

COOPERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2025

The meeting of the Coopersburg Borough Council was held in Borough Hall on Tuesday, August 19th & was called to order by Council President Dowdle at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES – Pledge of Allegiance recited.

All present were Mayor Hovis, Council Members Dietz, Dowdle, Ellenberger, Poot, Ritter, Yeager, Manager Paashaus, Solicitor Gross McGinley, McCarthy Engineering.

Council Member Norman & Police Chief were absent.

AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Bill Howard, 701 Tilghman, stated his concerns regarding the Tree Ordinance being overbearing, intruding on the rights of property owners, & only an issue due to one property owner.
- Kathy Smulligan, 207 Springfield, expressed her concerns regarding the Tree Ordinance as well. Stating that the Borough should focus on safety on trails.
- Donna Wolfe, 235 E Oxford, requested an update to the sign violation at Main Street Financial. The sign is still illuminated and exceeds the size and brightness allowable in the Zoning Ordinance. Solicitor Ulrich gave a summary of the timeframe for the Zoning Hearing Board decision (denied verbally at the ZHB meeting but not written), the appeal process, & legal supersedeas period. There was further discussion regarding the time frame, court dates, & restrictions on discussing litigation.

CONSENT AGENDA

A Motion was made by Dietz & seconded by Yeager to receive the Monthly Reports (Financial Statements, Council Information Report, Police Report/Vehicle Report, Fire Report, Engineer Report, Zoning/Building) & approve the previous meeting Minutes from July 15, 2025. **The Consent Agenda was approved by a vote of 6-0.**

ACTION ITEMS

1. A Motion was made by Poot & seconded by Dietz to appoint Eoghan Dowdle as a Jr. Council Member for the upcoming school year. **Resolution 2025-10 passed by a vote of 5-0 (Dowdle abstained).**
2. A Motion was made by Ellenberger & seconded by Dietz to approve road closures for the upcoming Halloween Parade. **Resolution 2025-11 passed by a vote of 6-0.**
3. A Motion was made by Dietz & seconded by Poot to approve road closures for the upcoming Fire Company Tree Lighting Event. **Resolution 2025-12 passed by a vote of 6-0.**
4. A Motion was made by Dietz & seconded by Poot to approve the purchase of a replacement, equipped Ford F550 in conjunction with the Water Authority, not to exceed \$90,000.00. There was further discussion regarding the payments divided between the Authority, Liquid Fuels, & General Fund. **The Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.**
5. A Motion was made by Dieta & seconded by Yeager to approve the Second/Final Reading of Ordinance 2025-694 LAGUDA for \$321,101.88 loan with Lehigh County for the purchase of police & fire radios. **The Ordinance passed by a vote of 6-0.** Smulligan stated that the Borough should consider selling the old radios to offset the costs.
6. A Motion was made by Dietz & seconded by Poot to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-695, a Tree Ordinance protecting Heritage Trees, creating defined terms, permit limits, & replacement plans. Dowdle stated that he would be abstaining due to his possible role in enforcement. Ellenberger stated the Ordinance was an overreaction, should backoff, and not impact freedom. Dietz gave a summary of the preparation of the ordinance, goals of protecting trees as a natural resource, the impact of trees on the entire community, stormwater impact, & research with other, stricter municipal ordinances. There was further discussion regarding impact on residents, administration, scenarios for the need for permitting, and the lack of permitting necessary for sick, dying, broken, or nuisance trees. Ellenberger questioned the timeframe that Council had to review the draft ordinance. He was reminded that the topic has been on the Agenda for well over a year, discussed at previous meetings, & the current draft was sent via Email on June 4, 2025. **A separate Motion was made by Ellenberger & seconded by Ritter to table the ordinance for a future meeting. The Motion to table the Ordinance passed by a vote of 3-2 (Yay = Ellenberger, Ritter, Yeager. Nay = Dietz, Poot. Abstained = Dowdle).** Ken Mohr, 116 S Main, gave a summary of the matrix

that clarified the ordinance, a few more details on the committee's preparation, and the protection of the future of the Borough. All Council and the public were invited to have further discussion at the Committee Meeting on September 2, 2025, at 7:00 PM.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Infrastructure – Council Member Dietz following updates:
 - Public Works – Crew has been busy with road projects & improving stormwater drainage.
 - Developments – LCCD is starting a Corrective Action Plan with Oxford Ridge, & a Mod Plan is expected to reviewed in September. McCarthy & the Infrastructure Committee should be able to review the Mod Plan, the stormwater calcs, & update the Escrow costs. Ashford Preserve is nearing completion of all housing lots.
 - MS4 – Ongoing training, monitoring, & improvement by Public Works. Continuing to fix inlets.
 - Water – Pump Station project is moving forward, Source Water Protection plan is underway, & flushing hydrants/exercising valves has started.
 - Comp Plan Update – Ellenberger requested the removal of Phase 8 from the Information Report & cancel the grant funding. This will need to be an Action Item on a future Agenda.
2. Public Safety – Mayor Hovis expressed concern regarding the trail crosswalk at Locust Street and the Liberty Trolley Trail. This intersection and others will be improved.
3. Administration & Finance – No additional report.

REPORTS OF PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council entered Executive Session at 7:58 PM regarding pending litigation and personnel.
Council returned to Regular Business at 8:30 PM, & no Action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion was made by Ellenberger & seconded by Dietz to adjourn the meeting. The Meeting ended at 8:31 PM.