

COOPERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2021

The meeting of the Coopersburg Borough Council was held virtually on Tuesday, March 16th, & was called to order by Council President Balascak at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

No Opening Ceremonies.

Roll Call was taken by Manager Paashaus. All present were Mayor Hovis, Council Members Balascak, Craig, Dietz, Ellenberger, Kane, Poot, Thrapp, Solicitor Capehart, & Engineer Erdman.

AGENDA

A Motion was made by Thrapp & seconded by Dietz to approve the Agenda with the addition of a letter request from Sage Alley Brewery regarding relief from a noise ordinance. **The Agenda was adopted by a vote of 5-2 (Nay = Craig, Ellenberger).**

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, 2020 DCED Borough Audit Report), & approve the previous meeting minutes from February 16, 2021. **The Consent Agenda was approved by a vote of 7-0.**

ACTION ITEMS

1. A discussion occurred regarding the Zoning Application from Sage Alley Brewery (213 N Main Street). The owner, Russell Armstrong, and his landscape designer were present to answer questions. There was further discussion regarding the request for a deck in the front of the property, zoning code questions, zoning hearing board procedures, changing the façade of a historic building, and the timeframe for Council to review. The Borough Zoning Ordinance dictates that Council has 30 days to issue an opinion or recommendations of design to the applicant and the zoning officer. The discussion continued with questions about the design, future impact, notifying neighbors, and the surrounding properties. Kane stated that the timeframe had already exceeded the zoning code, and Thrapp stated that she recommends Heritage landscapers and their quality of work. No further action was taken, and the applicant can move forward if they meet all other zoning requirements.
2. A Motion was made by Thrapp and seconded by Dietz to approve the Final reading of the sewer lateral and property inspection ordinance. There was further discussion regarding the reason for the requirement, sewer I&I, and the inspection being conducted by an acceptable plumber. **The Final Reading of Ordinance 2021-675 passed by a vote of 6-1 (Ellenberger = nay).**
3. A Motion was made by Craig and seconded by Thrapp to appoint Ted Janney to the Coopersburg Municipal Authority. Janney will fill the vacancy and serve the remainder of Minnich's term. **The Motion passed by a vote of 7-0.**
4. A discussion occurred regarding a request from Sage Alley Brewery (213 N Main Street) to review the PLCB noise requirements (music – live or recorded) and give relief. There was further discussion regarding the noise ordinance, the process of any modification or alleviation, the impact on neighbors, and the possibility of live music. Balascak stated that the request will be reviewed in committee, and no further action was taken.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Infrastructure – Council Member Dietz gave an update on Valley Manor, the MSK project, meeting with future developers of the “Beans Properties”/Sheetz, and that the committee was reviewing the

Borough's sewer allocations for future use. Balascak stated that the Authority did not have a meeting in March, that new water meters were being ordered, and the forester was giving estimates.

2. Public Safety – Mayor Hovis stated that the Fire Company was moving forward on ordering a new pumper truck to replace 2 antiquated trucks (selling both). There was further discussion regarding the Fire Company fundraisers, police body cameras, speed signs on Main Street, and traffic calming.
3. Administration & Finance – Council Member Poot stated that the 2020 Audit was “clean”, and the P&L statement is generally on a normal track.

REPORTS OF PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

1. Solicitor: Solicitor Capehart introduced Attorney Ulrich. Ulrich will be involved in the Borough in a larger capacity in the future.
2. Engineer: Engineer Erdman stated that the “Beans” properties will continue to be reviewed.
3. Borough Manager: No additional report.

NEW BUSINESS

A Motion was made by Dietz and seconded by Ellenberger to return to regular, in-person meetings in April. There was further discussion regarding Virtual vs. In-person meetings, continuing to distance, wear masks, and limit attendance based on spacing. **The Motion to reconvene meetings in-person passed by a vote of 6-1 (Nay = Craig).**

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 Dietz to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.