

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council Meeting of November 28, 2023
108 West Main Street, Fairfield, PA

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, in the conference room of the Village Hall. In attendance were councilors Dennis Bucher, Camille Cline, Phyllis Gilbert, Nate McNeill, Pat Pileggi, Patricia Smith, and Sally Thomas; Mayor Robert Stanley; and Secretary Susan Wagle.

Present from the public were resident Caroline Stanley and 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 Mr. Pileggi and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, the minutes of the Council meeting of November 1, 2023, were accepted as presented.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Fire Department Report – Council reviewed the October Fire Company report.

Police Report – In the absence of Chief Weikert, Council acknowledged receipt of the September Police Report. On behalf of Chief Weikert, the Secretary shared that the Department has hired Joe David, a full-time officer with the Biglerville Police Department, as a part-time officer. They have also resumed the hiring process for a third and fourth officer and have put a new Dodge Durango into operation. The new vehicle will be lettered on December 11.

Mrs. Gilbert requested that Chief Weikert be notified that she is still receiving complaints about a very noisy pickup truck speeding on Water and Main Streets late at night and in the early hours of the morning. Mr. McNeill affirmed the complaint. Mayor Stanley reported that senior citizens in the Borough have complained to him about traffic not stopping for pedestrians at crosswalks. He reiterated his concern about speeding on Main Street. The Secretary was directed to email the complaints to Chief Weikert.

Enactments

On a motion by Mr. Pileggi, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council adopted budgets for 2024 with no increase in the current tax rate.

On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Pileggi and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council passed Resolution 09 of 2023 affixing tax rates for 2024.

Correspondence

- Council acknowledged report that Dennis Bucher was elected as a write-in candidate to fill a four-year term on the Borough Council. Mr. Pileggi expressed his willingness to be appointed to fill the remaining two years of the term vacated by the untimely death of Dean Thomas. The appointment will be made at the reorganization meeting on January 2, 2024.
- Council acknowledged correspondence affirming that the YATB collection fee will be reduced from the current rate of 1.85% to 1.75% in 2024 and that the ACTCC's approved 2024 budget does not include dues collection. Based on collections and payments to date, savings to the Borough would equal approximately \$72.00 for YATB collections and \$2.61 for ACTCC dues deferral.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Stanley requested that Council look at the swale/culvert on the east side of North Spring Street as he is of the opinion that it needs to be repaired.

Municipal Services Report – The municipal employee cleaned an abundance of leaves from the tops of storm drains after the recent heavy rain. Mrs. Smith will enlist his support in putting up outdoor Christmas decorations at the Village Hall.

Committee Reports – There were none.

Liaison Reports

Council of Governments – Mrs. Smith reported on a very busy November 16 COG meeting. The key speaker was Commissioner Marty Qually who provided information on improved broadband services in the county. Commissioner Randy Phiel reported that there will not be an increase in the county tax rate for 2024. Information was shared on the new glass recycling collection site, poll attendance at the recent election (23%), funding for 911 services, the prevalence of banks scams, availability of rain barrels at the Conservation District, and the need for volunteers throughout the county.

Fairfield Area Historical Society – Mrs. Gilbert reported that the Society board met on November 16 to continue program planning and to put the finishing touches on an update to the bylaws. The 2024 calendar fundraiser has been well received with the need to reorder multiple times. Three calendars remain to be sold. As previously reported, the March 2024 public program will be presented by David Thomas with the subject being “Make Do’s.”

HARB – There was no meeting in November.

Joint Parks & Recreation Commission – Mr. Pileggi reported that he will be the welcoming speaker at the December 3 Hamiltonban Community Park Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Board members will walk the park on Thursday to make final plans for the event which will include Christmas carol singing, cookies, hot chocolate, and luminaries.

Municipal Authority – Mrs. Smith reported that at their November meeting the Board approved an application for a \$225,000 grant to replace their grit removal system. The grant funds are derived from gambling proceeds, and it will be more than a year before the grants are awarded. She shared good news that the acceptable means of complying with the fairly recent mandate to identify the materials used for water service pipes in existing structures has been expanded to include: using closed circuit TV, looking at the lines from the inside of the structure served, and testing the water. The Authority expects to begin testing shortly after the beginning of 2024. Outside of the meeting a few board members met with Representative Dan Moul to share concerns about DEP mandates and the hardships they place on small Authorities.

Pippinfest – There was no meeting in November. The wrap up meeting is scheduled for December 12.

Planning Commission – Mrs. Cline reported that the Planning Commission received an updated Zoning Ordinance for their review in preparation for consideration at the December meeting. They also heard from a representative of GSC Homes about the builder’s interest in purchasing the S&A Homes Fairfield Commons development and their interest in making an amendment to the Plan to enable construction of two-story homes with larger garages instead of three-story homes. Planning Commission members were

supportive of the proposed changes and advised that an amended Plan must be presented for formal approval and subsequent consideration by the Council.

Unfinished Business - The Secretary provided copies of draft correspondence to be sent to residents whose brick sidewalks have been deemed in need of repair. Council discussed the ordinance requirement that the notification of required improvements must be made by the Borough Code Enforcement Officer. The topic will be revisited at the December 6 Council meeting after discussion has been had with the Code Enforcement Officer about how best to proceed.

New Business

- Mrs. Smith shared that she and her daughter each spent 4 ½ hours over the weekend assembling and decorating two Christmas trees in the front room, hauling decorations from the shed, decorating windowsills, and hanging wreaths. By general consensus Council supported compensating them for their time. In response to inquiry by Mrs. Smith, Council affirmed that decorating the exterior of the Village Hall with small trees and deer as done last year is perfectly acceptable.
- Council discussed at length a proposal received from Carroll Valley Constables LLC for supplemental code enforcement services and was generally supportive of entering into an agreement. The topic will be revisited at the December 6 meeting after information relative to workers compensation insurance has been obtained.
- Council received a list of proposed meeting dates for 2024. It was noted that the year is shown as 2022 and needs to be changed to 2024. Council will review the dates before the December 6 meeting and will take action to adopt the schedule then.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Anything for the Good of the Borough – Mayor Stanley shared that Park’s Garbage Service has a new driver, and there was some discussion of the pleasant nature and responsiveness of the Park’s employees.

Mrs. Smith shared that the Christmas decorating contest is a “go” and that there will be a short article in The Gettysburg Times soon. She further shared that Bingo resumes at the Fire Company this coming Friday.

Council acknowledged with disappointment the unfortunate mid-December closing of Sanders Square Restaurant. Mrs. Gilbert shared that the owners are opening a new restaurant at 5 Snyder Avenue in Hagerstown under the name of Jennie’s Restaurant.

Next Meetings – The December meetings of the Borough Council are scheduled for Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 9:00 AM and Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment – On a motion by Mrs. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, President