

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council General Meeting of
January 6, 2021 - 9:00 AM
Fairfield Village Hall and Remotely via Zoom platform

The Borough Council of Fairfield held a general meeting on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, 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.

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 4-0, Council approved the minutes of the Council meeting of December 22, 2020, as presented.

Council recognized the following individuals who recently received PSAB-sponsored service awards. The awards were mailed to each recipient instead of being presented at the PSAB annual conference which was canceled due to Covid-19.

Cecil K. Leberknight Award for 10 or more years of service: Carroll B Smith, Robert R. Stanley, Dean S. Thomas, and Susan E. Wagle

Thomas F. Chrostwaite Award for 20 or more years of service: Phyllis V. Gilbert and Patricia T. Smith

Council acknowledged receipt of the Code/Zoning Officer report for the period December 7 through December 18, 2020 which addressed only snow removal compliance.

On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by roll call vote of 4-0, Council directed that the leaking shed roof be replaced in its entirety with existing shingles to be removed and sheathing replaced if/where necessary.

At approximately 9:20 AM Mrs. Thomas arrived at the meeting remotely.

There was no input concerning the proposed nuisance ordinance update. Ordinance committee members agreed to meet to discuss after the meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, Council declined to participate in the ECHO housing program citing, in particular, small parcel sizes and narrow alleyways in the Borough. In addition, Mrs. Smith shared that the Municipal Authority board discussed ECHO housing and agreed that full payment of a new water and sewer hookup would be required. It is possible, in addition, that they would require that any new water and sewer lines be fully removed on removal of the housing unit.

Mayor Stanley provided background information on consideration of increasing the rate of pay for the FREMA Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) and the Deputy EMC. By general consensus Council supported increasing the rate of pay to a range between \$25.00 and \$35.00 per hour. Mayor Stanley will convey to the FREMA Board as they consider updates to the FREMA municipal agreement.

After consideration of a December 30, 2020 memorandum from Bob Gordon, Chair of the COG Legislative Committee, in which he requested input on topics for consideration by the Committee, Council agreed that election reform and voting rights should be added to the list. Council also agreed that charter schools should not be supported by public funding.

Mrs. Smith noted that storm window installation has been completed. The windows integrate very nicely into the building and are barely visible from the outside. The stained glass transom window has been measured and a quote requested for a protective storm window.

Acknowledging that Mr. Pileggi's focus will be diluted as he deals with his wife's recent death, Mrs. Smith expressed thanks to Mr. Thomas for his willingness to be reappointed to the Joint Parks and Recreation Board in Mr. Pileggi's stead. Mrs. Thomas offered to fill Mr. Pileggi's role as liaison to the Streets and Alleys Committee if the need to serve should arise before he is available.

Budget and Finance – On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, Council authorized payment of the following invoices: Battersby Law \$187.50 and PMCA \$45.00.

Correspondence – Mrs. Smith affirmed that Met-Ed will be using helicopters in the area to visually inspect electric lines.

Old Business – There has been no progress made toward the old business items. Mrs. Cline and Mr. Thomas were encouraged to reach out to entities they identified as potential suppliers of services or information on restoration and/or display of the Borough's historic bell(s).

Anything for the Good of the Borough

Mrs. Smith shared that work on a "welcome package" is being resumed. Consideration is being given to including an updated "Keep Me" document, a listing of Borough businesses, information on Borough Ordinances and online access, locations of the three "Little Libraries" in the Borough, Village Hall rental information, and possibly coupons.

The old water cooler was leaking and has been replaced.

Brief discussion was had regarding future consideration of holiday decorating in the Borough with no decisions made.

Next Meeting – The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at 7:00 PM, preceded by a public hearing at 6:45 PM to receive comment on the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment.

Adjournment – On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, Council President