

COOPERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2021

The meeting of the Coopersburg Borough Council was held on Tuesday, January 19th, in Council Chambers at Borough Hall & called to order by Council 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 Council Members Balascak, Craig, Dietz, Ellenberger, Kane, Poot, Thrapp, Solicitor Capehart, & Engineer Erdman. Mayor Hovis was absent.

AGENDA

A Motion was made by Thrapp & seconded by Poot to approve the Agenda with a change to the order. Action Item #1 was moved. **The Agenda was adopted by a vote of 7-0.**

A Motion was made by Thrapp & seconded by Dietz to recognize the service & dedication of Municipal Authority President, Charles Minnich. Balascak read the Resolution & presented it to Minnich's wife. Minnich passed away in December of 2020. Council expressed their appreciation & condolences.

Resolution 2021-1 passed by a vote of 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

A Motion was made by Thrapp & seconded by Dietz to receive the Monthly Reports (Monthly Financial Statements, Council Information), & approve the previous meeting minutes from December 15, 2020. Craig requested to remove the Police Report to be discussed after all Agenda items. **The Consent Agenda was approved by a vote of 7-0.**

ACTION ITEMS

1. A Motion was made by Craig & seconded by Ellenberger to appoint a hiring committee for the Public Works Crew Position. Craig, Thrapp, & Poot volunteered to work with the Public Works Director & Manager to hire a new employee. **The Motion passed by a vote of 7-0.**

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Infrastructure – Council Member Dietz gave an update on Valley Manor, future developments (MSK & Sheetz), & Pinebrook's security release. Balascak highlighted the 2021 Oil & Chip Street List & stated that the Authority had not met in January. Kane stated that the committee would be reviewing the culvert deterioration on the Liberty Trolley Line.
2. Public Safety – Fire Company Treasurer, Kessler, & Fire Company Vice President, Rosenberger, were present to give an update on the Fire Company, its financial concerns, fundraising plans, loan deferment, grant funding, & plans for 2021.
3. Administration & Finance – Council Member Poot gave an update regarding the 2020 Borough Audit, end of the year finance reports, & expenses anticipated in 2021.

REPORTS OF PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

1. Solicitor: No additional report.
2. Engineer: No additional report.

3. Borough Manager: Manager Paashaus stated that the next construction phase of the Streetscape on Main Street was awarded to Kriger Construction, & the notice to proceed will be in April or May.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Craig stated that Police Report was in a new format which included yearly information. There was discussion regarding the possibility of comparing historic numbers. A Motion was made by Craig & seconded by Thrapp to receive the Police Report. **The Motion passed by a vote of 7-0.**

A Motion was made by Craig & seconded by Thrapp to begin holding all Council monthly business meetings virtually until Governor lifts the Commonwealth's disaster declaration. Craig's statement was as follows: *"In light of the ever increasing risk to public health resulting from the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, I move that beginning at the next regularly scheduled meeting in February 2021, Borough Council meetings & committee workshop meetings be conducted virtually via a web-based meeting platform found suitable by the Borough Manager to serve these purposes until such time as the laws of the State of Pennsylvania's no longer allow for such activities, so as not to put our consultants, the public, & Council members & their families at risk of spreading the virus in our community. Committee workshop meetings that require an in-person meeting to conduct Borough business can be agreed to by those committee members in advance."* There was further discussion regarding advertisement, attendance, virtual platforms, committee meeting attendance, impact of the Covid19 Pandemic, public safety, & future meetings. **The Motion passed by a vote of 4-3 (Craig, Kane, Poot, Thrapp = Yay / Balascak, Dietz, Ellenberger = Nay).**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Valley Manor Sewer Lateral will remain until complete.
2. Ordinance *** – Fireworks – will remain on the Agenda.
3. Ordinance *** – Vacating several borough roads – will remain on the Agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion was made by Thrapp & seconded by Ellenberger to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.