

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council General Meeting
February 5, 2025 - 9:00 AM

The Borough Council of Fairfield held a general meeting on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, in the conference room of the Village Hall, 108 West Main Street, Fairfield, Pennsylvania. In attendance were councilors Pat Smith, Dennis Bucher, Camille Cline, Phyllis Gilbert, Pat Pileggi, and Sally Thomas; Mayor Robert Stanley and Secretary Dianna Zimmerman. Nate McNeill was absent.

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

New Business – Fire Chief Bill Jacobs presented to Council his concerns with the new townhome construction in Fairfield Commons. He compared construction material of the past with the construction material being used today. He stated new construction material is lighter weight and burns much quicker. Chief Jacobs acknowledged that he understood it was too late for building standards to change for Fairfield Commons; however, he wanted Council to consider changing building standards for future construction in the Borough. A lengthy discussion with Council ensued. Chief Jacobs concluded by suggesting all residents should have smoke detectors and CO2 detectors in their homes and proper signage to identify their house. Mrs. Smith suggested Chief Jacobs speak at a COG meeting. She will look into having that arranged.

Solicitor Battersby arrived to the meeting at 9:12 a.m.

Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Battersby shared, in response to Chief Jacob’s concerns, that Council would need to write our own building code to raise standards. He stated the Borough only has the power delegated to us by the state and we don’t have the expertise, time or money to rewrite building code.

At 10:08 AM Solicitor Battersby left the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Mrs. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, the minutes of the Council meeting of January 8, 2025 were approved as presented.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Budget & Finance: On a motion by Mrs. Cline seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by a roll call vote of 6-0, Council approved the January financial reports, authorized payment of the PMCA invoice for \$675.00, Battersby Law’s invoice in the amount of \$250 (paid from retainer) and the Rose Computers invoice for \$1,105.98 for the new office laptop.

Committee Reports – Streets & Alleys – Mr. Bucher informed Council that Mr. McNeill has received two complaints from Mr. Steve Feitz at 100 Franklin Street regarding water not draining properly into the grate at the culvert in front of his house. When water pools, it freezes at their mailbox causing it to be dangerous to get their mail. This grate was previously broken by a Thomas Wells Paving truck when paving was happening in the area and when it was replaced it was assumed to have been installed too high. Mrs. Smith informed Council that Mr. Keller of the Municipal Authority would take photos of the area when raining to show Thomas Wells paving what needs to be fixed.

Correspondence – There was no correspondence to review.

Old Business – The Junkyard Ordinance has been advertised and is set to be adopted at the February 25, 2025 meeting.

The Municipal Cybersecurity Risk Assessment Survey is available and in the process of completion.

Mrs. Smith asked Council to flush out their notes on America 250 PA and send any thoughts, ideas and recommendations to Mrs. Zimmerman.

The radar speed sign is on order. The shipment lead time is 3-4 weeks.

Mrs. Smith asked Council to browse some of the catalogs the Borough has to get ideas on what styles and designs they like for the benches and/or planter replacement at the community mailboxes.

New Business – Mrs. Smith ask Council members that are up for reelection to think about running again and be mindful of the petition dates that are required in order to get on the primary ballot. She asked that those Council members, if not interested in reelection, to please think of some names of people as possible candidates.

Public Comment - There was no public comment.

Anything for the Good of the Borough – Mrs. Thomas was delighted to announce she will be revitalizing the self-guided tour of historic homes in Fairfield. She asked for some help from Council with this project.

Mrs. Gilbert asked Council to watch the community mailbox light. She is not sure if it is working all the time or if it is motion detected.

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 6:30 PM.

On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 10:28 AM.

Dianna Zimmerman, Borough Secretary

Patricia Smith, Council President