Hawley Borough Council Meeting

December 13, 2023 7:00 pm

94 Main Avenue

Present from Council were President Rojas, Vice President Faubel, and Councilpersons Bartleson, Herzog, and Mead. Councilperson Dougherty was absent due to family reasons. Councilperson Monaghan was absent due to work reasons. Also present were Mayor Nichols, Chief Drake, Director of Public Works Mead, Solicitor Bernathy, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were Leslie Marro, Bob Myers, and Peter Becker of TriCounty Independent. President Rojas began the meeting with a salute to the flag.

Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed with Vice President Faubel abstaining, to accept the November 8, 2023 meeting minutes. Vice President Faubel abstained because he had been out of town that day.

Correspondence: KBA Engineering informed the Borough that DEP requested a Borough representative to attend a meeting with a few other parties regarding a potential development on bedrock. The meeting has not been scheduled yet. Councilperson Herzog said she might be able to attend.

Residents had sent letters regarding the Jan 10 Tannenbaum conditional usehearing.

The county is asking for assistance for their Jan 24 count of unsheltered people.

PSAB sent a notice that a recent court case has changed the understanding of how an agenda can be amended under the Sunshine Act.

Lisa Simmons sent a letter suggesting a giving tree in the park to make winter wear available to those in need.

Public scheduled comments: none.

Non-scheduled comments related to the agenda: none.

Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Vice President Faubel, and passed unanimously to accept the treasurer’s report.

Motion: made by Councilperson Bartleson, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list with the addition of from General: $180.89 for Police cell phones and $1,467 to YCG for calibration of Police vehicles in 2024.

Planning: Councilperson Mead reported that no meeting was held.

Landlord/Tenant: Motion : made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to have Solicitor Bernathy send letters to those who haven’t registered their rental properties in 2022 or 2023. Councilperson Mead would like a workshop for the rental ordinance before the 2024 rental registration letters are sent.

Rental Inspection: on file.

Ambulance report: on file.

Multi-municipal ambulance: Councilperson Herzog reported that no meeting had been held.

Fire Report: given by Chief Mead, on file.

Hawley Area Authority: sent by Councilperson Monaghan, on file.

Zoning/Building: two zoning permits, three building permits, two new complaints report on file.

Code Enforcement: report from Enforcement Officer Bolinger is on file.

Park and Rec: Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously based on Park and Rec communication to approve a playground communication board to be installed with the exact site to be determined. The Borough will be installing the board but will not be making the purchase. Councilperson Herzog thanked Director Mead for the bonfire and decorations.

Grants: President Rojas reported that there is a remaining balance of ten thousand on the safety grant. She spoke about funding park security cameras through a safety grant. No purchase can be made until the grant contract comes through. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to authorize signature of the contract based on the solicitor’s review and to move forward with the December 12, 2023 quote#10129 for $10,811.15 for park security cameras. This quote was from Kevin McCaffery.

Reilly Engineering made the recommendation that payment #5 be made to D&M for bandstand repair in the amount of $21,067.93. The engineer removed an amount from the pay request based on the work that still needs to be done. Due to this, the amount to be paid went from $41,000.32 to $21,067.93. Councilperson Herzog went over documents from March of 2023. The documents stipulated additional work was supposed to be done by D&M that had not been completed including stonework. President Rojas said that the engineer narrowed the stonework. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Vice President Faubel, and passed unanimously to make payment #5 to D&M for $21,067.93.

Mayor’s report: Mayor Nichols swore in new Officer Christian Robinson.

Solicitor: Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to pass Resolution 2023-7 for eminent declaration of the Flora Stevenson estate. This is being done for public purpose, perhaps a park.

Finance: Motion: made by Vice President Faubel, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to go with Brian T. Kelly Associates for the audit of 2023 for $5,000.

Motion: made by Vice President Faubel, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to raise the ambulance tax .1 mills to 0.1586 or $10 each year per each hundred thousand dollars of home value.

Motion: made by Vice President Faubel, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to approve the 2024 budget.

Police Committee: Report from Councilperson Herzog on file.

Chief’s report: Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to move forward with the Axon Enterprise Quote by purchasing three Axon Taser 10 for $15,568.50. This cost is spread out over five years and includes a master instructor course.

Streets and Roads: Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to purchase a leaf vacuum with PLIGIT funds. This will be used to keep storm water ditches and catch basins clear.

Building: Public Works Director Mead said that the generator needs looked at.

Health and Welfare: nothing to report.

Personnel: Motion: made by Vice President Faubel, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to approve the 2024 holiday list for employees. Motion: made by Vice President Faubel, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to approve the pre-employment drug test contract with Lake Region Urgent Care.

Unfinished business: none.

New Business: Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously that parking meters not be enforced from December 18 through January 2.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to approve these 2024 parade dates: Sunday May 26 for Memorial Day, Thursday July 4 for Independence Day, and Thursday October 31 for Halloween.

Vice President Faubel requested an executive session for personnel issues. Council went into executive session at 7:55pm. Council went back into regular session at 8:15pm. Councilperson Herzog discussed the Code Enforcement report. Motion: made by Councilperson Mead to adjourn. The time was 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary