

# COOPERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Regular Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2023

The meeting of the Coopersburg Borough Council was held in Borough Hall on Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> & was called to order by Council President Poot at 7:00 p.m.

**OPENING CEREMONIES** - The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

All present were Council Members Dowdle, Dietz, Ellenberger, Kane, Norman, Poot, Manager Paashauss, Solicitor Gross McGinley, McCarthy Engineering, Jr. Council Bealer. The Police Chief & Thrapp were absent.

### **AGENDA**

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Donald Bartholomew, 829 W Station Avenue, & Robert Stang, 835 W Station Avenue, stated their concerns regarding the roadway and water flow of West Station Avenue. The roadway was Nova chipped in 2019. Bartholomew & Stang will meet with the Infrastructure Committee to see if there are options or fixes to their concerns. Dietz will view the properties prior to the next committee meeting.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

A Motion was made by Dowdle & seconded by Dietz to receive the Monthly Reports (Financial Statements, Council Information Report, Police Report, Engineer Report, & Fire Report), & approve the previous meeting minutes from October 17, 2023. **The Consent Agenda was approved by a vote of 6-0.**

### **ACTION ITEMS**

1. A Motion was made by Kane & seconded by Dowdle to approve the Second & Final Reading of the 2024 Borough Budget. Kane gave a summary of minor changes. None of which were substantial. **The Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.** The associated Ordinances (Budget, Tax Rate, & Wages) will be on the Agenda at the December Council meeting.
2. A Motion was made by Dowdle & seconded by Norman to award the Comprehensive Plan Update contract to URDC at a cost not to exceed \$59,600.00. There was further discussion regarding the costs, planning structure, timeline of completion, legal requirements to update the plan, & that the contract is accounted for in the 2024 Budget. **The Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.**
3. A Motion was made by Dowdle & seconded by Dietz to award the SALDO Ordinance update contract to URDC at a cost not to exceed \$14,800.00. There was further discussion regarding the need to update the Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance, costs, & timeline for completion. **The Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.**
4. A Motion was made by Dowdle & seconded by Dietz to approve the purchase of "Stone Park" (5050 Locust Valley Road) in partnership with Upper Saucon, subject to Solicitor's Comments for a cost of \$325,000 (half of the purchase price). There was further discussion regarding the desire to preserve green space, add park facilities, grant applications, value of the property, and park design. Future agreements for maintenance costs, upkeep, & improvements will be developed with Upper Saucon Township after purchase. **The Motion to pursue and agree to the purchase of "Stone Park" passed by a vote of 6-0.**

### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

1. Infrastructure – Council Member Dietz gave the following updates:
  - Ashford Reserve – New plans will be submitted for Council to review & approve.
  - Oxford Ridge – Ad-hoc Committee drafted a letter requesting a meeting & will send tomorrow.
  - Stone Harvest – No additional Update.
  - MSK – This project is waiting on a few minor updates to be recorded.
  - MS4 – Public Works is still continuing to work on storm water upgrades, rebuilding inlets, and training.
  - Liberty Culvert - Public Works will likely begin the work in Spring of 2024.
  - Water – Less than 60 water meters need to be replaced, the lead & copper service lines are being inventoried, & the pump station at Tilghman & Locust will be updated (pending a grant application).
  - Comprehensive Plan – URDC was awarded the contract, & a TASA grant application is pending for updates to East Station Avenue beyond the Saucon Rail Trail.
  - Council Member Norman stated that she was researching the ability to make certain parks and trails smoke-free. An ordinance would allow for the Police to enforce the policy.
2. Public Safety – Mayor Hovis encouraged everyone to attend the Tree Lighting Event on Saturday.
3. Administration & Finance – Council V.P. Kane stated that the Second Budget Reading was successful, &

that the 2023 Profit & Loss was on track to end in the black.

4. Oxford Ridge Ad-Hoc – The letter for LCCD will be sent tomorrow, there was a sketch plan submitted to the Homeowner’s Association, & the committee may view the site to understand the existing problems. The sketch plan was not submitted to the Borough for review.

**REPORTS OF PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS**

1. Solicitor: The Solicitor will be looking for additional information and comments regarding the purchase of “Stone Park”.
2. Engineer: Engineer Bonenberger stated that he had meeting schedule conflicts in 2024 & introduced Connor Becker as his proposed replacement in the future.
3. Borough Manager: No additional report.
4. Jr. Council Member: Not Present

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS** - None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.