

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council Meeting of February 28, 2023
108 West Main Street, Fairfield, PA

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, 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 Chief Cliff Weikert; and Secretary Susan Wagle.

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 Mr. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, the minutes of the Council meeting of February 1, 2023, were accepted as presented.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Fire Department Report – Council acknowledged receipt of the January Fire Department report and notice of the March 11 Fire Company awards banquet.

Police Report – Chief Weikert reviewed the January police report and fielded questions from Council. He shared that a Drug Take-Back event is scheduled in April and extended an invitation to bring children to the Easter weekend egg hunt at the Carroll Valley Borough park.

At 7:08 PM Chief Weikert left the meeting.

Enactments & Appointments

On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 6-1 with Mr. Thomas dissenting due to his interest in maintaining all records, Council passed Resolution 02 of 2023 authorizing disposition of certain tax collector records generated in 2011 through 2020.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Battersby received word that Council had already considered a resident request to move or eliminate the handicap parking space located in front of 120 West Main Street and had voted not to move or eliminate the space. Mr. Battery shared that in a recent rash of vehicle thefts in Maryland, 20% of the vehicles had the keys in them.

At 7:12 PM Solicitor Battersby left the meeting.

Correspondence – Council acknowledged various correspondence that required no action, including a thank you message received from former Carroll Valley Borough Police Chief Richard Hileman.

Referencing the Civil War Trails annual update correspondence, Mr. Thomas shared that he spent several hours with Karl Peitzak, President and CEO of Destination Gettysburg, on a quest for good locations for new Civil War Trails markers in the area served by the Fairfield Area School District. Mr. Peitzak plans to introduce the Hamiltonban Township supervisors to the Civil War Trails markers program in the near future.

Financial Reports – On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Pileggi and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, the financial reports were accepted as presented and authorization was granted for payment of Ensor and Sowers invoice 9110D in the amount of \$589.63 for furnace repair parts that were not under warranty.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Stanley shared information relative to the East Palestine, Ohio train derailment where poisonous chemicals were released. He offered to loan an 1898 45-star American flag for display.

Municipal Services Report – There was no report.

Committee Reports

Mrs. Thomas reported on the February Village Hall music event sponsored by Pippifest at which the musical group Neil and Shannon provided entertainment. She reported that the event was “lovely” and that the 20 people who attended had a marvelous time. She further reported that Shannon of Neil and Shannon has ideas for future events that she wishes to share with Mrs. Thomas, and the two will meet soon. There were no objections expressed by Council to planning another Village Hall music event in March or April. Mrs. Thomas will arrange for musical entertainment, and plans will follow from there.

Liaison Reports

COG – Mrs. Smith reported on the February 23 Council of Governments meeting at which the membership received a report of upcoming changes at the Outlets.

FREMA – Mayor Stanley reported on the February 20 FREMA meeting which he attended via telephone. He shared that the Red Cross has an updated contract with the Fairfield Area School District for use of district facilities as an emergency shelter. He further reported that it is yet to be determined which individuals will need to take PEMA Emergency Management Certification Program courses. Mrs. Smith noted that the duty of Council is to authorize expenditures to enable emergency management to function properly and that it is unlikely that Council will be required to undergo additional training.

HARB – There was no HARB meeting in February.

Historical Society – Mrs. Gilbert reported on the February 16 public program at which David Thomas shared information on how the tradition of Valentine’s Day cards got started. Approximately 30 guests attended. On April 20 local historian Deb McCauslin will share a program on African Americans in and around Fairfield at the time of the Civil War. The program will be free to and open to the public.

Joint Parks & Recreation Commission – Mr. Thomas reported that the Commission met on February 15 and reviewed the status of ongoing projects. Two projects yet to accomplish are construction of the pergola and paving of the parking lot. Kite Day was scheduled to take place on April 22, coinciding with Earth Day. A volunteer will be building a Little Free Library box in the shape of a Hobbit House.

Municipal Authority – Mrs. Smith reported that the Board had no visitors at the February 14 meeting. The Authority is entering into a new 18-month contract for electricity supply at a rate of .069/kilowatt hour. The Board has received the final 2022 audit package for review.

Pippinfest – Mrs. Thomas reported that Mr. Thomas has volunteered to be responsible for festival advertising. She shared that the Pippinfest committee would like to engage the services of Constable Stephen Beans and his LLC for this year’s traffic control. She requested that the Secretary meet with Constable Beans to be sure we can prepare a viable contract with insurance needs covered.

Planning Commission – The February 13 meeting was canceled. Updated zoning ordinance materials have been distributed and will be reviewed at the March 13 meeting.

Unfinished Business

- Two quotes have been received for replacement of the sidewalk on the west side of the Village Hall. Additional information is being sought before considering whether or not to enter into a contract with either entity.
- Eric Vranich of Keller Engineering will take some measurements of the existing Village Hall entrance ramp before making a determination of how or if to proceed with designing a new ADA-compliant ramp.
- No new information was obtained regarding recoating or refinishing the floor of the front room of the Village Hall.
- Curb paint has been ordered and will be purchased from Sherwin Williams soon.

New Business – There was no new business presented.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Next Meetings –The next meetings of the Borough Council are scheduled for Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at 9:00 AM and Tuesday, March 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 8:12 PM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, President