

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council Meeting of August 22, 2023
108 West Main Street, Fairfield, PA

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, in the conference room of the Village Hall. In attendance were councilors Camille Cline, Phyllis Gilbert, Pat Pileggi, and Patricia Smith; Mayor Robert Stanley; Carroll Valley Borough Police Chief Cliff Weikert; and Secretary Susan Wagle. Mr. McNeill and Mrs. Thomas were attending a Pippinfest meeting, also convening at 7:00 PM.

There was no one present from the public.

At 7:02 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 4-0, the minutes of the meeting of August 2, 2023, were accepted as presented.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

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

At 7:11 PM Mr. McNeill and Mrs. Thomas arrived at the meeting.

Police Report – Chief Weikert reported on recent thefts in the area and admonished everyone to refrain from leaving valuables or keys in their cars, to close all windows and lock all doors, and to call the police if a break in occurs. Chief shared detailed information on the Department's continued search for a new officer. The Department's new vehicle are due to be delivered in early September.

At 7:20 PM Chief Weikert left the meeting.

Code Enforcement Officer report – Council reviewed the code enforcement officer report for the month of July. Mrs. Smith requested that any areas of concern be conveyed to the Borough office this evening or early tomorrow as the code enforcement officer will be in the Borough in the morning.

Enactments – On a motion by Mr. Pileggi, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, Council passed Resolution 06 of 2023 updating the fees schedule.

Correspondence – There was no correspondence requiring action by Council.

Financial Reports – There were no reports for consideration. Reports encompassing the full month of August will be considered at the "first Wednesday" meeting in September. On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, Council authorized payment of PMCA's July services invoice in the amount of \$350.00.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Stanley shared his observation of a recent trend in Maryland of home purchases being made by limited liability corporations rather than individual buyers and expressed his concern that such purchases have a negative impact on the community. After some discussion, Council agreed to consult with Solicitor Battersby regarding prohibiting the purchase of residential properties by LLC's. The Secretary is to reach out to Solicitor Battersby in advance of the September 6 meeting.

Municipal Services Report – There was no municipal services report.

Committee Reports – There were no committee reports.

Liaison Reports

Fairfield Area Historical Society – Mrs. Gilbert reported on the August 17 public event at which Bradley Gottfried spoke. She noted that Phil Roth, a descendent of the Musselman family, will share information on the apple industry in the area at a public event on October 19. Mrs. Cline shared that local resident David Thomas will present a program entitled "Make Do" on March 21, 2024, where he will share a variety of "make do's" he has collected over the years.

FREMA – The August meeting was canceled. The next meeting is scheduled for October 16th.

HARB – There was no meeting in August.

Joint Parks & Recreation Commission – There was no report as Mr. Pileggi was on vacation and didn't attend the meeting.

Municipal Authority – Mrs. Smith shared that no new business was discussed at the August Municipal Authority meeting.

Pippinfest – Mrs. Thomas reported that arrangements for this year's Pippinfest are ongoing. Mayor Stanley affixed his signature to the Mayoral Proclamation regarding street closures during the festival.

Planning Commission – The August meeting was canceled as there was no new material to consider.

Unfinished Business

Council acknowledged that The Lions' Club has completed their service project of painting curbs, and it was a job well done. Approximately 135 man-hours were invested in the project. By general consensus Council supported submitting an article with a photograph of the volunteers to the Gettysburg Times to recognize and convey appreciation to the Lions' Club for their service.

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.

The Secretary shared that Mike Tome, President of the Meadowbrook Homeowner's Association, consulted with his Board about any potential candidates from the Meadowbrook community who might be interested in filling the vacant seat on Council – to no avail. Mr. McNeill shared that he has spoken with resident Dennis Bucher, and Mr. Bucher has indicated that he would be willing to serve. After some discussion and on a motion by Mr. McNeill, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, Council appointed Dennis Bucher to fill the current vacancy on Council through 12-31-23. The remainder of Mr. Thomas' term will be filled through the election process.

Mrs. Gilbert recommended that another firm be contacted to take care of this season's road repairs if the work cannot be scheduled with Thomas Wells Paving.

New Business – Mrs. Smith shared that roadway repairs on North Balder Street and west Landis Drive cannot be done until sufficient rainfall allows for verification that the second repair was successful. The verification will be made through camera visualization from the manhole.

Mrs. Gilbert conveyed an inquiry presented to her regarding the status of the fire hydrant system in the Borough and when it was last tested. Mrs. Smith shared that the water system in the Borough is identified by DEP primarily as a potable water system and is not designed for fire suppression, but hydrant use for fire suppression is still an option. Hydrant exercising in the past has frequently resulted in water main leaks as the pressure created by turning the hydrants on and back off again stresses the system if the hydrants are not exercised very carefully. Testing is under the control of the Municipal Authority with assistance by the fire company. She can reach out to the Authority board regarding conducting some hydrant testing.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Anything for the Good of the Borough – Pippinfest is almost here!

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Borough Council are scheduled for Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 9:00 AM and Tuesday, September 26, 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 8:28 PM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, President