

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council Meeting of April 25, 2023
108 West Main Street, Fairfield, PA

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, in the front room of the Village Hall. In attendance were councilors Camille Cline, Phyllis Gilbert, Nate McNeill, Pat Pileggi, Patricia Smith, and Sally Thomas; Mayor Robert Stanley; and Secretary Susan Wagle. Mr. 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.

Approval of Minutes – On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, the minutes of the meeting of May 3, 2023 were accepted as presented.

Approval of Amended Agenda – On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by unanimous acclamation, this meeting’s agenda as amended to include consideration of additional sidewalk repairs was accepted as presented.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Fire Department Report – Council acknowledged receipt of the February Fire Department report. The Secretary provided a report on the quarterly meeting with municipal officials.

Police Report – There was no written report for this month and no police department representative at the meeting.

Correspondence – Council noted a reminder of the Recreation Association Opening Day Parade for baseball and softball which is scheduled to start at 9:00 AM on Saturday, April 29th, a letter regarding ISO ratings, and the 2022 real estate report provided by RAYAC.

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

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Stanley attended and spoke at a going away party for visiting German students and attended a function at St. Mary’s Church.

Municipal Services Report – The municipal employee installed the six decorative ceiling panels, mowed at the Village Hall and along some alleyways, and cleared storm drains of debris several times.

Committee Reports – There were no reports.

Liaison Reports

ACTCC & YATB – Mrs. Smith reported on the ACTCC and YATB Board meetings. The collection fee will be reduced from 1.85% to 1.75% in 2024. Detailed financial information was conveyed, and documents are available for review for those interested.

Historical Society – Mrs. Gilbert reported that there were approximately 40 attendees at the informative April 20th presentation by Deb McCauslin. The next public event is scheduled for August 17th, with author Bradley Gottfried speaking about the Civil War.

FREMA – The regularly scheduled meeting for April was canceled.

HARB – There was no HARB meeting in April.

Joint Parks & Recreation Commission – Mr. Thomas was unable to attend the meeting. The Secretary shared that the board reported that this year’s kite day had the best crowd and wind to date and that they had a good discussion with Trevor Redding of Redding’s Horticultural Service who is helping design plantings for the rain garden.

Municipal Authority – Mrs. Smith reported that sewer lin repairs on North Balder Street have been completed. Due to the depth of the excavation required, it will take several months for the ground to settle sufficiently. As it settles, additional stone will be added to the excavation, and the roadway will ultimately be paved. Improvements in infiltration have been noted since the repairs were completed. During the repair process, the contractor used cast iron pipe to replace a section of storm drain on behalf of the Borough. The level of the old drain was such that the exit was higher than the entrance, and the entire bottom of the pipe had deteriorated. At their April 11 meeting the Municipal Authority Board adopted a resolution to raise water and sewer usage rates by ten percent (10%). Neither the existing surcharge nor the Safe Drinking Water (SWD) fee will increase. Mrs. Smith noted that there is the possibility of a reduction in the sewer surcharge fee in mid-2024, as the USDA loan reserve account will have been fully funded.

Pippifest – The April 11 meeting was canceled. The Secretary reported that several applications were sent via email for committee review, and several new vendors have been accepted to participate in the festival.

Planning Commission – Mrs. Cline reported that at their April 10 meeting Commission members continued discussion of aspects of the re-structured Zoning Ordinance. The ordinance will continue to be reviewed at upcoming meetings. There was no consideration of a subdivision/lot addition plan as no comments had been received from the Borough engineer, Adams County Planning Office, or the Borough Zoning Officer. The Secretary shared that since the meeting the Borough office as received official comment from the Adams County Office Planning and Development, but still not from the engineer or the zoning officer.

Unfinished Business

- The Secretary reported that the Lion’s Club has expressed a willingness to contribute to this year’s curb painting project even if the Borough cannot give the organization a donation.
- Council considered several options for replacement of the community mailbox area light fixture that was damaged by a vehicle. On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, Council voted to replace the fixture in kind – 7 ½ feet high with a 200-lumen lamp.

New Business

- Council considered a quote from Kyle Miller Concrete Construction to replace three large sidewalk blocks on the front sidewalk in conjunction with the neighbor replacing several damaged blocks in the same area on his property. On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, Council voted to enter into an agreement with Kyle Miller Concrete Construction to replace three large sidewalk blocks on the front sidewalk at a cost of \$2,000.
- At the end of this year three new members will be needed for the Planning Commission and at least one new member for the Zoning Hearing Board. Board members must be citizens of the Borough.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Anything for the Good of the Borough

- Council acknowledged that work has begun on replacing the sidewalk on the west side of the Village Hall, street sweeping is scheduled for tomorrow morning, and primary elections are on May 16th with the last day to register to vote being May 1st.
- Mr. Pileggi conveyed complaints of feral cats defecating on properties at the east end of the Borough. After some discussion it was recommended that a local TNR group be contacted to request support in neutering any un-neutered cats in that vicinity.
- Mrs. Thomas reported that Mr. Thomas is currently home from the hospital. His mental acuity is sharp and his attitude is good. His prognosis is uncertain.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Borough Council are scheduled for Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at 9:00 AM and Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment – On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, President