

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council General Meeting of
April 5, 2023 - 9:00 AM

The Borough Council of Fairfield held a general meeting on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, in the conference room of the Village Hall, 108 West Main Street, Fairfield, Pennsylvania. In attendance were councilors Camille Cline, Phyllis Gilbert, Nate McNeill, Pat Pileggi, Patricia Smith, and Sally Thomas; also present was Secretary Susan Wagle. Dean Thomas and Mayor Stanley were absent.

Present from the public were resident and property owner Robert Remaley and Adams County Office of Planning and Development Comprehensive Planner Jenna Smith.

Council President Patricia Smith called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM, and Council recited pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment – Mr. Remaley, acting as liaison to the Lion’s club, shared that three or four members of the Fairfield Lion’s Club have expressed a willingness to paint curbs as a service to the Borough and would welcome a donation from the Borough. In response to his inquiries, Council shared that the Borough would provide supplies and materials and that the time frame for completion is flexible.

In other business Mr. Remaley shared that the Lion’s Club is potentially interested in providing Christmas flags or non-illuminated or solar-powered illuminated Christmas decorations to the Borough if the Borough will provide the labor annually to put them up and take them down. After some discussion Mr. Remaley agreed to get details from Met-Ed on any related costs that would be billed to the Borough.

In response to Mr. Remaley’s inquiry concerning having the Lion’s Club provide food for a fee at the free music events at the Village Hall, Mrs. Smith shared that food at the first event was provided by volunteers at no cost to those attending. Consideration could be given for different options at future events.

Special Business

Jenna Smith, Comprehensive Planner with the Adams County Office of Planning and Development, shared with Council that the Adams County Heritage Plan was implemented in 1991, and aspects were amended in 1998, 2000, and 2010, but the heritage component has not been updated since 1991. Public input is now being solicited for a 2023 update with the vision being to preserve and protect historic resources. They are hoping to incorporate activities in which public would be interested.

Mrs. Smith named several privately-owned properties in the Borough that have meaningful historic value having been used as hospitals during the Civil War and/or as taverns and as schools. She noted that there are sometimes concerns about historic properties being properly maintained, citing the stone school as an example. Ms. Smith accepted Mrs. Smith’s offer to provide a list of the special historic buildings in the Borough.

Mrs. Thomas encouraged the placement of wayside markers or plaques to identify the location of lesser known historic events and recognize them so they are never forgotten. In response to her inquiry as to whether or not the County has grant writing ability, Ms. Smith noted that obtaining those skills could be incorporated into the Plan. Ms. Smith was amenable to Mrs. Thomas’ expressed interest in working with her and the County on the Plan, and the two exchanged contact information.

Mrs. Cline shared that the Fairfield Area Historical Society has the original deeds to many of the properties in the Borough and could be useful in identifying historic value of various properties. Ms. Smith shared that the Civil War Trails organization recently reached out to Destination Gettysburg, and there may be some efforts coordinated there. She invited everyone to participate in a public survey available on the County website. At 9:25 AM Ms. Smith left the meeting.

General business

On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, the minutes of the Council meeting of March 28, 2023, were approved as presented.

Council reviewed the Code Enforcement Officer report for the period 03-01-23 through 03-31-23.

After some discussion and by general consensus, Council supported having the code enforcement officer “wear sneakers and walk fast” to identify sidewalks that need immediate repair in the Borough and to notify the property owners, accordingly.

At 9:27 AM Fairfield Fire & EMS representatives Charles Deardorff and Rick Renn arrived at the meeting.

At Mrs. Smith’s invitation to address Council, Mr. Deardorff and Mr. Renn provided some background on the Fire Company’s use of the former ambulance building. The front section is being used to house the 1928 restored fire truck that was recently purchased by the Company, and they offered use of the rear section to the Fairfield Area Historical Society for display of collected artifacts. They noted that donations solicited from the public were sufficient to cover \$30,000 invested in waterproofing the crawlspace and replacing the roof but insufficient to renovate the section for use by the Historical Society. By vote of Fire Company members, no additional Fire Company funds were to be dedicated to renovation of the building. As such, they were requesting financial support from the Borough to renovate the interior of the rear section of the ambulance building and would require that the Historical Society pay one half of the annual expenses of the building – approximately \$2,000 – for as long as the Society were to use the property. They noted that no estimates have been obtained and no discussion had with the Historical Society regarding their needs to prepare the space for Society use. Mrs. Cline, in her role as president of the Historical Society, shared her clear understanding through discussion with multiple Fire Company representatives that the Historical Society would incur no renovation expenses or annual cost sharing. She indicated that the information being conveyed at this meeting would have to be discussed by the Society board. Mrs. Smith noted that the Historical Society is not under the purview of the Borough. She opined that perhaps the Borough could assist with fund-raising and could provide no-fee use of the Village Hall for a special event, but any such discussion would be made after the Historical Society board had an opportunity to discuss how they wished to move forward.

At 9:50 AM Mr. Deardorff and Mr. Renn left the meeting, and at 9:55 AM Mr. McNeill left the meeting.

Council reviewed a draft of the April newsletter and agreed to eliminate information on a second “Music at the Village Hall” event, as more planning is needed. Mrs. Smith will provide a short article to help fill the reserved space.

In response to the Secretary’s report on tenant concerns at 10 West Main Street, Mrs. Thomas recommended that the tenant call the South Central Community Action Program for assistance.

At 10:00 Mr. Remaley left the meeting and at 10:05 AM Mrs. Thomas left the meeting.

Council suggested that street sweeping be scheduled for the end of April or early May and an appropriate blurb be put in the newsletter. It was deemed advisable to have the municipal worker remove compressed debris from a few locations in advance of the street sweeper.

With curb painting in mind, some discussion was had regarding the legislated prohibition against using taxpayer funds to make donations to organizations such as the Lion’s Club. As such, the Borough needs to pursue having the municipal employee take care of curb painting. Alternately, the Secretary was directed to find out if there are individuals with an obligation to provide public service or work release prisoners who might be available to provide labor for curb painting.

Budget and Finance – On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by unanimous acclamation, Council approved payment of the following invoices:

PMCA’s invoice in the amount of \$250.00 for March services.

Battersby Law’s invoice in the amount of \$687.50 for March Services (paid from retainer).

Harrington’s Equipment Company invoice in the amount of \$82.74 for mower tune up.

On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by acclamation, Council authorized purchase of a replacement post light fixture from Hull’s Electric Service for the quoted price of \$675.00.

There were no **general reports** or **committee reports**.

Correspondence – Council authorized use of the Village Hall for tutoring services and as a “rain location” backup for a potential June activity planned by the organization Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Old Business/Project Updates

- **ARPA FUNDS**
 - Mrs. Smith shared that sample decorative ceiling tiles are expected to arrive next week.
 - On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mr. Pileggi and carried by unanimous acclamation, Council authorized the purchase twelve office chairs at the price of \$284 each, plus shipping.
- After receiving input from Borough engineer representative Eric Vranich, by general consensus Council agreed to leave the rear entry ramp as it is.
- Council directed that written correspondence be sent to the Borough’s PennDOT Municipal Services Specialist, James Lescher, indicating that the Borough has no plans to change the amount of the treasurer bond and requesting additional information on minimum requirements if such a decision should jeopardize the Borough’s eligibility for receipt of State Liquid Fuels funds.
- Council declined to accept an offer from Caty Schubring related to hosting music events at the Village Hall and informally discussed ideas for future Village Hall music events.
- There was no update on the in-process welcome packet and business directory.

New business: Mrs. Smith considered that a meaningful donation by the Lion’s Club could be the installation of a bench in the grassy section of the community mailbox area.

Public Comment – none

Anything for the Good of the Borough – In response to inquiry by Mr. Pileggi, Mrs. Smith reported that the developments at each end of the Borough are at a standstill until results of grant applications have been received. Mrs. Smith provided an update on the sewer line replacement job on North Balder Street.

Next Meeting – The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25, 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 11:25 AM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, Council President