Hawley Borough Council Meeting

May 14,2025, 7:00pm

94 Main Avenue

Prior to the meeting there was a public presentation from PennDot regarding replacement of the bridge that carries Route Six over Middle Creek .

 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 Mayor Nichols, Chief Drake, Director of Public Works Mead, Solicitor Weed, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were Bob Myers, Duane Austin, Ed Ahern, Grant Genzlinger, 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 Dougherty and passed unanimously to accept the agenda with flexibility.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2025, Council meeting.

Correspondence: Hawley LLC is working through the DEP permit process. The tax claim sent notice about a River Street property. Google Maps wanted to know if Council wanted the inside of the building filmed. Reilly Engineering sent a letter regarding the retaining wall.

Public Presentation: Joe Sernio was scheduled but did not appear. Mayor Nichols reported that Mr. Sernio had decided not to film in Hawley.

Duane Austin asked if a solution had been found regarding her sidewalk. Solicitor Weed had prepared a letter, which he said was based on Solicitor Bernathy’s file and gave it to her. She said that she would have to speak to her attorney.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously to ratify the email vote to open the short term CD for the skate park.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to ratify the phone vote to have the engineer review McCarthy’s stormwater proposal.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to ratify the phone vote to apply for the historic grant for America 250, with the borough as a pass through.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously to approve the treasurer’s report and to pay the bills as on the bills list.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously for President Monaghan to sign the Dime Bank form to keep the levee grant account open.

Mayor’s Report: Mayor Nichols reported that the American Legion had donated five hundred dollars each to both the Police Department and Park and Rec and will be donating five hundred to the Fire Department.

He asked if the bridge can be named after the man who died on it during the 1955 flood, but that is Penndot property.

Park and Rec: Councilperson Dougherty thanked Justin Hoffmann for helping to revitalize the community garden and to Wallenpaupack Church for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Planning: Councilperson Mead reported that Planning didn’t meet.

Rental Inspections: report on file. Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously for Solicitor Weed for enforcement against Russ Ehmke, a landlord who has not complied with the ordinance.

Ambulance Report: on file.

Multi-Municipal Ambulance: Vice President Herzog reported that PPH didn’t meet.

Fire Report: Chief Mead gave the report, on file. He said that the burn ban had been lifted.

Hawley Area Authority: President Monaghan said there was no report.

Zoning Officer and Building Code Official: on file.

Code Enforcement for Property Management: from Code Enforcer Bolinger, on file.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Hawk, and passed unanimously for Solicitor Weed to follow up on the property with the wall falling down.

Grants: Councilperson Rojas reported that the skate park grant has been submitted.

The county has given the green light for the Highland/Cedar. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to approve the Reilly engineer contract for Highland and Cedar when it is prepared. Councilperson Rojas explained that the way the grant is set up, all the funds go to construction. Council can ask if that can be modified to less construction so that engineering will be covered by the grant. The project is $36,000 so engineering would be $3,600.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to request that the county do the paperwork to include the engineering be taken from the grant account for the Highland and Cedar project.

Next, Councilperson Rojas spoke about the Academy Street project. The county held a public hearing regarding the change of the street to be paved. The county is asking for a cost estimate and a letter saying that this will have a ten-year useful life. The time used to be a seven-year useful life. Councilperson Rojas will do the benefit narrative and will take pictures. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to ask the county to do the paperwork in which construction for the Academy Street project will be reduced and the money moved over to the engineering.

The People, Parks, and Community Foundation grant: Director Mead spoke to Leeward about using compressed material for the Bingham Park parking lot but this would lead to more dust. They suggested a grade change. He was unable to get a quote because regrading the slope would have to be researched. Councilperson Rojas said that everything had to be in by May 30 for this grant.

Vice President Herzog spoke about the America250 grant. The borough is just a pass through for this one. The Borough will pay the invoices probably out of Park and Rec and be reimbursed. She had forwarded the Lackawaxen River Trail Memo of Understanding to Solicitor Weed. She said that there is also a Historic Trails grant. Vice President Herzog reported that the borough had received the PMVB grant for $10,000.

Solicitor’s Report: Attorney Weed had received the MOU from Attorney Henry. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously for President Monaghan to sign the Memo of Understanding with Palmyra Township, Pike County. This is regarding the Gorge Trail and Solicitor Weed had written on it about crosswalks. Grant Genzlinger spoke up and explained that Scott is going to paint the crosswalks and that this is being paid for by Palmyra Township, Pike County. At this point Ed Ahern asked about signs on the walking path that tell people to turn around.

Emergency Management: Councilperson Hawk said that there was no report.

Solicitor’s report: Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Hawk, and passed unanimously to move forward with the changes in the trail Memo of Understanding with Palmyra, Pike County. President Monaghan will sign this.

Solicitor Weed reported that he is working on liens, the eminent domain, and had met with Anthony Waldron. When he mentioned that he had called the game commission again, Council told him that he could stop trying to reach them.

Finance: audit update: The borough is up next.

Police: Chief Drake gave, on file. He announced that Officer Petti is now a certified car seat technician. He said that there has been an increase in mental health calls and also warned everyone about scams.

Streets and Roads: Director Mead was thanked for taking such good care of the borough that there was no flooding. He said that he had looked at the Highland Street concerns from Noreen King and that the borough had also cleaned out some of the Palmyra Township drains.

Building: Councilperson Mead had nothing to report.

Health and Welfare: Vice President Herzog had nothing to report.

Personnel: Councilperson Dougherty had nothing to report.

Unfinished Business: Councilperson Rojas spoke about bandstand maintenance.

New Business: nothing.

Public Comment not related to the agenda: None.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Hawk, and passed unanimously to go into executive session. The time was 8pm. Council went back into session at 8:46pm.

Motion: made by Councilperson Hawk, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to direct Solicitor Weed to act on anything spoken about in executive session. Council adjourned. The time was 8:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary