

COOPERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2016

The meeting of the Coopersburg Borough Council was held on Tuesday, March 15th, 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, Snyder, Pica, Poot, Thrapp, Engineer Erdman, and Solicitor Alpert. Lee Lilley, the Borough Health Inspector, was in attendance as well.

AGENDA

A Motion was made by Pica and seconded by Poot to approve the Agenda with the addition of Resolution 2016-8 to approve a street closure. **The Agenda was approved by a vote of 7-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sonia Daniels, 321 N 4th Street, stated that she was applying for a special exception from the zoning hearing board to run a childcare facility at her house on 4th Street. There was discussion regarding the zoning district and parking. The manager was asked to attend the hearing when it is scheduled.

Daniel Paashaus, Springfield Township resident, requested that Council would consider a Coopersburg Farmer's Market for local, small, producer only farms. There was further discussion regarding location, number of farmers involved, organic qualifications, farming practices, using Borough Hall facility, correlating with the comprehensive plan, and a possible temporary road closing. The farmer's market would have a set of bylaws with each farmer participant having a say in decisions. Council gave general approval with hesitation regarding road closings. Council requested further information for the April Committee Meeting and will proceed from that meeting. The Market would likely be from June through November and be located in the center of town.

Eileen Peterman, 351 N 5th Street, reported a property maintenance concern to Council. Peterman stated that her neighbor at 422 E Fairmount Street has multiple cars, oil containers, refuse, and illegal outdoor buildings on the property. Council stated that a written report needed to be made to the office, and the enforcement officer would be able to correct the issue over time.

CONSENT AGENDA

A Motion was made by Snyder and seconded by Pica to receive the Monthly Financial Statements, receive the Monthly Reports (Council information, Police report, Vehicle roster, Fire Report, Zoning Report), and approve the Previous Meeting Minutes from February 16, 2016. **Consent Agenda passed by a vote of 7-0.**

ACTION ITEMS

1. A Motion was made by Snyder and seconded by Thrapp to approve Resolution 2016-5, allowing the Community Outreach Benefit Banner. **The Resolution passed by a vote of 7-0.**
2. A Motion was made by Pica and seconded by Thrapp to approve Resolution 2016-6, allowing the Coopersburg Community Day Banner. **The Resolution passed by a vote of 7-0.**
3. A Motion was made by Pica and seconded by Thrapp to approve Resolution 2016-7, allowing the Halloween Parade Banner. **The Resolution passed by a vote of 7-0.**
4. A Motion was made by Pica and seconded by Snyder to approve Resolution 2016-8, allowing the road closure of East Thomas Street on May 28th for an Italian Festival hosted by "Now That's Italian". **The Resolution passed by a vote of 7-0.**

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Infrastructure
 - a. Septic – Council Member Balascak stated that there was a recent storm event where sewer flow exceeded the meter. However, it was only for a brief amount of time.
 - b. Highway – Council Member Balascak reported that the Committee had a public meeting with residents on West Fairmount Street regarding the current curbing project. 16 of 25 households were represented at the meeting, and there was discussion regarding costs, construction time, and payment plans. The more residents that agree to have a Borough authorized contractor, the cheaper the project will be. Council supported mailing of agreement letters to all property owners affected.
 - c. Water – Council Member Balascak opened a dialogue regarding his request to Council to appropriate \$100,000.00 to the Water Authority to help them become solvent. There was further discussion regarding the sale of water being relatively steady over the course of 3 years, the costs for capital improvements, and current water rates. Greenland questioned the management of expenses and general decision making. A Motion was made by Balascak and seconded by Pica to appropriate \$100,000.00 to the Water Authority. Poot stated that Council should do their due diligence before giving such a large amount money. Balascak stated that he would be a “stop gap” and hold off future expenses. There was further discussion regarding the need for an Authority budget, water rate increases, their current obligations, and the possibility of a consolidation. Balascak and Felch both stated that the Authority members were dedicated members and any decision regarding a consolidation would need to be handled professionally in order not to be seen as disrespectful of the work of Authority Members. There was further discussion regarding water money vs. tax money, concerns over just writing a check without an action plan, and further financial transition to the Borough. Felch stated that water was a very important aspect of Borough life and should be handled correctly. **The Motion failed by a vote of 1-6 (Balascak yes).** Balascak stated that he will take that answer back to Water Authority, and they will have to figure it out.
2. Public Safety/Governmental Relations
 - a. Mayor Hovis stated that members of the fire company and the health inspector were present for any questions. Lilley stated that he was working on a health issue at the Executive Inn and would have a further report at a later time. Hovis stated the Police are completely moved into the new Police Station. The Committee is hoping to have a public open house in the future with the inclusion of the Fire Company.
3. Administration and Finance
 - a. No additional report.

REPORTS OF PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

1. Solicitor: Alpert stated that he would be taking a job in Harrisburg. His partner will take over the duties of Solicitor. Felch thanked Alpert for his service and disclosed that the new Solicitor serves on a board that presides over Felch’s employment.
2. Engineer: No additional report.
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.

NEW BUSINESS

Council President Felch stated that there was an Ethics Commission Order in Council packets, that the investigation has concluded, no further action was needed, and the person is no longer employed or residing in the Borough.

Council Vice President Balascak stated that the Compost site would have extended hours beginning on March 26, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Balascak made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Felch. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Timothy Paashaas – Borough Manager

John Felch, Jr. – Council President