

COOPERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2014

The meeting of the Coopersburg Borough Council was held on Tuesday, September 16th, 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. Also present were Mayor Hovis, Council Members Balascak, Lundy, Greenland, Mack, Pica, Thrapp, Solicitor Alpert, and Engineer Erdman.

AGENDA

The Agenda was ordered adopted without any changes or objections.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Officer Leindecker stated that retired, K9 officer Grim had to be put to sleep and asked Council to send a letter of gratitude to Lehigh Valley Animal Hospital for their continued support over the years. Felch acknowledged the support, the impact to the Borough, stated that an official appreciation will be completed, and thanked Officer Leindecker for his service.

Council President Felch welcomed the Boy Scout in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA

A Motion was made by Lundy 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 19, 2014. **Consent Agenda passed by a vote of 7-0.**

ACTION ITEMS

1. Council Member Balascak opened a discussion regarding the waiver requests for the Cooper Farms Subdivision Plan as stated in a letter from Van Cleef Engineering, associated date September 11, 2014. Felch gave an explanation of Parliamentary Procedure and stated that Council could have one motion and vote on each waiver separately (Seriatim). A Motion was made by Balascak and seconded by Pica to approve all waiver requests for the Cooper Farms Subdivision with separate votes for each request. There was discussion regarding the distinction of a subdivision plan versus a development plan, what project the waivers were regarding, and the future plans for the additional acreage not included in this submission.
 - a. **The Waiver of SALDO 195-7 and 195-9 for the submission of the preliminary plan to be accepted as a final plan submission passed by a vote of 7-0.**
 - b. **The Waiver of SALDO 195-13.B reducing the plan sheet size passed by a vote of 7-0.**
 - c. **The Waiver of SALDO 195-13.F.(3) from requiring a Landscaping Plan passed by a vote of 6-1 (Felch = Nay).** There was discussion regarding the property slope, impact to the ecosystem, erosion controls, and potential disturbance.
 - d. **The Waiver of SALDO 195-13.F(8) allowing for on-site wells to the 7 lots fronting on Gun Club Road passed by a vote of 7-0.** There was discussion regarding loss of revenue, sewer needs, impact to disturbance, and if Upper Saucon Township could serve the properties with water. There was clarification Engineer Erdman and Kirk Leister (representative for Cooper Farms) that all waivers granted were for these 7 lots only and would not have any impact to any future projects or subdivisions on the remaining 16.3 acres. The additional acreage is a

- completely separate future subdivision and would be handled as such.
- e. **The Waiver of SALDO 195-14.D.(7), 195-14.D.(8), and 195-14.D.(9) to not require the Subdivision Improvements Agreement, Performance Guarantee, and Maintenance Agreement passed by a vote of 7-0.** There was further discussion regarding the impact of not having these agreements and the lack of any public improvements needed for the subdivision.
 - f. **The SALDO 195-24.A.(6) to Authorize the Borough Engineer to review the adequacy of the required Erosion & Sedimentation Control Plan as earth disturbance will be minimal and limited to less than one acre passed by a vote of 7-0.**
2. The Public Safety Committee recommended the approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Borough of Coopersburg and the Coopersburg Police Officers Association, effective 01/01/2015 through 12/31/2019. Mayor Hovis stated that the public safety committee met with police committee to negotiate the new contract. The majority of the contract remained the same with only changes to the annual raises (1% annually), the length of the contract (5 years), and contribution to health care (remained at \$0 contribution). Hovis stated that the changes would keep costs lower over the next 5 years due to negotiating the annual raises. Balascak stated that it was the Council's duty to review the entire contract and was disappointed that he was not afforded the time to review the new contract before being asked to vote. There was further discussion regarding the potential of delaying the vote, the process of negotiations, tabling the contract until a later meeting, future arbitration, the fact that the current contract is a publicly accessible document, and the committee being authorized by Council to negotiate with the police officers. **The Collective Bargaining Agreement passed by a vote of 6-1 (Balascak = Nay).**

CABLE TV FRANCHISE RENEWAL HEARING – SERVICE ELECTRIC

Council discussed the renewal of the cable franchise agreement with Service Electric. There was some discussion regarding the exclusivity of the cable companies in the Borough, the franchise fees and the schedule of renewal. Council was not opposed to the renewal of the agreement.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Infrastructure
 - a. Septic – Council Member Balascak reported that the CDBG project is almost complete. There is minor work to be completed at the end of September.
 - b. Highway – Council Member Balascak reported that Landis Street paving was complete and the Public Works department will finish the curbing and driveway repairs in the next few weeks. Balascak publicly thanked Upper Saucon Township for their assistance on the paving project.
 - c. Water – Council Member Balascak reported that the Municipal Authority paid the reconciliation payment for the calendar year 2012. The Authority still owes for 2013 and they are going to discuss allowing the Borough to assist in their financial oversight in order for the Authority to focus completely on water rather than finances.
2. Public Safety/Governmental Relations
 - a. No additional report
3. Administration and Finance
 - a. Council Member Lundy reported that the 2015 budget preparation had begun and encouraged all committees to submit large needs. Felch requested that the committee review the potential for a “rainy day” fund contribution.

REPORTS OF PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

1. Solicitor: No additional report.
2. Engineer: Engineer Erdman reported that he is waiting for the final conditions of approval for the

Pinebrook Manor project. Erdman stated that Jay Musselman contacted him regarding the consideration of a future subdivision for the commercial property located at 702 W State St.

3. Borough Manager: Manager Paashaus invited the Council members to participate in the Halloween Parade on October 12th. Paashaus opened a discussion regarding the replacement of the Borough Hall entrance doors, the difference in quality, the difference in price, and comparison of proposals. Council authorized the Manager to contract with Hess Windows for the replacement project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Compost site will remain on the Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

COUNCIL COMMENTS

1. Council Member Balascak requested that a note would be added to the website and utility bill regarding the need for non-food related donations to Betty Lou's Pantry
2. Council President Felch invited all Council members to attend Community Day on September 20th. The day benefits the community and the Historical Society.
3. There are no significant updates to Brinley Court, and the contractor has not returned an executed contract to temporarily rent 8 sewer allocations from the Borough. Council discussed the fact that there is a "sunset date" on the agreement and that the contractor is fully aware of this date.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Balascak made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Felch. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Timothy Paashaus – Borough Manager

John Felch, Jr. – Council President