

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

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, in the conference room of the Village Hall. In attendance were councilors Camille Cline, Phyllis Gilbert, Nate McNeill, Sally Thomas, and Patricia Smith; Mayor Robert Stanley; Carroll Valley Borough Police Chief Cliff Weikert; and Secretary Susan Wagle. Pat Pileggi was absent.

At 7:00 PM Council President Patricia Smith called the meeting to order, and Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Smith acknowledged the loss of council member, Dean Thomas, who served on the Borough Council from January of 2009 until his death this month. Mr. Thomas was passionately active in the community and will be greatly missed.

Present from the public was resident and property owner Marty Lookingbill and Gettysburg Times reporter Mary Grace Kauffman.

Approval of Minutes – 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 July 5, 2023, were accepted as presented.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

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

Police Report – Chief Weikert reported that he and Officer Reed have been on working on a campaign to combat aggressive driving. He indicated that in response to a resident request, additional speed control checks will be set up in the near future. The Department is still seeking candidates for full time employment. New police vehicles have been ordered but not yet delivered.

At 7:09 PM Chief Weikert left the meeting.

Correspondence – Council acknowledged a complaint of speeding at the east end of the Borough.

Financial Reports – On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. McNeill and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, the financial reports were accepted as presented and the purchase of one gallon blue paint for curbs at handicap spaces was authorized at a cost of \$40.39/gallon.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Stanley shared that he learned through Carroll Valley Borough Mayor, Ron Harris, that this year's mayors' conference in Lancaster was attended by about 50 mayors from across the Commonwealth. The 2024 conference is scheduled to take place in Johnstown.

Municipal Services Report – Regular summer maintenance needs were taken care of during the month. Mr. Wivell has been clearing gutters of weeds, attempting to stay ahead of the Lion's Club volunteers who are painting street curbs. Any waste material containing paint chips is being disposed of in the dumpster at the Municipal Authority's wastewater treatment plant.

At 7:18 PM Judy Bugart arrived at the meeting.

Committee Reports – There were no committee reports.

Liaison Reports

COG – Mrs. Smith reported on a very informative Council of Governments meeting. Presentations and topics of discussion included significant employment opportunities at three of the four school districts in attendance, Marty Qually's report on the broadband task force, Destination Gettysburg's report that occupancy exceeded 90% during commemoration week with significant income realized during both commemoration week and bike week, and the active farmer's market on Saturday mornings at the Gettysburg Rec Park. Torren Ecker is scheduled to be the key speaker at a future meeting.

Fairfield Area Historical Society – Mrs. Gilbert reported that the Board met in July. Scheduled public events include a presentation on the Civil War by author Bradley Gottfried on August 17 and a talk on the apple industry and the Musselman Company in Adams County by Phil Roth on October 19.

HARB – There was no meeting in July.

Joint Parks & Recreation Commission – In the absence of Mr. Pileggi, the Secretary shared the draft minutes of the July 11 meeting.

Municipal Authority – Mrs. Smith shared the current system of quarterly water meter reading and noted that usage at the main supply well, a normally cumbersome process, can now be accessed via radio reading. The Board continued discussion of the federally mandated requirement to eliminate lead from water supply lines.

Pippinfest – Mrs. Thomas indicated that there was nothing to report at this time.

Planning Commission – In the absence of Adams County Senior Planner, Rob Thaeler, the July meeting was canceled.

Unfinished Business

Council acknowledged that Lion's Club members are making meaningful strides in curb painting and that there is a continued need for a new member for the Zoning Hearing Board, effective 12-31-23, and for the Planning Commission, effective immediately

New Business – It was noted that a new council member is needed to fill the vacancy created by the death of Council member Dean Thomas.

Public Comment – At Mrs. Smith's invitation, Mr. Lookingbill of 15 Centennial Street shared with Council problems caused by local "community cats" that he is experiencing on his property, including defecation in his flower beds at his front door. He expects the defecation issue to increase when a neighboring property owner installs a fence on his property, effectively blocking access to an area reportedly used by many of the cats for their "bathroom" business. He has used a variety of deterrents unsuccessfully but still has plans to install spiked plastic mats under the mulch in his flower beds. He considered installing a fence around his property but doesn't think the appearance would be good and would prefer fencing the cats into their feeding area – a cost he offered to share. Acknowledging support that Judy Bugart has offered him over the past several months, he indicated that he wanted his concerns to be a matter of record.

At Mrs. Smith's invitation, Mrs. Bugart expressed her thanks to Council for their support in the past. She shared that the population of the current cat colony has gradually decreased over the past 15 years with

no kittens having been born for at least five years due to continued trap-neuter-release efforts. She noted that some of the feces at Mr. Lookingbill's property could easily be from raccoons or opossum, which Mr. Lookingbill acknowledged as a possibility. She shared that as long as a small colony of cats exists, other cats will not "move in", and the existing cats will continue to eliminate mice and other rodents from the area. If the current cats are eliminated, others that have not necessarily been spayed or neutered will take their place. She shared that she will continue to assist Mr. Lookingbill and others in finding the right deterrents to allow them enjoyable use of their properties.

Anything for the Good of the Borough

Mrs. Smith shared that she attended the Fairfield Fire & EMS quarterly municipal meeting, designed to provide municipal leaders with fire company news, first hand. Members of the newly-appointed Company board of directors were in attendance. The Company has a new outdoor event fundraiser scheduled for August and anticipates resuming Bingo at the end of August. As of July 1, they had responded to 132 calls. This year's ISO assessment resulted in a category improvement from level 7 to level 6, which can favorably affect Borough property owners' fire insurance.

Mrs. Smith expressed appreciation for the volunteer work being done by Lion's Club members noting that the Borough is looking good.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Borough Council are scheduled for Wednesday, August 2, 2023, at 9:00 AM and Tuesday, August 22, 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 8:02 PM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, President