

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

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, November 22, 2022, in the front room of the Village Hall. In attendance were councilors Camille Cline, Phyllis Gilbert, Nate McNeill, Patricia Smith, Dean Thomas, and Sally Thomas; Mayor Robert Stanley; Carroll Valley Borough Police Chief Cliff Weikert; and Secretary Susan Wagle.

Present from the public were Gettysburg Times reporter Judy Seniura and McGinley Drive property owner and resident Bud Creighton.

At 7:01 PM Council President Patricia Smith called the meeting to order, and Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, the agenda was approved as presented.

Minutes – On a motion by Mrs. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, the minutes of the Council meeting of November 2, 2022, were accepted as presented.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

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

Police Report – Chief Weikert provided updates on the hiring process for a third officer and on the Department's acquisition of new equipment. He reviewed the October police report and shared that approximately 140 pounds of drugs were collected at the recent drug take-back event. The next drug take-back event will take place in April of 2023. He affirmed that the Carroll Valley Borough Council voted to enter into an updated police services agreement with Fairfield Borough at the rates proposed earlier.

At 7:10 PM Chief Weikert left the meeting.

Enactments & Appointments

Council heard that the proposed 2023 Budgets were available for public inspection from November 5th through this date, and no public comment was received. On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, Council approved budgets for 2023 and passed Resolution 09 of 2022 fixing real estate tax rates for 2023 with no change from the 2022 rates.

On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by roll call vote of 5-0 with Mr. Thomas abstaining, Dean Thomas was appointed to a new 5-year term on the Joint Parks and Recreation Board, serving from 2023 through 2027.

Solicitor Report – Solicitor Battersby shared information on Hamiltonban Township Supervisor Coleen Reamer's grant acquisitions for the Hamiltonban Community Park

Correspondence – Council acknowledged notice from Adams County of the anticipated distribution of shared American Rescue Plan Act funding in the amount of \$1,602.86.

Financial Reports – On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, the financial reports were accepted as presented.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Stanley reported that he presided at the swearing in ceremony for Carroll Valley Borough Police Chief Cliff Weikert on behalf of Carroll Valley Borough Mayor Ron Harris who was sick and unable to attend. He further reported that a “soft opening” of the new museum at 204 East Main Street took place on Veteran’s Day with about 30 individuals in attendance.

Municipal Services Report – During the past month Mr. Wivell replaced LED tube lighting in the ladies’ room, cleared leaves from the Village Hall sidewalk and front lawn, and cleaned storm drains multiple times. It was recommended that the Code Enforcement Officer contact the 16 West Main Street property owners to inform them of the restriction against depositing leaves in the street.

At 7:22 PM Mr. Battersby left the meeting.

Committee reports

Ordinance – Mrs. Cline reported that no progress has been made regarding a rental inspection ordinance.

Streets and Alleys – Mr. Thomas shared information regarding tree branches blocking the view of street signage along North Balder Street beyond West Landis Drive and along West Landis Drive at the intersection of North Balder Street. The view of a speed limit sign, a stop sign, and a children-playing sign are all obscured by low branches on the trees along the roadway. The property is within a parcel owned by Kevin Brown and also within the Borough’s right-of-way. Mr. Thomas further reported that complaint has been received about the condition of the street sign post and street name signs located at the intersection of Franklin and North Balder Streets. After some discussion, by general consensus Council agreed with the recommendation to paint the rusty street sign pole and to trim the tree branches after first notifying the property owner and giving him the opportunity to do the trimming. It was deemed not necessary to replace the street name signs at this time.

Liaison Reports

COG – In Mrs. Smith’s absence no one attended the November 17 Council of Governments meeting and there was no report.

Historical Society – Mrs. Gilbert reported that the Society Board discussed upcoming events and continued planning for future events at their meeting on November 17th. Rich Fehle will provide entertainment at the Christmas party for members and one guest on December 8. In addition to the February and April 2023 programs already planned, a new program about local battles will be presented by Brad Gottfried on August 20, 2023.

HARB – There was no HARB meeting in November.

Joint Parks & Recreation Commission – Mr. Thomas reported that he was unable to attend the November meeting due to re-scheduling conflicts. Referencing the minutes of the meeting, he reported that a pergola has been ordered, grounds work was scheduled to start on November 19, the parking area has been staked off, two new tree dedication plaques have arrived, and \$25,000 in grant monies have been returned to Adams County Green Space because not enough matching funds were obtained for the proposed pickleball court.

Municipal Authority – Mrs. Smith reported that the Authority Board is pursuing a grant in the amount of \$477,169 through Adams County. The grant will be matched with a \$77,000 project to repair lines on North Balder Street. Two potential developers are pursuing two other grants that are designed for larger projects, and any matching funds will be paid by the developers. The next Municipal Authority meeting has been re-scheduled to December 15.

Pippinfest – There was no report on Pippinfest business.

Planning Commission – On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, Council authorized the addition of single-family dwellings, home occupations, and no-impact home businesses as uses by right in the Highway Commercial Zoning District, effective with the implementation of the re-structured and updated Zoning Ordinance that is now underway.

Unfinished Business – No action has been taken toward scanning the historic minutes books.

New Business – By general consensus Council established meeting dates for 2023. They will be advertised as is required by the Borough Code.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Anything good of the Borough – Mrs. Cline complimented the appearance of freshly painted doors in the Village Hall, and the Secretary shared that similar comments about improvements to the front room have been received from recent renters. Mrs. Smith and her daughter will soon start decorating for Christmas.

Next Meetings –The next meetings of the Borough Council are scheduled for Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 9:00 AM and Tuesday, December 20, 2022, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment – On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, President