Hawley Borough Council Meeting

August 13, 2025, 7:00pm

94 Main Avenue

Present from Council were President Monaghan, Vice President Herzog, and Councilpersons Dougherty, Hawk, Mead, and Rojas. Councilperson Faubel was absent for medical reasons. Also present were Chief Drake, Director of Public Works Mead, Solicitor Weed, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were David Chicoski, Jesse Chicoski, Bob and Michele Myers, Tyler Dennis, and 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 Mead, and passed unanimously to accept the agenda with flexibility.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed anonymously to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2025, Council meeting.

Correspondence: From Paul Kameen which goes with Outdoor Town; from Lennie James regarding the railroad crossings; and from FEMA the certification letter and adjustments to flood zones which Michele will discuss later, on file.

Public presentation: David Chicoski asked about his road, which he noted that the borough had been maintaining for over thirty-five years. He was still waiting for correspondence on this. Solicitor Weed maintained his opinion that it was a driveway and not a road and said that he had circulated a letter to Council. Tyler Dennis of 116 Bellemonte also spoke. Mr. Chicoski wants on record that his son did not swear at the last Council meeting

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

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by councilperson Rojas, and passed unimously to pay the bills as on the bills list.

Mayor’s report: Mayor Nichols had nothing to report. He thanked everyone involved in National Night Out and mentioned that the borough should be preparing for America 250 and Lake’s 100th anniversary.

Parks and Rec: They did not meet because they didn’t have a quorum.

Planning: President Monaghan gave the report. The people who bought the Blue Lagoon attended with a conditional use application requesting that they be allowed to tear down the two dilapidated structures and replace them with fourteen units. There is more than adequate parking. They had also bought the McGinnis property. The units will be two-bedroom, one bath and each have laundry facilities. Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to schedule a conditional use hearing for this on September 10th at 6pm.

Rental Inspections: Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously to give three more delinquent landlords to Solicitor Weed for enforcement.

Ambulance and Multi Municipal Ambulance: Vice President Herzog said that both reports are on file.

Fire Report: Chief Mead gave.

Hawley Area Authority: President Monaghan said that the report is on file. There is a meeting on August 28 at 10am with DEP regarding Munich and every other project. President Monaghan and Solicitor Weed will attend. The 537 Plan will be discussed. Currently, none of the Authority’s projects are able to do anything until there is an updated 537 plan.

Zoning Officer and Building Code Official: no report.

Property Maintenance: Report on file. Code Enforcer Bolinger is asking for the property maintenance ordinance to be changed because chronic offenders know that the current ordinance allows them thirty days to come into compliance. People are clearing up within thirty days but a few months later, the property is a mess. Solicitor Weed will research if that can be changed to fifteen days.

Grants: Councilperson Rojas said that the borough was approved for a change of scope for the county block grant and she is working with the consultant who is working with the grant sponsor to get approval for the engineering to be covered. She then spoke about the levee accreditation. The borough has to maintain the levee and keep residents aware of changes. The borough got the levee certified and passed on to FEMA accreditation. FEMA says they have received the letter and are in the process of examining. If the borough hadn’t taken these steps, all of the property owners would be in the flood risk label, and this affects insurance and selling property. Some people are no longer in the hundred-year flood area; they are in the five-hundred-year flood area instead. The new flood zone map becomes official December 22, 2025. Councilperson Rojas will be passing the information to Solicitor Weed so he can determine the borough’s responsibility for the press release.

Emergency Management: Councilperson Hawk said that there will be a training session.

Solicitor’s updates: Solicitor Weed had written a letter to Mr. Chicoski as to what the borough is responsible for maintaining. He is working on the eminent domain. He presented a draft ordinance to Council regarding water haulers.

President Monaghan and Public Works Director Mead have been researching town wide alarm systems.

Finance report: nothing.

Police Committee report: Vice President Herzog said that the Police need two new computers and a printer. Chief Drake is getting prices.

Police Report: Chief Drake thanked everyone who helped with National Night Out and mentioned that the community yard sale is approaching.

Streets and Roads: Director Mead’s report is on file.

Building: Councilperson Mead said that the county board of elections had checked the polling area for safety, and it passed.

Personnel: Nothing.

Unfinished business: Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to authorize a press release for FEMA map update.

New Business: President Monaghan asked if anyone would like to plan the 911 ceremony.

Public comment: Bill Messenetti spoke about the conversations he has had about Awareness Skate Park with elected officials and a DCED representative.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to go int executive session regarding litigation and personnel.

Council went back into regular session at 8:48pm.

Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Vice President Herzog, that we send letters to the Novobilskis and Brian Hayes to let them know that this is a civil matter.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead and passed unanimously to send Solicitor Weed’s letter certified to Chicoski and neighbors. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously for the amended letter to go to Duane Austin.

The meeting adjourned at 8:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andre Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary