

COOPERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2013

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

OPENING CEREMONIES

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken by Manager Paashaus. Also present were Council Members Balascak, Greenland, Lundy, Nalichowski, Walters, Solicitor Gittinger, Engineer Erdman, and Jr. Council Member Hewins. Mayor Mack and Council Member Minarik were absent.

AGENDA

A Motion to accept the proposed Agenda with three (3) additions was made by Balascak and seconded by Lundy. The Changes are as follows: 1. Remove the appearance of Thomas Williams; 2. Cancel the listed Executive Session; 3. Add the request by Fred Derby for the vacation of two (2) Borough Alleys to the Infrastructure Committee. **The Agenda, with additions, passed by a vote of 6-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rachel Bradshaw, Director of Envision Lehigh Valley, spoke about the current project of Envision Lehigh Valley and requested input from the local area. The project is grant funded over several years (Additional information can be found in the Official Record).

Eric Boyd, Boy Scout – Troop 108, was present in order to earn his Communications Badge.

CONSENT AGENDA

A Motion made by Walters and seconded by Greenland to receive the Monthly Financial Statements, and approve the Previous Meeting Minutes from May 21, 2013. **Consent Agenda passed by a vote of 6-0.**

ROUTINE REPORTS

Routine reports received: Council Information, Police, Police Vehicle Roster (Copies in Official Record).

ACTION ITEMS

- a. A Motion was made by Balascak and seconded by Lundy to authorize Signal Service Inc. to replace the Video Detection Camera Cable in order to correct the traffic signal at Route 309 & Fairmount Street at a cost of \$1,880.00. **Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.**

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Infrastructure
 - a. A Motion was made by Balascak and seconded by Greenland to have the solicitor prepare the proper documents to vacate the remaining unpaved, unused portion of 2nd Street. There was discussion regarding the reason for vacating, if vacation was common practice in the history of the Borough, if there was any compensation for the Borough, and if it would affect the future of the Saucon Rail Trail. It was determined that the compensation was the extra taxable

property, and the vacating would have no effect on the Rail Trail. **Motion passed by a vote of 5-1 (Nalichowski = Nay).**

- b. Motion made by Balascak and seconded by Greenland to have the solicitor prepare the proper documents to vacate the remaining unpaved, unused portion of Poplar Alley. There was further discussion surrounding the benefits of vacation, the expansion of the privately owned lots, and the potential future developing ability. **Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.**
- c. Septic – Council Member Balascak reported that Mr. Rehab is making progress on the CDBG sewer lining project. The work should be completed by the end of the week.
- d. Water – Council Member Balascak reported that the Water Metering Program is progressing.
- e. Highway – Council Member Balascak stated that there was a request to designate a handicap parking section on 2nd Street. There was further discussion regarding the Council’s sympathy for the resident’s condition, the permanency of an ordained handicap designation, and getting involved in neighborhood disputes. Nalichowski stated that the neighbors park large vehicles and the residents do not get along. Balascak stated that he believes the resident should make a personal appeal to Council. It was determined that nothing would be decided at the current meeting, and an invitation would be sent to all concerned residents on the corner of 2nd Street to attend a future Council Committee Workshop to work through their issues and concerns with Council’s mediation.

2. Public Safety

- a. Council President Felch opened a discussion regarding the selection of a Search Committee for the installment of a new Chief of Police. With the unopposed election in November, the Chief will presumably take office as the District Magistrate, leaving a vacancy in the Borough’s Police Department. Felch stated that Council should consider appointing the current Mayor, the Borough Manager, the presumably future Mayor, and another member of Council. Balascak stated that he was not comfortable selecting a committee member who only has the potential of a future election. Solicitor Gittinger stated that Council should give thought to appointing a new member to fill the vacancy on the Civil Service Board. Motion was made to appoint Mayor Mack, Council Member Walters, and Manager Paashaus to the Police Chief Search Committee. There was further discussion regarding the use of residents and experienced law enforcement officers as advisors to the committee. **Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.**

3. Government Relations

- a. MECAB – Council Member Nalichowski reported that MECAB will not be meeting until September.

4. Administration and Finance

- a. Council President Felch opened a discussion regarding the café restaurant operating in the Fire Company’s Social Quarters. The discussion included concerns regarding a tax exempt property renting to a “for profit” business. The Council is affirming of the new business but requests that they “do the right thing” by obeying the correct rules, pay taxes, and get proper approvals. A Motion was made by Lundy and seconded by Balascak to have the solicitor prepare a tax assessment appeal to the county relative to the for-profit operations at 13 S Main Street and do so prior to the August 1st deadline for appeals. **Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.**

REPORTS OF PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

1. Jr. Council: Nothing to Report
2. Solicitor: Nothing to Report

3. Engineer: Engineer Erdman stated that there were inquiries from HUD and the County regarding the CDBG work over the last few years. The Borough passed the test.
4. Borough Manager: Manager Paashaus stated that the meter for sewer flow during the past large rain event was very positive and is pleased with the progress of the Borough's I&I Program. Paashaus also stated that the Municipal Authority may be in need of a short-term loan for the meter program. Council also noted that the Authority has not paid its reconciliation invoice from 2012.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Rails to Trails – Remains on Agenda.
2. Consolidation of the Compost Site – Remains on Agenda
3. Ambulance Building – Remains on Agenda
4. The Traffic Signal Issue at Fairmount and Rt 309 – To be removed (See Action Item a.).

NEW BUSINESS

1. Council Member Balascak commended the Borough Manager on his work with the county and CDBG funding.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Balascak made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Lundy. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Timothy Paashaus – Borough Manager

John Felch, Jr. – Council President