

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough Council General Meeting
December 16, 2025 – 6:30 PM

The Borough Council of Fairfield held a general meeting on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, in the conference room of the Village Hall, 108 West Main Street, Fairfield, Pennsylvania. In attendance were councilors, Camille Cline, Pat Pileggi, Phyllis Gilbert, Sally Thomas, Nate McNeill, Dennis Bucher, Patricia Smith, Mayor Robert Stanley, Secretary Dianna Zimmerman and Solicitor Matthew Battersby. Also in attendance from the public were Richard Taylor and his wife Cathleen McGowen-Taylor, Hugh Eckert, Stacy Schwartz, Anne Gageby, Robin Laumann and Jordan Sites.

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

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by a roll call vote of 7-0, the minutes of the Council meeting of December 3, 2025, were approved as presented.

Public Comment: Mr. Taylor of 109 Franklin Street presented to Council pictures of the street light outside his home at 3 a.m. He said this LED streetlight is too bright and is physically endangering and a public nuisance.

Mr. Hugh Eckert of 34 North Miller Street asked Council not to support the installation of any more LED street lights in town. He said he can see the street light on Franklin Street clearly from his backyard. He is concerned that it makes the area too bright, washes objects out and makes driving in the area unsafe.

Ms. Stacy Schwartz of 34 North Miller Street suggested Met Ed did not follow legal standards when installing this LED light. She said the light trespass is a civil and criminal offense and a public and private nuisance. She suggested Council work with Met Ed to find other alternatives to this light and if it cannot be replaced then turn it off.

Ms. Anne Gageby of 12 E Main Street, who is the Director of Environmental Education at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve in Fairfield, does not support LED light on Franklin Street and does not want them to be installed throughout town. She said these lights pose serious risk to humans, animals and vegetation in the area.

Ms. Robin Laumann of 209 West Main Street asked if there was an update from Met Ed on getting a new street light installed at the corner of West Main Street and Stevens Street. She also wanted to know if there was an update from Mr. Harbaugh regarding the ditch digging, he had planned at that intersection to allow the water to drain properly. It has been very cold recently and she said the melting snow and or rain is freezing at that intersection making it very dangerous.

Mrs. Cathleen McGowan-Taylor of 109 Franklin Street suggested that street light outside her home on Franklin Street is a criminal public nuisance. She gave Council examples of appropriate lights from Dark Sky International and said that they would meet with Council for free to discuss appropriate street lighting for town. She suggested Met Ed uses lighting no one else wants and that it is outdated and inferior technology.

Some members of Council wanted to address the concerns members of the public had regarding the street light issue; however, Mrs. Smith noted that there would be a time later in the meeting to do so. Solicitor Battersby suggested that Council have an executive session immediately following this meeting to discuss legal parameters.

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

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

Budget & Finance – On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and carried by a roll call vote of 7-0, Council approved the November financials, the PMCA invoice for \$400 and the Battersby 2026 retainer in the amount of \$4,000.

Enactments - On a motion made by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Bucher and carried by a roll call vote of 7-0, Council approved Resolution #5 of 2025 INTENT TO DISPOSE OF CERTAIN PUBLIC RECORDS GENERATED IN THE YEARS OF 2016, 2017 & 2022.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Stanely thanked the public for attending the meeting and voicing their concerns. He also suggested Council hold Met Ed responsible for taking down the poles once the electrical line transfer is complete. He also noted that Columbia Gas is laying new gas lines in several areas and when they come to Fairfield, they should be required to repair what they dig up and finish with a top coat.

Municipal Service Report –Mr. Wivell's wife is not well so his availability to the Borough may be limited in the near future.

Committee Reports - There were no committee reports.

Liaison Reports –

- A. The Fairfield Area Historical Society will not have a meeting in December.
- B. FREMA had their meeting at 3 p.m. on Dec. 15, 2025 at the Carroll Valley Borough Office. Mayor Stanley reported four out of six municipalities were represented and they toured the Carroll Valley facility.
- C. HARB had no meeting in December and no COA applications were received.
- D. Joint Parks and Recreation Commission met on December 9, 2025; however, Mr. Pileggi did not attend that meeting as he was ill. He did report that the Tree Lighting was attended by 20-30 people. Liberty Worship Center did not help this year as they had another event happening at the same time. He said it was suggested next year they have better communication with the public to attract more people to the tree lighting. The dog park grant is finalized and the grant match has been collected.
- E. Mrs. Smith reported the Municipal Authority received draft plans from the golf course developers to connect to the main sewer line and how they would repair the current sewer line to handle the increase in flow.
- F. The Pippinfest Committee will start meeting again in February 2026.
- G. The Planning Commission met on Monday, Dec. 8, 2025. Mr. Bucher reported that they received an application for a Zoning Hearing Board hearing on the property on the south side of Wortz Drive next to Meadowbrook. They asked Mr. Robert Thaeler of Adams County Planning & Development for his thoughts on the application based on what the Borough ordinances allow and Mr. Thaeler reviewed his recommendation with the Commission. Mr. Bucher noted the Planning Commission will convene on Dec. 18, 2025 for a special meeting to discuss and finalize their required recommendation to the Zoning Hearing Board.
- H. Southwest Comprehensive Plan – There is no meeting date scheduled as of yet.

Unfinished Business –

- Mr. Harbaugh is still logging and has been ill for several weeks but will get to the Water Street storm drain cleaning and Third Avenue ditch digging in the near future.
- Terry Shriner of Down to Earth General Services has measured the Village Hall table and chair closet door and will get back to the Borough secretary with an estimate.
- Mrs. Thomas said she felt Council owed it to our constituents to respond to the public regarding their concern with the LED street on Franklin Street. There was discussion between Council and the public in attendance regarding the street light and what can be done. Mr. Bucher noted the he and Mrs. Zimmerman are working with Met Ed to find a resolution. They are scheduling a meeting with them in

the near future. Mr. Pileggi reassured the public that Council has heard their concerns and asked them to be patient as things move slow in Corporate America. Solicitor Battersby reminded everyone that Council would meet following this meeting for an executive session to discuss the legal parameters.

- Mrs. Zimmerman is trying to connect with Kim Frank of Adams County Emergency Management Services to see how Hyper-Reach will be used in municipalities. Hyper Reach is a mass notification system built for public safety.

New Business –

- On a motion made by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Pileggi and carried by a roll call vote of 7-0, Council approved the 2026 Borough of Fairfield regularly scheduled meetings.
- On a motion made by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Bucher and carried by a roll call vote of 7-0, Council appointed Randall Alexander to the Municipal Authority Board for a new five-year term expiring 12-31-2030.
- Mr. Pileggi accepted his reelection to Council for another four-term expiring 12-31-2029. There is still one open seat on Council starting January 1, 2026. Mrs. Robin Laumann and Mr. Jordan Sites have both expressed interest in their willingness to serve. A vote by Council to select who will serve in that vacant seat will happen at the Monday, January 5, 2026 Reorganization meeting.

Public Comment – Mrs. Cathleen McGowen-Taylor wanted to let Council know that hers is not the only house on Franklin Street that is affected by this LED street light. She asked Council again to seek other alternatives for this light. She is prepared to buy a new light if needed.

Anything Good for Borough – There was nothing at this time.

The next regular Council meetings are scheduled for Monday, January 5, 2026 immediately following the Fairfield Borough Reorganization Meeting which begins at 6:30 p.m. and Tuesday, January 27, 2025, at 6:30 PM.

Executive Session – At 7:15 p.m. the Fairfield Borough Council broke into an executive session to discuss legal parameters of replacing the street light on Franklin Street. The executive session was over and the regular meeting resumed at 7:45 p.m.

Adjournment - On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. McNeill and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Dianna Zimmerman, Secretary

Patricia Smith, Council President