

Borough of Coraopolis
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
Regular Council Meeting via teleconference
October 9, 2024
6:30 PM

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

Fire Chief Spencer 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
Mike Harris
Joe Szabat

Absent

Kim Haskins
Michael Dixon, Mayor

Mr. Bolea made a motion to modify the Agenda to include the Borough Council authorizing the Manager to apply to join SHACOG and to approve the settlement between the Borough of Coraopolis and Shallenberger Real Estate Inc. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Cardimen said are there any visitor requests and comments regarding agenda items?

Mr. John Kish said since the general public is not aware, can you define SHACOG for us?

Mr. Cardimen said it is the South Hills Council of Governments. We are currently a member of the CHAR West COG and SHACOG offers a little better representation for our municipality and our public safety aspects and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen said are there any questions on the agenda from Borough Council? Being none, the meeting continued.

Mr. Cardimen asked for a motion to approve the Settlement Agreement between the Borough of Coraopolis and Shallenberger Real Estate Incorporated and asked Solicitor Start to explain.

Mr. Rick Start said we have a document which is a settlement of the agreement as well as an order of the court that states; Shallenberger represents that the church has obtained an older facility for its church activities and has no current reservations to utilize the property for church activities. Shallenberger does not anticipate the church will use the property for future church activities. Shallenberger agrees that neither the church, nor any church will utilize the property for religious or spiritual services or any regular reoccurring activities. Although no future activities is anticipated, Shallenberger agrees that if in the future the church or any church requests the use of the property for church activities such proposed activities being comparable to accessory uses that may be requested by non-religious organizations, Shallenberger will notify the Borough Manager of the request (in writing) the nature and duration of the proposed activity and any anticipated impact related to traffic, lights or noise with respect to the adjacent property owners. The Borough shall promptly review and reply in writing to all reasonable requests by the [inaudible 6:06] for accessory uses, which are similar to accessory uses by non-religious groups and such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. Mr. Start said the most important thing that I read was that no church, any church can conduct any regular church activities on that property without our written permission. Our written permission requires Shallenberger's people to submit to us the nature, duration and impact of the proposed activity and he continued to explain.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve the Settlement Agreement between the Borough of Coraopolis and Shallenberger Real Estate Incorporated. Mr. Szabat seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the Minutes of the September 11, 2024 Regular Council Meeting. Mr. Flasco seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve minutes of the October 2, 2024 Council Workshop Meeting. Mr. Bolea seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen asked for a motion to approve the invoices for October 2024 in the amount of \$680,435.80 and said, note that over \$450,000.00 is going to the Neely Heights Project and will be reimbursed by the Authority and Columbia Gas.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve the Invoices for October 2024 in the amount of \$680,435.80. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve the Payroll for the month of September 2024 in the amount of \$142,845.39. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1825 Conveying the Borough-owned Stormwater Management System to the Coraopolis Water and Sewer Authority. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Cardimen asked for a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1826 amending Ordinance No. 1255 Section IV increasing the fine amounts for offenders not to exceed \$75.00 first offence, \$150.00 second offence and \$300.00 third offence. Mr. Cardimen said Ordinance 1826 refers to grass and weed and is how we are going to enforce overgrowth and he continued to explain.

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1826 amending Ordinance No. 1255 Section IV increasing the fine amounts for offenders not to exceed \$75.00 first offence, \$150.00 second offence and \$300.00 third offence. Mr. Bolea seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1827 amending Ordinance No. 1793 prohibiting parking at anytime on the southern side of Neely Heights Avenue from Main Street to Wood Street. Mr. Szabat seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to accept the four-year contract between the Borough of Coraopolis and the Coraopolis Police Association with four percent increase years 1 and 2 and a three percent increase in years 3 and 4, and an increase to eight and one-half percent contribution of their Health Insurance. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to accept the four-year contract between the Borough of Coraopolis and the Public Works Department Local 1058 with four percent increase in years 1 and 2 and a three and one-half percent increase in years 3 and 4 and an increase to eight and one-half percent contribution of the Health Insurance. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Cardimen said I would like to thank the Personnel Committee for handling the contracts.

Mr. Bolea made a motion to authorize the Manager to apply to join SHACOG for the Borough of Coraopolis. Mr. Szabat seconded the motion.

Motion passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Richard Start said I have nothing more to report than what I spoke about earlier.

Fire Chief's Report

Chief Spencer said in September 2024 the Coraopolis Volunteer Fire Department answered 18 calls; 10 mutual aid calls, 4 false alarms, 1 motor vehicle accident, 1 elevator entrapment 1 odor investigation and 1 Co alarm. For a total of 115.64 hours.

Mr. Spencer said if your smoke detectors take batteries please switch your batteries out this month.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Drew Null directed everyone to the monthly report and said Riverfront Park; the DCNR did issue a final site inspection report so we are moving forward with closing it out.

Mr. Drew Null said the CFA was supposed to act in September on LSA program applications, but they did not and their next meeting will be in November. We have heard that they anticipate a special meeting in October so we will keep you informed if we hear anything.

Mr. Drew Null said Montour Street Roadway Improvements; the Contractor mobilized this week and they are getting ready to start.

Mr. Drew Null said Grant Applications; I filed the Act 152 Blight Removal Program applications for demo's last month.

Mr. Drew Null said Water and Sewer Authority; the Annual MS4 Report was filed in September.

Mr. McCutcheon said since we are looking to work on Mill Street next year, it's probably best to get the bids out early next year and at some point get us some designs. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Committee Reports/Comments from Council

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

Mr. Mihalyi said Public Works started the leaf collection today.

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

Ms. Marine said this Saturday, October 12th we will hold a Cory Cleanup Day, meeting at 9:00 am at the Riverfront Park. Volunteers will be dispersed from there to pick up trash and litter around town and she continued to explain. We will also have a ribbon cutting at 9:00 am in partnership with the CCDC.

Mr. Szabat said we had out of state visitors this weekend, ages three and one and a half. We took them to the Ridge Avenue Tot Lot and they loved it and had a great time. It is really nice and he continued to explain.

Mr. Szabat said regarding the library, work is ongoing here. The backflow preventer is being replaced and we are waiting for a written report and specifications from a structural engineer on how to proceed with the shoring up of the ceiling. The ceiling tiles have been replaced and painting has been done and he continued to explain.

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

Mr. Cardimen said the Borough Manager and I have received bids and will have the lines painted on 4th and 5th Avenue in the Central Business District that will designate parking spots where the old meters used to be. The Borough parking lot and the leased parking lots by McDonald's and Rite Aid will be done this fall.

Mr. Cardimen said although he isn't here tonight, I am going to give him his proper accolades. Chief Stewart has been an absolute joy to work with, we have worked together in conjunction with the Fire Department and Police Department. We were able to purchase a side-by-side with a grant from CSX, funds from the Borough, Fire and Police Departments that will be jointly used by both departments and he continued to explain.

Police Chief's Report

Mr. McCutcheon read the Police Report for September 2024.

Borough Manager's Report

Mr. McCutcheon said I have been working on the budget and we are close to finalizing it. We meet with Waste Management tomorrow and they are pushing most communities to go to their automated pick up. I don't know if that will work for Coraopolis and I believe it will be more expensive if we have to buy trash receptacles and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen said can we solicit someone else?

Mr. McCutcheon said Lennon Smith Souleret will put bid specs together and a discussion pursued.

Mr. McCutcheon said Halloween is Thursday, October 31st please be safe and watch your children closely.

Mr. McCutcheon said this is the fourth contract that I have been part of and help get settled between the Police and Public Works Departments. It has been cordial and have not had huge battles and it has been a good year to get them both done this early, so that the numbers can go into the budget.

Mr. Bolea said is there a time table on Montour Street, between 4th and 5th Avenues?

Mr. McCutcheon said they have started and it will probably be two months. Mr. Flasco asked me about truck traffic on the side streets so I asked them to provide three signs saying no trucks for Arch Street, Chestnut and Mulberry Streets and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Cardimen said the reason we are able to expand into the SHACOG is due to our Borough Manager, Ray McCutcheon. He keeps our budgets in line and keeps money where it needs to be. Thank you for doing your job, Mr. McCutcheon. Mr. McCutcheon said thank you.

Comments from the Public

Mr. Clarence Sellers of 1227 Vance Avenue said I want to ask the Solicitor, if he can expound on more of what he was talking about the Shallenberger.

Mr. Rick Start said the problem was there was a church conducting activities there that were very loud. The noise was bad and the neighboring residents suffered so we made an agreement to settle the disputes because he wanted to continue. The Borough has an ordinance against this and a discussion pursued.

Tracy Serba of 1818 Devonshire Road said at the last meeting we discussed the uptick in the enforcement of the grass cutting and I brought up the idea of getting the school involved by possibly earning PE credits. I spoke with Aaron Thomas and the State doesn't allow earning PE credits this way. He suggested the Key Club, National Honor Society and a group working on a tree revitalization project would be interested in participating in this. How would I find out if people would be interested in this or how I could get in touch with the elderly?

Mr. McCutcheon said get some calls in the office where some people are looking for help with this and a discussion pursued.

Mr. John Kish of 951 1st Avenue said on Saturday the Train Station will be open for tours.

Ms. Paulette Stevens of 1413 5th Avenue said there were raccoons playing in the middle of the street and there were cars stuck that couldn't continue on 5th Avenue creating traffic and she continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen said if you ever encounter that again on a State Road, call the Police.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED