

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council General Meeting
November 1, 2023 - 9:00 AM

The Borough Council of Fairfield held a general meeting on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, in the conference room of the Village Hall, 108 West Main Street, Fairfield, Pennsylvania. In attendance were councilors Camille Cline, Phyllis Gilbert, Pat Pileggi, and Patricia Smith; Mayor Robert Stanley; and Secretary Susan Wagle. Mr. Bucher, Mr. McNeill, and Mrs. Thomas were absent.

Council President Patricia Smith called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM, and Council recited The Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 4-0, the minutes of the Council meeting of October 24, 2023, were approved as presented.

Regular or New business

Harbaugh's Hauling and Excavation, LLC was the lone bidder for 2024 snow removal services. Mrs. Smith opened the bid and read bid prices to Council. On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Pileggi and carried by roll call vote of 4-0, Council awarded the 2024 snow removal contract to Harbaugh's Hauling and Excavation, LLC.

Mrs. Gilbert distributed copies of the preliminary 2024 general fund budget for Council consideration.

At 9:16 AM Solicitor Battersby arrived at the meeting.

After discussion of specific aspects of the proposed budget and on a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mr. Pileggi and carried by roll call vote of 4-0, Council adopted the preliminary budgets for 2024 with no real estate tax changes and authorized advertisement of the requisite 10-day public inspection period. If no changes are needed as a result of public input, formal adoption will take place at the November 28 meeting.

Solicitor report and/or business:

Solicitor Battersby shared that he received a recent complaint about flags hanging within the pedestrian walkway, but the individual was unwilling to notify the Borough.

Noting that the agenda includes discussion of the need for a junkyard ordinance, Mr. Battersby requested an update. The Secretary shared that the ambition is to have a junkyard ordinance enacted by the time the zoning ordinance overhaul is completed in early 2024. He noted that PA DEP has input on junkyard functions to assure that certain materials collected are disposed of in an appropriate manner at approved locations.

Mr. Battersby shared that opening day of the new County-wide glass recycling collection center is this coming Saturday, November 4, from 9 AM until noon. Mr. Battersby was integral in the development of the program as one of 3 members of the environmental fund of the Adams County Community Foundation. He will be present as one volunteer accepting glass for recycling on opening day.

At 9:44 AM Solicitor Battersby left the meeting.

Council acknowledged receipt of the Fire Company report for the month of September.

Council reviewed the Code Enforcement Officer's report for October 1 through October 27. After some discussion, Council indicated a willingness to pursue consideration of using Constable Stephen Beans to support code enforcement efforts.

A 'stand-alone' ordinance regulating junkyards was addressed earlier in the meeting in discussion with Solicitor Battersby. Adoption of a junkyard ordinance is needed because the Zoning Ordinance overhaul authorizes such use in the Commercial/Industrial zoning district, and standards must be in place. The Ordinance committee will be charged with researching and proposing an ordinance for adoption.

Council discussed ballot information for the upcoming November 7 municipal election and the fact that the ballot will include only the option for voting for four individuals to fill four-year terms on the Borough Council and no option for voting for an individual for a two-year term on the Borough Council. The two-year term will be filled by appointment at the reorganization meeting in January 2024.

NEW BUSINESS: On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 4-0, Council approved an application submitted by Fairfield Football, Inc for an Assembly Permit for a potential celebratory parade to take place off PennDOT roadways on November 19, 2023. Approval was granted subject to approval by the Carroll Valley Borough Police Department and the provision of an appropriate certificate of insurance.

Budget & Finance: On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 4-0, Council approved the financial reports as presented and authorized payment of PMCA's invoice in the amount of \$300.00 for October services.

General Reports: Mrs. Smith reported in detail on the October 26 Council of Governments meeting. The key speaker was Littlestown School Superintendent Bigger whose topics were mental health in the schools and school financing.

Correspondence: Council acknowledged receipt of a request for attendance at the Adams County Boroughs Association Meeting on Monday, November 20, 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the Adams County Emergency Services building.

Old Business

- Sidewalk assessment letters have not yet been prepared, and the Secretary committed to having made progress on same before the November 28 Council meeting.
- Street repairs – Mayor Stanley unilaterally requested a quote from Paving by Thomas Wells to repair and pave the culvert between North Spring and the parking lot at Mansion House 1757 – reportedly an area approximately 240 feet long by 6 feet wide. The estimate of \$5,500 to \$6,000 was based on doing the work while his equipment is mobilized in the Borough now. A second option of \$15,000 included the culvert work and overlay paving of the entirety of North Spring Street. Council declined to move forward with any new projects until the current projects have been completed and approved. It was noted that a bid process would be required for the paving project.

- ARPA funds – Acknowledging that ARPA funds must be committed to use by 2024 and expended by 2026, Council committed to using remaining funds for road repairs if no other needs surface.
- The Secretary reported that continued progress is being made on the Business Directory for the "Welcome Packet".
- The project to scan historic minutes books has been put on an indefinite hold.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Anything for the Good of the Borough: In the interest of keeping children safe, Mr. Pileggi suggested that Council consider placing illuminated message signs at each end of the Borough on Halloween to slow traffic.

Next Meeting: The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment: On a motion by Mr. Pileggi, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, Council President