Hawley Borough Council Meeting

May 10, 2023 7:17 pm

94 Main Avenue

Prior to the meeting, there was an executive session for litigation. Present from Council were President Rojas 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 Peter Becker of TriCounty Independent, Bob Myers, Nick Lataski of Kiley Associates. President Rojas began the meeting with a salute to the flag.

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

Motion: made by Councilperson Bartleson, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to accept the April 12 Ordinance 2023-1 minutes. Motion: made by Councilperson Bartleson, seconded by councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes from the April 12 Council meeting.

President Rojas reviewed the correspondence. The levee will be inspected on July 25.

There were no public presentations.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to accept the treasurer’s report. Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bill’s list.

Planning: Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to approve the A. M. Skier consolidation of three lots. Nick Latasky presented the deed. The motion was amended by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously that the A. M. Skier lot consolidation be approved conditional upon Solicitor Bernathy’s review.

Landlord/Tenant: Councilperson Mead gave the report, on file. There was a discussion regarding the fact that the ordinance gives the responsibility to the zoning officer for interactions with landlords regarding nonpayment for registration and failed inspections. Solicitor Bernathy suggested that the cost be negotiated with SFM. Vice President Faubel will review the finances.

Ambulance Report: Nobody was present from Lake Region EMS. Councilperson Herzog gave the report for the multi municipal ambulance, on file.

Fire Report: There is no report because the building was hit by lightening, damaging the computer.

Hawley Area Authority: There was not report.

Zoning/Building: on file.

Code Enforcement: on file.

Parks and Rec: Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to join with Keep PA Beautiful, for Diane Lewis to be the liaison, for them to adopt Hawley Borough Parks for clean ups, and to post one sign at the location chosen by Council. The Borough can terminate for any reason. Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to release five hundred dollars from the Park and Rec account to buy bunting and banners for the bandstand once the renovations are complete. Councilperson Herzog showed up a mock up of the “Bucks for the Bandstand” donation campaign.

Grants: Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to deposit the $15,000 from the county American Rescue Fund into the account that has $20,000 from Aqua. President Rojas has been in contact with the scheduler for the contractor that is repairing the bandstand and that work should begin this week. The executed contract for the spillway repair has been received and the work will probably be scheduled for August. The same contractor is doing both the bandstand and the spillway. There was a discussion regarding possible projects for an LSA grant with a July 1 deadline for applying.

Finance: nothing to report.

Police: report on file. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to keep the old Police Interceptor for DPW purposes or borough needs as required. The borough needs to have a policy and documentation about personnel using their own vehicles when going to conferences, etc.

Chief’s Report: on file. Chief Drake is still working on a carnival for 2023.

Emergency Management: nothing to report.

Mayor: Mayor Nichols said he gotten complaints about Highland Street and about the homeless man sleeping on benches.

Solicitor: Solicitor Bernathy made an adjustment to the Aqua easement. He argued the Tebbenhoff appeal last week. The judge should have an opinion soon. Councilperson Monaghan asked about the bonding and permit process for road posting. Solicitor Bernathy recommended the borough have a committee to move forward on this issue. Councilperson Monaghan and Mayor Nichols will be that committee.

President Rojas displayed the certificate of achievement from DEP for the levee for 2022.

Building: Councilperson Bartleson said the generator had been serviced.

Health and Welfare: nothing to report.

Personnel: Motion : made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan and passed unanimously that two employees be advanced to the new rate as previously agreed.

Unfinished business: there was none.

New Business: the Zoning Hearing Board needs to have another alternate appointed. There was a brief discussion regarding Blue Ridge Cable’s request to renew.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan to go into executive session. The time was 8:00pm. Council went back into regular session at 8:22pm.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to reach out to the Comm. Center to say closest available and to de-designate Lake Region EMS.

Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to reach out to SFM to get rates.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously for Solicitor Bernathy to reach out to Duane Austin to make corrective action on her sidewalk.

There was a discussion on expenses for the bandstand renovation and celebration. Councilperson Mead will be seeking input on a letter she is drafting to SFM regarding a $130 charge on a rental inspection invoice.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan to adjourn. The time was 8:29pm.