

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council Meeting of April 27, 2021
At the Fairfield Village Hall and remotely via the Zoom platform

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, April 27, 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 and Dean Thomas as well as Solicitor Matthew Battersby, Mayor Robert Stanley, Carroll Valley Borough Police Corporal Cliff Weikert, and Secretary Susan Wagle. In attendance remotely were councilors Nate McNeill and Sally Thomas.

At 7:00 PM Council Vice President Phyllis Gilbert called the meeting to order, and Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes – On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, the minutes of the Council meeting of April 7, 2021, were accepted as presented.

Public Comment – There were no members of the public present either remotely or in person.

Fire Department Report – Council acknowledged receipt of the December Fire Department report.

Police Report – Corporal Weikert reviewed the March Police report and fielded questions from Council. He reported that the April 24 Drug Take Back event was a conducted successfully, as in previous years.

At 7:06 PM Corporal Weikert left the meeting.

Solicitor Report –Solicitor Battersby shared that he will research up-to-date legal decisions pertinent to regulation of signs of a political nature in residential zoning districts and will attend the May 5 Council meeting to discuss in detail with Council.

At 7:14 PM Solicitor Battersby left the meeting.

Correspondence –There was no correspondence to consider.

Code Enforcement report – Council reviewed the Code Enforcement Officer report for the period March 15 through April 23, 2021.

Review of Financial Reports – On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, the financial reports were accepted as presented and authorization was granted to pay PMCA's invoice for Code Enforcement services in the amount of \$225.00 and Amazon's invoice for flags in the amount of \$71.94.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Stanley reported that he spent some time observing the Drug Take Back event and complimented its efficient operation. On April 28 he will participate in a Zoom kick-off meeting to plan for this year's commemorative 9-1-1 event.

Municipal Service Report – The Secretary reported that Mr. Wivell has cleaned several street gutters of debris, twice cleaned the tops of storm drains, posted the streets for street sweeping, and done various other small jobs. He has not been able to mow because the mower won't start, and he acknowledges unapologetically that he is not mechanically inclined. Mr. Thomas recommended using Harrington's on Route 16 at Orchard Road for servicing.

Committee Reports – On behalf of the Streets and Alleys committee, Mr. Thomas provided a list of roadways that are in need of repair. The Secretary will email the list to Council members who are not physically in attendance and will add the topic to the May 5 meeting agenda.

Liaison Reports

Council of Governments – In Mrs. Smith’s absence there was no report on the April 22 meeting.

Fairfield Area Historical Society – Mrs. Gilbert shared that the Society Board met on April 15. They are still holding off on conducting programs until Covid-19 mitigation requirements are relaxed.

FREMA - Mayor Stanley reported on the April 19 meeting noting that future meeting times have been changed to 6:00 PM. Those Council members who have not completed NIMS 100 and 700 courses need to do so to ensure that the Borough qualifies for emergency funding if made available by the state.

HARB – There was no meeting in April.

Joint Parks & Recreation Commission – Mr. Thomas attended the April 13 meeting and reported that the Commission has submitted a new grant application to DCNR and that bridge construction is ongoing. The Commission is considering starting a “Go Fund Me” project with the goal of raising \$2,000 to \$3,000 to replace the mulch around playground equipment.

Municipal Authority – In Mrs. Smith’s absence there was no report on the April 13 meeting.

Pippinfest – Mrs. Thomas reported that plans for this year’s festival are moving forward, and most musical entertainment has been arranged. She noted that experienced committee members are readily taking care of needed preparation.

Planning Commission – Mr. Thomas reported on the April 12 meeting where members continued discussion of a chart of Zoning Ordinance uses and approval mechanisms and agreed to pursue development of a junkyard ordinance.

On a motion by Mrs. Thomas, seconded by Mr. McNeill and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, Katherine Butler of 8 Longhorn Lane was appointed to fill the vacant seat on the Planning Commission.

Unfinished Business – Council received the following updates to unfinished business.

- On April 16th a \$400.00 progress payment was made with Pippinfest funds toward refurbishing the historic bell, per the signed agreement. A request for proposal for construction of a pedestal base has been prepared and sent to two masons. No responses have been received, to date.
- Mrs. Gilbert reported that one of the two benches recently ordered arrived with a broken slat and will be returned. The second bench could be placed at the rear of the Village Hall near the Little Free Library Box, but other more substantial benches have been researched for placement at the front of the building. Further discussion will be had at the May 5 meeting when Mrs. Smith will be available to provide details.
- After considering PennDOT’s negative response to the Borough’s request for support in installing a mirror at North Miller St and Landis Drive to assist in pedestrian safety, Council agreed to abandon the project while continuing to encourage pedestrians to cross North Miller Street at the crosswalk at Main Street.
- Discussion of signs of a political nature has been deferred to the May 5 meeting after receiving report from Solicitor Battersby.
- The Secretary will follow up with resident Margie Hartzell regarding her inquiry regarding a missing street sign at the intersection of Stevens and Franklin Streets.

- Earlier this date the Carroll Valley Borough street sweeping crew was able to clean all scheduled roadways except a portion of Water Street before a complication with the equipment forced them to quit. They anticipate being able to finish the job tomorrow.
- Measurement of Third Avenue indicates that the adjacent drainage gutter is within the Borough's 15-foot right-of-way. Discussion of how to maintain the drainage gutter was deferred to the May 5 meeting.
- On April 29 the Code Enforcement Officer will evaluate the status of the dead tree at the rear of 16 West Main Street to assess whether or not it poses a safety hazard.
- After receiving comment from Solicitor Bob Campbell on behalf of the UCC Board of Appeals in which he negated the intent of the Agreement signed by the Borough to apply some proportionate measure, i.e., population, to group expenses, by general consensus Council opted not to take any new action at this time.
- Regarding improvements to the Village Hall:
 - Duane Sanders has said his original concept for repair of the foyer's ceiling would not work, but he will come and take another look.
 - Duane Sanders has indicated his willingness to re-shingle the shed roof. By general consensus Council agreed that the current color should be retained when the shed is repainted.
 - Having ascertained that there is a pane of clear glass on the outside of the stained-glass transom window which should provide adequate protection, it was deemed that no further action is required on this topic.

New Business

At the April 19 Fire Company quarterly meeting Mrs. Smith received updated information on Fire Boxes for Fairfield Fire & EMS. Approval of those changes is deferred to the May 5th meeting.

Mrs. Gilbert charged all Council members with taking a look at the condition of the retaining wall at the front of the Village Hall in preparation for discussion at the May 5 meeting.

Anything for the Good of the Borough

The Secretary was directed to communicate two on-going traffic concerns to the Police department:

1. a black van parking on Fourth Avenue in the opposite direction of traffic and blocking access to the community mailbox area, around 8:20-8:40 am, weekdays and
2. Vehicles making deliveries to Ventura's Pizza parking on Water Street in the opposite direction of the traffic flow and close to the intersection with Main Street.

Mr. Thomas expressed concern about trip hazards created by sunken tree wells at Fairfield Commons. The Code Enforcement Officer will be notified.

It was noted that individuals not picking up waste left after their pets defecate in the Fairfield Commons lot are in violation of Borough ordinance can be cited.

Mrs. Thomas shared that after being open for 19 years, McKesson House will close for business on May 20. The barn will be rented to another business enterprise.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Borough Council are scheduled for Wednesday, May 5, 2021, at 9:00 AM and Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment – On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Phyllis V. Gilbert, Vice President