

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council Meeting of May 28, 2024
108 West Main Street, Fairfield, PA

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, May 28, 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.

Present from the public was Gettysburg Times reporter Mary Grace Kauffman and resident Caroline Stanley.

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 Mr. Pileggi and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, the minutes of the Council meeting of May 1, 2024, were accepted as presented.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Fire Department Report – Council acknowledged receipt of the April Fire Company report.

Police Report – In the absence of a representative of the Carroll Valley Borough Police Department, Council acknowledged receipt of the emailed police report. All were in consensus that the digital speed sign placed at the entry of the east end of the Borough has been effective in slowing traffic.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report: Council reviewed the Code Enforcement Officer's report for the month of April. Acknowledging the removal of an unlicensed vehicle near his property, Mr. Pileggi opined that the Code Enforcement Officer is doing a good job communicating with those who have issues to address.

Invoices for Approval: On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council authorized payment of the following invoices, both for April services: PMCA \$325.00 and Battersby Law \$93.75 (paid from retainer). It was noted that Rebert's Masonry did an excellent job repairing the brick along the entry ramp to the Village Hall, but an invoice has not yet been received.

Correspondence – Council acknowledged the information shared by Highland Township regarding participation at the May 4 covered device recycling event.

At 6:42 PM Mr. Dave Rawlings of GSC Capital arrived at the meeting.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Stanley shared that he has received many inquiries about renting his property where the H&S Block tax shop was formerly located.

Municipal Services Report – Among the jobs performed were mowing along Landis Drive and Third Avenue, table washing, having the Borough truck inspected, and putting up and taking down the “no parking” signs to accommodate street sweeping.

Committee Reports – There were no reports.

Liaison Reports

COG – Mrs. Smith reported on the May 23 Council of Governments meeting. Dan Moul and Torren Ecker were in attendance to report on the budget status. The key speaker was Brian Sinnott, Adams County District Attorney.

Fairfield Area Historical Society – Mrs. Gilbert reported that the Board met in May. The next public event is on Thursday, June 20, with James Rada speaking about the Daughters of Charity serving as Civil War nurses.

HARB – The Historic Architectural Review Board received two applications for Certificates of Appropriateness in May. The Fairfield Commons application was addressed in an in-person meeting and the 33 East Main Street window installation via email review. At the recommendation of the HARB: On a motion by Mr. Pileggi, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council passed Resolution # 02 of 2024, addressing certain design standards in the construction of the Main Street housing units of the Fairfield Commons development. On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mr. McNeill and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council passed Resolution # 03 of 2024, authorizing the replacement of two attic vents with double-hung or casement windows at 33 East Main Street.

At 7:00 PM Chief Weikert arrived at the meeting.

As a courtesy to Mr. Rawlings, “New Business” was carried forward.

New Business – Council received updated information from the Borough engineer relative to the third-amended Plan for the Fairfield Commons development. On a motion by Mrs. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Pileggi and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council voted to conditionally approve the Third Amended Revised Land Development Plans for Fairfield Commons pending satisfactory completion of all items in Keller Engineer’s comment letter dated April 4, 2024, as annotated May 28, 2024, and the addition to Sheet 1 of all conditions expressed in the HARB Certificate of Appropriateness.

Mr. Rawlings expressed his thanks and appreciation to Council, and at 7:10 Mr. Rawlings and Ms. Kauffman left the meeting.

Police Report: In response to inquiry about the electronic informational speed sign at the eastern entrance to the Borough, Chief Weikert expressed his conviction that the sign has been effective in slowing traffic. After some discussion Council expressed an interest in purchasing a unit for the Borough while ARPA funds are still available. To assure that an appropriate model is considered, Chief Weikert offered to do some online research and provide a few quotes for Council’s consideration. At Mrs. Gilbert’s request he indicated that he’ll strive to have the information available in time for consideration at Council’s next meeting, June 5.

In other business Chief Weikert reported that officers oversaw the Fairfield Recreation Association opening day parade and conducted a Drug Take-Back event at which 122 pounds of drugs were collected. He reported, too, that the Department has had police coverage operating essentially 24 hours daily, with the exception of a 2-hour window. The license plate reader has been mounted on the top of one of the police vehicles, and insurance and registration checks have resumed. All officers will be fully trained and certified to independently operate all Department equipment by the end of June.

At 7:18 PM Ms. Kauffman returned to the meeting.

Joint Parks and Recreation Commission – There was no meeting held this month.

Municipal Authority – Mrs. Smith reported that the North Balder Street sewer line repair area is apparently holding securely, as flow has gone down significantly. She shared information on cost savings realized through the Authority’s contract with an electricity supplier. The wastewater treatment plant’s emergency response plan has been approved by the Board, and the five-year renewal of the NPDES permit has been submitted to DEP. The water system is scheduled for inspection by DEP later this week. Timbering has been completed with final payment to the Authority still to be made.

In addition, Mrs. Smith shared information on today’s visit with Congressman John Joyce and his staff who visited the Municipal Authority office as a component of the Congressman’s consideration of awarding community funds for line improvement – potentially a \$2.1 million project. Mrs. Gilbert was present as a representative of the Borough Council. While in the Borough Congressman Joyce also visited with Fire Company Board members who had the fire hall open and the antique fire truck on display.

Pippinfest – Mrs. Thomas reported that the committee met and continued planning for this year.

Planning Commission – The Secretary reported that three residents/property owners attended the May 13 public meeting hosted by the Planning Commission to receive comment on the Zoning Ordinance proposed to replace the existing Zoning Ordinance. As a result of discussion during the public meeting, at the Planning Commission’s regular meeting following the public meeting Planning Commission members directed Adams County Senior Planner, Rob Thaeler, to integrate open space standards, including a 50-foot buffer from existing development, into the standards for Cluster Development. The updated document will be considered at the June 10 Planning Commission meeting.

Unfinished Business – The following updates to unfinished business were received:

1. Gary L. Rebert’s Masonry has completed repair of damaged brick along the entrance ramp.
2. Mr. McNeill placed flags along Main Street in commemoration of Memorial Day.
3. North Balder Street engineering assessment has not been requested.
4. Mr. McNeill recommended that the Borough not take action to grade the lawn area on either side of North Balder Street. He suggested that the respective property owners should decide how they would like to address any transition from lawn to street, if at all.
5. Mr. Bucher will submit a new 811 call requesting better gas line markings to assist in relocating the no parking sign on North Balder Street.
6. Replacement street name signs at North Miller and Main Streets have not yet been ordered. It was suggested that a new line-of-sight study be conducted to determine if further parking restrictions are needed to accommodate truck traffic turning onto North Miller Street.
7. Sidewalk letters have not yet been mailed.
8. Street sweeping was accomplished on May 23rd.

9. The Secretary shared that the size of the “Watch Children” signs previously authorized for purchase is 12 x 18 inches; however, the size of the existing “Watch Children” signs on Steelman Street is 18 x 24 inches. Further discussion was deferred to the June 8 meeting.
10. Council considered two quotes received from Robert Moser of Moser’s Handyman & Home Improvement for hall repair and repair to the moveable bar in the front room. On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 7-0, Council authorized moving forward with the work as proposed.
11. It was acknowledged that a pair of crosswalk signs is still needed for the crosswalk in the vicinity of Centennial Street. Mr. McNeill recommended that Chief Weikert be consulted regarding potential sources.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Anything for the good of the Borough – Mayor Stanley commended Mrs. Cline and others who hosted this year’s Memorial Day services at the Fairfield Union Cemetery.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Borough Council are scheduled for Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at 9:00 AM and Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment – On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Pileggi and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, President