Hawley Borough Council Meeting

October 11, 2023 7:00 pm

94 Main Avenue

Prior to the meeting there were two executive sessions regarding personnel. Present from Council were President Rojas, Vice President Faubel, and Councilpersons Bartleson, Dougherty, Herzog, Mead and Monaghan. Also present were Mayor Nichols, Chief Drake, Director of Public Works Mead, Solicitor Bernathy, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were Bob Myers, Ed Ahern, Rebecca Castimore, Bill Delling, Duane Austin, Dean Johnson and Peter Becker of TriCounty Independent. President Rojas began the meeting with a salute to the flag.

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

Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to accept the September 13 minutes.

Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to approve the County’s request to use the Borough building as a polling place for the November 7 election.

A request for snow removal bids was advertised. President Rojas opened the only bid received. The bid was from E. R. Linde: 2 triaxle dump trucks at $127 per hour per truck, 1 ton truck with plow and spreader at $127 per hour per truck, and a three and a half cubic yard loader including labor for $145 per hour. A four-hour minimum will be charged for each call out. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to accept the bid from E. R. Linde for snow removal as needed.

Public Presentation: Bill Delling spoke about the area around the recycling roll-offs turning into a quagmire when it rains.

Non scheduled comment related to the agenda: Ed Ahern spoke about dumping at Maile’s on River Street. Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to use a post to chain off the Maile’s access on River Street. Duane Austin spoke about her sidewalk and driveway. Scott said he is on his third contractor looking at it.

Treasurer’s report: Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to accept the Treasurer’s report. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list.

Planning: Councilperson Mead deferred to Councilperson Monaghan who then reported that the Planning Commission recommended that Council schedule a conditional use hearing for Barker Street LLC. Motion: made by Councilperson, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to schedule a conditional use hearing for Barker Street LLC on Monday, November 13 at 6:30pm. Councilperson Monaghan said that Planning is looking for a new member to replace one that moved away.

Rental: Councilperson Mead had nothing to report. SFM did not do any rental inspections last month.

Ambulance: The reports are on file. November is the next PPH meeting.

Fire: Chief Mead gave the report, on file.

Hawley Area Authority: Councilperson Monaghan said they were working on the budget.

Zoning and Building: report on file.

Code Enforcement for property maintenance: on file.

Park and Rec: Councilperson Dougherty said they had discussed putting a chain across to prevent dumping at Mailies.

Grants: President Rojas said that a $1,543.32 MRM dividend check was received. Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to approve payment number 3 for the Fire Department grant.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to approve reimbursement #2 for the bandstand repair in the amount of $76,601.61. The first portion will be paid by grant money , the rest will be from the loan.

Emergency Management: nothing to report.

Mayor: Mayor Nichols swore in Zachary Mead as a new Police officer.

Solicitor’s report: Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to set December 13 at 6:30 for a hearing for an ordinance for the taking of the Flora Stevenson estate.

Finance: Vice President Faubel said that the papers for the bandstand repair loan would be ready to be signed.

Police Committee: They did not meet.

Chief’s report: Chief Drake welcomed Zachary Mead and said he would be a fine officer and an asset to the borough.

Streets and Roads: Director of Public Works Mead obtained an estimate for milling and filling Church Street from the bridge to State Route 590. This is eighty-five feet long and estimated to cost $19,700.

Building: nothing.

Health and Welfare: Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to purchase two Zoll AED units from American AED for $4,027 using MRM dividend money that has been set aside for this purpose.

Personnel: nothing to report.

Unfinished business: Nothing.

New Business: Councilperson Herzog will contact Vacation Visitor Bureau, the grant source for park pillar repair and planter directional signs, to ask for an extension.

Public comments: none.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary