

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council General Meeting
March 6, 2024 - 9:00 AM

The Borough Council of Fairfield held a general meeting on Wednesday, March 6, 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; Mayor Robert Stanley; and Secretary Susan Wagle.

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

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, the minutes of the Council meeting of February 27, 2024, were approved as presented.

The solicitor's report was deferred until later in the meeting.

General Business:

Council reviewed the code enforcement officer's report for the month of February.

On a motion by Mrs. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Pileggi and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council authorized approval of a parade permit application for Fairfield Football and Cheer to take place on September 7, 2024, subject to the applicant's agreement to follow a route as recommended by Carroll Valley Borough Police Chief, Cliff Weikert. A permit application must still be submitted to and approved by PennDOT.

Budget & Finance: On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council approved the financial reports through February 29, 2024, and authorized payment of Battersby Law's invoice in the amount of amount of \$187.50 (paid from retainer) and PMCA's invoice in the amount of \$275.00, both for February services.

Committee Reports

Ordinance – Mrs. Cline indicated that the committee hopes to have information on a new junkyard ordinance for Council consideration by the end of the month.

Streets & Alleys – Council received reports from Mr. McNeill, committee chairman, on various streets and alleys issues. After significant discussion the following actions were taken:

- On a motion by Mr. McNeill, seconded by Mr. Pileggi and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council voted to move the “no parking” sign currently in place on the west side of North Balder Street an additional 45 feet north on North Balder Street to enable improved traffic flow at the intersection with West Main Street. It was noted that the new location will not interfere with access to the parking pad on the property at 101 W Main Street.

- On a motion by Mrs. Thomas, seconded by Mr. McNeill and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council voted to request that the Borough engineer assess the area of North Balder Street that received overlay paving in 2023 and make recommendation as to any needed corrections. Council agreed to use ARPA funds to pay the engineering costs. Mr. McNeill suggested that the storm drain grate at Landis and Balder Street, in the same vicinity, which was broken and replaced during the road work in 2023, be evaluated as well. Suggestion was made that an assessment be made of all Borough roads, but no action was taken to that end.
- On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council authorized the purchase of a one-way sign to be installed along East Landis Drive at the rear of 27 East Main Street, Monahan’s Funeral Home. Council noted that last December’s cost for a post, anchor, and sign was \$168.28.

General Reports: There was no Fire Company report. Mrs. Smith shared that the Company had a record crowd of over 200 people at their last Bingo event. A \$1,000 payout for the last game contributed to the record attendance.

Correspondence: Council acknowledged receipt of the York Adams Tax Bureau minutes which contained information on reorganization of the organization due to the resignation of Director Al Timko.

Old Business

ARPA funds – No new projects were proposed. There has not yet been acknowledgement from Rebert Masonry regarding brick clean-up and mortar replacement.

Sidewalk letters have not been sent.

A printed version of the proposed new Zoning Ordinance is available for review. Mr. Thaeler hasn’t yet provided a summary of the substantive changes to the existing ordinance.

On a motion by Mr. Pileggi, seconded by Mr. McNeill and carried by unanimous acclamation, Council voted to table consideration of participating in an organized corporate “Kindness Week” program supporting, instead, individually showing kindness on a daily basis.

New Business – The residents at 118 East Main Street have inquired as to the possibility of renting two parking spaces at the municipal parking lot. Their interest was precipitated by having nowhere to locate their vehicles off the roadway during recent snow emergencies. Consideration was given to the option of allowing parking in the municipal lot on a first-come/first-served basis during snow emergencies. Council will look at the area and come prepared to discuss further at the next meeting.

At 9:50 AM Mr. McNeill left the meeting.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Anything for the Good of the Borough: Mrs. Smith shared that Chief Weikert has reported a new officer being hired. She also reminded Council of the upcoming “meat raffle” at the Fire Company.

At 10:00 AM Solicitor Battersby arrived, and Mrs. Cline left the meeting.

As a result of Solicitor Battersby's report on various rental property difficulties and complaints, a discussion of implementing some form of a rental inspection ordinance took place. Everyone was in agreement that any such ordinance be carefully constructed so as to not impose unnecessary costs on landlords. Mr. Battersby noted that the Borough is charged with the public health, safety, and welfare of its citizens and that a rental inspection ordinance would serve to support that cause. Among considerations discussed, but not committed to, were: inspections every three years; the need for Section 8 housing to have follow up inspections after their initial qualifying inspection; having specific inspection areas, i.e., kitchens and bathrooms; designing a "complaint-based" ordinance. No action was taken as a result of the discussion.

Next Meeting: The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26, at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment: On a motion by Mrs. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Bucher and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, Council President