Hawley Borough Council Meeting

June 14, 2023 7:00 pm

94 Main Avenue

 Present from Council were Vice President Faubel and Councilpersons Dougherty, Herzog, Mead, and Monaghan. President Rojas was out of town and Councilperson Bartleson wasabsent for health reasons. 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, Duane Austin, Phil Dux, Dick Briden, Ed Ahern, Fran Spinelli, and Preston Ehrler of Blue Ridge TV. Vice President Faubel began the meeting with a salute to the flag.

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

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed with four yes to approve the minutes from the May 10, 2023 Council meeting. Vice President Faubel abstained because he was absent for the May meeting.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to ratify the following votes:

To appoint P. J. Dougherty as an additional alternate for the zoning hearing board (yes-7).

To authorize sale of food during the July 29 bandstand celebration event (yes-6, no-1 Councilperson Dougherty)

To authorize signature for payment request of $46,761 for Fire Department project, funds come from grant (yes-7)

Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to accept the USDA letter informing of the rehabilitation plan for four dams.

Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to accept the PA PUC letter informing of Aqua’s approval to alter the public crossing for underwater carrier pipes.

The discussion regarding updating the yard sale form was tabled.

Public presentation: Dick Briden and Phil Dux spoke about pedestrian safety on Park Place. Councilperson Herzog said this had been discussed at the Police Committee meeting and that the road would be re-posted. Chief Drake said the speed trailer would be placed there at times and the Police would try to curb the problem.

Duane Austin asked about the progress on repairing her sidewalk. Solicitor Bernathy said that President Rojas had more information.

Preston Ehrler of Channel 13 news filmed while he asked questions regarding Lake Region EMS going out of business.

Councilperson Herzog gave the multi municipal ambulance report, on file. Penn Ambulance will be running out of the borough building by later this month.

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

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan to pay the bills as on the bills list with the amendment of these out of PLIGIT: Atkinson Materials is now $58.12 and Wayco is now $1,085.86.

Planning: Councilperson Mead gave the report, on file.

Landlord/Tenant: Councilperson Mead gave the report, on file. Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty to allow Lori to make the first step in enforcement to landlords that haven’t followed the ordinance with registration and inspections with all actions to be in writing.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously for $8,750 to come out of the ambulance escrow account for PPH. The annual fee will be $17,000.

Fire Report: given by Chief Mead, on file. He noted that work on the bandstand began today.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to seek approval to reallocate the public safety grant to purchase an undercover Police vehicle for $46,750 plus $17,369.81 for unfitting and $5,850 for Park security cameras.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to apply for the LSA grant based on the list given by President Rojas in the amount from $100,000 to $150,000.

Motion: Made by Councilperson Monaghan that the $2,500 check from Aqua be used for repair of streets and roads as needed. Motion amended by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously that the $2,500 goes into the general funds to be used for projects as needed.

Solicitor’s report: Solicitor Bernathy reported that on May 3rd he argued before the Wayne County Court of Common Pleas the zoning hearing board decision. He said that the Zoning Officer should take additional enforcement action on the garage.

Finance: Vice President Faubel had nothing to report.

Police Committee: Councilperson Herzog’s report is on file.

Chief’s Report: On file. Chief Drake thanked all who helped with the Memorial Day Parade.

Streets and Roads: Director of Public Works Mead sent the report, on file.

Building: Councilperson Bartleson had nothing to report.

Health and Welfare: Councilperson Herzog spoke about PPH.

Personnel: Councilperson Dougherty asked for an executive session regarding personnel.

Unfinished business: There was none.

New Business: none.

Public comments: Fran Spinelli asked about The Vault, a new private club in Hawley.

Council went into executive session at 8:05pm. Council went back into regular session at 8:09pm.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan to adjourn. The time was 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary