

COOPERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2023

The meeting of the Coopersburg Borough Council was held in Borough Hall on Tuesday, December 19th & 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 Paashaus, Solicitor Gross McGinley, McCarthy Engineering, Jr. Council Bealer. The Police Chief & Thrapp were absent.

AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Duane Wetzel, Locust Valley Rd, was present to offer suggestions for the proposes Stone Park. Wetzel stated that there should be additional delineation for the park boundaries, signage, buffer, & concerns about septic. The Borough will look into doing “trail end” signs for the Liberty Trolley Trail. The Park is currently on hold. Seth Pellegrini, Oxford Ridge, requested an update on the stormwater issues at Oxford Ridge (will be addressed during the Ad-hoc committee update).

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 November 21, 2023. **The Consent Agenda was approved by a vote of 6-0.**

ACTION ITEMS

1. A Motion was made by Dowdle & seconded by Kane to approve the 2024 Zoning Hearing Board Appointment – David Harding. **Resolution 2023-10 passed by a vote of 6-0.**
2. A Motion was made by Dowdle & seconded by Kane to approve the 2024 Municipal Authority Appointment – William Knittle. **Resolution 2023-11 passed by a vote of 6-0.**
3. A Motion was made by Dowdle & seconded by Norman to approve the 2024 Management Agreement with the Water Authority. **The Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.**
4. A Motion was made by Kane & seconded by Dowdle to adopt the 2024 Borough Budget for fiscal year January 1 – December 31, 2024. Ellenberger expressed his disagreement with the salaries. **Ordinance 686 passed by a vote of 5-1 (Ellenberger = Nay).**
5. A Motion was made by Dowdle & seconded by Dietz to establish the Real Estate Tax rate of 5.4 mills for the fiscal year January 1 – December 31, 2024. This represents no tax increase for 2024. **Ordinance 687 passed by a vote of 6-0.**
6. A Motion was made by Dowdle & seconded by Dietz to approve the salaries, bonds, & duties of Borough Officials, Appointees, & Employees for fiscal year January 1 – December 31, 2024. Kane gave a summary of the Committee’s recommendations, COLA, & minor changes on the ordinance. **Ellenberger expressed his concern over salaries & made a motion to reduce the salary of the public works director by \$0.25. His Motion died for lack of a second.** No further discussion occurred after, & **Ordinance 688 passed by a vote of 5-1 (Ellenberger = Nay).**
7. A Motion was made by Dietz & seconded by Norman to appoint Gina Loveless to be the Borough’s representative to the Southern Lehigh Library for a 2-year term. **The Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.** Council expressed appreciation for the previous representative, Kat Moyer.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Infrastructure – Council Member Dietz gave the following updates:
 - West Station Avenue – The Committee is reviewing the Nova Chip impact & if there is any responsibility for the Borough to homeowners. It appears to be solely a curb deficiency. Curbs are the responsibility of the homeowner. The Committee will meet with the concerned residents in 2024.
 - Ashford Reserve – New plans have been submitted for review & re-approval.
 - Oxford Ridge – Ad-hoc Committee will give an update.
 - Stone Harvest – No additional Update.
 - MSK – This project is waiting on a few minor updates to be recorded.
 - MS4 – Public Works is continuing to work on storm water upgrades, rebuilding inlets, & training.
 - Liberty Culvert - Public Works will likely begin the work in Spring of 2024.
 - Water – Less than 50 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.
 - 2. Public Safety – Mayor Hovis stated that Part-Time Officer, Timothy Hoats, is retiring & being replaced by another Part-Time Officer, Robert Mathes. Hovis expressed appreciation for the support of the Tree Lighting, & that the Fire Company sold out of Trees.
Council Member Dowdle spoke about the potential future needs of the Police Department & continuing to keep the Borough & its residents protected. There may need to be additions & increased coverage.
 - 3. Administration & Finance – Council V.P. Kane stated that the year will be ending financially well.
 - 4. Oxford Ridge Ad-Hoc – Council V.P. Kane gave an update regarding the Committee’s review & meeting with Lehigh County Conservation District. There was further discussion regarding compliance meetings, DEP’s involvement, citations, & plan submissions. There is a formal meeting with the developer & LCCD in February. That meeting should set a timeline for plan submission & corrections.

REPORTS OF PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Council V.P. Kane expressed his appreciation for Council & their dedication. He congratulated the new Council Members, Yeager & Ritter, & wished everyone a Merry Christmas. The next meeting will be on January 2, 2024, for reorganization.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.