

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council General Meeting
February 7, 2024 - 9:00 AM

The Borough Council of Fairfield held a general meeting on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, in the conference room of the Village Hall, 108 West Main Street, Fairfield, Pennsylvania. In attendance were councilors Dennis Bucher, Camille Cline, Phyllis Gilbert, Nate McNeill, Pat Pileggi, Patricia Smith, and Sally Thomas; Solicitor Matt Battersby; and Secretary Susan Wagle.

Present from the public was property owner and resident Robert Remaley.

Council President Patricia Smith called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM, and Council recited The Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Mr. Remaley expressed concern – both legal and safety related – about a reported trip hazard created by the raised height of North Balder Street when overlay paving was done in October 2023. He shared that the contractor created a dovetail into his driveway to avoid creating a lip that could encumber driveway egress. Mr. McNeill, as chair of the Streets & Alleys committee, indicated that he would contact Mr. Remaley to take pictures and consider options. Solicitor Battersby recommended that the Borough engineer be consulted.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, the minutes of the Council meeting of January 23, 2024, were approved as presented.

Solicitor report and/or business:

In response to prior inquiry regarding a tenant request that a handicap parking space be established in front of her residence, Solicitor Battersby recommended against accommodating the request. One such accommodation could open the door for multiple others that the Borough could not accommodate, creating inequity. He noted that the business of providing such amenities for private residential properties is not the business of the Borough, nor does it fall under the purview of the ADA. He verbally shared an expansive list of uses that are subject to ADA standards; all are commercial and none are private residential.

At 9:25 AM Solicitor Battersby left the meeting.

General Business:

Council received word that there was no code enforcement activity during the month of January and, therefore, no report to review or invoice to approve.

Council reviewed a draft of proposed updated snow and ice removal specifications. After a few changes were recommended and agreed upon, on a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council approved the new specifications for immediate implementation.

On a motion by Mrs. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council made the following appointments to the Historic Architectural Review Board: Susie Reed as realtor representative for a new 5-year term ending 12-31-2028, and Anne Lewis as architect representative filling a vacant seat for a term ending 12-31-2027.

On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Bucher and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council appointed Ryan Picarelli, Hamiltonban Township Supervisor, as an alternate delegate to the Adams County Tax Collection Committee and Ed Spence and Ryan Picarelli, both Hamiltonban Township Supervisors, as alternate delegates to the York Adams Tax Bureau.

Budget & Finance: On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council approved the financial reports through January 31st and authorized payment of Battersby Law's invoice in the amount of amount of \$187.50 (paid from retainer) for January services and BFPE's invoice in the amount of \$333.40 for annual hydrant inspection. Two replacement hydrants were required this year.

Committee Reports

Ordinance – Mrs. Cline reported that the committee plans to meet next Wednesday morning at 10:00 AM to discuss the Junkyard Ordinance

Streets & Alleys – A recommendation that a one-way sign be installed along West Landis Drive had not yet been investigated. It will be discussed at the next meeting. Council noted that last December's cost for a post, anchor, and sign was \$168.28.

Mrs. Gilbert noted that the accumulations of leaves on Water Street and Main Street need to be removed before the next rain or snowfall.

General Reports: Mrs. Smith reported on the January 25 Council of Governments meeting at which the key speaker was PA State Police officer Jason Haines. Other business included an upcoming update from the broadband task force, comments from Senator Doug Mastriano about grant availability and the award process, and from Adams Economic Alliance's Robin Fitzpatrick who suggested that the senator conduct a grant workshop.

Correspondence: Council acknowledged receipt of the January Fire Company report, a survey request for the state police, and correspondence from the Watershed Alliance of Adams County. No action was required by Council. In response to an invitation to participate in "Kindness Week" in November, it was recommended that more information be obtained before any action be taken by Council.

At 9:50 AM Mr. McNeill left the meeting

Old Business

ARPA funds - The Secretary reported that a letter engaging the services of Gary Rebert Masonry for brick clean-up and mortar replacement was sent on January 24th.

Sidewalk letters have not been sent.

A printed version of the proposed new Zoning Ordinance is available for review. Mr. Thaeler will provide a summary of the substantive changes to the existing ordinance in the next week.

New Business – There was no new business.

At 10:00 AM Mrs. Cline left the meeting

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Anything for the Good of the Borough: Mrs. Smith reported that most Christmas decorations on Borough property have been taken down. Mr. Wivell will take care of the rest in the coming weeks. She also shared information on the Fire Company's upcoming fundraising activities which include a meat raffle in March, a repeat of last year's outdoor event in the summer, and the regular First-Friday Bingo.

Mr. Bucher shared that he will attend the Newly Elected Official training on Friday but cannot attend on Saturday as he will be out of the state on business.

Next Meeting: The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment: On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, Council President