

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council General Meeting of
May 5, 2021 - 9:00 AM
Fairfield Village Hall and Remotely via Zoom platform

The Borough Council of Fairfield held a general meeting on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, in the front room of the Village Hall at 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 Secretary Susan Wagle. In attendance remotely were councilor Nate McNeill, Mayor Robert Stanley and, from the public, Emmitsburg News reporter Richard Fulton.

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 public comment.

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 April 27, 2021, subject to correction of the address of Harrington's Equipment.

Mrs. Smith reported on the April 22 Council of Governments meeting at which Andrew Dalton, Director of Adams County Historical Society, gave a slide presentation. Mrs. Smith conveyed the organization's request that individuals consider serving on one of the many committees of the COG, a list of which had been provided to Council, and made available a list of the legislative priorities as adopted on April 22nd.

On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, Council approved the 2021 Municipal Box Alarm Card Review form for Fairfield Fire & EMS. Mrs. Smith gave a brief report on additional business that was conducted at the quarterly Fire Company municipal meeting.

Mrs. Smith reported that the Municipal Authority is considering applying for a CDBG grant. In response to inquiry by Mr. Thomas, Mrs. Smith reviewed information contained in the Authority's quarterly water quality report.

At 9:15 AM Mrs. Thomas joined the meeting remotely.

Council acknowledged receipt of correspondence from resident Dave Deardorff of 34 Carroll's Tract Road in which he requested, among other things, that the Borough conduct a traffic study on Carroll's Tract Road with the goal being to reduce the speed limit on the roadway. Council reviewed comments and traffic information specific to Carroll's Tract Road which was provided by the PA State Police in 2019. The Secretary shared that Chief Hileman seems supportive of a joint effort with Hamiltonban Township to reduce the speed limit noting that he further recommended petitioning that the section of roadway within the Borough limits be categorized as an "urban zone." Given the likelihood of a traffic study being required for approval of potential development in the vicinity of the Gettysburg National Golf Course, Council elected to table any consideration of conducting a traffic study at this time.

At 9:28 AM Solicitor Battersby arrived at the meeting.

Solicitor Battersby reported on his research on legal decisions relative to the display of signs of a political nature. The research indicates that signs may be regulated as to time, place, and matter, but not as to content. In the interest of protecting freedom of speech, the Supreme Court is particularly protective of messages which convey a religious or political belief. If a municipality can prove a compelling governmental reason why a sign should not be displayed, i.e., it interferes with safe traffic flow, its removal can be enforced. In response to inquiry regarding whether or not flags and banners are considered signs, it was affirmed that, by definition, they are. It was noted that the Borough's Zoning Ordinance does not regulate signs of a political nature.

Relative to mowing and maintaining the grassy gutter and flat area along Third Avenue, Solicitor Battersby advised that the Borough should maintain the area that is within the right-of-way of the alley, in this case a 15-foot width. He advised contacting the owner of the farm adjacent to the roadway to explain that the Borough will begin maintaining the area within the right-of-way.

In response to inquiry by Mr. Pileggi, Solicitor Battersby was charged with researching whether or not signage is required to indicate that a fence is electrified.

At 9:52 AM Mr. McNeill left the meeting, and at 9:53 AM Solicitor Battersby left the meeting.

By general consensus Council authorized having the snow blower and the mower serviced by Harrington's Equipment on Route 16 at Orchard Road.

After discussion of the Streets and Alleys Committee report on road conditions, Council agreed by general consensus to have Mr. Wivell or Butch Harbaugh fill the identified pot holes with cold patch. The Secretary has notified the code enforcement officer about sunken planting wells at the Fairfield Commons parcel and will reach out to Monahan Funeral Home's tenant about the planting wells at their property.

After brief discussion of recommendation made by Mrs. Gilbert that consideration be given to replacing the tar and chip portion of East Landis Drive from Second Avenue to North Miller Street with an asphalt roadway, by general consensus Council authorized requesting quotes for such project. The option of adding Fifth Avenue should be included in the bid request.

All Council members received "No Dog Poop" handouts and were encouraged to hand them to dog walkers who do not clean up after their pets.

After some discussion Council was charged with giving thought as to whether or not the Borough wishes to continue promoting the Historic Walking Tour of the Borough and, if so, to install a more permanent type marker at each property on the tour. The tour was originally prepared and promoted by the Sesquicentennial Committee.

On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, Council passed Resolution 02 of 2021, a Mayoral Proclamation authorizing the temporary closure of the full length of First Avenue and the portion of East Landis Drive from First Avenue to Third Avenue on May 22, 2021.

At 10:13 AM Mrs. Thomas left the meeting.

Budget and Finance

After consideration of a proposal from Young's Masonry for the construction of a pedestal display for the historic bell, Mrs. Cline recommended contacting Kyle Miller for a proposal. A request for proposal has also been requested of mason Gary Rebert with no response received. The Secretary will reach out to him again. Mr. Pileggi shared that he was pleased with work that Gary Rebert did work for his business.

On recommendation by Mrs. Gilbert that the maple tree at the front of the Village Hall be removed, the Secretary was directed to get quotes for removal, and others offered to get quotes, as well.

On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mr. Pileggi and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, Council authorized having brake repair work done by Fairfield Auto Service at an estimated cost of \$797.00. The truck is due for its annual inspection, as well.

On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mr. Pileggi and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, Council accepted a proposal from Sanders Lawn and Beyond for replacing shingle on the storage shed at an estimated price of \$1,150.00. Council acknowledged that any new sheathing requirements would incur additional cost.

On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Pileggi and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, Council authorized payment of Battersby Law's invoice for April services in the amount of \$93.75.

Old Business

Council authorized placing the bench that arrived undamaged in the Little Free Library area. Mrs. Smith will investigate options for return of the damaged bench, and the Borough Building committee will meet after the meeting to discuss the purchase of other benches.

Mrs. Smith reported that the Municipal Authority has not yet purchased a camera for line inspection. When available it is hoped that the camera can be used by the Borough to inspect the storm drain pipes under Main Street.

The Secretary reported that PennDOT responded to a written request for assistance in cleaning under the storm drains at the intersection of Water and Main Streets by sending a crew to do the work. A thank you note will be sent.

Street name signs will be ordered for installation at the intersection of Franklin and Stevens Street using the existing post on which the Stop sign is installed, if possible.

The Code Enforcement Officer is addressing concerns related to the dead tree at the intersection of Steelman and South Spring Streets.

The Secretary was directed to contact Kyle Miller to request his consideration of the repair/replacement needs of the retaining wall. Mrs. Cline will reach out to Terry Dull.

No further information has been obtained relative to repairing the foyer ceiling.

Anything for the Good of the Borough – Nothing presented.

Next Meeting – The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 25, 2021, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment – On a motion by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 10:37 AM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, Council President