

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council Meeting of February 22, 2022
108 West Main Street, Fairfield, PA

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, in the front room of the Village Hall.

In attendance were councilors Camille Cline, Phyllis Gilbert, Nate McNeill, Pat Pileggi, 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 were Emmitsburg News Journal and Gettysburg Times reporter Andrea Grabenstein and resident Kelli Maze of 213 West Main Street.

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 7-0, the minutes of the Council meetings of January 25, 2022, and February 2, 2022, were accepted as presented.

Public Comment – Ms. Maze shared her concerns about the loss of the Borough’s grocery store and the gas station at the west end of the Borough in Hamiltonban Township. She encouraged Council to work toward improving economic development in the Borough. She also expressed concern about the safety of the intersection at Stevens Street and West Main Street where water accumulates and freezes in the winter causing vehicles to slide into and partially through the intersection. She opined that drainage from the ditches at the houses to the west of Stevens Street needs to be directed to a storm drain and that the existing storm drains need to be cleaned. Last, she expressed her desire that the Borough be decorated for Christmas and her feeling that small things will make the Borough a better place for everyone.

In that Council has in the past tried to correct the poor drainage at Stevens Street, some discussion of the topic ensued. Ultimately it was agreed that since the drainage ditches lie in the PennDOT right-of-way, coordination with PennDOT is essential. Ms. Maze indicated that she would gladly reach out to PennDOT. Mr. Thomas, as Chair of the Streets, Alley, Sidewalks, and Trees committee, indicated that he will convene his committee, and Stevens Street drainage will be the first topic addressed. The Secretary will request that Mr. Wivell check for uncleared storm drains on the west end of the Borough, and if any have been untended to include them in all future storm drain cleaning. Mrs. Thomas expressed appreciation to Ms. Maze for sharing her concerns. She expressed that Council encourages public participation and encouraged Ms. Maze to reach out to PennDOT.

Mrs. Smith thanked Ms. Maze for bringing her issues forward and invited her to return.

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

Police Report – Corporal Weikert reviewed the January Police Report and fielded questions from Council. The Department has two potential new officer candidates.

At 7:20 PM Corporal Weikert left the meeting.

Solicitor Report – Relative to this meeting’s discussion of drainage, Solicitor Battersby suggested having the Borough engineer look at the situation to see if they can come up with a solution, get an estimate for the project, and perhaps get a block grant for the repair. In his opinion there is a good chance that a grant would be awarded.

At 7:25 PM Solicitor Battersby left the meeting.

Correspondence – Council acknowledged receipt of an update letter from Civil War Trails.

Code Enforcement report – Council reviewed the code enforcement officer’s report for January 17 through February 11, 2022.

Review of Financial Reports – On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, the financial reports were accepted as presented, and authorization was granted for payment of PMCA’s invoice in the amount of \$520.00.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Stanley had no report.

Municipal Service Report – There was no report.

Committee reports – Mrs. Thomas shared that the kick-off meeting for Pippinfest will be in March. She invited Ms. Maze to join the Pippinfest committee, but Ms. Maze declined.

Liaison Reports

Fairfield Area Historical Society – Mrs. Gilbert reported on the February 17 meeting where discussion of event ideas continued. The next event is the March 17 “Victorian Historian” presentation.

FREMA – Mayor Stanley reported on the February 21 FREMA meeting at which by unanimous vote the Executive Board appointed Michael McCabe to replace Andrew Aldrich as the Deputy EMC.

HARB – There was no meeting in February.

Joint Parks & Recreation Commission – Mr. Thomas reported that Kite Day has been scheduled for April 23 from 10-2, and Music in the Park will be held on the 3rd Sundays in June, July, and August. Cumberland Shakedown will perform in June, and Betty and Jo Redding will perform as “Seeds of Nostalgia” in July. The August date is open.

Municipal Authority – Mrs. Smith reported that developer representatives of both the Gettysburg National Golf Club and Dave Sites attended the February 8 meeting. Discussion of potential investments in the water and sewer system are ongoing. In other business the Authority discussed contracting with Penn Forestry to mark trees for timbering on the watershed property. New “no trespassing” signs will be posted at the property.

Planning Commission – The Planning Commission met on February 14 and received a consolidated reorganized zoning ordinance document and a list of 23 items identified as issues to address and incorporate into the new ordinance. After a detailed review of the list, the Commission directed Mr. Thaeler of the Adams County Office of Planning and Development to make the recommended changes.

In other business, the Commission learned that the Fire Company is amenable to a reduction in the size of the informational sign they wish to install but will withdraw their application if internal lighting is not permitted. The Commission requested input from Council as to whether or not amendment to the Zoning Ordinance signs standards should be pursued. On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Pileggi and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council voted to table the topic to the Wednesday, March 2 meeting.

Waste Contract – The last of the southwest group’s six municipalities is expected to award the 2022 waste contract to Park’s Garbage Service at their March 1 meeting. Our contract agreement has been prepared and will be signed and sent to Park’s.

YATB – Council acknowledged receipt of the minutes of the January 31 York/Adams Tax Bureau meeting.

Unfinished Business – Council received updates and discussed the following unfinished business items:

- Use of ARPA funds will be discussed at the Wednesday morning meeting. Mrs. Smith requested than any new ideas be sent to the Borough office.
- Mrs. Smith has received a final proof for the plaque for the historic bell and is ready to place the order. The price remained the same at \$475.00, and the expenditure has already been approved.
- Information on the Borough’s line painting needs has not yet been conveyed to Hamiltonban Township for inclusion in their line painting bid.
- Mr. Thomas provided additional details on a proposed light fixture for the community mailbox area, as had been requested by Council. The fixture carries a limited 2-year warranty; it will withstand 70 mph winds; the cost of a replacement bulb is \$24.99; and it is installed with 4” bolts. The installed price from Hull has increased to \$711.00 due to a price increase on the fixture by the manufacturer. On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council voted to purchase the fixture, installed, from Hull’s Electric Service using general account funds.
- Communication has been initiated toward renewing our police services contract with Carroll Valley Borough.
- On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Pileggi and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council voted to purchase a truck cargo carrier with ramp for \$420.00, subject to confirmation that the size is adequate for our needs.

New Business – Assessment of Stevens Street drainage was discussed in the public comment period.

Anything for the Good of the Borough

Mr. Stanley shared that the original Pippin apple tree at the rear of Mansion House 1757 has been trimmed. He feels it needs additional trimming and will follow up.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Borough Council are scheduled for Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at 9:00 AM and Tuesday, March 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 8:12 PM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, President