

COOPERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 20, 2016

The meeting of the Coopersburg Borough Council was held on Tuesday, December 20th, 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 Felch, Balascak, Greenland, Pica, Poot, Snyder, Thrapp, and Engineer Erdman. Solicitor Alpert was absent.

AGENDA

The Agenda was ordered approved as written without objection.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Benjamin Craig, Linden Street resident, introduced his son Carter Craig and stated that Carter was working on a merit badge for Boy Scouts. Craig thanked Council for their hard work and dedication to the Borough. Thrapp encouraged Carter Craig to consider being involved as a Jr. Council Member.

CONSENT AGENDA

A Motion was made by Pica and seconded by Poot to receive the Monthly Reports (Monthly Financial Reports, Council information, Police report, Vehicle roster, Zoning Report), and approve the previous meeting minutes from November 15, 2016, and December 5, 2016. **The Consent Agenda passed by a vote of 7-0.**

ACTION ITEMS

1. A Motion was made by Pica and seconded by Poot to adopt the 2017 Borough Budget for fiscal year January 1 – December 31, 2017. **Ordinance 656 was passed by a vote of 6-1 (Thrapp voted Nay).**
2. A Motion was made by Pica and seconded by Snyder to fix salaries, bonds, and duties of Borough Officials, Appointees, and Employees for fiscal year January 1 – December 31, 2017. **Ordinance 657 was passed by a vote of 6-1 (Thrapp voted Nay).**
3. A Motion was made by Snyder and seconded by Thrapp to establish the Real Estate Tax Rate for the Borough of Coopersburg at 5.4mils for fiscal year January 1 – December 31, 2017. Felch stated that there has not been a tax increase in 7 years. **Ordinance 658 passed by a vote of 7-0.**
4. A Motion was made by Balascak and seconded by Pica to approve the Management Agreement between the Borough of Coopersburg and the Coopersburg Municipal Authority. Balascak highlighted a few minor changes, and Paashaus stated that the Agreement was essentially the same routine agreement with a few items in writing that have been accomplished in the past. **The Agreement passed by a vote of 7-0.**
5. A Motion was made by Balascak and seconded by Pica to appoint the members of the Zoning Hearing Board for 2017. Felch thanked Benjamin Craig, Zoning Hearing Board Member, for his service to the Borough. **Resolution 2016-24 passed by a vote of 7-0.**

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Infrastructure
 - a. Council Member Balascak stated that the majority of his report could wait until January. Balascak highlighted that the Committee will be meeting with Mr. Mertz, Cherry St, regarding his request to purchase property and will address Ms. Tettermer, Saucon Lane, regarding her letter.

- b. Council Member Balascak stated that the Municipal Authority passed their 2017 Budget and is applying for a water grant funding for a few projects.
 - c. Council Member Balascak stated that the Station Avenue Bridge Project will begin in 2017 and will be closed for the majority of the summer season. The Committee will be reviewing a change to the current Curb Ordinance and Escrow Ordinance.
2. Public Safety/Governmental Relations
 - a. No additional report.
 3. Administration and Finance
 - a. Council President Felch stated the Historical Society expressed their desire to update the museum and improve the space vacated by the police. There was further discussion regarding opening the stage for public use, historic use of the building, overhaul of the whole building, and the value of having the historical museum co-located with the borough administrative office.

REPORTS OF PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

1. Solicitor: Absent.
2. Engineer: Engineer Erdman stated that Cooper Farms will be resubmitting a plan for review, and Oxford Ridge is working on final paperwork for their development.
3. Borough Manager: No additional report.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Felch thanked Council for their service over the last year and wished them a Merry Christmas and happy New Year. Council Member Balascak made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Felch. The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Timothy Paashaus – Borough Manager

John Felch, Jr. – Council President