and repaint all of the lines. He will also give us a quote on painting parking lines on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenues between Broadway and Main Street, hopefully before the poles get pulled and he continued to explain.

Mr. McCutcheon asked if he was with COSTARS and Mr. Cardimen said he wasn't sure, but he is under the bid threshold.

Mr. Cardimen said I am still working with the Chief on getting 114 running, so we can put it up for sale. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Cardimen said I am asking Council to consider possibly moving to do quarterly Workshop Meetings next year, instead of every month and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen said I met with the Borough Manager and the Finance Committee and the Coraopolis Fire Department ladder truck is 20 years old and in need of some refurbishing. It has been added into next year's budget and is going back to the original equipment manufacturer so it doesn't need bid out since the manufacturer is COSTARS. The price is about \$329,000.00 and we anticipate getting another 25-30 years out of it and he continued to explain.

### **Manager's Report**

Mr. McCutcheon said we ordered a lot of new traffic signs, including the signs I picked up today for the parks stating they are watched 24 hours and being recorded.

Mr. McCutcheon said I spoke with our IT person and he suggests security awareness training for the internet and he continued to explain.

Mr. McCutcheon said Mr. Szabat mentioned dogs, we had an employee attacked in Pine Way and continued to explain. There is a real issue with dogs that are not tied up.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel. Ms. Haskins seconded the motion. Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

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

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

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

Motion Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Meeting Adjourned.