

COOPERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2015

The meeting of the Coopersburg Borough Council was held on Tuesday, October 20th, in Council Chambers at Borough Hall and called to order by Council Vice President Balascak 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, Lundy, Greenland, Pica, Thrapp, Engineer Erdman and Solicitor Capehart (Substitute for Alpert). Council Members Felch and Mack were absent.

AGENDA

A Motion was made by Pica and seconded by Thrapp to approve the Agenda as written. **The Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gene Johnson (Hillside Dr) requested information regarding the future development on W State Street. The development, known as Cooper Farms, has 2 projects. The first is 7 lots abutting Gun Club Road. A preliminary plan has been submitted for the second project that includes an additional 32 lots. This plan is currently being reviewed by the engineer and may be included in the November Council Meeting. Other residents were present with concerns about the development. They viewed the plan during the meeting and will attend future meetings.

CONSENT AGENDA

A Motion was made by Lundy and seconded by Pica to receive the Monthly Financial Statements, receive the Monthly Reports (Council information, Police report, Vehicle roster), and approve the Previous Meeting Minutes from September 15, 2015 and October 5, 2015. Balascak requested that the Fire Report be removed for review. **The Consent Agenda, without the Fire Report, passed by a vote of 5-0.**

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Infrastructure
 - a. Septic – No additional report.
 - b. Highway – Council Member Balascak gave a summary of the reconstruction needs on West Fairmount Street. The road is planned to be reconstructed in 2017, giving the residents who need to replace curbing a year to complete their work. KCE will assist in the curbing program. Erdman stated that having KCE involved will be an objective, non-political way of correcting the problem.

Council Member Balascak stated that Fall leaf collection had started.

Council Member Balascak reported that the committee was reviewing the storm water issues on Main Street. There is excess storm water and sump pump flow that will cause icing in the winter. Balascak stated that a study was needed to know the extent of the work needed and the estimated cost. Greenland stated that the engineer could give an estimate rather than a detailed design. Erdman concurred and stated that KCE could provide budget figures without a full design. There was further discussion regarding the project, where the financing would come from, and the sump pump issue. Balascak stated that a line item should be added to the budget for the Comprehensive Plan and should be used for items like this. Erdman stated that the sump pumps may be rerouted to the yards during the winter and that would solve the icing problem.

- c. Water – Council Member Balascak reported that the Water Authority received a written support letter from Upper Saucon regarding the inter-connect. Balascak stated that the borough pumped

twenty million gallons of water versus only having sixteen million in water sales. This leaves four million gallons of unbilled water loss. Balascak reported that the Water Authority agreed to supply water to the Oxford Ridge Subdivision.

2. Public Safety/Governmental Relations

- a. Mayor Hovis stated that the new police station was moving along and the reuse of some equipment has resulted in project savings. Hovis stated that the Borough was successful in getting approximately \$35,000 in gaming grant money to replace car 509. Hovis reported that one of the part-time patrolmen was hired for a full-time position in Whitehall. The search for a part-time replacement has begun. Hovis stated that the Halloween Parade was a success.
- b. Council Member Balascak requested information regarding the number of responses to alarms listed on the Fire Report. Rehrig, Fire Company representative, gave an explanation about false alarms, alarms activated by contractors doing work, and how many calls were responded to. A Motion was made by Thrapp and seconded by Lundy to accept the Monthly Fire Report. **The Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.**

3. Administration and Finance

- a. Council Member Lundy stated that the Draft 2016 Budget Summary and Detail were included in the Council Packets. Lundy stated that income was relatively unchanged with the only significant difference in the discontinuation of the Water Meter Fee and reconciliation being completed. Lundy stated that expenses were maintained to match revenue closely. A Motion was made by Lundy and seconded by Pica to accept the 2016 Budget Summary for the first reading. Pica stated that the Library, Park, and Fire Company attended the budget hearing and made their funding requests. The committee recommended the same 5% increase to all funding rather than honor the larger requests by the Park and Fire Company. Pica stated that if a specific need arises, the Fire Company and Park could approach Council at that time for additional funding. There was further discussion regarding several line items, collection of taxes, capital improvements, sewer treatment plant costs, and health inspections. Greenland stated that Code Enforcement was a concern and extra money should be considered to budget the correction of this issue. The Police Contract fixes their raises at 1%, and the Chief of Police and Public Works department were recommended to follow the same increase. Balascak requested the Health Inspector's attendance at the November 17th meeting. The Manager will be adding an additional Capital Reserve line item specifically dedicated to the Comprehensive Plan. **The 2016 Summary Budget was accepted, subject to further amendment, for its first reading by a vote of 5-0.**

REPORTS OF PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

1. Solicitor: No additional report.
2. Engineer: Engineer Erdman reported that 2 subdivisions applications were being reviewed. The first, Oxford Ridge, has had comments issued by KCE and will be reviewed by the committee on November 2nd. The second, Cooper Farms, is a 2 project subdivision. The current review is regarding the 32 lots proposed in a lot #8 of the original submission. The engineer comments should be completed by next week and then reviewed by the committee. Erdman stated that there was a concern from an abutting neighbor. He is concerned about a buffer around the road and edge of the subdivision along the border of his property. A letter from Grogan was shared with Council via e-mail for further review. Erdman reported that he expects a sketch plan for review regarding the N 7th Street parcel of land and will give updates on the current inspections at Pinebrook Manor.
3. Borough Manager: Manager Paashaus reported that the Garbage Collection Specs were nearing completion and requested Council's review in order to bid the contract by the end of October. There was further discussion regarding several minor changes to the specs from 2010. The current contract expires on February 29, 2016.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Compost site will remain on the Agenda. Balascak stated that it would be beneficial to the

- Borough to partner with Upper Saucon regarding a joint compost site.
2. Municipal Parking will remain on the Agenda. Council requested information regarding the Wells Fargo parking lot project. Paashaus stated that a modification plan was submitted and should be constructed in the near future.
 3. RFP for Engineering/Zoning/Code Enforcement will remain on the Agenda. There was further discussion regarding the need for this to issue to be addressed. Hovis stated that it is a real problem and most recently, the sidewalk issues have been a big issue. Balascak stated that the committee would propose a solution in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Council Member Balascak stated that a “Meet the Candidates” event was scheduled for October 24, 2015 from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. This event would be moderated by Ken Mohr and all 6 Council candidates will be present to answer questions from the public. There are 3 open spots on Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Lundy made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Pica. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Timothy Paashaus – Borough Manager

Dennis Balascak. – Vice President