

**COOPERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**September 15, 2015**

The meeting of the Coopersburg Borough Council was held on Tuesday, September 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**

No Opening Ceremony

Roll call was taken by Manager Paashaus. All present were Mayor Hovis, Council Members Balascak, Felch, Greenland, Pica, Thrapp, and Solicitor Alpert. Council Member Lundy was absent.

**AGENDA**

**The Agenda was ordered adopted without any objection.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Public Comment

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A Motion was made by Pica and seconded by Thrapp to receive the Monthly Financial Statements, receive the Monthly Reports (Council information, Police report, Vehicle roster), and approve the Previous Meeting Minutes from August 18, 2015. **Consent Agenda passed by a vote of 5-0.**

**SPECIAL REQUEST**

Matthew Rehrig (Coopersburg Fire Company) presented a financial need to Council. Bucks County is currently changing their radio system, and the fire company is in need of new radios to fulfill calls in Bucks County.

Council Member Mack and Engineer Erdman arrived to the meeting.

There was further discussion regarding the need for the new radios, the improvement of digital technology, the overall cost of mobile radios versus handheld radios, the ability to sell the old radios, and what amount of funding the fire company was looking for. A Motion was made by Mack and seconded by Thrapp to contribute \$12,000.00 towards the purchase of new radios for the Coopersburg Fire Company. **The Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.**

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. A Motion was made by Thrapp and seconded by Pica to approve the final reading of Ordinance 650, requiring rental inspections for all residential rental properties. Edward Hill (Owner of 421 S Main Street Apartments) commented on his concern for the re-inspection fee of \$30 and the difference between Hotel/Motel units. There was further discussion regarding residential rentals versus commercial rentals, re-inspection costs, minor repairs versus major issues, and other types of rental situations. Council thanked Hill for his representation as a landlord in the Borough. Greenland questioned why driveways were not included in D(1) and asked to have clarifying wording for extinguisher locations in D(7). **Ordinance 650 was passed with two minor modifications by a vote of 6-0 (1. Adding “Driveways” to D(1). 2. Adding “Extinguishers need to be in a clear and visible location” to D(7)).**
2. A Motion was made Pica and seconded by Thrapp to approve the final reading of Ordinance 651, amending several general parking guidelines. Balascak expressed concerns regarding Section C. A Motion was made by Balascak and seconded by Greenland to strike Section C from Ordinance 651. There was further discussion regarding concerns over clarity of the section, safety concerns, frequency of repair instances, and the 72 hour time limit. **The Motion to strike Section C failed by a vote of 2-3 (Yay – Balascak, Greenland. Nay – Mack, Pica, Thrapp).** There was further

discussion regarding inoperable vehicles, cars parking the wrong direction, and police officer discretion. **Ordinance 651 was approved by a vote of 4-2 (Yay – Felch, Mack, Pica, Thrapp. Nay – Balascak, Greenland).**

### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

1. Infrastructure
  - a. Septic – Council Member Balascak stated that the sand mound project at the reservoir property was complete and the tenant was renovating the bathroom at the farmhouse.
  - b. Highway – Council Member Balascak stated that the committee met to review the storm water issues on South Main Street between Thomas Street and Station Avenue. The committee has been directed to evaluate this issue by the Comprehensive Planning Team and has come up with three viable options. The engineer has utility maps for South Main Street, and the committee will review their options with the engineer at the next meeting.
  - c. Water – Council Member Balascak reported that the Water Authority is waiting on further information from Upper Saucon regarding the inner-connect. Well #1 has been sealed and the property is for sale for \$15,000.00. Balascak requested information from the Manager regarding Water Pumped versus Water Billed.
2. Public Safety/Governmental Relations
  - a. Mayor Hovis thanked Matthew Rehrig for being present and the work he is doing on behalf of the fire company.
3. Administration and Finance
  - a. Council Member Pica stated that committee is working on the 2016 budget.

### **REPORTS OF PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS**

1. Solicitor: No additional report.
2. Engineer: Engineer Erdman stated that all CDBG work was completed for this year. Greenland requested information regarding Macungie pursuing a speed limit change. There was discussion regarding the concerns of a traffic study, the bureaucracy of PennDot, and the frustration with the center line being repainted prematurely on Main Street.
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**

1. Council President Felch gave Council an article from the Borough News Magazine entitled “Are you an effective Council President?”. Felch stated he is open to comments, suggestions, and criticisms regarding the magazine and his role in this important position.
2. Council discussed the future garbage contract and the issues with the bid from 2010.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Balascak made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Felch. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM.

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Timothy Paashaus – Borough Manager

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John Felch, Jr. – Council President