

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council General Meeting of
April 6, 2022 - 9:00 AM

The Borough Council of Fairfield held a general meeting on Wednesday, April 6, 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, Patricia Smith, Dean Thomas, and Sally Thomas. Also present was Secretary Susan Wagle.

At 9:02 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

On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, the minutes of the Borough Council meeting of March 22 were accepted as presented.

Mrs. Smith reported on the March 24 Council of Governments meeting at which Kevin Goldbloom of PA One Call was the featured speaker.

Council reviewed the code enforcement officer's report for February 14 through March 11, 2022 and received an update on reported activities from the Secretary. Council denied Mayor Stanley's request to waive a citation fee for a code violation that had to be remanded to the District Justice citing the inappropriate nature of the request.

On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, the Secretary was directed to prepare an amendment to Policy Statement 3, Public Participation at Council Meetings, to provide for an additional Public Comment period toward the end of each meeting. The amendment will be considered at the April 26 meeting.

By general consensus Council declined to support installing solar powered speed notification signage at the east end of the Borough.

On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, Council directed that the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment relative to institutional signs be submitted to the Solicitor for review to assure that the terms of the amendment will withstand legal scrutiny. If the amendment is deemed legally acceptable, authorization to advertise the intent to adopt the amendment will be considered at the April 26 meeting.

By general consensus, Council supported including a "Focus on Fairfield" article highlighting a Fairfield resident or business person in the April and future newsletters. The current newsletter draft was approved, with Mr. Thomas providing some helpful recommendations.

The Secretary was directed to make arrangements for Borough-wide street sweeping to take place in the second or third week of May. Mrs. Smith offered to set up "robo calls" to remind people to sweep stones into the street gutters and to refrain from parking on the street when the sweeping is scheduled.

Council heard report of a series of vandalism events at 103 E Main Street – littering, use of private trash receptacles, and damage to lighting on fencing. It was noted that the Carroll Valley Borough police department has been notified and has indicated that they will pay special attention to the area when they are in the Borough. It was deemed inadvisable to place a public trash can at the community mailbox area.

Council discussed concern expressed by Bob Fitez on behalf of the Fire Company that stormwater runoff from the Borough parking lot runs toward the old ambulance building and has been accumulating at the corner of the building, freezing, and causing damage to the building foundation. After significant discussion it was considered that an asphalt or concrete berm directing the water to Steelman Street would remedy the problem. Council agreed to request assessment and, if appropriate, a quote from Thomas Wells Paving for an asphalt berm. At Mrs. Thomas' recommendation, Mr. Fitez will be invited to meet with Mr. Wells when he is looking at the property.

Mrs. Thomas reported that plans for Pippinfest are proceeding on schedule. Mr. Thomas has offered to meet with representatives of the Waynesboro Fire Police to encourage them to once again provide traffic control for the festival. With the support of the Fairfield Area School Superintendent, plans are underway for a competition with a cash prize award to select a student artist to paint a mural or murals at the community mailbox area. Although no decision has yet been made on the panel of judges, it was agreed that the Borough Council will be a component of the panel.

At 9:54 AM Mr. McNeill left the meeting.

Authorization was given to purchase a speed limit sign to replace the sign at the east end of the Borough.

Budget and Finance – On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, Council approved Battersby Law's March invoice in the amount of \$125.00 and PMCA's invoice in the amount of \$31.25.

Correspondence – There was no new correspondence to consider.

Old Business – Council received the following updates to old business and took action as indicated.

In discussion of the use of ARPA Funds, Mrs. Thomas suggested that the correction of the parking lot stormwater runoff could, perhaps, be funded with a portion of the funds. She reiterated her interest in locating benches throughout the Borough while acknowledging that the Borough cannot place them on private property. It was considered that information could be presented in the July newsletter to see if any property owners are willing to have a bench located on the sidewalk in front of their home.

Mrs. Smith shared her research on cost information for several of the projects mentioned in earlier discussion:

- decorative ceiling tiles for the front room – roughly \$3,000 in materials; labor additional
- chairs with cloth backs and seats for the conference room - \$2,000 for 10 chairs
- 8-foot tables for hall rental and council use – about \$130.00 each

In response to Mrs. Cline's concern regarding the potential for the reduction of sound absorption by decorative ceiling tiles, Mrs. Thomas recommended that additional research be done to enable further discussion.

Mrs. Smith asked again that Council members provide cost estimates for any project in which they have a particular interest. She shared that discussion at COG meetings indicates that few municipalities have spent their ARPA funds received to date and that few are planning to donate to their respective fire companies.

Mrs. Smith suggested adding to the ARPA “wish list” a replacement sidewalk from the front of the building to the back. She indicated that handicap ramp replacement costs could likely be covered by a CDBG grant, and the engineering costs – which are not recouped through the grant – could be paid with ARPA funds.

Mrs. Gilbert offered to research pricing for replacement fans for the front room, and Mr. Thomas indicated that he will arrange for someone to look at potential remedies for improving the front steps.

Council discussed date options for the dedication of the historic bell and elected to try to coordinate the bell dedication with an Open House hosted by the Historical Society on June 16.

The first ad of the line painting bid will be published on April 7.

No new communication has been received from Carroll Valley Borough regarding renewal of a Police Services contract.

Penn DOT has not yet dug the ditches to enable further action on the Stevens Street drainage project.

Anything for the Good of the Borough – In response to inquiry by Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Cline shared that about 75 people attended the April 2 Patsy Cline fundraiser for the Historical Society.

Next Meeting – The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 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 10:32 AM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, Council President