

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council General Meeting of
November 11, 2020 - 9:00 AM
Fairfield Village Hall and Remotely via Zoom platform

The Borough Council of Fairfield held a general meeting on Wednesday, November 11, 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, Patricia Smith, and Dean Thomas as well as Mayor Robert Stanley and Secretary Susan Wagle. Attending remotely were councilors Nate McNeill and Sally Thomas.

At 9:01 AM Council President Patricia Smith called the meeting to order and Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

General

On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, Council approved the minutes of the Council meeting of October 27, 2020, as presented.

In response to recommendation made by the FREMA EMC and on a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, Council authorized use of the portable emergency radio by Butch Harbaugh during significant snow events.

Council reviewed the Code/Zoning Officer report for the period September 14 through October 23, 2020.

Mr. Thomas reported that there was no quorum at the November 10 Joint Parks and Recreation meeting which he attended in Mr. Pileggi's stead. He noted that commemorative plaques have been installed at the donated trees at the Park and that plans for bridge construction are in place. Footers for the bridge piers were dug by Mr. Zimmerman. It is hoped that the bridge will be constructed before the end of the year.

The Secretary explained circumstances surrounding a proposed new building and expansion at 207 West Main Street as was presented at the November 9 Planning Commission meeting. After significant discussion and on a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, Council voted to further support the Planning Commission's intent to recommend that the Zoning Hearing Board approve Mr. Kerchner's special exception application for building construction and expansion with the obligation to meet only the standards of the Village Core Zoning District in which the property is located. Council expressed their approval of Mr. Kerchner's expressed intent to offer an apprentice training program to local high school students through NAPA once his facility has room to support the program.

The Secretary shared a recommendation from Emmitsburg News Journal reporter Richard Fulton that Borough Council meetings be audio and video recorded and made available for public inspection citing YouTube publication as a potential mechanism. After significant discussion Council authorized the Secretary to investigate the possibility of saving recorded Zoom meetings to the cloud and providing an access password to members of the public who request it. Mr. McNeill expressed willingness to assist.

At approximately 9:40 AM Chief Hileman arrived at the meeting.

Chief Hileman reviewed the October Police Report and fielded questions from Council. He reported on Halloween events including a DUI charge against an individual who struck a vehicle parked on the south side of Main Street, pushing it onto the sidewalk during Trick-or-Treat hours. There were no pedestrians on that stretch of sidewalk at the time. He observed that many people did not wear masks to protect against spread of Covid-19, either at the Trunk-or-Treat event in Carroll Valley Borough or while walking in Fairfield Borough. Further to his report was discussion of another parked vehicle struck and seriously damaged by a cattle truck at 12 West Main Street and of a fire hydrant at Ventura's Pizza being struck with force sufficient to catapult it into the restaurant sign.

At 9:50 AM Mr. McNeill left the meeting.

At 10:02 AM Chief Hileman left the meeting.

Budget and Finance

On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, Council authorized payment of the following invoices: Battersby Law \$31.25 and PMCA \$802.35.

Correspondence – Council acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

- Hamiltonban Township's intent to hold a zoning hearing at the Village Hall on the evening of November 18th.
- October report from the Fire Company and notice of the next municipal meeting to be held on Monday, December 14, at 6:30 PM.
- Hamiltonban Township correspondence from DEP indicating the possibility of changing the designation of Tom's Creek to Exceptional Value.

Old Business – Council received the following updates to old business.

There was no update on the project to repair or refurbish the historic bell(s). Mrs. Gilbert indicated her willingness to call Bill Jacobs to see if he still has an interest in the job which would include construction of a display.

Mrs. Smith shared that the Municipal Authority recently received its inspection camera. After the operator is familiar with its use it can be used to attempt an inspection of storm drains under Main Street.

Mr. Thomas reported on the November 9 Planning Commission meeting where the nuisance ordinance and the zoning ordinance amendment are still under consideration. The Secretary shared that the draft zoning amendment will be further revised to allow conversion apartments in the MR district as a use-by-right instead of a use by special exception. Mr. Thomas shared some background on a history of un-challenged zoning hearing board hearings conducted in response to applications for special exceptions in the Village Core zoning district and the Planning Commission's subsequent consideration that some uses in the Village Core zoning district currently allowed only by special exception could be changed to uses-by-right. Significant discussion ensued with Mrs. Smith sharing that in the case of conversion apartments she would want ordinance standards to allow apartments only on first and second floors of existing structures. It was requested that Council give thought to the consideration of such changes and provide feedback at the November 24 Borough Council meeting.

Council heard that after learning that Adams County would authorize reimbursement only for already purchased Covid-19-related expenses – not for items the Borough wished to integrate into its Covid-19 mitigation efforts – all items on the original FAIR application were ordered, and the FAIR grant application was newly uploaded to the County site on October 30th. We are still awaiting a decision on the application.

At 10:35 AM Mrs. Thomas left the meeting.

Storm windows for the Village Hall are still on target for installation on December 15th.

The Secretary reported that Duane Sanders will provide a quote for the foyer ceiling repair this month. If the quote is acceptable, the work could be started any time after November 24th.

Anything for the Good of the Borough – Mrs. Smith shared that the Fire Company is still fund raising with dinners-to-go. She attested as to their delicious taste and encouraged others to support the Company by enjoying a good meal.

Next Meeting – The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 24, 2020, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment – On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 10:38 AM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, Council President