Hawley Borough Council Meeting

January 2, 2024 7:11 pm

94 Main Avenue

Present from Council were President Monaghan, Vice President Herzog, and Councilpersons Dougherty, Faubel, Hawk, and Rojas. Councilperson Mead was present via zoom due to illness. Also present were Mayor Nichols, Chief Drake, Director of Public Works Mead, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public was Peter Becker of TriCounty Independent. President Monaghan began the meeting with a salute to the flag.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously to approve the agenda with flexibility.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed with four yes to approve the December 11, 2023 meeting minutes. Councilperson Dougherty abstained because he had been absent due to family reasons. President Monaghan abstained because she had been out of town for work. Councilperson Hawk abstained because he was not on council in December.

Correspondence: on file.

Motion: made by Councilperson Faubel, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to pass Resolution 2024-1 setting the millage for 2024.

Public Presentations to Council: None.

Treasurer’s Report: not yet available. Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Faubel to pay the bills as on the bill list. Vice President Herzog pointed out that the Myer’s Land Maintenance bill to the Park Department for $950 for tree work had been omitted from the bill’s list. Motion: amended by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Faubel, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list with the addition of the Myer’s $950 bill.

Planning: President Monaghan reported that the commission had met that evening at 6:30pm to restructure. Chair: Lou Cozza, Vice: Ann Monaghan, Secretary: Megan Whitty. Marie Riberio and Mark Nordenhold are interested in filling the empty vacancies. Councilperson Hawk resigned from the Planning board because if he stayed there would be too many Councilpersons. His resignation was accepted unanimously. The vacancies will be advertised. In February, the Planning Commission will bring recommendations to Council.

Rental: Councilperson Mead said the landlord letters are ready and will be sent out this month.

Ambulance: Vice President Herzog reported that nothing had been received from Comm Center and that PPH would meet at the end of the month.

Fire: Chief Mead gave reports for December and for 2023, on file.

Hawley Area Authority: President Monaghan reported the 2024 budget had been set and that rates will go up for the **first time in ten years.**

Zoning: reports from SFM on file.

Park and Rec: no meeting.

Grants: Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to deposit the $5,000 reimbursement check from the levee grant into the account used for other grants and that the $20,000 from the road went into, to be used for matching funds for grant projects.

Vice President Herzog read from the bid specs for the bandstand repair project that the missing stones were to be provided at the landing. Councilperson Rojas said that the Building Inspector had made that change. Vice President Herzog said that a change order should have been done at that point. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to authorize the engineer to meet with the contractor.

Emergency Management: Councilperson Hawk aid that Hawley’s work on the multi-municipal ambulance was well spoken of at the November meeting.

Mayor: Mayor Nichols spoke about parked cars being in the way of snow removal. He presented the original minute book of Hawley Borough, dated from January 1884. Peter Becker, the county Historian, will examine it before it goes to the Wayne County Historical Society.

Finance: Councilperson Faubel had nothing else to report.

Police: Vice President Herzog gave the report, on file.

Chief’s Report: Chief Drake gave the report, on file. He announced that the paperwork was being done for a new officer, Mitchell Spritzler, who is retired from the Philadelphia Police Department.

Streets: report sent by Director Mead, on file.

Building: nothing to report.

Health and Welfare: the ice rink liner is ripped. If it will hold water, signs will need to be posted.

Unfinished business: Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Hawk, and passed unanimously to authorize the change of signature cards at the bank.

Vice President Herzog expressed concern about D&M repairing the spillway. Councilperson Faubel spoke about 408 Bellemonte and Council agreed that it was a civil matter.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas to adjourn. The time was 8:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary