

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council General Meeting of
May 6, 2020

The Borough Council of Fairfield held a general meeting on Wednesday, May 6, 2020, with all participants joining remotely via the Zoom meeting platform. In attendance were Council members Camille Cline, Phyllis Gilbert, Nate McNeill, Pat Pileggi, Patricia Smith, Dean Thomas, and Sally Thomas. Also in attendance were Mayor Robert Stanley and Secretary/Treasurer Susan Wagle.

At 9:00 AM Council President Patricia Smith called the meeting to order. A verbal roll call was taken and the Pledge of Allegiance recited.

General

By general consensus Council supported advertising a public hearing and the intent to adopt the previously approved DAS (wireless) and short term rental zoning ordinance amendments at the regularly scheduled meeting on June 23rd.

Also by general consensus Council agreed to defer the normal spring street sweeping. In addition to being a fiscally responsible decision in that the Covid-19 pandemic has curtailed hall rentals and the income it generates, it was noted that limited snowfall over the winter resulted in less anti-skid applied to the roadways and that the municipal worker recently completed an excellent job cleaning street gutters throughout the Borough.

Council reviewed the code and zoning officer report for the period March 16 through April 12, 2020.

Budget and Finance

Upon a motion by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council authorized payment of the following invoices:

Battersby Law \$95.25; PIRMA \$4,189.00; PA Municipal Code Alliance \$67.50

Correspondence – There was no correspondence requiring action. Three issues of PSAB’s “Borough News” are available for anyone interested in staying current with the PSAB publication.

Old Business – Discussion of items restricted by social distancing has been temporarily deferred.

- Further to discussion of flooding concerns at 33 East Main Street, both Mrs. Smith and Mayor Stanley shared that they took pictures in the vicinity of the property and elsewhere in the Borough during the recent heavy rain event. Neither observed water flowing toward the property, and the storm drains appeared to be functioning adequately. Mrs. Smith reported that Municipal Authority records indicate that 3" of rain fell in that particular one-day event. Mr. Pileggi shared that he recently spoke with the property owner and she explained that when her basement flooded the storm drain was not flowing properly causing water to back up and move up the handicap ramp onto the sidewalk and into her basement. He shared with the property owner that the Borough is gathering information, but it could be that the solution lies with Penn DOT since the roadway is a state-owned road. The Secretary has had some communication with a PennDOT representative, and there are still plans to check the interior of the storm drain pipe that crosses Main Street to assure that it is unencumbered.

- The Authority has not yet received additional quotes for line televising and cleaning.
- Council acknowledged the next E-recycling date scheduled for July 18th.

Other Business

- In other water-related business, Mr. McNeill inquired as to awareness regarding flow from a sewer manhole on Steelman Street near the intersection of South Spring Street. Two neighbors have expressed concern, and he has noted a resulting unpleasant odor. Mrs. Smith shared that both the Municipal Authority and DEP are aware that surcharged water is sometimes expelled from a quarter-sized hole in the top of the manhole cover when water flow is heavy because the line dead-ends not far from the manhole and the liquid has no place to go. The issue is addressed in the Authority's annual report, and the Authority engineer is considering options for correcting the problem, any of which will likely involve significant cost. The Authority's fiscal focus has been on recovering from the cost of the new treatment plant, but they are slowly regaining backup funds. Mrs. Smith will make the Authority Board aware of the concerns expressed.
- Mrs. Thomas shared that this month's Pippinfest committee meeting has been cancelled.
- In response to concerns expressed by Mr. Pileggi regarding an incident at 107-109 East Main Street involving an outdoor argument using loud vulgar language and an agitated barking dog on a tether, it was recommended that a call be made to the non-emergency police number – 717-334-8101 – to request intervention if such an event should recur.
- Mr. Pileggi report that there is still loose wire at the telephone pole at 111 East Main Street. He wrapped it around the pole to keep it from being a trip hazard.
- Mayor Stanley observed that junk accumulating at 115 East Main Street could be a health hazard.

Anything for the Good of the Borough

Mrs. Smith invited Council to take advantage of the returning and freshly planted herbs she has provided and is tending in the garden outside the back door of the Village Hall building.

Mayor Stanley reported that on Sunday night at 7:00 PM local churches rang their bells in honor of all first responders and healthcare workers.

Mrs. Smith shared that the municipal worker should soon be able to begin painting curbs. Mrs. Gilbert observed that many tar and chip stones have been washed into street gutters on Water Street

Next Meeting – The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 2020, at 7:00 PM and will be conducted remotely via the Zoom meeting platform.

Adjournment - Upon a motion by Mrs. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 9:43 AM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, Council President