

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council General Meeting
July 2, 2025 - 9:00 AM

Following an executive session to discuss legal matters, the Borough Council of Fairfield held a general meeting on July 2, 2025, in the conference room of the Village Hall, 108 West Main Street, Fairfield, Pennsylvania. In attendance were councilors Pat Smith, Camille Cline, Phyllis Gilbert, Nate McNeil, Dennis Bucher and Sally Thomas; Mayor Robert Stanley; Solicitor Matthew Battersby and Secretary Dianna Zimmerman. Pat Pileggi was absent.

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

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Presentations: Andrew Miller of PMCA addressed Council about the condition of 121 W Main St. He said he could enforce what he could see on the property with the Junkyard Ordinance and the Nuisance ordinance. Neither shed on the property appears to be permitted; therefore, Andrew said he could require those to be taken down. Unfortunately, he could not address the condition of the trailer in the back of the property without a property maintenance ordinance or a rental ordinance. There was a long discussion regarding what these ordinances entail, as well as, how often they should be inspected and at whose cost. Andrew explained the time frame for inspection was at the discretion of Council. He also noted the property owner would pay the inspection fee. He concluded by suggesting a property maintenance ordinance would ultimately result in higher quality apartments in town.

Ms. Stacy Gautsch, Utility Arborist Forestry Services for Med-Ed., Mr. Kevin Eck, Regional External Affairs Consultant with First Energy Corp., Mr. Brian Earnst, Linemen Supervisor with Met-Ed and Ms. Lucey Myers, Right of Way Agent for First Energy Corp., all came to address Council regarding upgrading the power infrastructure, that goes up and down Main Street, due to deterioration. In order to complete this project, heavier lines need to be installed which require cross arms to hold those lines. With that being said, most of the trees along Main Street will have to be trimmed to accommodate the upgrade. There has been a negative response or no response from most property owners. Solicitor Battersby suggested Met-Ed/First Energy Corp. meet individually with property owners as the trees belong to them, not the Borough of Fairfield. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the importance of having this upgrade complete. In conclusion, Mrs. Smith extended the Fairfield Borough's support to Met-Ed/First Energy Corp. with this project and offered current phone numbers for property owners they still needed.

Council took a 5-minute break at 9:40 a.m. in order for our visitors to leave the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by a unanimous acclamation, the minutes of the Council meeting of June 24, 2025 were approved as presented.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Battersby explained in depth his letter, sent to the Borough, announcing his merger with Salzmann Hughes, P.C. and that he was not retiring. He also asked Council if the Borough of Fairfield still had a police pension in the budget. Several members of Council replied, "No" and noted that it was removed from the budget many years ago.

Solicitor Battersby left the meeting at 9:53 a.m.

Budget & Finance: Mrs. Zimmerman noted that because this meeting came so close to the end of the month, June financials were not available and an invoice from PMCA had not yet been received. Battersby Law's invoice in the amount of \$375.00 (paid from retainer) was acknowledged and approved.

Correspondence – Council acknowledged receipt of the retirement letter from Clem Malot, Chief Code Official of PMCA.

Council acknowledged receipt of a letter from Battersby Law Office announcing their merger with Salzmänn Hughes, P.C.

Old Business – Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Zimmerman were brainstorming ideas for America 250 PA and thought a paint night/craft night would be something different for the Borough of Fairfield to offer. It could be held in the Village Hall and light refreshments could be served. Council was receptive to the idea. There will be more information to come regarding this event.

New benches for the community mailbox area will be advertised in the July Newsletter. Donations of a bench or a shared donation of a bench can be made in memory of a loved one. Personalized plaques will be included in the donation amount.

The Fairfield Lions Club will perform the yellow curb painting for the Borough again this year. Crosswalks and stop blocks still need to be painted.

Historic Reelections – 1776 Glimpses of Fairfield Area's Past. The Borough office is down to its last copy. Mrs. Smith suggested spiral binding these books. Mrs. Thomas might have a spiral binder that the Borough could have/use. She will check at home.

New Business – The Borough is in need of a new auditor for our 2024 audit and thereafter. Ms. Joyce Beckman of Lockwood Business Support Services has retired. Mrs. Zimmerman has received one quote from Boyer and Ritter and is expecting another quote from Smith, Kline and Elliot very soon. She has also contact Susan Mosser, CPA in Gettysburg about performing the audit. There will be a substantial price increase with whoever is selected as the new auditor.

Parking on the yellow curb in town is becoming more of a problem, especially around The Village Book and Table restaurant during the hours of 7 – 9 a.m. Mrs. Smith suggested looking into hiring parking enforcement or having Carroll Valley Police Department ticket those parked illegally on occasion. Council was in agreement with the latter in hopes, that after a few tickets were issued, the word would get out and people would become more cognizant of where they were parking.

Public Comment - There was no public comment.

Anything for the Good of the Borough –

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for 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 10:40 AM.

Dianna Zimmerman, Borough Secretary

Patricia Smith, Council President