

**COOPERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**November 15, 2016**

The meeting of the Coopersburg Borough Council was held on Tuesday, November 15<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. Felch spoke regarding the nation being united even after a divisive election that will have an impact on the Borough.

Roll Call was taken by Manager Paashaus. All present were Mayor Hovis, Council Members Felch, Balascak, Greenland, Pica, Poot, Snyder, Thrapp, Engineer Erdman, and Solicitor Alpert.

**AGENDA**

**The Agenda was ordered approved as written without objection.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jim DeSouza, Borough Library Representative, thanked Council for their contribution to the Library and spoke about the impact of a lower annual contribution.

**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, Fire Company Report, Zoning Report), and approve the previous meeting minutes from October 18, 2016. Balascak requested that the Quarterly Pension Report be pulled from the Consent Agenda to be discussed later. **The Consent Agenda (without the Quarterly Pension Reports) passed by a vote of 6-0.**

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. A Motion was made by Pica and seconded by Poot to approve the Second Reading of the 2017 Borough Budget. Felch stated that the detailed report is for information, and the action would be taken for the summary budget only. Thrapp stated her disagreement with the manager's salary increase. There was further discussion regarding the committee's research into comparable salaries for the position, the size of the municipalities compared, the median pay rate, previous employee issues, and concern regarding the size of the increase. Balascak stated that additional funds were needed for the MS4 program and engineering costs for the Borough's Streetscape. Paashaus stated that the appropriate line items were increased for these two expenses, and there will not be any real estate tax increase for 2017. **The Second Reading of the 2017 Borough Budget passed by a vote of 6-1 (Thrapp – Nay).**

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

1. Infrastructure
  - a. Septic – Council Member Balascak stated that the committee will be reviewing the best sewer access to the new house at 7<sup>th</sup> and Fairmount Street and where to install the portable sewer flow meters for I&I reporting in 2017. Balascak stated that the treatment plant costs increased due to salary and medical increases. There was further discussion regarding sewer flow, cost of improvements, line capacity, and the odor along Rt 378 in Upper Saucon Township.
  - b. Highway – Council Member Balascak stated that leaf collection was continuing, and the committee would be reviewing a street vacation request from a resident on Cherry Street (Mertz). There was further discussion regarding street vacation, traffic, future impact, utility placement,

and access to the property. No action was taken. Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup> will be the last day for the extended hours at the Compost Site.

- c. Water – Council Member Balascak stated that the Borough wells were measured at 75 feet which is concerning but no action is necessary at this time. There was further discussion regarding any consideration for water restrictions due to drought, the improvement of the reservoir property, and the preconstruction meeting for the Station Avenue Bridge Project.

## 2. Public Safety/Governmental Relations

- a. Mayor Hovis stated that car 504 was replaced and in service. Hovis stated that the officers are happy with the new plate-reader equipment and requested information regarding the Health Inspector. Paashaus stated that after a long wait, the Health Inspector gave the needed information to the Borough office earlier in the day. The Fire Company tree sale begins the day after Thanksgiving. Hovis stated his disappointment with the condition of Borough Hall and wanted information regarding the generator replacement. Paashaus stated that there was money allocated for improvement in line item #409 of the 2017 Borough Budget. Felch stated that the Historical Society was beginning to plan improvements for Borough Hall at their cost. There will be more information in the future.

## 3. Administration and Finance

- a. No additional report.

## **REPORTS OF PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS**

1. Solicitor: No additional report.
2. Engineer: Engineer Erdman stated that an application was denied by the Zoning Officer due to the resident requesting to place a retaining wall in a public right-of-way.
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.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Council Member Balascak requested information regarding the Quarterly Pension Reports. There was concern about retirees taking a lump sum and how that would affect the overall pension health. There was further discussion regarding options to a retiree, actuarial projections, and Council's appreciation for Uninvest's management of the pension funds. A Motion was made by Balascak and seconded by Pica to receive the Quarterly Pension Report. **The Motion passed by a vote of 7-0.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Timothy Paashaus – Borough Manager

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John Felch, Jr. – Council President