

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council Meeting of January 23, 2024
108 West Main Street, Fairfield, PA

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, 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.

At 6:30 PM Council President Patricia Smith called the meeting to order, and Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes – On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by unanimous acclamation, the minutes of the Council meeting of January 3, 2024, were accepted as presented.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

At 6:32 PM Gettysburg Times reporter Mary Grace Kauffman arrived at the meeting.

Fire Department Report – Council acknowledged receipt of the 2023 year-end Fire Department report. Mrs. Smith reported on the quarterly Fire Company municipal meeting and a gun raffle event at which she volunteered. She shared that a meat raffle will take place on March 16 and that the Company recently prepared an informational pamphlet that can be shared with new residents.

Police Report – Council acknowledged receipt of the December 2023 Police Report. In the absence of Chief Weikert, the Secretary shared his report that their second vehicle is now on the road, and they have hired a third officer.

Correspondence – Council expressed support for the Tour de Frederick bike ride scheduled for June 8 and authorized sending a letter indicating such support.

In response to the Secretary’s inquiry on behalf of a Columbia Gas inquiry regarding the right-of-way width of Wortz Drive, it was generally understood that the roadway was not ordained to a width greater than the original ordained width of twelve feet. Mrs. Smith offered use of Municipal Authority maps and plans for further research, if desired.

At 6:43 PM Emmitsburg News-Journal reporter Andrea Grabenstein arrived at the meeting

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Stanley shared that the Fire Company annual banquet will be held in March.

Municipal Services Report – Mr. Wivell shoveled at the Village Hall and the municipal mailbox area after each of the three January snow events experienced to date. He will soon be tasked with moving Christmas trees and decorations back to the storage shed. It was noted that the one-way sign for Landis Drive at the rear of Mansion House 1757 has arrived, but weather conditions haven’t been good for installation. The Secretary shared that a resident observed that traffic frequently exits heading the wrong direction from the rear of Monahan funeral home, as well, and recommended that a one-way sign also be installed there. The Streets and Alleys Committee will consider before the February 7 Council meeting.

At 7:00 PM George (Butch) Harbaugh of Harbaugh’s Hauling arrived at the meeting.

Committee Reports – Streets and alleys

- In response to a tenant request to provide a handicap parking space in front of her residence, Council considered materials provided by the streets and alleys committee, briefly discussed, and by general consensus recommended that the matter be referred to the solicitor.
- Mr. McNeill shared with Council an unpleasant verbal conflict with a property owner regarding blowing snow into the street. The conflict ultimately resulted in requesting that the Carroll Valley Borough Police send an officer to talk to the offender.

In other discussion regarding snow removal:

Mr. Pileggi shared a report of complaint at 201 East Main Street regarding gravel from the October tar and chip job on Second Avenue being pushed into the grass and landscaped area of his property. He registered his own complaint that the gravel from the roadway has caused damage to his snowblower blades. He suggested that Council reach out to Thomas Wells Paving for a corrective measure.

In response to Mrs. Gilbert's inquiry on behalf of a resident asking why cinders aren't put on Franklin Street, Mr. Harbaugh shared that anti-skid materials were applied to Franklin Street and several intersections on Main Street in advance of the second snowfall of the month.

Mrs. Gilbert conveyed another resident complaint that there is trip hazard caused by a lip on Balder Street where road surfacing was done in October. The Streets and Alleys Committee will investigate.

To accommodate Mr. Harbaugh's schedule, **new business** was carried forward.

Mr. Harbaugh shared with Council his recent snow clean-up strategy which he was capable of accomplishing with new plow equipment. Although some additional time and cost is incurred, the relocation of areas of snow is beneficial, particularly to businesses in the Borough, and could result in less cost incurred if freezing weather follows a snowfall and a subsequent snow requires snow removal. After discussion, Council agreed to consider a modification of the snow and ice removal specifications at the February 7 meeting. In the meantime, authorization was given to proceed with the new system if snow clearing is required.

Liaison Reports

HARB – There was no HARB meeting in January.

Joint Parks and Recreation Commission – Mr. Pileggi reported that the January meeting was canceled. The next meeting will be held on the second Monday of February instead of the second Tuesday.

At 7:35 PM Mr. Harbaugh left the meeting.

Municipal Authority – Mrs. Smith reported that the Authority is still waiting to hear if they have been awarded a local grant. The Board has received an offer from an individual affiliated with a potential developer to hire an independent wastewater consultant familiar with infiltration issues to assess areas of the sewer lines that would benefit most from repair/replacement. The Board is also initiating a relationship with Adams Economic Alliance with an interest in acquiring low interest loans. Timber harvesting on the water reservoir property has begun, despite the early January rain washing away a temporary bridge that

had been placed to accommodate the timbering trucks. One payment in the amount of \$44,000 has been received for harvested timber. Mrs. Smith shared precipitation levels for January and savings realized on electricity costs.

Pippinfest – The first Pippinfest committee meeting will take place on March 12. Mrs. Thomas requested that Council make an effort to enlist Pippinfest volunteers.

Planning Commission – At the January 8 Planning Commission meeting, Commission members voted to recommend that Council consider adoption of the re-structured and updated Zoning Ordinance. With Council’s approval, the existing Zoning Ordinance will be repealed, and the updated ordinance will be adopted as a new ordinance. At least two public hearings would be required to enact the change – one at the Planning Commission level and another at the Council level. The Secretary will provide a print copy that can be reviewed at the Village Hall and individual copies to those who would like one. Mr. Bucher and Mr. McNeill each requested an electronic copy. The Secretary will prepare a summary of substantive changes.

On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council appointed Susan Wagle to serve on the Planning Commission for a 4-year term ending 12-31-2027.

Unfinished Business

1. Sidewalk letters have not yet been mailed.
2. On a motion by Mr. Pileggi, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council authorized contracting with Rebert Masonry for repair of damaged brick along the entrance ramp and to use ARPA funds in payment.

New Business – New business was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Anything for the good of the Borough – Mrs. Smith conveyed new committee and liaison assignments. Mayor Stanley offered to serve on the streets and alleys committee, as well.

Next Meetings –The next meetings of the Borough Council are scheduled for Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 9:00 AM and Tuesday, February 27, 2023, at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment – On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, President