

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council Meeting of
September 22, 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, September 22, 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 Carroll Valley Borough Police Chief Richard Hileman, Mayor Robert Stanley, and Secretary Susan Wagle. In attendance remotely via the Zoom platform were councilors Nate McNeill and Sally Thomas.

At 7:01 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 Council meetings of August 25, 2020 and September 2, 2020 were accepted as presented.

Public Comment – There was no one present from the public.

Police Department Report – Chief Hileman reviewed the August police report and fielded questions from Council.

At 7:07 PM John Banaszek arrived at the meeting.

In discussion of whether or not to extend the parking restriction on the west side of North Balder Street, Council agreed to assess the impact of traffic affiliated with the new day care business at 105 West Main Street before making a determination. In the meantime, the recently installed parking restriction sign will be removed.

In discussion of Halloween activities, Council acknowledged CDC guidelines relative to Covid-19 as provided by Chief Hileman. By general consensus Council agreed to maintain previous years' policies regarding trick-or-treat whereby those residents who wish to participate can do so by turning on their porch lights and those who do not wish to participate can keep their porch lights turned off. Social distancing will be encouraged. Chief Hileman indicated that the Department will be present in the Borough.

At 7:38 PM Chief Hileman left the meeting.

At Mrs. Smith's invitation Mr. John Banaszek addressed Council and summarized his interest in converting the former dental office at 34 Steelman Street into three apartments. He noted that the Zoning Ordinance currently permits two apartments as a use-by-right in the moderate density (MR) zoning district. In the course of the discussion Mr. Banaszek was informed that short term rentals are not permitted in the MR District. Council acknowledged notice received from the Planning Commission of its members' support of amending the Zoning Ordinance to permit conversion of a business structure into three apartments in the MR District. There were no objections expressed by Council.

At 7:47 PM Mr. Banaszek left the meeting.

Fire Department Report – There was no activity report from the Fire Company.

Solicitor Report – In Solicitor Battersby’s absence there was no report.

Correspondence – Council acknowledged receipt of correspondence on various issues. Regarding proposed Act 101 which would require Penn DOT to take back responsibility for under-roadway stormwater facilities for municipalities with a population of less than 2,500, Mrs. Smith encouraged all Council members to reach out to our elected officials to express support for passage of the Bill.

Code Enforcement report – Council heard that the new Zoning Officer visited the Borough on September 18th. Mr. Pileggi reported that he called the realtor who has the listing for the property at 100 West Main Street, and the property was nicely cleaned up soon thereafter.

Review of Financial Reports – On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, the financial reports were accepted as presented.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Stanley reported on his participation in a rededication ceremony for a 911 memorial on the property of St. Mary’s Catholic Church.

Municipal Service Report – Mrs. Smith reported that Mr. Cool has been frequently checking storm drains and cleaning debris from them as required. Mr. Thomas observed that an extension has been installed on the downspout at 33 East Main Street and that the sump pump there discharges close to the edge of the dwelling.

Committee Reports – There were no committee reports.

Liaison Reports

ACBA – No one participated in the September 21 ACBA meeting which was conducted via Zoom.

Fairfield Area Historical Society – Mrs. Gilbert and Mrs. Cline reported that the September 17 meeting was canceled as there was no quorum.

HARB – There was no meeting in September.

Joint Parks & Recreation Commission – Mr. Pileggi was unable to attend the last meeting. Mr. Thomas shared that he has been charged with writing a press release for the tree-planting event which is scheduled for October 24th at 9:00 AM, with a rain date of October 31st.

Municipal Authority – Mrs. Smith reported that the Authority’s annual audit has been completed, and the auditor indicated that their financial situation is sound. Additional self-read meters are being installed at user locations, and a new meter will be installed on one of the large wells. The Authority expects the sewer line cleaning company to mobilize in the near future.

Planning Commission – Mr. Thomas reported on the September 14 Planning Commission meeting which tonight’s visitor, John Banaszek, attended. In addition to discussing Mr. Banaszek’s proposed conversion project, Commission members considered Zoning Ordinance amendments that will correct a variety of typographical errors, modify the floodplains section by removing the standards from the Zoning Ordinance and referring the user to Chapter 2 which contains the updated floodplain standards, and remove the standards for “junked vehicles” from the Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Thaeler of the Adams County Office of Planning and Development has indicated his willingness to assist in the preparation of an updated Nuisance ordinance which will contain standards addressing “junked vehicles.”

Unfinished Business

- There was no new information on bell repair or refurbishing.
- Mrs. Cline reported that a storage unit glitch has temporarily prevented the display cabinet from being moved from Hamiltonban Township.
- Council heard that a grant request for Covid-19 related expenses was submitted on September 17th.
- Staff at the Fairfield Area School acknowledged receipt of information on the PSAB Junior Council Person Program and indicated that it will be provided to students.
- The quarterly E-Recycling event is scheduled for October 17th.
- The legal ad requesting 2021 snow removal bids will be published on September 30th. Bid opening is scheduled to take place at the regular meeting on October 27th.
- On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council voted to send a letter in support of the upgraded designation of Tom's Creek from a High Quality to an Exceptional Value waterway.
- No word has been received from Susquehanna Door regarding replacement of the rear entry door.
- RG Miller's storm window installer re-measured for window installation on September 18th. Mrs. Smith requested assistance with finding someone to wash the windows before the storm windows are installed.

New Business

- The proposal to convert the former dental office at 34 Steelman Street into three apartments was discussed earlier in the meeting.
- Council expressed no objections to potential rental of the Village Hall by the Fairfield Lions Club for their November meeting.
- Council heard that the Lions Club will be using the Borough parking lot for volunteer parking during their broom sale at the Fire Company on September 26th.
- The Secretary requested that Council consider accessing the Borough Code of Ordinances via the online platform rather than continuing to have printed books updated. Regardless of preference, all ordinance books should be brought to the Borough office either to be updated with the latest supplement or to be properly stored in the building.
- The Borough's position on this year's Halloween activities was discussed earlier in the meeting.
- Council heard that Charlie Cool has requested that the Borough find a new maintenance employee.

Anything for the Good of the Borough – In response to inquiry by Mr. Thomas, no interest in training to conduct contact tracing was expressed by Council either for FREMA or the Council.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Borough Council are scheduled for October 7, at 9:00 AM and October 27, 2020, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment – On a motion by Mr. Pileggi, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, President