

# COOPERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Regular Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2023

The meeting of the Coopersburg Borough Council was held in Borough Hall on Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> & was called to order by Council Vice President Kane at 7:00 p.m.

### OPENING CEREMONIES

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was opened with a moment of silence remembering the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the gas explosion on Main Street/Oxford Street – injuring many & taking the lives of 5 residents. Kane gave a short narrative of the tragedy & brought attention to Public Safety & Infrastructure.

All present were Council Members Dietz, Dowdle, Ellenberger, Kane, Norman, Thrapp, Manager Paashaus, McCarthy Engineering, Solicitor Gross McGinley, Jr. Council Bealer.  
Council President Poot was absent.

### AGENDA

A Motion was made by Ellenberger & seconded by Dietz to approve the Agenda as written. **The Agenda was adopted by a vote of 6-0.**

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Seth Pellegrini, 55 Oxford Ridge Ct, requested updates regarding the modified plan for the Oxford Ridge development & stated his concern over the Borough's Code Enforcement – Barry Isett & Associates.

A representative from Whitetail Disposal gave further information regarding the garbage contract, inflation, & prices.

A representative from JP Mascaro gave a summary of Mascaro's bid reasoning, disagreement with prices, & fiscal responsibility.

### CONSENT AGENDA

A Motion was made by Ellenberger & seconded by Dowdle to receive the Monthly Reports (Financial Statements, Police Report, Engineer Report, but Fire Report was not included), & approve the previous meeting minutes from January 17, 2023, & Special Trash Meeting on January 31, 2023. **Ellenberger removed the Council Information Report to be discussed later in the meeting. The Consent Agenda was approved by a vote of 6-0.**

### ACTION ITEMS

1. Council Vice President Kane stated that the first Action Item would be handled in 3 consecutive stages & gave context for the garbage bids. Kane also asked the Manager to call a roll call vote for each action.
  - a. A Motion was made by Ellenberger & seconded by Dowdle to approve the continuation of outsourcing the borough's trash collection to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor. There was further discussion regarding the committee's due diligence, meeting with residents, considering in-house collection, or subscription services, & the overwhelming support for continuing to outsource. Manager Paashaus called each member by name for their vote. The result was as follows: Dietz – yay, Dowdle – yay, Ellenberger – yay, Norman – yay, Thrapp – yay, Kane – yay. **The Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.**
  - b. A Motion was made by Ellenberger & seconded by Dowdle to select a 5-year contract duration with 2 additional option years. There was further discussion regarding the length of contract, the opinion of residents, & fiscal responsibility. Manager Paashaus called each member by name for their vote. The result was as follows: Dietz – yay, Dowdle – yay, Ellenberger – yay, Norman – yay, Thrapp – yay, Kane – yay. **The Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.**
  - c. A Motion was made by Ellenberger & seconded by Thrapp to select the option of 1x per week pickup (Both Trash & Recycling picked up on Tuesday only). There was significant discussion regarding this action. The estimated difference between 1x vs 2x pickup equated to approximately \$17 per quarter or about \$5.50 per month to add the additional pickup (Tuesday/Friday as current). The Mayor stated his favor of the small price for the extra convenience. Thrapp stated "\$17 is \$17" in favor of 1x per week. There was further discussion regarding the opinion of residents, missing pickups, rentals lining the curb, & that Poot, although absent from the meeting, expressed his support of 2x at the Committee meeting. Norman asked if the trash contractor could handle 1x pickup & what that would look like. Sam Augustine, Representative from JP Mascaro, stated that the company could handle 1x per week, but would likely lead to the truck being in town significantly longer & into the evening. Kane stated that

historically the Borough has had 2x pickup per week for many decades, & that it would be difficult to increase the cost by almost double while decreasing service by half. Dietz stated that many neighbors stated they would be “ok” with 1x, & several others were very adamant about wanting 2x per week. Dietz further stated that the savings did not seem significant enough to reduce the service to half. Manager Paashaus called each member by name for their vote. The result was as follows: Dietz – nay, Dowdle – nay, Ellenberger – yay, Norman – nay, Thrapp – yay, Kane – nay. **The Motion failed by a vote of 2-4.**

- d. A Motion was made by Dowdle & seconded by Norman to approve Option #2 (5-year contract with 2x pickups per week) to JP Mascaro for a total contract cost of \$3,327,180.00 with 2 option years, beginning March 1, 2023. Any details regarding resident cost will be confirmed in the March Council Meeting. Manager Paashaus called each member by name for their vote. The result was as follows: Dietz – yay, Dowdle – yay, Ellenberger – nay, Norman – yay, Thrapp – nay, Kane – yay. **The Motion passed by a vote of 4-2.**

### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

1. Infrastructure – Council Member Dietz gave an update on the following items:
  - a. Ashford Preserve – Updated plans were submitted, & the committee would be reviewing them.
  - b. MS4 – The Committee requested to rescind the waiver application.
  - c. Oxford Ridge – The Manager gave an update regarding the Plan Modification that is anticipated to be submitted to LCCD in the next few weeks. The developer & engineer were notified that the Committee & Oxford Ridge HOA would need to review any changes.
  - d. Liberty Trail Culvert – Public Works will be starting the rehabilitation in the next few months. Construction fence was installed near each end to protect from the washed out areas.
2. Public Safety – Council Member Thrapp stated that the committee was beginning CBA negotiations with the Police Department.
3. Administration & Finance – No additional report.

### **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**

Council Information Report – Council Member Ellenberger requested more information regarding the Water Meter replacements & staff training. Around 200 meters still need to be replaced & at the moment, no other public works employees are enrolled in water license classes. However, 2 will likely be enrolled soon.

Mayor Hovis thanked Council for the gift basket given after the loss of his mother.

Council Member Ellenberger thanked Council for their attendance at the special meeting on January 31, 2023 regarding the garbage contract.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A Motion was made by Thrapp & seconded by Dietz to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.