

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council General Meeting
December 4, 2024 - 9:00 AM

The Borough Council of Fairfield held a general meeting on Wednesday, December 4, 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, Pat Pileggi, and Sally Thomas, and Secretary/Treasurer Susan Wagle. Mr. McNeill, Mrs. Smith, and Mayor Stanley were absent.

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

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, the minutes of the Council meeting of November 26, 2024, were approved as presented.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

General Business - The November code enforcement officer's report was not available for review.

Budget & Finance: On a motion by Mr. Pileggi, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by a roll call vote of 5-0, Council approved the November financial reports and authorized payment of Battersby Law's invoice in the amount of \$31.25 for November services (paid from retainer).

Committee Reports – Mrs. Thomas shared that the first meeting of the new committee comprised of representatives of the Fairfield School District, Liberty Mountain Resort, and local municipalities is scheduled for December 13.

At 9:06 AM Solicitor Battersby arrived at the meeting.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Battersby shared that chiefs from various fire companies attended a recent Hamiltonban Township supervisors' meeting in the interest of adjusting box card assignments designating the primary-response fire company, as some companies have been insufficiently staffed to respond to calls in recent months. He recommended that the Adams County Council of Governments give serious attention to the growing shortage of volunteer fire responders and that they dedicate time and energy to developing options to encourage growth in the number of responders.

In response to inquiry, Solicitor Battersby advised that notification by the Borough's Code Enforcement Officer is the initial recourse for landlords who do not respond to the Borough's request for information regarding tenant registration. Neglect to respond to the Code Enforcement Officer's request could result in the imposition of a fine, as provided for in the Borough Ordinance.

Relative to discussion of code enforcement officer duties, Mrs. Wagle shared information gained from the December issue of The Borough News about a developing shortage of Building Code Officials. In ensuing discussion it was suggested that high schools and vo-tech institutions be made aware of the need and be encouraged to introduce training opportunities and to develop apprenticeship programs in the field. Mrs. Thomas shared that she will make some inquiries at the school level – perhaps at the meeting on December 13.

At 9:25 AM Solicitor Battersby left the meeting.

Correspondence – Council acknowledged receipt of results of the compliance audit for the Fire Company's Relief Organization and an article on "Kindness" taken from Penn Lines magazine.

Old Business

Council acknowledged that American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Funds must be allocated by the end of 2024 and expended by the end of 2026, and received an update on the fund balance. The official Federal revenue loss figure for reporting purposes is \$54,218.66; purchases to date total \$51,899.10; the remaining balance is \$2,319.56. Council considered donation of this fund balance to the Fairfield Fire Company before the end of 2024. The topic will be included on the agenda for the December 17 meeting and presented for a vote of Council. The remaining funds in the Borough's ARPA accounts were generated either by interest income or contribution at the county level.

Mrs. Wagle shared Mr. McNeill's report that Chief Weikert is available to speak with him on Monday or Tuesday of next week relative to Council's consideration of the purchase of an additional radar speed detection sign, and he will provide a follow-up report at the December 17 meeting.

Relative to plans for the 2026 commemoration of the Nation's 250th birthday, Mrs. Thomas suggested that a school project to paint the Borough's fire hydrants in patriotic red, white, and blue be considered. As the hydrants are the property of the Municipal Authority, their permission would be required.

No new information has been received on an update to the Southwest Comprehensive Plan. By general consensus Council agreed to receive updates to the Plan with other liaison reports during Tuesday evening meetings. The Secretary will convey liaison Dennis Bucher's email address to the Adams County Office of Planning and Development so he can receive updates directly.

Mr. Pileggi reminding everyone that this coming Sunday from 5-7 PM is the tree lighting ceremony at the Hamiltonban Community Park.

New Business – On learning that Secretary Dianna Zimmerman offered to assume the responsibility of providing regular cleaning services for the Village Hall, Council expressed no objection to terminating the services of the current contracted cleaning service. After significant discussion about the rate of compensation, on a motion by Mrs. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Pileggi and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, Council voted to hire Mrs. Zimmerman to provide regular cleaning services for the Village Hall at the rate of \$18.50 per hour.

Mrs. Wagle shared correspondence received yesterday regarding an expansive Columbia Gas line replacement project. Project dates have not yet been provided by Columbia Gas.

Mrs. Wagle shared pricing information on Treasurer's bonds from two sources: PIRMA through Traveler's Insurance and ACNB Insurance Services through Cincinnati Insurance Company. The topic will be included on the agenda for the December 17 meeting and action taken at that time. By general consensus Council agreed that while serving as Secretary Mrs. Zimmerman need not be bonded and that existing PIRMA coverage for employee theft provides sufficient coverage.

There was no public comment, and nothing new was presented for the good of the Borough.

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 6:30 PM.

On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mr. Pileggi and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 10:19 AM.

Susan E. Wagle, Secretary/Treasurer

Phyllis V. Gilbert, Council Vice President