

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council Meeting of
February 25, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, in the Village Hall meeting room, 108 West Main Street, Fairfield, Pennsylvania. Council members in attendance were Camille Cline, Phyllis Gilbert, Nate McNeill, Pat Pileggi, Patricia Smith, Dean Thomas and Sally Thomas. Also in attendance were Solicitor Matthew Battersby, Mayor Robert Stanley, Carroll Valley Borough Police Corporal Cliff Weikert, and Secretary Susan Wagle. Present from the public was Emmitsburg News Journal reporter Rick Fulton.

At 7:00 PM Council President Patricia Smith called the meeting to order.

Minutes - On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, the minutes of the Council meetings of January 28 and February 4 were accepted as presented.

Public Comment – There were no members of the public present.

Police Department Report – Corporal Weikert reviewed the January police report and fielded questions from Council. He noted that he and Chief Hileman are currently the only two members of the Department. The hiring process for at least one new officer has begun.

At 7:03 PM Corporal Weikert left the meeting.

Fire Department Report – Council acknowledged receipt of the January Fire Company report.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Battersby shared with Council results of his research pertaining to the proposed zoning ordinance regulating short term rentals. In his opinion short term rentals can be considered a disrupter to the hotel/motel industry, with a disrupter being a circumstance which arises when technology and society change more quickly than the law. He further opined that an aggrieved property owner could claim inverse condemnation if a municipality were to attempt to close an existing short term rental business. He supported the Borough's interest in addressing zoning standards to identify zoning districts where short term rentals may and may not operate within the Borough, and he agreed that it would be appropriate to eliminate the inspections requirement from the proposed ordinance amendment, at least until such time as Uniform Construction Code standards properly address the short term rental industry. It was agreed that the Secretary will amend the ordinance document to eliminate inspection requirements. The updated ordinance document will be distributed to Council and the Solicitor, and at its next meeting on March 4 Council will consider authorizing submission to the Adams County Office of Planning and Development for its requisite review.

At 7:34 PM Solicitor Battersby left the meeting.

Correspondence – Council acknowledged receipt of a letter from Attorney Robert Campbell concerning the need to reorganize the Adams County Building Code Board of Appeals.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report – Council reviewed the Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer's report for the period January 1 through February 14, 2020. In response to inquiry by Mr. Pileggi, Mr. Stanley shared that he has contacted Mr. Landis in the past about parking the Borough vehicle in an enclosure on Mr. Landis' property, with no success.

Review of Financial Reports – Upon a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council accepted the financial reports as presented and authorized payment of PA Municipal Code Alliance invoice #25663 in the amount of \$370.00.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Stanley reported that he plans to attend the Fire Company annual banquet.

Municipal Service Report – It was noted that curb painting to designate no parking areas needs to be done this spring, and Mrs. Gilbert suggested that leaves be picked up now. Mr. Pileggi noted that there is loose cable in front of 111 East Main Street. The Secretary will investigate.

Committee reports – There were no committee reports.

Liaison Reports

COG – The next COG meeting is this coming Thursday, February 27.

Fairfield Area Historical Society – Mrs. Gilbert reported that there are currently 72 members on record at this time, including lifetime and annual memberships. The next public function is the Victorian Historian presentation on April 16.

FREMA – Mayor Stanley reported on the February 17 FREMA meeting at which last year's slate of officers was reelected. Board members plan to staff a table at the Carroll Valley Borough National Night Out event in August. The Board is considering purchasing absorbant materials for spill containment with the cost of approximately \$400.00 shared among member municipalities. The material would be stored at Hamiltonban Township. No action was taken by Council.

HARB – There was no meeting in February.

Joint Parks & Recreation Commission – Mr. Thomas reported that Steve Zimmerman of Gettysburg Green Gathering talked with Commission members about the tree planting event scheduled for March 28 from 8:30-12:30. The rain date is April 4. Mr. Thomas moved that Council pledge \$500.00, using Pippinfest funds, toward the construction of a bridge over the spillway which will enable the walking path to be extended, but the motion failed as there was no second. By general consensus it was agreed to table the topic until other options for fund raising have been pursued.

Municipal Authority – Mrs. Smith reported that there was little business to address at the last Municipal Authority meeting.

Pippinfest – Mrs. Thomas reported that she has successfully appealed to the Fairfield Area School Board and met with the school superintendent to enlist support for area students to become actively involved with Pippinfest. She has also received some indication that the Gettysburg Times might provide some free publicity for this year's 40th anniversary festival. She further reported that all three junior committee members have been active and attended the School Board meeting with her.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council appointed the 2020 Pippinfest committee members as identified on the 2020 Committee roster.

Planning Commission – Mr. Thomas reported that the Planning Commission discussed ongoing development of the zoning ordinance amendment addressing short term rentals and briefly touched on the floodplain ordinance being developed by Mr. Thaeler of the County Planning Office.

Unfinished Business – Council noted minimal updates to unfinished business:

- Municipal employee Charlie Cool is obtaining a quote from Lowes for an installed for rear entry door.
- Follow up on bell refurbishing has been deferred until the weather is warmer.
- There was no update on drain pipe cleaning.
- No date has been established for resuming photographing historic Minutes books.
- No further plans have been made regarding the April 18 E-recycling event.
- Mr. Cool has been authorized to purchase the materials for the trash container enclosure.

New Business – After some discussion of the need for volunteers to serve on the Adams County UCC Shared Board of Appeals, no one indicated an interest in participating.

Anything for the Good of the Borough

- The Secretary distributed copies of a survey request on behalf of the Adams County Office for Aging.
- It was recommended that Robin Fitzpatrick of the Adams County Economic Alliance be invited to meet with Council to brainstorm ideas for productive use of the currently vacant property at 100 West Main Street.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Borough Council are scheduled for March 4, 2020, at 9:00 AM and March 24, 2020, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment – Upon a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Susan E. Wagle
Secretary/Treasurer

Patricia T. Smith
Council President