

# COOPERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Regular Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2024

The meeting of the Coopersburg Borough Council was held in Borough Hall on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> & was called to order by Council President Dowdle at 7:00 p.m.

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

All present were Council Members Dowdle, Dietz (Arrived Late), Ellenberger, Norman, Poot, Ritter, Yeager, Manager Paashaus, Solicitor Gross McGinley (arrived late), McCarthy Engineering (Arrived late), The Police Chief & Jr. Council Bealer were absent.

### **AGENDA**

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

### **REQUESTED SPEAKERS**

1. Phillips Armstrong, Lehigh County Executive, gave an update on the county, funding, airport improvements, & farmland preservation. There was further discussion regarding environmental concerns, human resources/mental health, water quality, & how farmland was preserved. Armstrong introduced Arianna Calderon, the County Public Information Representative.
2. Susan Downing, Pocono Wildlife Rehab Center, gave a long presentation & requested a contribution to their non-profit operations. No action was taken.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – No additional Public Comment.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

A Motion was made by Norman & seconded by Poot to receive the Monthly Reports (Financial Statements, Council Information Report, Police Report, Engineer Report), & approve the previous meeting minutes from December 19, 2023 & January 2, 2024. **The Consent Agenda was approved by a vote of 7-0.**

### **ACTION ITEMS**

1. A Motion was made by Ritter & seconded by Poot to approve the Borough's proposal to convert St. John's Church on Thomas Street to a multi-use Community Center. Manager Paashaus gave a summary of the proposal & why the Borough was involved. The proposal includes continued use of the building for the Senior Center, add Betty Lou's Pantry, Arts/Performance, & church use. There was further discussion regarding costs of operation, improvements, upkeep, due diligence, & who would oversee the programming. Council expressed appreciation for St. John's, the building's contribution to the skyline of the Borough, & that a community center would be good for the town. **The Motion passed by a vote of 7-0.** The church congregation will vote on approval in March. That will initiate all the legal documents, transfer, tenant agreements, & Borough oversight.
2. A Motion was made by Ellenberger & seconded by Norman to approve the Coopersburg Farmers' Market road closings & banner. Council expressed their happiness that the market will be returning. There was further discussion about vendors, food trucks, farms, events, community booth, & schedule. **Resolution 2024-1 passed by a vote of 7-0.**
3. A Motion was made by Poot & seconded by Norman to approve the traffic restrictions & banner for the Coopersburg 5k. **Resolution 2024-2 passed by a vote of 7-0.**
4. A Motion was made by Ellenberger & seconded by Norman to approve the Coopersburg Community Day banner. **Resolution 2024-3 passed by a vote of 7-0.**
5. A Motion was made by Yeager & seconded by Dietz to approve the Revocable License Agreement with the owner of 501 Charles Street. There was further discussion regarding the license, parking concerns, & improvement issues. **Council voted 7-0 to TABLE the license & allow the Infrastructure Committee to review & modify the license agreement.**

### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

1. Infrastructure – Council Member Dietz gave the following updates:
  - Ashford Reserve – Agreements are being sent to developer & plans are getting ready for recording.
  - Oxford Ridge – Met with the LCCD & new plans should be submitted by the end of March.
  - Stone Harvest – No additional Update.
  - MSK – Agreements have been sent to the developer & plans are getting ready for recording.
  - MS4 – Public Works is continuing to work on storm water upgrades, rebuilding inlets, & training.
  - Coopersburg Diner Sewer – A Notice of Violation was sent to the Diner for grease infiltration. This is the second notice. The owner responded with the a plan to add another grease trap & clean the lines.

- Meadow Park / Plantings – Norman gave an update on meeting with the Lehigh Valley Watershed Association regarding the riparian buffer at Meadow Park. Several invasive species will need to be dealt with, the PW Department has trimmed back the area, & numerous trees/shrubs will be ordered to rejuvenate the buffer.
  - Liberty Culvert – Norman stated that the committee met onsite, & the PW Department will begin the upstream section in the spring.
  - Fence Designs – Norman is designing a fence style for a list of locations that need installation.
  - Water – Less than 20 water meters need to be replaced, the lead & copper service lines are being inventoried, & the pump station at Tilghman & Locust will be updated.
2. Public Safety –
- Members of the Fire Company, President Rosenberger, Chief Huber, & Captain Baer, were present to discuss the department, their needs, grant applications, the membership involvement, & Emergency Management Plan.
  - Mayor Hovis stated his concern regarding the ice/snow on sidewalks. Several properties have not obeyed the ordinance for removal of ice/snow. There was further discussion regarding plowing, properties, & how to correct the concerns.
3. Administration & Finance – Council V.P. Poot stated that the audit was complete & financials are on track for 2024..

### **REPORTS OF PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS**

1. Solicitor: No additional report.
2. Engineer: Engineer Connor was filling in for Bonenberger & stated that the Chapter 94 Sewer Report was finished & submitted to Upper Saucon Township.
3. Borough Manager: No additional report.
4. Jr. Council Member: Not present.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – All items will remain.

**NEW BUSINESS** – None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A Motion was made by Ellenberger & seconded by Norman to adjourn the meeting. The Meeting ended at 8:28PM.