

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council Meeting of November 23, 2021
108 West Main Street, Fairfield, PA

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, November 23, 2021, in the front room of the Village Hall.

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

At 7:02 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 7-0, the minutes of the Council meetings of October 26 and November 3, 2021, were accepted subject to correction of Congressman Scott Perry’s title in the minutes of November 3.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

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

Police Report – Chief Hileman reviewed the October Police Report and fielded questions from Council. He shared that the Department has one application for a new officer; 275 pounds of drugs were collected at the drug takeback event; he and Council President Smith successfully hosted trick-or-treaters at the Village Hall; and the Department will be focusing on seatbelt enforcement through Christmas, after which two periods of DUI enforcement will be conducted, supported by state and federal funding.

At 7:14 PM Chief Hileman left the meeting.

Solicitor Report – At Solicitor Battersby’s invitation and on a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council authorized advertisement of the intent to adopt an ordinance that has been under consideration which prohibits certain uses on public property and in public rights-of-way. In other business Mr. Battersby shared that two residential developments are under consideration in Hamiltonban Township, one at each end of the Borough. Significant discussion ensued, most focused on availability of capacity at the Fairfield Municipal Authority’s sewer treatment plant.

At 7:31 PM Solicitor Battersby left the meeting.

Correspondence – Council acknowledged receipt of a rate increase from Comcast.

Code Enforcement report – There was no report for review.

Review of Financial Reports – On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, the financial reports were accepted as presented

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Stanley shared that there were many people in the Borough for trick-or-treating, and no accidents reported. He further reported that Mrs. Kessel was appreciative of having received a letter of condolence from the Borough, and Covid-19 concerns resulted in the cancellation of the veteran’s breakfast at the school.

Municipal Service Report – A motion sensor has been installed in the men’s restroom, a sewer clean out cap damaged by the lawn mower has been replaced, storm drain clearing is ongoing, painting in the front room is just about completed, and the snow blower has been taken to Harrington’s equipment for servicing.

Committee reports – none

Liaison Reports

ACBA – No one attended the November 15 Adams County Borough’s Association meeting.

COG – Mrs. Smith reported on the November 18 Council of Governments meeting at which HABPI president Eric Meyer shared information on trails projects. Mrs. Smith encouraged fellow council members to attend the COG meetings, as all are welcomed.

Fairfield Area Historical Society – Mrs. Gilbert reported on the Society’s November 18 meeting where final plans were made for the members-only December 9 Christmas party. Public activities are planned in March and April, as previously reported. Mrs. Cline shared that the Blue Ridge Sportsman Association is making a donation to enable the purchase of PastPerfect Museum software for use in categorizing artifacts, including a training CD and 3 years of support.

HARB – There was no meeting in November.

Joint Parks & Recreation Commission – Mr. Thomas reported on the November 9 meeting at which he encouraged the Board to continue consideration of installing flush toilets. Planning for a spring Kite Day is in process, and the Board is hopeful that the Music in the Park program will be continued.

Municipal Authority – Mrs. Smith reported that the Authority’s November meeting was centered around planned construction of 160 homes plus two additional areas in the vicinity of the golf course at Gettysburg National Golf Club, with representatives of the Club and their architectural firm represented. Although construction isn’t anticipated for at least one year, the planners are addressing water and sewer needs now. Mrs. Smith noted that re-rating the sewer treatment plant to enable more connections is not unusual or unattainable, and doing so has the potential to lower current rates. Some discussion ensued.

Planning Commission – The November 15 meeting was canceled, but members received some preliminary documents provided by Rob Thaeler for consideration before the December meeting. Additional materials were received this week and will be distributed before the next meeting.

Waste Contract – The final version of the Waste Contract Bid documents, as amended by Carroll Valley Borough solicitors from Salzmann Hughes, was emailed to Council members this afternoon. The bid release date is set for December 1, pre-bid meeting for December 14, and bid opening on December 30. Council acknowledged that little opportunity has been given for comment despite the appearance of extensive amendment.

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

- Final guidelines on authorized use of ARPA funds have not been received.
- Dedication of the historic bell will be planned for next spring when the weather is warmer.
- 288 12” x 18” flags have been shipped by American Legion Flag and Emblem.
- Mrs. Smith requested that anyone who has not reviewed the information gathered on proposed lighting at the community mailbox area and safety cones for Pippinfest please do so in preparation for discussion and potential decision making at the December 1 Council meeting. The information is available on the conference room table.

New Business

On a motion by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by roll call vote of 7 to 0, Council established meeting dates for 2022 with the December meeting changed from the fourth Tuesday (December 27) to the third Tuesday (December 20.)

By general consensus Council accepted Dave Thomas' offer of a \$125.00 cash donation to be used to put a lighted Christmas tree outside at the front of the Village Hall. The topic will be discussed at the next meeting.

Anything for the Good of the Borough

Mr. Stanley reported that on at least three occasions recently, drivers exiting the parking lot of Mansion House 1757 onto Landis Drive have dragged parking blocks into Landis Drive resulting in a hazard on the roadway. Some discussion ensued and will be continued at the December 1 meeting.

Mr. McNeill reported that he frequently observes vehicles traveling against the posted direction of travel on North Spring Street. Although there is a "Do Not Enter" sign at the intersection of North Spring and Main Streets, consideration was given to the necessity of installing directional arrows.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Borough Council are scheduled for Wednesday, December 1 2021, at 9:00 AM and Tuesday, December 28, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment – On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, President