

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council Meeting of January 24, 2023
108 West Main Street, Fairfield, PA

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, in the front room of the Village Hall. In attendance were councilors Camille Cline, Phyllis Gilbert, Nate McNeill, Pat Pileggi, Patricia Smith, and Dean Thomas; Mayor Robert Stanley; Carroll Valley Borough Police Chief Cliff Weikert; Carroll Valley Borough Patrol Officer Seth Reed; and Secretary Susan Wagle. Mrs. Thomas was absent.

Present from the public was Gettysburg Times reporter, Mary Grace Kauffman.

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 Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, the minutes of the Council meeting of January 4, 2023, were accepted as presented.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Fire Department Report – Council acknowledged receipt of the December Fire Department report and notice of the January 30th quarterly Fire Company/municipal meeting at 7:00 PM.

Police Report – Chief Weikert introduced the Department’s new officer, Seth Reed. Officer Reed shared his background with Council. Council expressed thanks for his service and welcomed him to the community.

At 7:04 PM Officer Reed left the meeting and Solicitor Battersby arrived.

Chief Weikert shared information about the Department’s new automatic license plate reader which provides a wide variety of data designed to assist officers in upholding the law. He fielded questions regarding the December Police Report and indicated that a year-end summary should be available at next month’s meeting.

At 7:16 PM Chief Weikert left the meeting.

Enactments & Appointments

The Secretary and Mr. Thomas shared information about real estate agent Susie Reed who expressed an interest in serving on the Historic Architectural Review Board and who met with them earlier in the month. On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, Council appointed Susie Reed of Sites Realty to fill the unexpired term of retired real estate agent Donna Walker on the Historic Architectural Review Board. The term will end on 12-31-2023.

On a motion by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Pileggi and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, Council appointed Robert (Bud) Creighton to a new 3-year term on the Zoning Hearing Board. The term will end on 12-31-2025.

Solicitor Battersby shared general information pertaining to corporate property owner tax appeals that have the potential to adversely affect revenue in other municipalities. He noted and expressed appreciation of the reopening of a gas station at the west end of the Borough.

At 7:29 PM Solicitor Battersby and Mr. Thomas left the meeting.

Correspondence – Council acknowledged notice of the retirement of Margaret Bustion, President and founder of Code Publishing Company, the firm that provides codification services for the Borough, and of PennDOT’s “Winter 2023” informational publication and technical information sheet #222 on inventory and maintenance tracking of municipal stormwater facilities.

Code Enforcement Officer’s report – Council reviewed the code enforcement officer’s report for the period December 1 through December 31, 2022.

Financial Reports – On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. McNeill and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, the financial reports were accepted as presented, and payment of the following invoices was authorized; PMCA \$362.50 for services from December 1-31, 2022; Ketterman Electric \$190.00 and Ensor & Sowers \$675.32, both for services related to a faulty furnace.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Stanley shared a thank you note he received for a presentation given to the local Civil Air Patrol squadron. He has learned that new emergency management courses will be conducted on Saturdays.

Municipal Services Report – Mr. Wivell has cleaned some street gutters and continues cleaning storm drains as needed.

Committee Reports – There were none

Liaison Reports

COG – The December 15 meeting was canceled due to inclement weather.

Historical Society – Mrs. Gilbert reported that the Board met in January. Upcoming public programs include David Thomas sharing information on how the tradition of Valentine’s Day cards got started, on February 16th, and Deb McCauslin sharing a program on African Americans in and around Fairfield in the Civil War, in April. Both programs are free to and open to the public.

HARB – There was no HARB meeting in January. The Secretary shared that a potential candidate for the architect’s seat on the Board could be filled in September.

Municipal Authority – Mrs. Smith reported that the Board had no visitors at the January 10. She shared that the power outage on 23 December required additional man hours to monitor power at the lift station and assure continuity of services and that there was plenty of treated water available to the community. Board member Kenny Kuykendall dismantled 280 used meters and separated them into bronze, copper, brass, steel, and electric motor components. The materials were recycled, and the Authority realized just shy of \$2,000 for all the materials.

Pippinfest – The first Pippinfest committee meeting will take place on February 14th.

Planning Commission – The January 9 meeting was canceled.

Unfinished Business – Council briefly discussed a local resident’s request that a handicap space be removed from the front of their property on Main Street. Additional information needs to be obtained, and the topic was deferred to the February 1 meeting.

New Business

Council noted that the wooden floors of the front room are due for a fresh coat (or two) of polyurethane. Anyone with information on a potential contractor should share the information with the Secretary.

Council authorized the purchase of three (3) five-gallon pails of yellow curb paint.

At 7:49 PM Mr. Thomas returned to the meeting.

Joint Parks & Recreation Commission – Mr. Thomas reported that he was elected as Vice Chairman of the Joint Parks & Recreation Commission at the January 10 reorganization meeting. During the business meeting on the same date it was reported that the Park was to reopen either January 24th or soon thereafter. After the current phase of the Park’s development has been completed, the Board plans to host a grand opening with dignitaries present. 2023 activities, including Kite Day, Music In the Park, a Christmas tree lighting party and a potential youth reading program conducted in conjunction with the Adams County Library were discussed, with no firm dates established. A section of the new trail along Bullfrog Road will be planted in wildflowers rather than grass, eliminating the need for weekly mowing and providing a pleasant vista.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Anything for the good of the Borough

Council noted that four Council seats are up for election/reelection this year – those of Mrs. Gilbert, Mr. Pileggi, Mrs. Smith, and Mrs. Thomas. Municipal primary elections take place on May 16, 2023. Candidate info packets will be available at the Adams County Elections Office on February 6th.

Mayor Stanley expressed his pleasure in working with congenial individuals in the Borough.

Mrs. Smith expressed thanks to everyone who decorated for Christmas this year and her agreement with Mayor Stanley that the Borough has a congenial population and Council.

Council was invited to enjoy Solicitor Battersby’s gift of bakalava and a fresh Florida orange, courtesy of Mrs. Smith.

Next Meetings –The next meetings of the Borough Council are scheduled for Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at 9:00 AM and Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment – On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, President