

FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA
Borough of Fairfield
Minutes of the Borough General Council and Committee Meeting
April 1, 2026

The Borough Council of Fairfield held a general meeting on April 1, 2026, in the conference room of the Village Hall, 108 West Main Street, Fairfield, Pennsylvania. In attendance were councilors Pat Smith, Phyllis Gilbert, Dennis Bucher, Jordan Sites, Sally Thomas, Pat Pileggi, Camille Cline; and Mayor Robert Stanley. Also present was Solicitor Battersby. Council member Sally Thomas and Secretary Dianna Zimmerman were absent.

Council President Pat Smith called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM, and Council recited The Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mr. Sites and carried by unanimous acclamation, the minutes from the Council meeting of March 24, 2026 were approved as presented.

Solicitor's Report - Solicitor Battersby stated he reviewed charges for Zoning Hearing Applications in other local Townships and Boroughs and they are anywhere from \$1,500 to \$2,000. The application fee is currently \$500. Solicitor Battersby suggested increasing the fee to \$1,750. Mrs. Cline made a motion to adjust the Zoning Hearing Application fee to \$1,750, Mr. Pileggi seconded this motion and carried by unanimous acclamation, Council approved this motion. Fee schedule will be updated and posted on the website.

Solicitor Battersby researched whether the Borough should develop an ordinance for street lighting. He noted the Borough is covered by governmental immunity with eight exceptions and under the real property exception was street lighting. This leaves the Borough open to liability if someone got injured because the Borough has an affirmative duty to provide street lighting for safe travel on Borough streets for both vehicular and pedestrian travel. So Solicitor Battersby's recommendation is to continue with street lightning provided by Met-Ed as offered to the Fairfield Borough, as well as, other municipalities in the area. Council agreed with Solicitor Battersby and he will draft a letter to Mr. & Mrs. Taylor on Franklin Street to be sent by the Borough stating the Borough's position.

Mrs. Smith brought forward (from New Business) the delinquent occupation tax for disabled Borough resident Robert Hensley. The Borough Secretary received a request from J.P. Harris that Mr. Robert Hensley was asking for relief from delinquent occupation tax from 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. Mrs. Smith noted that Mrs. Zimmerman verified with Adams County that it was the decision of the Borough to grant relief. Solicitor Battersby noted that if Mr. Hensley was disabled since 2021, why did he not notify the tax collector. Mr. Bucher made a motion to relieve Mr. Robert Hensley of his 2025 delinquent occupation tax. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Cline and approved by Council by unanimous acclamation.

Solicitor Battersby noted the clean up after your pets' signs (moved forward from New Business) are definitely needed. He noticed a lady letting her dog use the bathroom in Fairfield Commons without cleaning up after it. This is a problem that cannot be enforced unless they are caught in the act. The Borough does have an ordinance that carries a fine if caught not cleaning up after their pet. Mrs. Zimmerman printed two different types of signs from Amazon to purchase and post around town.

Solicitor Battersby left the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Budget & Finance: On a motion made by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Pileggi and carried by a unanimous acclamation, Council approved Battersby Law invoice of \$187.50 (paid from retainer) and Barley & Snyder invoice of \$2,575 for Professional Services for the Zoning Hearing.

Committee Reports: There were no Committee reports.

Correspondence: Mark Grosz of Dark Sky of Pa called Mrs. Zimmerman to set up a meeting with Council to discuss safe street lighting options. Mrs. Smith noted Council cannot not meet separately without advertising as a public meeting and at this time, on advice of the Solicitor, Council will not meet with Mr. Grosz.

Old Business:

- Review of McLaughlin's Energy Service for a Generac 26kW air cooled standby generator totaling \$17,706.66. Mr. Bucher wants to know if the gas meter from the street will need to be replaced. Mrs. Zimmerman has not heard back from McLaughlin's at this time on the meter. Mrs. Smith said the bush out front will need to be removed to make room for the generator. She also noted that Mrs. Zimmerman has reached out to Freedom Landscapes to get a quote on removing the current bushes and replacing them with something smaller and more symmetrical for the front of the building. Council tabled the matter until the gas meter question is answered.
- Covered Device Recycling scheduled for Saturday, April 25th and Saturday, October 24th from 8 – 11 a.m. Council was in agreement with the above listed dates for the Covered Device Recycling event.
- American 250PA – We had the first paint/craft night and it went well. The next one is scheduled for Tuesday; June 16th and Mrs. Zimmerman will be making a red and white hydrangea wreath.

New Business:

- Mrs. Cline made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sites and approved by unanimous acclamation, Council voted to change the time of the Council meeting on the first Wednesday of the month from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- Council agreed to purchase two of the cheaper signs and five of the more expensive clean up after your pet signs. Mr. Sites suggested installing some on the traffic signs.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Anything for the Good of the Borough –

- The mayor questioned if anyone else missed trash pickup on Monday. Everyone stated they had their trash collected although it was a little later than usual.
- Mrs. Gilbert is concerned with the budget. She would like to know where the money is coming from to pay for the back up generator. Mrs. Smith shared how much was in each account. A lengthy discussion followed.

Next Meeting: The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment: On a motion by Mr. Pileggi, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 5:27PM.

Dianna Zimmerman, Secretary

Phyllis Gilber, Council Vice President