**FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA**

**Borough of Fairfield**

**Minutes of the Borough Council Meeting of**

**July 28, 2020 - 7:00 PM**

**Fairfield Village Hall and Remotely via Zoom platform**

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, July 28, 2020, in the Village Hall Meeting Room, 108 West Main Street, Fairfield, Pennsylvania, with the option for remote participation via the Zoom platform.

In attendance at the Village Hall were councilors Camille Cline, Phyllis Gilbert, Pat Pileggi, Patricia Smith, and Dean Thomas as well as Solicitor Matthew Battersby, Mayor Robert Stanley, and Secretary Susan Wagle. In attendance remotely via the Zoom platform were councilors Nate McNeill, and Sally Thomas as well as Carroll Valley Borough Police Chief Richard Hileman. From the public and present remotely via the Zoom platform was Emmitsburg News reporter Rick Fulton.

At 7:00 PM Council President Patricia Smith called the meeting to order and Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes –** On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, the minutes of the Public Hearing of June 23 and the Council meetings of June 23, 2020 and July 1, 2020, were accepted as presented.

**Public Comment** – Aside from Mr. Fulton, there were no members of the public present and no comment.

**Police Department Report –** Chief Hileman reviewed the June police report and fielded questions from Council. He shared details of an incident with a “sovereign citizen” using a lawn mower as transportation on Main Street who was ultimately arrested for various traffic violations and incarcerated for resisting arrest. Chief also shared information on a technique known as “brushing” where internet retailers mail inexpensive products to random addresses and create false reviews of their service to enhance their credibility as a retailer. Solicitor Battersby shared information on a frequent email scam involving notification of an imminent USPS or UPS delivery with a link for more information. Presumably opening the link will damage computer files and/or functionality.

At 7:11 PM Chief Hileman left the meeting.

**Fire Department Report –** There was no activity report from the Fire Company. Mrs. Smith reported that Chief Jacobs shared that the Company hopes to host a municipal meeting in October. Chief Jacobs has enacted a burn ban in the Borough and in other municipalities served by the company. On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council supported the imposition of a burn ban. In response to Mr. McNeill’s concern that the burn ban notice has not been adequately publicized Mr. Thomas recommended that the Fire Companycoordinate with the school in having the notice broadcast on the school’s electronic message board. Mrs. Smith offered to call the fire company to see if they can post the notice on their sandwich board sign, and Mrs. Gilbert offered to post to Facebook.

**Solicitor Report** – Solicitor Battersby reported that he knows of no trouble brewing in Fairfield.

At 7:25 PM Mr. Battersby left the meeting.

**Correspondence –** Council acknowledged receipt of various items of correspondence for which no action was required. In response to a request for support to eliminate the preemption of a municipality’s option of prohibiting the use of single-use plastics, Council agreed by general consensus that no action was appropriate at this time.

**Code Enforcement report –** Council reviewed the Code Enforcement Officer’s report for May 24th through June 21st.

**Review of Financial Reports -** Upon a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, the financial reports were accepted as presented and payment of the following invoices was authorized: PMCA $178.75 from the general fund and Civil War Trails $200.00 from the Pippinfest fund.

**Mayor’s Report –** Mayor Stanley shared his concerns of the effects of Covid-19 on local businesses.

**Municipal Service Report** – Council heard that Mr. Cool recently cleaned storm drains.

**Committee Reports –** On behalf of the Borough Building committee Mrs. Smith shared information on a quote received from Susquehanna Door Company for a new rear entry door. After some discussion it was agreed that the Secretary will send a copy of the proposal to all council members for discussion at the August 5 Council meeting.

Mrs. Smith reported that Bill Jacobs quoted approximately $50.00 to replace the damaged window pane in the Borough office. Council noted the Secretary’s report that Rod Walter offered to pay for the repair since the damage was caused by the individual who mows his property next to the Village Hall. In Mr. Jacobs’ estimation the muntins throughout the building are in fairly good condition, and installing storm windows over them would be acceptable. If Council were to choose to have the muntins refurbished, the cost would be approximately $1,000.00 per window.

**Liaison Reports**

**COG –** The July meeting was canceled in part because there was no speaker scheduled and in part because room occupancy was further restricted under the Governor’s guidelines.

**Fairfield Area Historical Society –** There was no July meeting.

**HARB** – There was no meeting in July. On a motion by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Pileggi

and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, with Mrs. Thomas abstaining, Sally Thomas was reappointed to serve on the HARB for a new five-year term ending 12-31-2024.

**Joint Parks & Recreation Commission –** Mr. Pileggi reported that the first 2020 Music in the Park event took place on July 19th. Additional events are planned for August 16 and September 20. Mr. Pileggi further reported on various activities being undertaken by the Commission. Mrs. Smith shared with Council a letter and certificate of appreciation recently presented to Mr. Thomas by the Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors for his “many years of loyalty and dedication to the Township as a member of the Hamiltonban Township and Fairfield Borough Joint Parks and Recreation Commission.”

**Municipal Authority** – Mrs. Smith reported on the Municipal Authority Board meeting of July 14th at which developer Dave Sites shared some ideas he has regarding development of property off Iron Springs Road. Mrs. Smith provided an update on a proposed sewer line addition designed to alleviate the surcharge on Steelman Street when flows are heavy. The original plan has been deemed unattainable due to elevations, and the Authority engineer is looking for a workable strategy. The Authority would like to obtain grant monies to support the project.

**Planning Commission –** Mr. Thomas reported on the July 13th Planning Commission meeting at which members heard from Candace Miller who applied for a hearing before the Zoning Hearing Board requesting a special exception for restaurant use at 132 West Main Street. Commission members also heard from Graham Larkin, property owner of 19 East Main Street, who is potentially interested in opening a tea house at his residence once building renovations are completed. Planning Commission members fully supported Ms. Miller’s proposal and offered general information to Mr. Larkin. The Secretary reported that Ms. Miller received the Zoning Hearing Board’s approval of her special exception request at the Zoning Hearing that took place on July 16th.

**YABT** – The Secretary reported on the July 27 YATB Board meeting which was conducted remotely via the Zoom platform.

**Unfinished Business**

* The front door has been painted by artist Sally Thomas as commissioned by an anonymous donor.
* The Secretary reported that the July 18 E-recycling event took place with no glitches.

**New Business -** There was no new business.

**Anything for the Good of the Borough –** Mr. Thomas shared information gained from the July 27 School Board meeting indicating that the opening date for Fairfield Area School district is September 8th. Current plans include having students attend school in person two days weekly and having virtual instruction two days weekly. Masks will be required while in the classroom, in halls, and on school buses.

Mr. McNeill shared that he has ordered a USB conference room microphone that he wishes to donate to the Borough in an attempt to improve the functionality of meetings conducted via Zoom.

**Next Meetings –** The next meetings of the Borough Council are scheduled for August 5, at 9:00 AM and August 25, 2020, at 7:00 PM.

**Adjournment –** On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM.

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Susan E. Wagle Patricia T. Smith

Secretary Council President