

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council Meeting of May 25, 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, May 25, 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 Secretary Susan Wagle. In attendance remotely were councilors Nate McNeill and Sally Thomas as well as Mayor Robert Stanley.

At 7:00 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 6-0, the minutes of the Council meeting of May 5, 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 April Fire Department report.

Police Report – In the absence of a representative of the Carroll Valley Borough Police Department there was no review of the April Police report.

Solicitor Report – In the absence of Solicitor Battersby there was no report. The Secretary reported that Solicitor Battersby's research indicated that there is no law obligating farmers to label electrified fences as such. A follow up report is expected.

Enactments – On a motion by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, Council adopted Ordinance 05-01 of 2021, the Fairfield Borough Nuisance Ordinance.

Correspondence – Council acknowledged receipt of the intent of BPG (formerly Quebecor) to submit its application for reissuance of the facility's Air Quality permit.

Code Enforcement report – Council reviewed the Code Enforcement Officer report for the period April 26 through May 21, 2021.

Review of Financial Reports – On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, the financial reports were accepted as presented and authorization was given to pay PMCA's invoice in the amount of \$437.50 for enforcement services.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Stanley reported on the April 28 and May 12 planning meetings for this year's 9-1-1 Commemoration event which will recognize the 20th anniversary of the attack on U.S. soil.

Municipal Service Report – Mrs. Smith reported that Mr. Wivell filled pot holes with cold patch, sanded and applied a protective finish coat on the existing bench at the front of the property, mulched the front garden, moved the rustic wooden bench to the mailbox area, secured a new bench at the Little Free Library area, and mowed at the Village Hall. It was noted that storm drains need to be cleaned again.

Committee Reports – Mr. Thomas reported approval of the pothole repairs. He noted that some curbs on Main Street would benefit from being touched up with yellow paint, but the paint is basically in good condition. He further reported that all the crosswalks are in good shape and do not need to be painted this year.

Council will consider jobs that could be done by a local resident who has a public service obligation to fill.

Liaison Reports

ACBA – Mayor Stanley reported on the May 17 meeting. The key speaker, Margaret Durkin of the Bravo Group, spoke about robotic deliveries which are authorized in Act 106 of 2020.

Fairfield Area Historical Society – Mrs. Gilbert reported on the May 20 meeting at which the Board was glad to be able to schedule a public program in June, the topic being covered bridges. Additional functions for the fall and Christmas are in the works.

HARB – There was no meeting in May.

Joint Parks & Recreation Commission – Mr. Thomas was unable to attend the May 11 meeting and reported from the minutes of the meeting. The Go fund Me project was tabled, but all other in-process projects moved forward successfully.

Municipal Authority – Mrs. Smith reported that at their May 11 meeting the Authority Board awarded a project to Mr. Rehab to televise approximately 60% of the sewer lines. They also entered into a new agreement with Engie Resources for electricity supply. She noted that in their last fiscal year they worked with Engie and saved \$8,000.00 on electric costs at the water system and the wells. She further reported that the Authority expects to order an inspection camera this month.

Pippinfest – Mrs. Thomas reported that planning for the 2021 festival is moving forward on schedule. She was pleased to report that the new owners of the Mansion House, George and Cindy Keeney, are making plans for active involvement in Pippinfest on the Mansion House grounds.

Planning Commission – Mr. Thomas was unable to attend the May 10 meeting and reported from the minutes. New Planning Commission member, Kathy Butler, attended the meeting.

Waste Contract – After minimal discussion, by general consensus Council agreed that the waste contract as written has been working well and should be retained.

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

- The Secretary reported on conversation held today with Chase Hagan of Premier Metal Works relative to the bell refurbishing job. Mr. Hagan supported an ‘end of August’ time frame for installation of the bell. On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 5-1 with Mrs. Gilbert dissenting, Council authorized entering into an agreement with Gary Rebert Masonry for construction of a pedestal display for the restored bell at a cost of \$2,394.00, to be paid with Pippinfest funds. In addition to being concerned about reducing the Pippinfest fund balance, Mrs. Gilbert expressed her feeling that the overall bell refurbishing and display project should have been better researched and fully planned before it was begun. Some discussion ensued regarding the kind of plaque to be installed and the language to include.
- As reported earlier in the meeting, the first-ordered bench has been installed in the Little Free Library area. Mrs. Smith reported that two additional benches have been ordered and shipped.

- As reported earlier in the meeting, the Municipal Authority will soon order a camera which could enable inspection of storm drains.
- After discussion it was agreed that various Council members and possibly the local resident with community service requirements will place flags throughout the Borough before this coming Memorial Day weekend.
- Council agreed to give thought to the future of the Historic House Tour and be prepared to discuss at the June 2 meeting.
- Council heard that Landis Drive does not qualify for use of Liquid Fuels funds as it doesn't meet the minimum 15-foot width requirement. The project was tabled until it can be considered by the Budget committee.
- More information is required before consideration can be given to right-of-way maintenance on Third Avenue and East Landis Drive.
- Street signs for Stevens and Franklin Streets have been ordered from U.S. Municipal Supply.
- The Secretary reported that the property owner at 16 West Main Street has contracted to have the dead tree at the rear of their property removed.

After discussion of responses received from tree care firms, Council elected to investigate having the red maple tree at the front of the Village Hall trimmed instead of removed. The Secretary will request quotes.

Mrs. Thomas reported that the Keeney family has shared their intent to have a tree care firm examine the original Pippin Apple tree in the hope of preserving it.

- There has been no progress made toward repair of the Village Hall foyer ceiling or the retaining wall.

New Business

Mrs. Smith requested that Council give thought to the means of conducting future meetings once Covid-19 mitigation strategies are abandoned or severely reduced. Specifically, will we continue to offer participation via Zoom, and will we move meetings into the conference room when front room rental reservations resume, particularly those of the weekly Wednesday evening dancers. In discussion of whether or not to allow open public access to the building during office hours, by general consensus Council agreed to support the cooperative decision of Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Wagle who occupy the building daily.

Anything for the Good of the Borough – Nothing offered.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Borough Council are scheduled for Wednesday, June 2, 2021, at 9:00 AM and Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment – On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, President