

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council Meeting of September 28, 2021
108 West Main Street, Fairfield, PA

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, in the front room of the Village Hall.

In attendance were councilors Camille Cline, Nate McNeill, Pat Pileggi, Patricia Smith, and Dean Thomas; Solicitor Matt Battersby; and Secretary Susan Wagle. Participating remotely via telephone was 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 Mr. McNeill and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, the minutes of the Council meeting of September 1, 2021, were accepted subject to an editorial correction.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Fire Department Report – Council acknowledged receipt of the August Fire Department report. The Secretary reported that crosswalk signs which had been moved to the center of the roadway during Pippifest will be moved back to the sides of the road to better accommodate farm and Fire Department equipment. Some discussion ensued.

Solicitor Report – Solicitor Battersby presented information relative to a proposed ordinance regulating camping and/or storage of personal property on public right-of-way, which is similar to ordinances in effect in many cities now. In light of the increase in homelessness in the County he recommended that Fairfield Borough be proactive and adopt the ordinance. Mr. Thomas recommended that the prohibition against “standing” also be included wherever there is a prohibition against “sitting, lying, or sleeping.” Council agreed to give the ordinance consideration and to discuss again at the October 6 Council meeting.

At 7:20 PM Solicitor Battersby left the meeting.

Correspondence – none to consider

At 7:22 Chief Hileman arrived at the meeting

Code Enforcement report – Council reviewed the code enforcement officer report for the period August 16 through September 24. Mr. McNeill reported that Naugles tree will be doing work at 18 South Miller Street.

Police Report – Chief Hileman reviewed the August police report and fielded questions from Council. He invited everyone to attend the Drug Takeback event on October 23rd from 10 am – 2 pm at the Carroll Valley Borough building. He affirmed that a resident complaint regarding speeding on North Miller Street was justified, and the Department will increase patrol there. In response to inquiry by Mr. Thomas he indicated that crosswalk signs in the middle of the road are a calming device, but there is a risk of theft and damage.

At approximately 7:45 PM Chief Hileman left the meeting.

Review of Financial Reports – On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mr. McNeill and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, the financial reports were accepted as presented and approval was granted for payment of PMCA’s invoice #35556 in the amount of \$746.95 covering the period 08/16 through 09/24/2021.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Stanley reported on a successful 9-11 event and shared that he will be the speaker at a local church function in November.

Liaison Reports

ACBA – No one attended the ACBA meeting which was held at Hoss’s Restaurant.

COG – Mrs. Smith reported on the September Council of Governments meeting at which the speaker’s topic was child trafficking and exploitation, the end of which is her organization’s goal. Reportedly Pennsylvania ranks 10th in the nation for human trafficking crimes. Relative to the American Rescue Plan Act, final procedures are expected to be established in October or November. On October 28th COG will host its annual legislative forum at the County Emergency Services building. A light meal will be available, and all are invited.

Fairfield Area Historical Society – Mrs. Cline reported on the Society’s September 16 meeting and detailed events currently planned: This I Remember for the Fountaindale/Greenstone area at the Fountaindale fire hall on October 21st at 7:00 PM, a presentation by The Victorian Historian in March of 2022, and a fundraiser at the Village Hall on April 2, 2022, featuring a Patsy Cline impersonation concert. Tickets to the concert fundraiser will be for sale beginning in January at a cost of \$24.00 each. Mrs. Smith complimented the Society on recently updated Society displays in the Village Hall.

HARB – There was no meeting in September.

Joint Parks & Recreation Commission – Mr. Thomas reported that there was little discussed at the short September meeting.

Municipal Authority – Mrs. Smith reported that the Authority hopes to accomplish some line cleaning and televising this fall. They are also following developments regarding the proposed infrastructure bill with the hope that monies might be made available for a major infrastructure project. They received three quotes for replacement of the bridge damaged by CSX and have contracted for the project with a local business.

Pippinfest – In the absence of Mrs. Thomas, Mr. McNeill reported on the September 25th and 26th festival indicating that despite a few “hiccups” which were readily resolved, everything went well. Everyone present concurred.

Planning Commission – The Secretary and Mr. Thomas shared that the Planning Commission unanimously supported recommendation by the Adams County Planning Office to take the time to re-package the Borough’s Zoning Ordinance at the same time as use standards are updated. The current Ordinance would be repealed and a new Zoning Ordinance adopted. It was noted that advertising costs for the use authorization changes will be fairly expensive due to the need to identify each individual change, and it is possible that advertising costs to repeal the current ordinance and adopt a new zoning ordinance would be no greater. Council agreed to consider and discuss further at the October 6 meeting.

Waste Contract – Mrs. Smith elaborated on recent changes to the waste contract bid process. The final process is yet to be determined.

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

- A final version of use parameters for American Rescue Plan Act monies is expected by the end of October or November.
- The historic bell has been refurbished and installed at the front of the Village Hall. Mrs. Smith shared that Dave Sites has offered to pay the total cost of the refurbishing and construction of the pedestal display. The Borough will pay for the plaque to be installed on the display. A dedication will be planned for later this fall. In response to report that view of the bell is blocked by the Village Hall sign when traveling from the east, it was agreed that the sign will be moved incrementally until a good placement is reached.
- The Secretary confirmed with Trish Rowe that she is willing to contribute between \$300.00 and \$350.00 toward the cost of American flags for street display next year. Grannies Attic was unable to quote a price for shipping at this time. Since the flags are needed for next year, not this, the purchase is temporarily on hold.
- Joyce Beckman has expressed a willingness to serve as tax collector, and there is potential interest by one other individual. Since the current tax collector is still serving, appointment is not yet necessary
- Paint chips have been obtained for the Village Hall walls, and some project materials have been purchased.
- Mills Arbor Care trimmed the red maple tree and shared that it is a beautiful tree and that they are glad that it was trimmed rather than removed.

New Business

Snow removal bids will be published in early October for consideration at the October 26 meeting.

A draft newsletter was shared with requests for input for the second page. If there are no newsworthy topics, it was recommended that pictures from Pippinfest be published.

Anything for the Good of the Borough

Mrs. Smith shared that Alex Kessel recently died and expressed for the record Council's appreciation for his past service to the Borough Council.

Mrs. Cline shared a resident concern that speeding on Main Street needs to be addressed.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Borough Council are scheduled for Wednesday, October 6, 2021, at 9:00 AM and Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment – On a motion by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. McNeill and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, President