

COOPERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2013

The meeting of the Coopersburg Borough Council was held on Tuesday, March 19th, in Council Chambers at Borough Hall. The meeting was called to order by Council President Felch at 7:00 p.m.

No Opening Ceremonies

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

Proposed Agenda accepted without changes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion made by Minarik and seconded by Nalichowski to receive the Monthly Financial Statements and accept the Previous Meeting Minutes with the addition that Jr. Council Member Hewins was present at the meeting but not listed in the attendance section. **Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.**

ROUTINE REPORTS

Routine reports received: Council Information, Police, and Fire (Copies in Official Record).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Infrastructure
 - a. Septic – Council Member Balascak reported that SWERP Inc. completed their work on S 9th Street.
 - b. Highway – Council Member Balascak reported that the Public Works Employees are working on equipment maintenance. There was further discussion regarding the times and dates for the Compost Site to be open. The Site is currently open extended hours on Wednesdays and Saturdays.
 - c. Water – Council Member Balascak reported that the Municipal Authority had notified Council of their Resolution 2-2013 prohibiting the sale of water in bulk. There was discussion regarding the reason for this resolution.
 - d. Mayor Mack requested information about future street repairs. Balascak stated that East Landis Street is scheduled to be repaired in 2013 using Liquid Fuels Money. There was further discussion regarding the disrepair of Tilghman Street.
2. Public Safety
 - a. Mayor Mack reported Police Cruiser 508 is in need of a new transmission. A grant from Lehigh County is being applied for to alleviate the cost of a new police cruiser. There was discussion surrounding the need to replace 508 and other vehicle needs. Manager Paashaus will provide Council with a list of Police vehicles and details.
3. Government Relations

- a. Council Member Minarik requested a discussion from Council regarding the Draft Guidelines for the rental of Borough Hall. Council members stated concerns about the purpose, current usage, and potential restrictions. Solicitor Gittinger advised Council to develop a guide to have parameters set in order to avoid any issue with liability and to be able to say “no” when appropriate. There was further discussion regarding Borough Hall being a community oriented gathering place, the concept of allowing alcohol, and exposure to liability issues. The Committee will continue to develop the Guidelines and make a recommendation in the future.
 - b. Council Member Nalichowski reported that MECAB had a meeting about energy solutions and how to audit existing utility bills to make sure they do not include any extra fees. Nalichowski requested that the Borough Manager research a company to audit the Borough’s utility bills. There will be a MECAB meeting on March 27th regarding energy savings.
 - c. Council Member Balascak requested information about the status of property maintenance issues in the Borough. Council would like status updates on reoccurring issues. The Code Enforcement Officer will be asked to provide an updated report.
4. Administration and Finance
- a. Council President Felch stated that members of the Comprehensive Planning Committee met with a potential buyer and developer of the Pinebrook property. The meeting gave the committee hope, and they look forward to the potential development. There was further discussion regarding other properties for sale or improvement in the Borough. Erdman stated that the FPM development on 2nd Street is moving forward with environmental permitting. Felch stated that his personal stance on the distribution of EDU’s needs to be focused on smaller developments and not just be allocated for a few large plans.

REPORTS OF PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

1. Jr. Council: Nothing to Report
2. Solicitor: Solicitor Gittinger reported that there are three (3) tax assessment appeals in front of Judge Reichly. The three (3) consist of two (2) residential properties and one (1) commercial property. The commercial property is a large apartment building with no vacancies and a waiting list. There was Council discussion regarding appraisals and the effect of assumptions on the total assessed value.
3. Engineer: Engineer Erdman stated that the survey work for the streetscape of Station Avenue has been completed and sent to Architerra for the next phase. The CDBG project has been advertised for bidding, and bids are due by April 8th.
4. Borough Manager: Nothing to Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Rails to Trails – Remains on Agenda
2. Consolidation of the Compost Site – Remains on Agenda
3. Ambulance Building – E-mail stating that total vacation will be by May 1, 2013. Felch requested proposals from the Police department regarding plans and use of the Ambulance building.
4. The Traffic Signal Issue at Fairmount and Rt 309 will be added to Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Lundy made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Nalichowski. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Timothy Paashaus – Borough Manager

John Felch, Jr. – Council President