

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council Meeting of
April 28, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, April 28, 2020, with all present participating remotely via the Zoom meeting platform as newly authorized by state law in effect throughout the Governor's Covid-19 disaster declaration. In attendance were council members Camille Cline, Phyllis Gilbert, Nate McNeill, Pat Pileggi, Patricia Smith, Dean Thomas, and Sally Thomas. Also in attendance were Solicitor Matt Battersby, Mayor Robert Stanley, and Secretary/Treasurer Susan Wagle.

At 7:05 PM Council President Patricia Smith called the meeting to order. A verbal roll call was taken and the Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Minutes - On a motion by Mr. Pileggi, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, the minutes of the Council meeting of March 24 were accepted as presented.

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

Police Department Report – Chief Hileman had a conflicting meeting and was unable to attend. Council acknowledged receipt of the March police report which was sent via email on April 14th.

Fire Department Report – No report was submitted by the Fire Company.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Battersby shared his recommendation that the Borough initiate enforcement proceedings against the current owner of the property at 100 West Main Street – the former grocery store – to provide clear passage on the sidewalks on the property. Mrs. Smith affirmed that the Code Enforcement Officer has been so notified. Mr. Battersby further shared his recommendation that any complaints received about businesses or individuals working in violation of the governor's orders regarding restricted business activity during the Covid-19 disaster declaration be referred to police authorities and not be addressed by municipal officials, including the code enforcement officer.

Enactments

- On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council passed Resolution 07 of 2020 extending the due dates for payment of municipal taxes to coincide with extended due dates for Adams County taxes. The changes were made for the 2020 tax year only, in an effort to provide some relief for those suffering hardship due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council passed Resolution 08 of 2020 issuing a Certificate of Appropriateness to George and Cindy Keeney, new owners of the property at 15 West Main Street, for a sign advertising the newly named restaurant and inn, Mansion House 1757. Settlement is tentatively scheduled for May 15. Concern was expressed regarding the historic integrity of the proposed name of the new business, and it was ultimately agreed to convey those concerns to Mr. and Mrs. Keeney to give them the opportunity to revise their plans, if so desired. The Secretary will contact them via telephone this evening. With support from Solicitor Battersby, Council acknowledged that business owners are privileged to bestow most any chosen name on a business.

At 7:31 PM Mr. Battersby left the meeting.

Correspondence – There was no correspondence requiring action.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report – Council heard that a peddler permit was issued for sale of steamed crabs from a food truck in the parking lot at 100 East Main Street and that a temporary banner sign permit was authorized for Ventura's Pizza to advertise "open" status for pickup and delivery services during the Covid-19 disaster emergency. Council accepted the Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer's report without question. Council heard that in two weeks our current zoning/code enforcement officer, Darrin Catts, will leave his employment with PMCA, and another Zoning and Code Enforcement officer from PMCA will take his place.

Review of Financial Reports – Upon a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Thomas 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 #26091 in the amount of \$135.00.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Stanley reported that he has contacted St. John Lutheran church to encourage participation in the Pa State Mayor's Association's planned statewide recognition of first responders via the ringing of bells across the state for three minutes at 7:00 PM on May 1. In addition, he shared that Adams County schools plan to recognize graduating students beginning at 8:20 PM on May 1 via the lighting of stadium lights for 20 minutes and 20 seconds.

Municipal Service Report – Council heard that municipal employee Charlie Cool cleaned gutters and storm drains on Main Street and portions of Water Street. He and two grandsons installed fencing for the trash can enclosure at the end of the parking lot. The older grandson, Royce Wiseman, has been established as a Borough employee. In addition, Jason Harbaugh mowed both Borough properties once.

Liaison Reports

- The Council of Governments legislative forum has been postponed until September.
- The April meeting of the Fairfield Area Historical Society was canceled. Mrs. Gilbert indicated that the Society board hopes to hold a meeting in May.
- Mayor Stanley reported on the April 20 FREMA meeting which was conducted via the Zoom platform. He noted that each municipality responded individually to the County's inquiry regarding requests for personal protective equipment (PPE), and the FREMA deputy emergency management coordinator responded on behalf of FREMA. It was noted that both Mr. McNeill and Mr. Pileggi need to take the NIMS 700 and 100 courses, in part to ensure the Borough's eligibility to receive federal funds for reimbursement of costs affiliated with disaster events if and when they are made available. The next FREMA meeting is scheduled for June 15.
- The HARB report was discussed earlier in the meeting.
- Mr. Thomas reported that the Hamiltonban Community Park is open without use of the exercise and play equipment. He affirmed that the wildflower plot at the park was over-seeded on April 7 by Rusty Ryan. He reported that no date has been set for planting commemorative trees, and he is unsure of the next scheduled meeting date. Whenever that occurs he plans to submit his resignation from the Board.
- Mrs. Smith reported that although the April meeting of the Municipal Authority was canceled, Board members received reports and were requested to submit comment back to the office. The Authority has elected to exercise electric choice and use an outside electric supplier. Combined use at their three

locations - the treatment plant, the lift station, and the water system – is significant, and the savings potential is in the vicinity of \$9,000 to \$10,000/year. A recent electrical problem at the main well was repaired by a commercial electrician. Line cleaning has not been pursued as it is non-emergency work not currently authorized to move forward.

At 7:51 PM Mr. Pileggi left the meeting.

- Mrs. Thomas reported that the April Pippinfest committee meeting was canceled. Vendors have already been notified that if the festival must be canceled this year, every vendor will be given the option of either receiving a refund or having their fee carried forward to next year’s festival. The committee intends to move forward with planning for this year’s festival with the knowledge that the need to ultimately cancel is a possibility. Mrs. Thomas anticipates making an action decision by the end of July.
- Mr. Thomas affirmed that an Adams County model flood plain ordinance has been prepared through the joint effort of Rob Thaeler of the Adams County Office of Planning and Development and Leslie Rhoads of the PA Municipal League operating on behalf of FEMA and has met with the approval of the Planning Commission. A copy of the proposed ordinance was provided via email to each council member. On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, Council voted to advertise the intent to adopt the proposed updated floodplain ordinance at the May 26 Council meeting.

Unfinished Business – Discussion of unfinished business has been temporarily deferred as all current unfinished business involves activities that are curtailed by current social distancing requirements.

New Business – Council discussed at length correspondence from the owner of the property at 33 East Main Street regarding flooding in her basement. Details of the discussion and other actions taken outside public meetings are being maintained in the property file.

Anything for the Good of the Borough – Mayor Stanley shared current statistics on Covid-19 cases in the state and opined that Adams County might qualify to reduce some restrictions by June 1. Mr. McNeill shared that the Borough website is currently ‘down’ and has been for the past several hours. The Secretary will check for a solution.

Next Meetings – Council agreed to conduct the regularly scheduled May meetings remotely via the Zoom platform. The meetings are scheduled for May 6 at 9:00 AM and May 26 at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment – Upon a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Susan E. Wagle
Secretary/Treasurer

Patricia T. Smith
Council President