

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council Meeting of August 24, 2021
108 West Main Street, Fairfield, PA

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, in the front room of the Village Hall.

In attendance were councilors Camille Cline, Phyllis Gilbert, Nate McNeill, Patricia Smith, Dean Thomas, and Sally Thomas; Solicitor Matt Battersby; Mayor Robert Stanley; Carroll Valley Borough Police Corporal Cliff Weikert, and Secretary Susan Wagle.

Present from the public was Emmitsburg News Journal reporter, Andrea Grabenstein.

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 Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, the minutes of the Council meeting of August 4, 2021, were accepted as presented.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

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

Police Report – Corporal Weikert reviewed the July police report. He shared that the Department is losing an officer as of 14 September and is in the process of seeking a new officer.

At 7:06 PM Corporal Weikert left the meeting.

Solicitor Report – Solicitor Battersby shared that Hamiltonban Township's Constable resigned. Council affirmed that Fairfield Borough does not have a Constable at this time.

At 7:10 PM Solicitor Battersby left the meeting.

Correspondence – Several Council members indicated a desire to attend the 911 Commemoration event but an inability to commit at this point. Mayor Stanley affirmed that pre-registration is not required. The Secretary will respond with the responses received to date.

Code Enforcement report – There was no report from PMCA to consider. Council heard that some clean up has begun at 100 West Main Street and that citations can be issued if the property is not in compliance by August 28. The Secretary will follow up on concerns expressed regarding vehicles in driveways infringing on pedestrian passage.

Review of Financial Reports – On a motion by Mrs. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, the financial reports were accepted as presented and approval was granted for payment of Sanders Lawn and Beyond invoice 3839 in the amount of \$222.82.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Stanley shared details of the 20th Anniversary 9/11 Event which starts at 11:00 AM on September 11th at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Visitors are encouraged to bring lawn chairs for the outside event. In case of rain the event will be held inside the church.

Municipal Service Report – Mrs. Smith reported that the cloak room has been cleared of file cabinets and furniture. Other than mowing, there were no other projects tackled by the municipal employee.

Committee Reports

On behalf of the Borough Building Committee Mr. Thomas reported that the Postmaster expressed no objection to a mural being affixed to the rear surface of the community mailboxes, but he doesn't want to have the mural painted directly onto the boxes.

On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, Council authorized purchasing paint to enable painting of the walls and trim in the front room of the Village Hall using free labor provided by an individual with community service hours. Mrs. Thomas shared that paint accessories are on sale at Sherwin Williams through the end of August.

Mrs. Gilbert reported that the Budget Committee will begin meeting in September.

Liaison Reports

ACBA – The next ACBA meeting is in September.

Fairfield Area Historical Society – The Society Board met on August 19. Mrs. Gilbert detailed the Society's current planned events: This I Remember for the Fountaindale/Greenstone area at the Fountaindale fire hall on October 21st at 7:00 PM, a Christmas party for members and one guest at the Village Hall on December 9th, and a presentation by The Victorian Historian in March of 2022.

FREMA – The August FREMA meeting was canceled. Mayor Stanley reported that there were no critical topics to address, and many people were out of the area and unable to attend.

HARB – There was no meeting in August.

Joint Parks & Recreation Commission – Mr. Thomas reported that a grant update was provided at the August 10 meeting. Some revisions will be made and the applications submitted by August 31. Authorization was granted by the Township supervisors for the Park Commission to establish a "Go fund Me" account with the goal being to raise \$3,000 for maintenance and supplies for the park. A survey to gather information on public perception of the Park has been created and was to be distributed at the August 22 bridge dedication and Music in the Park, but both events were canceled due to rain.

Municipal Authority – Mrs. Smith reported that much of the Authority's last meeting was devoted to discussion of the bridge and crossing that were damaged by CSX contractors and must be repaired to access the property. CSX is not being very cooperative, although they did agree on a settlement amount for the bridge restoration, including some engineering costs.

Pippinfest – Mrs. Thomas shared the Committee's sadness at the tragic death of one of its members, Josh Laird. He and his two daughters had been active Committee participants, and the Committee is doing what it can to support the family. The basic needs of the festival have been arranged, i.e. porta potties, dumpster, cleaning crew, golf carts, traffic control. Although vendor numbers are still down, it promises to be a great festival offering a wide variety of bands, clowns, lots of food options, and games and rides in the Kid's area.

Planning Commission – The August Planning Commission meeting was canceled.

Waste Contract – There has been no activity regarding waste contract negotiations since the last report.

Unfinished Business – Council received the following updates to unfinished business and took action as indicated:

- There has been no activity concerning ARPA funding since the last report.
- Rebert’s Masonry plans to begin digging the footer for the bell pedestal display on August 25th. Premier Metalworks has resumed renovation of the historic bell and plans to install it on September 18th. Mrs. Smith has conveyed additional information about the display to Dave Sites and asked for his input on the plaque language. He has said he will give it some thought and get back to her.

Before the meeting convened several Council members met at the front of the Village Hall to discuss placement of the bell display. Considering all variables made for a difficult decision. Proponents of west side placement expressed concern that east side placement would result in a cluttered appearance. Proponents of east side placement expressed a desire to avoid tree roots and the water supply line to the Village Hall on the west side, and liked the advantage of having the bell illuminated along with the flag. A roll call vote on placing the display on the east or west side of the front sidewalk resulted in a 3-3 split, with the Mrs. Gilbert, Mr. McNeill, and Mrs. Smith voting for east side placement and Mrs. Cline, Mr. Thomas, and Mrs. Thomas voting for west side placement. Mayor Stanley broke the tie, voting to place the display on the east side of the front sidewalk. Consideration will be given to moving the Village Hall sign to create more open area on the east side.

- All in attendance agreed that the installed benches look good, and there were reports of them having been used by members of the public.
- After Mr. Thomas confirms the size of the flags quoted by Granny’s Attic (\$1.09 each for an order of 300), cost information can be conveyed to Trish Rowe who has offered to donate flags for use next year.
- Mills Arbor Care has indicated that they will trim the red maple tree in early September.
- As reported earlier in the meeting, an access door has been installed in the foyer ceiling by Duane Sanders of Sanders Lawn and Beyond.

New Business

On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll vote of 6-0, Council authorized replacing the filters in the air filtration units.

The secretary reported that Susquehanna Door Service made a service call this morning and adjusted the strike position on the rear entry door to correct the difficulties recently experienced in easily opening the door.

Mrs. Gilbert reported that Dan Moul’s office donated brand new American and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania flags which will be placed in service before this year’s 9/11 anniversary.

Anything for the Good of the Borough – Mr. McNeil expressed concern that branches have not yet been cleared from Spring Run. The Secretary will follow up with the 18 South Miller Street property owner.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Borough Council are scheduled for Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at 9:00 AM and Tuesday, September 21, 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 8:33 PM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, President