

**COOPERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**August 18, 2015**

The meeting of the Coopersburg Borough Council was held on Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, in Council Chambers at Borough Hall and called to order by Council President Felch at 7:00 p.m.

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call was taken by Manager Paashaus. All present were Mayor Hovis, Council Members Balascak, Felch, Greenland, Lundy, Pica, Thrapp, Solicitor Alpert, Police Chief Struss, and Engineer Erdman. Council Member Mack was absent.

**AGENDA**

**The Agenda was ordered adopted with a correction in the amount of Action Item 5.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

A resident requested information regarding door-to-door solicitation in the Borough. Manager Paashaus stated that all solicitation required a permit that could only be issued by the Police Chief.

Timothy Kramer (Walnut Alley) stated that he is concerned about parking and signage on Walnut Alley. Kramer stated that the alley is blocked at times and causes clearance problems for plow trucks and the garbage collection. Kramer gave pictures to Council regarding vehicles blocking the alley. There was further discussion, and Felch stated that the issue will be looked into further.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A Motion was made by Lundy and seconded by Pica to receive the Monthly Financial Statements, receive the Monthly Reports (Council information, Police report, Vehicle roster, Fire Report), and approve the Previous Meeting Minutes from July 21, 2015. **Consent Agenda passed by a vote of 6-0.**

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. A Motion was made by Balascak and seconded by Thrapp to receive the first reading of Ordinance 650, requiring rental inspections for all residential rental properties. There was discussion regarding the definition of a rental room or property, not giving a guarantee of safety after the inspection, if the ordinance was completely new, the type of fees, and vacant properties. The ordinance is not a completely new ordinance and only modifies the requirement to be every three (3) years rather than upon tenant change with some other slight changes in wording. **Ordinance 650 was received for its first reading by a vote of 6-0.**
2. A Motion was made Pica and seconded by Thrapp to receive the first reading of Ordinance 651, amending several general parking guidelines. There was discussion regarding a concern over parking in front yards, parking on sidewalks, dumpsters, and adding a few word clarifications. Balascak expressed concern regarding the repair section of the ordinance and requested it to be changed or removed. There was further discussion regarding repairs, timeframe for repairs, and safety issues. Ordinance 651 was received for its first reading by a vote of 5-1 (Balascak = nay).
3. A Motion was made by Thrapp and seconded by Lundy to award the Police Station Renovation Project to Boyle Construction for a cost of \$341,640.00 (adding alternate #1 and deducting alternate #2). Mayor Hovis and Manager Paashaus gave a brief summary of the project. Balascak stated that he has been supportive of the renovation project but expressed concern and frustration for the lack of information provided to Council for voting. There was further discussion regarding the ability to fund the project, code inspection, if it would be better to demolish the building, and if

Council would prefer to delay the decision. The plans were publicly opened on June 24, 2015 and were available in the Manager's office for review. Greenland and Balascak both shared concern over being uninformed to make a qualified decision, concerned about the cost of the project, and both felt rushed. Felch asked Council if they were ready to vote or wanted to delay the decision. The majority of Council wished to vote on the Motion. **The Project was awarded by a vote of 4-2 (Balascak and Greenland = Nay).**

4. A Motion was made by Balascak and seconded by Pica to make the final payment for the 2015 Sanitary Sewer System Rehabilitation Project to US Pipelining Inc. for \$99,603.30. **The Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.**
5. A Motion was made by Greenland and seconded by Lundy to make the final payment for the CDBG Inspection Work by Keystone Consulting Engineers on the 2015 Sanitary Sewer System Rehabilitation Project for \$6,480.00. **The Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.**

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

### 1. Infrastructure

- a. Septic – Council Member Balascak stated that US Pipelining had finished the CIPP lining. Balascak reported that there was an issue at the sewer metering station. A piece of construction debris had been lodged in the flume and resulted in a false high flow reading. The material was cleared and flow levels were immediately at a normal level.
- b. Highway – Council Member Balascak stated that a section of West Fairmount had been reconstructed successfully, and the Public Works department was finishing a storm drain inlet on State Street.
- c. Water – Council Member Balascak reported that the Water Authority had passed a resolution setting rates and charges. The Authority discussed a viable option regarding a water interconnect at the future Brinley Court development, Dogwood Lane, or Tilghman Street.
- d. Highway – Council Member Balascak stated that the Infrastructure committee was working on the future Public Works schedule. West Fairmount Street is scheduled to be reconstructed in 2017 and 95% of the curbing needs to be corrected prior to road construction. Balascak stated that the Comprehensive Planning Team requested that the committee would review the storm water issues on Main Street.

### 2. Public Safety/Governmental Relations

- a. Mayor Hovis stated that the Halloween Parade Chairman requested a routine donation of \$1,500.00 for 2015. Felch welcomed the Police Chief and stated that the public should be made aware of the police station renovation. Matthew Rehrig, representative to the Fire Department, stated that Bucks County will be changing their radios and some unexpected expenses will result from this change. Felch requested financial details from Rehrig if the Fire Department would like financial help from the Borough.

### 3. Administration and Finance

- a. Council Member Lundy stated that the 2016 Draft Budget is being worked on. The Committee plans to have a first reading of the budget at the October meeting and a final reading in November.

## **REPORTS OF PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS**

1. Solicitor: No additional report.
2. Engineer: No additional report.
3. Borough Manager: Manager Paashaus invited Council to participate in the Halloween Parade by riding or walking, and stated that he is working with the Historical Society to establish a Holiday event in December.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Compost site will remain on the Agenda.
2. Municipal Parking will remain on the Agenda.
3. RFP for Engineering/Zoning/Code Enforcement will remain on the Agenda

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Council Member Balascak stated that the BBQ Trailer business behind the Inside Scoop was a violation to the Borough's Zoning Code. The Zoning Officer approved the additional business, and Council questioned the validity of his permit. There was further discussion regarding the process of rescinding the permit and the need for a Zoning Hearing Board Case. The Manager and Solicitor will research this further to confirm that it is violation.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Balascak made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Felch. The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.

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Timothy Paashaus – Borough Manager

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John Felch, Jr. – Council President