

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council Meeting of December 19, 2023
108 West Main Street, Fairfield, PA

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, December 19, 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 was 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. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, the minutes of the Council meeting of December 6, 2023, were accepted as presented.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Police Report – Chief Weikert provided an update on lettering of the new police vehicles and the on-going hiring process of two new officers. The Department now has the option of hiring an experienced officer or of paying to send a candidate to the police academy, with a service commitment required on completion. He shared some details of the program with Council. At Mrs. Gilbert’s request he advised that he will be more cognizant of illegal parking where the curb is painted yellow at 30 West Main Street which blocks visibility from South Balder Street.

At 7:22 PM Chief Weikert left the meeting.

Enactments

On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Pileggi and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council passed Resolution 11 of 2023 authorizing disposal of certain records from 2017 through 2021, per the recommended guidelines of the PA Historical and Museum Commission.

Correspondence

Council acknowledged receipt of correspondence from ISO/Verisk of an upgrade in the Building Code rating for the Borough.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Stanley conveyed a request made by George Keeney, owner of Mansion House 1757, that a one-way (west) sign be installed on West Landis Drive at the rear of his property, as he has recently opened the back of the parking lot to exiting patrons. The Streets and Alleys committee will check the area and report to the Borough office. If installation is recommended by the Streets and Alleys committee, Mrs. Gilbert recommended moving forward with ordering materials and installing.

Municipal Services Report – Mrs. Smith noted that storm drains were cleaned during the month, but the work is needed again.

Committee Reports – There were none.

Liaison Reports

Fairfield Area Historical Society – Mrs. Gilbert reported that there was no Board meeting in December – just a social gathering to celebrate the holidays.

FREMA – The FREMA meeting scheduled for December 18 was canceled due to EMS training scheduled for the same date and time by the Department of Emergency Services.

HARB – There was no meeting in December.

Joint Parks & Recreation Commission – Mr. Pileggi reported that the Board met and evaluated the tree lighting ceremony and considered ideas for improvement in the future. His recommendation is to keep it simple. On January, 4 Board members will walk the property to assess placement of the planned mass tree planting.

Municipal Authority – Mrs. Smith reported that the Authority engineer presented the results of the Act 57 bi-annual review which looks at current construction costs for replacement of a treatment plant and adjusts connection fees accordingly. A connection fee increase was recommended, and the Board adopted new fees, accordingly. The Authority received word today that out of two grants submitted – one for \$1,000,000 and a second for \$500,000 – they were awarded \$200,000. The monies will be used to replace the lift station at Middle Creek near the Post Office.

Pippinfest – Mrs. Thomas reported that the committee held its wrap up meeting on December 12 and has committed to planning another festival in 2024. The initial meeting will be held in March.

Planning Commission – The December 11 Planning Commission was canceled. The Secretary reported that she met with Mr. Thaeler in his office to review a proof-read copy of the new zoning ordinance. Planning Commission members can submit additional questions or concerns at the January meeting.

Unfinished Business

- Mrs. Smith shared information on the holiday decorating contest judging. She expressed her thanks to Council for allowing advertising on the Borough website.
- Mrs. Cline shared that the Ordinance Committee has not yet met to discuss a junkyard ordinance.
- The Secretary has requested a quote from Gary Rebert Masonry for repair of the bird-damaged brick.

New Business

- On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 6-0 with Mrs. Smith abstaining, Council re-appointed Mrs. Smith to serve a new five-year term on the Fairfield Municipal Authority Board with the term ending on December 31, 2028.
- Mrs. Smith shared that the engineer for the Authority observed that many Boards throughout the county are in need of volunteers. It was noted that Fairfield Borough needs one new member for the zoning hearing board and one new member for the planning commission, effective at the end of this year.

- After some discussion and on a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by unanimous acclamation, Council changed the meeting time of 2024 regular Tuesday evening meetings from 7:00 PM to 6:30 PM. The reorganization meeting on Tuesday, January 2 will also convene at 6:30 PM. The meeting time for the first Wednesday meetings will remain at 9:00 AM.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Anything for the Good of the Borough – Mrs. Smith expressed her gratitude that all Borough Council seats are filled and that despite the mix of political parties that the Council works together well with the best interests of the Borough in mind.

Next Meetings – The biennial reorganization meeting is scheduled for 6:30 PM on Tuesday, January 2, 2024. Additional January meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 9:00 AM and Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment – On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, President