

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council Meeting of May 24, 2022
108 West Main Street, Fairfield, PA

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, May 24, 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 was Emmitsburg News Journal and Gettysburg Times reporter Andrea Grabenstein.

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 meeting of May 4, 2022, were accepted as presented.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Fire Department Report – Council acknowledged receipt of the April Fire Department report. The Secretary reported that Fire Chief Bill Jacobs shared that emergency vehicles are permitted to exceed the speed limit by a specific amount and acknowledged that he travels to the Fire Company as quickly as he can, but that he and others are also diligently aware of safety. When others have questioned him about speeding to respond to an emergency call, he generally asks them how they would like for him to travel if the emergency were theirs – within the speed limit, or as quickly as possible. The answer is always “as quickly as possible.”

Police Report – Corporal Weikert reviewed the April Police Report and fielded questions from Council. In response to the concern of speeding emergency vehicles on Main Street, Corporal Weikert reported that he shared the expressed concern with both the Liberty Township Police and the State Police. He reported, too, that the Recreation Association’s opening day parade and the Department’s Drug Take Back Day were both successful events. He shared details on an incident that took place in the Borough last week, during which his department worked cooperatively with several other police departments. Mrs. Smith expressed Council’s sincere appreciation for Corporal Weikert’s and the Department’s services.

At 7:15 PM Corporal Weikert left the meeting.

Solicitor Report – Solicitor Battersby had no formal report.

Line Painting Bid – Solicitor Battersby shared that he supported Hamiltonban Township’s award of the line painting bid to Alpha Space Control as the lowest responsible bidder. On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council awarded the Fairfield portion of the line painting bid to Alpha Space Control. Solicitor Battersby affirmed that the issuance of a single bid bond is acceptable.

Correspondence – Council acknowledged receipt of a request from Community Media for donation of a share of the Borough’s ARPA funds and a request from Fairfield Fire & EMS for a donation to support renovation of the former ambulance corps building and to help pay for the recently-purchased antique fire truck.

Code Enforcement report – There was no Code Enforcement Officer report for review. Mrs. Smith noted that the Code Enforcement Officer was working in the Borough on Tuesday.

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 given for payment of U.S. Municipal Supply’s invoice in the amount of \$176.68 for four replacement speed limit signs.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Stanley shared that Kevin Brown, new owner of 23 North Miller Street, plans to raise cattle and will be installing necessary fencing. He further shared that Mansion House 1757 is planning to add light fixtures to help illuminate their parking lot, which is due to be paved this year.

At 7:25 PM Solicitor Battersby left the meeting.

Committee reports – On behalf of the Streets and Alleys committee, Mr. Thomas provided a report on Main Street signs in need of replacement. The Secretary will get pricing for consideration at the June 1 meeting.

Liaison Reports

Fairfield Area Historical Society – Mrs. Gilbert reported that the Society continued event planning at its May 19 meeting. The June program is dedication of the historic bell followed by an open house featuring new artifact displays in the Village Hall. The October meeting, scheduled for October 27, is open to the public and will present the history of the Fairfield Fire Company. Old Time Valentine’s Day traditions will be presented by Dave Thomas in February, and in March or April Deb McCauslin will share stories about the Underground Railroad and Blacks in Adams County.

HARB – There was no HARB meeting in May.

Joint Parks & Recreation Commission – Mr. Thomas reported on the May 10 meeting where there was a brief discussion about the ongoing line-by-line review of a contractor’s quote. It was confirmed that all Music in the Park events are on schedule, including a booking for the August event. In response to a request for input on a proposed family picnic/pot luck to include Hamiltonban and Fairfield Borough elected officials and Recreation Commission members and their families, about half of those present indicated that they would plan to participate. The planned date is August 21st from about 3:00 to 4:00.

Municipal Authority – Mrs. Smith reported that Gettysburg National planning module work is ongoing. She shared details on successful treatment records at the sewer treatment plant during recent heavy rainfall events. She further reported that select trees have been blazed on the 176 acres of the watershed.

Pippifest – Mrs. Thomas reported that plans are moving forward with experienced committee members independently taking care of annual tasks. She expects more in-person committee participation beginning in June. Mr. Thomas shared that a pre-Pippifest school mural project isn’t feasible. The project must be implemented during the school year with completion toward the end of the year.

Planning Commission – The May 9 meeting was canceled as there was no new business and no new amended zoning ordinance documents to review.

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

- Mrs. Smith will arrange for the dedication plaque for the historic bell to be installed by Mr. Wivell.
- Council acknowledged receipt of data on the successful May 14 covered device recycling event.
- Council affirmed that American flags donated by Trish Rowe Realty will be placed throughout the Borough on May 26th. Those who will be placing flags can pick them up after the meeting.

- As there was no new information about a renewal of the police services contract, the Secretary was directed to follow up with the Carroll Valley Borough manager.
- Four replacement speed limit signs have been received but not yet installed.
- Mr. Thomas reviewed a written report provided to each council member on the solar energy projects workshop he attended on May 10th. Some discussion of solar energy farms ensued.
- The Secretary emailed PennDOT's Doug Etter on May 12th requesting that additional excavation work be done to alleviate standing water on Stevens Street. Ms. Maze, property owner of 213 West Main Street, emailed a video of the drainage area, taken after a fairly recent 2" rainfall. The video will be forwarded to all Council members and the topic will be discussed at the June 1 meeting. Mrs. Smith reported that she observed the area after a heavy rain event, and the water was successfully moving into the culvert from Stevens Street. Mr. Thomas stressed that treatment of the lying water is most critical in the winter.
- Street sweeping was accomplished on May 12.
- Quotes for several options to correct the Village Hall parking lot stormwater management concerns were provided to Council. Mrs. Smith requested that Council be prepared to discuss at the June 1 meeting.

New Business

- By general consensus Council supported offering a discounted rate of \$490.00 to the Blue Ridge Theater Guild for use of the Village Hall, including the conference room, from October 16 through 23, 2022. Any cleaning other than the scheduled weekly cleaning would have to be arranged by the renter.
- By general consensus, Council supported offering a discounted rate to the Foothills Artists' use of the Village Hall as a stop on their 2023 Tour, should the group elect to change the regular tour schedule to an alternate weekend since the Hall is already reserved on their regularly-scheduled date. Mr. Pileggi invited them to contact him to discuss an alternate option of setting up at The Corner Brick this year or next.
- On a motion by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council authorized codification of three ordinances adopted in 2021: the nuisance ordinance, the no camping ordinance, and the revisions to the snow and ice ordinance. The zoning amendment adopted in 2021 will not be codified at this time since the entire zoning ordinance is being overhauled.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Anything for the Good of the Borough – Mrs. Gilbert commented on the healthy number of real estate transfers that have taken place in the Borough to date.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Borough Council are scheduled for Wednesday, June 1, 2022, at 9:00 AM and Tuesday, June 28, 2022, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment – On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, President