

COOPERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2022

The meeting of the Coopersburg Borough Council was held in Borough Hall on Tuesday, October 18th & was called to order by Council President Poot at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

All present were Mayor Hovis, Council Members Dietz, Dowdle, Ellenberger, Kane, Norman, Poot, Thrapp, Manager Paashaus, Engineer - McCarthy, Solicitor – Gross McGinley, & Jr. Council Bealer.

AGENDA

A Motion was made by Ellenberger & seconded by Dietz to approve the Agenda as printed. **The Agenda was adopted by a vote of 7-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

A Motion was made by Thrapp & seconded by Dowdle to receive the Monthly Reports (Financial Statements, Council Information, Police Report, Engineer Report, No Fire Report included), & approve the previous meeting minutes from September 20, 2022 & October 4, 2022. **The Consent Agenda was approved by a vote of 7-0.**

ACTION ITEMS

1. A Motion was made by Thrapp & seconded by Dietz to approve the application for a C2P2 Grant to finish the Town-Center Park. **Resolution 2022-13 passed by a vote of 7-0.**
2. A Motion was made by Kane & seconded by Dietz to approve the Franchise Agreement between Comcast and the Borough. There was further discussion regarding the agreement, the 5% fee, local donations, current telecommunication services in the Borough, permitting, and construction layout. A representative from Comcast, Brian Jeter, was present to answer Council's questions. The construction will commence immediately and connect residents over the course of 2 years. **The Motion passed by a vote of 7-0.**
3. A Motion was made by Thrapp & seconded by Kane to accept the retirement of Ronald Reiss after 35+ years of service to the Public Works Department. **The Motion passed by a vote of 7-0.** Council appointed Kane, Thrapp, & Dietz to the search committee to replace the position.
4. A Motion was made by Thrapp & seconded by Ellenberger to approve the Civil Service & Police Chief's recommendation of hiring for a full-time patrolman, Frank Gnas, effective November 1, 2022. There was further discussion regarding the process of hiring a police officer, testing, and that the procedure was certified by the Civil Service Commission. **The Motion passed by a vote of 7-0.**

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Infrastructure – Council Member Dietz gave updates on the following:
 - a. Ashford Reserve – Waiting for outside agency approvals to move forward.
 - b. MSK – Approved plan, but it has not been recorded to date.
 - c. MS4 – Stormwater Ordinance passed, & the annual report was filed with DEP. McCarthy will be working on a Waiver Request on behalf of the Borough.
 - d. Stone Harvest – Working on their N.O.T. for the end of the project.
 - e. Oxford Ridge – FPM/Tuskes are working on a Major Mod Plan to submit to LCCD.
 - f. Liberty Trolley Culvert – The Public Works department has a plan to correct the issue.
 - g. Comp Plan – Committee is continuing to work on key goals.
2. Public Safety – No additional report.

3. Administration & Finance – Council Member Kane opened the 2023 Budget discussion with a summary and several highlights regarding specific line items, salaries, tax information, and increases to funding to the Fire Company & Park. Thrapp expressed her objection to increases for staff members and stated it would hurt the committee’s negotiation with the Police Contract next year. There was further discussion regarding the Admin/Finance Committee’s research, analysis of income, cost of living increases, & that the Borough is below the average in pay scale in the eastern area of Pennsylvania (specifically for the Assistant Manager). **The 2023 Budget is balanced & does not propose any increase in taxes or utility fees.** A Motion was made by Ellenberger & seconded by Dowdle to approve the 1st Reading of the Borough’s 2023 Budget. **The Motion passed by a vote of 7-0.**

REPORTS OF PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

1. Solicitor: No additional report.
2. Engineer: No additional report.
3. Borough Manager: No additional report.
4. Jr. Council: No additional report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Hovis requested an update on the possibility of a park on the south end of town or the storage sheds in the center of town. No further movement has been made.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion was made by Dietz & seconded by Kane to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.