

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council General Meeting
June 24, 2025 – 6:30 PM

The Borough Council of Fairfield held a general meeting on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, in the conference room of the Village Hall, 108 West Main Street, Fairfield, Pennsylvania. In attendance were councilors Sally Thomas, Camille Cline, Pat Pileggi, Phyllis Gilbert, Dennis Bucher, Patricia Smith, Mayor Robert Stanley, and Secretary Dianna Zimmerman. Also present was Mr. Butch Harbaugh, Ms. Beth Wastler, Ms. Marie Tracy, Mr. Matt Inskip and Mr. & Mrs. Boettinger. Nate McNeill was absent.

Council President Patricia Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM, and Council recited The Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Ms. Beth Wastler told the board that she is trying to sell her house and because the house next door is in such disrepair, it has decreased her property value. She says the trash on the property has gradually gotten worse over the years. She stated the sheds are made of plywood and the trailer looks like it should be condemned. She would like to know what can be done to make the property owner clean up the place and would like to speak to the zoning officer regarding some questions she had that Council couldn't answer.

Ms. Marie Tracy stated she lives on the other side of this property and she is concerned that since there is "so much junk" in the yard that it is attracting roaches, rats and snakes. She says it is truly a fire hazard.

Mr. Boettinger stated he lives behind this property and often times the dumpster gets full and trash blows down the alley and into his yard.

Mr. Matt Inskip, Ms. Wastler's real estate agent, asked Council if the zoning officer was aware of the situation at this property.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by a roll call vote of 6-0, the minutes of the Council meeting of June 4, 2025, were approved as presented.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Stanely asked Council if the zoning officer could back off on the weeds and tall grass notifications since it's been so rainy. He noted that the Borough paid a significant amount for his services last month and it wasn't necessary because of the amount of rainfall. Mrs. Thomas was in agreement with the Mayor Stanley. He also suggested that the radar speed sign on the west in of town be moved to the opposite side of the road, as not as many drivers are speeding coming from a school zone.

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

Police Department Report – Council acknowledged receipt of the May Police report.

Municipal Service Report –Mr. Wivell has been busy mowing, trimmed the holly bush in front of Village Hall, installed a new flag at the back Borough entrance, picked up limbs/brush from 27 Water St., painted the Village Hall sign posts with clear sealer and mulched underneath it.

Mrs. Thomas left the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Liaison Reports –

- A. The Fairfield Area Historical Society had a meeting on June 19th with only four people attending, nothing was decided.
- B. FREMA did not have a meeting in June.
- C. HARB had no meeting in June and no COA applications were received.
- D. Mr. Pileggi reported the Joint Parks and Recreation Commission is still working on the dog park. Hamiltonban Township Park is getting about 15-20 people a day, on average, using the park. Hamiltonban Township Park would also like to advertise their park pavilion rental in the Borough newsletter. Mr. Pileggi also announced the Township picnic would be on September 14th at 4 pm.

- E. Mrs. Smith reported the Municipal Authority still working on grant projects; however the Municipal Authority yearly audit is finally complete. Although she is still working on the USDA audit.
- F. The Pippinfest Committee had a meeting on June 10th. Mrs. Thomas stated that things are coming together.
- G. The Planning Commission had a meeting on June 9th to complete the Sewage Facilities Planning Module Component 4A for the Fairfield Municipal Authority's Lift station upgrade.
- H. Mr. Bucher spoke with Mr. Rob Thaeler who said he was working on getting a meeting set up for next month for the Southwest Comprehensive Plan.

Unfinished Business –

- Curb & crosswalk panting - Mrs. Zimmerman received an email from the Adams County Probation Office explaining that they don't assign community service much anymore. The secretary took my information and will forward it on to the police officers, in case they knew of anyone needing to complete community service hours.
- Mr. Butch Harbaugh, explained he shot grade at the grate at 101 Franklin St. There's a dip before the grate and just beyond the dip is 1 1/4" and at the grate its 1 5/8". So it is a little higher at the grate. He will shave off underneath the grate to make it level with the road so its no longer on an incline.
- Crack sealing on Franklin has been delayed 2-4 weeks due to the rainy weather.
- Council reviewed an estimate from C.E. Williams for use of vac truck to clean the storm drain at Water St. by Ventura's restaurant. Mr. Butch Harbaugh said he and Mr. Wivell would look at it first to see if they could get it cleaned out. However, if it is clogged completely, a vac truck would be necessary to get the work done.

New Business –

- Council reviewed an estimate for two new Yield to Pedestrians Crosswalk signs as we just trashed another one. Since the price was quite costly, they decided not to replace it at this time. Mrs. Zimmerman will look for cheaper prices. Mr. Butch Harbaugh suggested calling D.W. Miller in Huntingdon, Pa.
- On a motion by Mr. Pileggi, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by unanimous acclamation, Council authorized the Village Hall to open as a cooling center for residents of the Borough on days over 90 degrees.

Anything for the Good of the Borough –

Mrs. Smith asked Council how they wanted to handle the complaints that were presented to them this evening from Borough residents. It was decided that the information would be forwarded to our zoning officer and he could use the junkyard ordinance to have the property owner clear the junk and trash from the back of the property and HARB could enforce some improvements to the front of the property. Mrs. Smith suggested that Council revisit a property maintenance or a rental inspection ordinance to get a handle on properties like this.

The next regular Council meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, July 2, 2025 at 9:00 AM and Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 6:30 PM.

On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Dianna Zimmerman, Secretary

Patricia Smith, Council President