

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council General Meeting
June 5, 2024 - 9:00 AM

The Borough Council of Fairfield held a general meeting on Wednesday, June 5, 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, Patricia Smith, and Sally Thomas; Mayor Robert Stanley; Solicitor Matt Battersby; and Secretary Susan Wagle. Mr. Pileggi and Mr. McNeill were absent.

Council President Patricia Smith called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM, and Council recited The Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Mrs. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, the minutes of the Council meeting of May 28, 2024, were approved as presented.

Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Battersby conveyed background information on the Federal Freedom of Information Act which was followed by the enactment of state-level legislation regulating the provision of information to the public. Noting the vast changes to technology since the implementation of the PA Open Records Act and the increasing circumstances of deceptive practices and scams resulting in theft of information via computer hacking, he recommended that Council pass proposed Resolution 04 of 2024 updating policies relevant to the Open Records Act. He further recommended that the Resolution be posted to the Borough website.

General Business

- On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Bucher and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, Council passed Resolution 04 of 2024 updating policies relevant to the Open Records Act.

At 9:15 AM Solicitor Battersby left the meeting.

- Council reviewed the code enforcement officer's report for the month of May. The Secretary was directed to remind the code enforcement officer that each property is entitled to one "nice" reminder, but subsequent violations should result in citations
- After considering prices provided by Chief Weikert, on a motion by Mrs. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, Council authorized the use of ARPA funds to purchase one speed measurement sign from the supplier most recommended by Chief Weikert.

Budget & Finance: On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, Council approved the financial reports through May 31, 2024, and authorized payment of the following invoices: PIRMA - \$5,592.00 for insurance coverage from 07-01-2024 through 06-30-25; PMCA - \$887.50 for code enforcement services from 05-01-24 through 05-31-24; Battersby Law - \$62.50 for May services (paid from retainer); and Gary Rebert's Masonry - \$430.00 from ARPA funds for repair to bricks along entry ramp.

Committee Reports – Mrs. Cline reported that she expects the Ordinance Committee to have taken some action in regard to a junkyard ordinance by the beginning of next month.

Correspondence – There was no correspondence requiring action by Council.

Old Business

- Mr. Bucher shared that he met with a representative of Columbia Gas on North Balder Street to get information regarding a safe means of relocating the no parking sign. Ultimately the representative recommended hand digging the hole for the sign post. Council supported Mr. Bucher's recommendation that the sign post be positioned directly in front of the Met-Ed electric pole where there was no possibility of encountering a gas line and that both the "no parking" sign and the existing "snow emergency route" sign be installed on the same pole.
- Street signs for North Miller and Main Street have not yet been ordered.
- Sidewalk letters have not been sent.
- On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, Council authorized using ARPA funds to purchase five reflective 18-inch x 18-inch "Drive Slowly; Children Playing" signs designed with a white background and green lettering from SmartSign at a cost of \$44.90 each.
- Robert Moser was notified of the Borough's acceptance of his quotes for Village Hall repairs.
- By general consensus Council authorized the purchase of a set of standard crosswalk signs to be installed in the vicinity of the Centennial Street crosswalk.

New Business: The Secretary shared that the municipal employee expressed concern that the Met-Ed pole located at the front of the Village Hall could be compromised. A notice has been filed with Met-Ed and a ticket number assigned

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Anything for the Good of the Borough

- In response to inquiry by Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Thomas shared that the owners of Mansion House 1757 attended the last Pippinfest committee meeting. In the course of discussion they indicated their willingness to allow Pippinfest to use the Mansion House yard area to house a "beer garden" for this year's festival. Plans are ongoing.
- Chief Jacobs has requested that the builders of the new homes in the Fairfield Commons development install sprinkler system in the homes. The Borough has no ordinance mandating sprinkler installation, but the Secretary shared with Chief Jacobs that she will convey his request to the builders.

At 10:03 AM Mrs. Thomas left the meeting.

There was some general discussion of the potential need for a property maintenance ordinance.

Next Meeting: The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 25, at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment: On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 10:31 AM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

Patricia T. Smith, Council President