

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council General Meeting of
February 2, 2022 - 9:00 AM

The Borough Council of Fairfield held a general meeting on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, in the front room of the Village Hall, 108 West Main Street, Fairfield, Pennsylvania.

In attendance were councilors Camille Cline, Phyllis Gilbert, Nate McNeill, Pat Pileggi, Patricia Smith, Dean Thomas, and Sally Thomas. Also present were Solicitor Matt Battersby and Secretary Susan Wagle. Mayor Robert Stanley attempted unsuccessfully to participate via telephone.

At 9:08 AM Council President Patricia Smith called the meeting to order and Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment – There was no one present from the public.

General

The Secretary reviewed for Council events leading up to the bid tabulation officially prepared by Carroll Valley Borough from the second bidding for the 2022 waste contract. It was noted that a written bid protest has been received from Waste Management citing objection to the method of calculating the aggregate total. Solicitor Battersby shared with Council his legal opinion that the tabulation as prepared is fully defensible. On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council awarded the 2022 waste contract to Park's Garbage Service (Apple Valley Waste), selecting Option 1 which includes bi-weekly recycling.

At 9:23 AM Solicitor Battersby left the meeting.

Council heard that the Borough's codification source, Code Publishing, has merged with General Code. By general consensus Council supported deferring a codification supplement until the new zoning ordinance, currently in the hands of the Planning Commission, has been adopted.

By general consensus Council supported receiving meeting documents electronically in advance of each meeting and having them available in print form at the meeting. Those wishing to have print copies in advance of a meeting may arrange with the Secretary to pick them up at the office.

Mrs. Smith reported on the January 27 meeting of the Council of Governments which is now under the direction of newly elected president, Dave (Scotty) Bolton. At this time there is no vice president. She shared that planning has begun at the county level of a 2026 250th anniversary of the birth of the United States. Area visitation in 2021 reportedly reflected a decrease of only 1% in visitation over previous years. The COG Executive Committee and new COG president are meeting this evening to discuss and encourage means of returning the COG to its original purpose, which was to provide opportunities for municipalities to share assets and work together to accomplish mutually beneficial goals.

Mrs. Smith reported on the January 31 Fire Company municipal meeting where representatives from Carroll Valley Borough and Hamiltonban Township were also present. The Company ended 2021 with a positive cash flow. They have purchased an antique fire truck that was originally owned by the Fairfield Fire Company, and they are considering expanding the current building to accommodate a new truck which is likely to be longer than any existing equipment. Chief Bill Jacobs shared Company concerns about dead trees on private property and their proximity to homes and requested assistance in reaching out

to residents where there is the potential risk of property damage. In response to the Company's on-going need for volunteers, Mrs. Smith volunteered to include information for potential volunteers in the Municipal Authority's next newsletter.

At 9:44 AM Mr. Pileggi temporarily left the meeting.

The Secretary had no new information to report on a cooperative bid for line painting with Hamiltonban Township.

By general consensus Council supported initiating communication with Carroll Valley Borough regarding potential renewal of a police services contract. The current contract ends on 12-31-2022.

At 9:48 AM Mr. Pileggi returned to the meeting.

Mrs. Smith thanked everyone for submitting their committee and liaison preferences. Assignments will be emailed to everyone.

Acknowledging again that the Final Rule for ARPA funds includes a standard allowance for revenue loss of up to \$10,000,000 which allows the Borough to use all of its American Rescue Plan funds for normally-provided government services, Council shared some ideas for potential use of the funds. The Secretary was directed to create a "wish list" document including these ideas and to add future submissions as they are provided. The funds must be committed to use by 12-31-2024 and fully expended by 12-31-2026.

Budget and Finance

Council reviewed Battersby Law's January invoice in the amount of \$125.00.

The Secretary shared information on several potential vehicle carrier racks with ramps to be used for transporting equipment such as the snow blower and lawn mower. Considering that the least expensive is not always the best choice, Mrs. Gilbert volunteered to review the options and report back to Council.

Correspondence – Council discussed at length an informal inquiry as to whether or not Council would support amending the Zoning Ordinance to permit the property at 100 West Main Street to be used as a heated storage facility. The Secretary was directed to convey Council's considerations to the Code Enforcement Officer from whom the inquiry was received. Discussion included: no consideration for a "traditional" self-storage facility with multiple outdoor garage door-type accesses or multiple pedestrian outdoor entries along Balder Street; potential consideration if consideration is given to creating an aesthetically pleasing outside appearance complementing the historic district; no outdoor storage of anything vehicular would be permitted; no parking is permitted on Balder Street; parking requirements are accommodated in the adjoining parcel, so its purchase would also be required; any ordinance changes must go through the Planning Commission; Council would welcome submission of a design concept if the potential buyer is interested in pursuing the project.

In response to Mr. Pileggi's inquiry concerning changes at the former dental office on Steelman Street, Mr. McNeill shared that one unit is currently being rented and another small apartment will be rented out soon. The Secretary will contact the new owner to discuss compliance with permitting requirements.

Old Business – On a motion by Mrs. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by unanimous acclamation, Council voted to amend the agenda to include discussion of lighting for the community mailbox area.

Mr. Thomas distributed copies of a quote received from Hull Electric for a solar-powered light fixture for the community mailbox area. It was noted that this fixture uses a special solar powered light bulb and will not accommodate a motion sensor. Council requested information on the cost of a replacement light bulb, warranty information, if any, and the method of securing the fixture to the concrete. The topic will be considered again at the February 22 meeting.

At 10:38 AM Mr. McNeill left the meeting.

Mrs. Smith shared an unofficial update on potential proposed developments at the west end of the Borough. She noted, also, that she was recently told that S&A Homes plans to begin construction of homes at Fairfield Commons.

Mrs. Smith requested that Council take a look at a mock-up of the bell plaque with revised language. With their approval she will get the plaque ordered at the same price as originally quoted, \$475.00.

Anything for the Good of the Borough

Next Meeting – The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 22, 2022, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment – On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, Council President