

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council Meeting of May 23, 2023
108 West Main Street, Fairfield, PA

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, in the front room of the Village Hall. In attendance were councilors Camille Cline, Phyllis Gilbert, Nate McNeill, Pat Pileggi, and Patricia Smith; Mayor Robert Stanley; and Secretary Susan Wagle. Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Thomas were 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. Gilbert and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, the minutes of the meeting of May 3, 2023, were accepted as presented.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Fire Department Report – Council acknowledged receipt of the April Fire Department report.

Police Report – Chief Weikert reported the following: 223 pounds of drugs were collected in 11 boxes during the Drug Take Back event; the weather for the Recreation Association parade was a little damp, but it was still a successful event which took place on the same day as the fish rodeo; the Department is seeking candidates for another one, or perhaps two, officers; the Department has purchased two new 6-cylinder all wheel drive Dodge Durangos which will be lettered by Liberty Township and outfitted within about eight weeks. Chief Weikert fielded questions from the room and left the meeting at 7:15 PM.

Correspondence – Council acknowledged the Liberty Township report on participation at the May 13 covered device recycling event. By general consensus Council indicated support of the Tour de Frederick bike event that is scheduled to take place on June 10.

Financial Reports – On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Pileggi and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, the financial reports were accepted as presented. Mrs. Smith shared that seven property transfers took place in the Borough through May. The realty transfer tax for three of the seven transfers has been paid to the Borough, to date.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Stanley reported that he spoke to the Zoning Officer for 30 minutes about notices received by multiple property owners regarding the requirement for flags to hang seven feet above the sidewalk and about the recent assessment of brick sidewalks in the Borough. He shared, too, that he will not be attending a mayor's convention this year.

Mr. Pileggi shared that in his role as a member of the Streets and Alleys Committee he walked the Brough and made notes regarding his assessment of where improvements to brick sidewalks are warranted. He will provide the list to the Borough office.

Municipal Services Report – Mr. Wivell has completed landscaping along the new sidewalk at the west side of the building, mowed several times, repaired the toilet seat in the men's room, helped set up the hall for voting, patched a deep pot hole on Franklin Street, and cleared storm drains of debris several times. The

Secretary has contacted PennDOT for assistance with cleaning the storm drains at the intersection of Water Street and Main Street. Mrs. Gilbert noted that there are trees with limbs lower than 14 feet above the roadway on Third Avenue which need to be trimmed.

Committee Reports – Streets & Alleys: As reported earlier by Mr. Pileggi, he made an assessment of brick sidewalk conditions. Mr. McNeill will do the same, and the assessments will be compared and action taken, accordingly.

Liaison Reports

Historical Society – Mrs. Gilbert reported that the Board met in May. In addition to the August 17 presentation by author Bradly Gottfried speaking about the Civil War, the Society is hosting a public event on October 19 at which Phil Roth will speak about apples and the Musselman Company in Adams County.

HARB – Mr. McNeill reported that the Historic Architectural Review Board conducted an email review of an application for a certificate of appropriateness for rehabilitation of the front porch at 113 West Main Street. A majority of the HARB members recommended that Council issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for the work as proposed on zoning permit 2023-007. A copy of the project information was provided to Council in advance of the meeting. On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, Council passed Resolution 05 of 2023 issuing a Certificate of Appropriateness for front porch rehabilitation at 113 West Main Street.

Joint Parks & Recreation Commission – The Secretary shared a report provided by Commission member John Strahler.

Municipal Authority – Mrs. Smith reported that the Authority is still awaiting information as to whether or not they will be awarded either of two grants for which they have applied. No report has been received on the 30-day inspection of sewer line repair work done on North Balder Street. There is question as to whether or not there is a leak at the manhole that would need to be repaired. In the meantime, stone has been added to the excavation area in the roadway as the area has settled. Once the repair is deemed satisfactory and the area has settled and been tamped, re-paving can be scheduled.

Pippinfest – The May 9 meeting was canceled by the Secretary. Mrs. Cline has volunteered to take care of sending requests for donations for advertising support on behalf of Mr. Thomas and the Pippinfest committee.

Planning Commission – Mrs. Cline reported that at their May 8 meeting Commission members considered a subdivision/lot addition plan at 23 and 27 Centennial Street which had been updated to reflect recommendations made by the Borough Engineer and the Adams County Office of Planning and Development. A requirement imposed by the Borough Zoning Officer had been addressed but not yet attained. Commission members voted to refrain from making a recommendation until all comments have been appropriately addressed. It is anticipated that a recommendation will be able to be made at the June meeting. Commission members also continued discussion of aspects of the re-structured Zoning Ordinance. The ordinance will continue to be reviewed at upcoming meetings.

ACBA - Mayor Stanley reminded Council that the May meeting was rescheduled to June 19, which conflicts with the regularly scheduled FREMA meeting. Arrangements are being made to conduct both meetings.

Unfinished Business

- Noting that the American flags have not yet been shipped, Council elected to place those remaining from last year at the Village Hall and at properties to the east and west of the Hall for as far as the supply lasts. Mr. McNeill volunteered to place the flags.
- On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Pileggi and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, Council voted to accept a quote in the amount of \$1,390.00 from Sanders Lawn and Beyond for installation of the decorative ceiling tiles for the front room of the Village Hall. American Rescue Plan Funds will be used to pay for the tiles and the installation.
- The Secretary reported that Brian Buch has put the Village Hall projects on his schedule and will answer the questions that were posed. He was advised that no work should be done at the Hall during Pippinfest or the two weeks before the festival.

New Business

- On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mr. McNeill and carried by unanimous acclamation, Council authorized the purchase of a battery powered blower, regularly priced at \$269.00, on sale for \$199.00.
- Council acknowledged a continued need of new members for Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Anything for the Good of the Borough

Mr. McNeill expressed thanks to the Municipal Authority for raising the height of the manhole cover near his home with cold patch and was informed that the Municipal Authority didn't do the work. It was likely done by PennDOT.

Council discussed the following relative to street maintenance:

- Mr. Pileggi recommended that Second Avenue be paved – not with tar and chip. Mrs. Gilbert shared that paving an existing tar and chip roadway involves complete removal of the existing roadway and laying of appropriate base before paving – a very expensive project, even on a small section of roadway.
- There are quite a few potholes in alleys needing repair throughout the Borough.
- Franklin Street and the municipal parking lot need to be “crack sealed”. The secretary will call for telephone quotes.
- Information on available funds will be gathered, and the topic will be addressed at a Wednesday morning meeting.

Noting that corn has been planted on many of the Snyder farms in the Borough, Mr. Pileggi reported that he spoke with an affiliate of the Snyder farm about corn husks blowing through the Borough as they did last fall from another farm field. He was advised that the Snyder farms handle their cutting differently and there should be no problem with debris blowing through the Borough when they harvest.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Borough Council are scheduled for Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at 9:00 AM and Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment – On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mr. Pileggi and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, President