

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council General Meeting of
February 1, 2023 - 9:00 AM

The Borough Council of Fairfield held a general meeting on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, in the front room of the Village Hall, 108 West Main Street, Fairfield, Pennsylvania. In attendance were councilors Camille Cline, Phyllis Gilbert, Patricia Smith, Dean Thomas, and Sally Thomas; Mayor Robert Stanley; and Secretary Susan Wagle. Mr. McNeill and Mr. Pileggi were absent. Present from the public was Constable Stephen (Steve) Beans.

Council President Patricia Smith called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM, and Council recited pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

General Report and Presentation – Mr. Thomas shared with Council that after reading a recent article in *The Borough News* about the under utilization of PA Constables, he did some online research and had a conversation with Carroll Valley Borough’s elected Constable, Stephen Beans. Constable Beans was most willing to share information about Pennsylvania constables first hand and was present to do just that. Details of his presentation are documented separately and maintained in the Borough office.

At 9:42 AM Constable Beans left the meeting.

General business

On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, the minutes of the meeting of January 24, 2023, were approved as presented.

Council reviewed the Code Enforcement Officer report for the period 01-01-23 through 01-31-23.

Mrs. Smith reported that election of officers took place at the January Council of Governments meeting. The 2023 slate of officers is President, Terry Scholle (Mt. Joy Twp); Vice President, Ron Harris (Carroll Valley Borough); Secretary, Danielle Helwig (Butler Twp), and Treasurer, Patricia Smith (Fairfield Borough). There was no guest speaker at the meeting.

Budget and Finance – On a motion by Mrs. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, Council approved payment of PMCA’s invoice in the amount of \$150.00 for January services.

General reports - Mrs. Thomas shared, as a matter of record, that she appreciated the presentation made by Constable Beans.

Committee Reports – On behalf of the Ordinance committee Mrs. Cline, reported that she and members Mrs. Gilbert and Mrs. Thomas unanimously recommended that Council not pursue development and passage of a rental property inspection ordinance. Asserting that methods of recourse already exist for both tenants and landlords, they did not feel the need to have additional governmental oversight. After some discussion, by general consensus Council agreed to remove the topic from the committee agenda.

Correspondence – There was no correspondence requiring discussion.

Old Business

- After some discussion and on a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by unanimous acclamation, Council voted to decline a resident request to remove a handicap parking space from Main Street. It was noted that the space has potential for use by other residents and businesses nearby.

- ARPA FUNDS
 - Council authorized sending the municipal employee to Statler Upholstery with a sample office chair to enable receiving a quote for reupholstering the seats. It was noted that slip covers could be considered if the cost to reupholster is prohibitive.
 - Council received a quote in the amount of \$5,800.00 from Kyle Miller Concrete to replace the cracked sidewalk at the Village Hall from the steps to the rear of the building (approximately 130' x 5'). By general consensus Council agreed that the price seems fair but that it would be good business to request at least one additional quote.
 - After some discussion Council authorized the purchase of one package of decorative ceiling tiles for testing purposes in the front room of the Village Hall. Inquiry will be made about the effect of the plastic tiles on room acoustics. Council further authorized obtaining samples of flat molding to be used as trim at the ceiling. Mrs. Smith offered to get both the tile and molding samples from Lowes. Mr. Thomas offered to find out if a family member who works for Armstrong, the manufacturer of the ceiling tiles, might be able to sell directly to the Borough.
 - There was some discussion of replacing damaged tables for use by renters, with no action taken.
 - Council heard report that the exterior wooden sill on the covered window closest to Main Street on the west side of the building is showing serious signs of water damage and needs to be repaired. Mrs. Cline recommended that all the trim on the building be inspected to determine if painting or other repairs are needed. It was noted that many years ago a former employee did extensive sill repair using a plastic bonding material. The Secretary will reach out to a local contractor for an assessment.
 - On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by unanimous acclamation, Council authorized obtaining a price from the Borough engineer to prepare drawings for an ADA-compliant rear entry ramp.

- Council heard that the Code Enforcement officer has initiated correspondence with the owner of 115 East Main Street and imposed a time frame for barn repair and property clean up.

- Mrs. Thomas reported that the entertainment for the February 10 Village Hall music event – Neil and Shannon – have the event publicized on their website, and the event appears on the Pippinfest website and Pippinfest Facebook page, as well. Responsibilities and refreshment needs were discussed with various Council members accepting responsibility for the various needs. Set up was scheduled for the preceding Thursday, February 9th, at 10:00 AM.

New business – The new business on the agenda was discussed earlier in the meeting in the discussion of use of ARPA funds.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Anything for the Good of the Borough

Mrs. Smith and Mayor Stanley reported on the Monday Fire Company meeting at which the discussion moved from the regular budget update, to the status of the capital fund, to a proposed \$1.2 million fire truck purchase, to discussion of consolidating fire companies and implementing paid fire protection services. Carroll Valley Borough Manager Dave Hazelett offered the services of the Borough's grant writer to investigate and learn if there are any grants available for consolidation of fire companies. If there are not, he indicated that DCED could potentially offer information and assistance on fire company consolidation. Fire Chief Bill Jacobs reported that the company recorded 275 call responses in 2022.

The Secretary shared that she has received word that updated information on the area served by Fairfield Fire & EMS as "first responder" which was very recently provided to the Borough's insurance agent will result in a significant increase in the volunteer fire company workers' compensation insurance premium – potentially 50 to 60%.

At 11:15 AM Mrs. Cline left the meeting.

Next Meeting – The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment – On a motion by Mrs. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, Council President