Hawley Borough Council Meeting

January 8, 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 Mayor Nichols, Chief Drake, Director of Public Works Mead, Solicitor Weed, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were Mary Sanders, Lea Peoples, Bob Myers,Steve Wanamaker, Mary Ann and Dick Teeter, Tom Colbert, BillMesseneti, Brian Hayes, Edward Wiersilis, Linda Arnoul, Jerry Arnoul, Lani and Tony Sambucca, Peter Becker of TriCounty Independent, and Liam Mayo of the River. President Monaghan began the meeting with a salute to the flag.

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

Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed with five yes to accept the minutes from the December 11 Council meeting. Councilperson Dougherty abstained. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed with five yes to accept the minutes from the December 23 ordinance meeting. Councilperson Mead abstained.

Mayor Nichols presented certificates of appreciation to Councilperson Michele Rojas, Mary Sanders,and LeaPeoples for providing prizes for the Easter Egg Hunt and Halloween and to Scott Mead and Councilperson Becky Mead for running Movies in the Park.

Mayor Nichols said that people have told him how beautiful Hawley looked during the holidays. He recognized: Linda Arnoul, Jerry Arnoul, Mary Ann and Dick Teeter, Lani and Tony Sambucca, Bob Myers, Jeff Swanick, and john Reid.

Mayor Nichols presented a certificate of appreciation to Chief Drake for the Giving Tree he runs each year to give presents to local children.

Correspondence: on file: PSAB notice of 2025 bidding thresholds, broadband, and a mosquito notice from Monroe County Vector Control. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to table the 2025 engineering quotes until the February meeting. President Monaghan noted that the February 12 meeting would start at 6:15pm for an executive session regarding personnel.

Public Presentation: Brian Hayes spoke about the problems he has been having with motor vehicles and pedestrians trespassing on his property at 331 Rowe Street. This has been increasing, and he has put a chain across an egress. He explained that the Police would have to drive around. There was a discussion about how emergency services could access it. Solicitor Weed asked about the chain of title. Mr. Hayesis going to contact an attorney about that. President Monaghan said that the issue would be tabled until next month so that Chief Drake and Chief Mead could ascertain if emergency vehicles would be able to access the area.

Tom Colbert spoke about the increase in the borough deer population. He had been in contact with the Game Commission. He wanted Council to consider their sharpshooter program. Solicitor Weed talked about expense, liability, and the balance between where we live and wildlife. He said he would reach out to the Game Commission.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead and passed unanimously to accept the Treasurer’s Report. The balance of the General account was $78,759.02.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list with the addition of out of General: $36.51 to Palmyra Township, Wayne County for motor vehicle fines and $1,776.00 to YCG for calibration for the Police.

Mayor’s Report: Mayor Nichols performed one wedding last month.

Park and Rec Commission: Councilperson Dougherty had nothing to report.

Planning Commission: Councilperson Mead said that there had been no meeting and so there was no report.

Rental Inspections: report on file. Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Vice President Herzog to raise the rental registration fee from twenty-five to thirty per unit. The motion and passed with five yes and from Councilperson Rojas one no.

Solicitor update: Solicitor Weed said that he has been playing phone tag with Solicitor Henry regarding the tail MOU. He is also trying to meet with Solicitor Bernathy to be brought up to speed on other issues.

Ambulance: reports on file. Vice President Herzog said that there were 308 calls in the borough in 2024.

Fire Report: Chief Mead gave the report for December and for 2024, on file.

Hawley Area Authority: President Monaghan explained that the board was made up of five members who serve: one from Palmyra Township, Wayne County and four from Hawley Borough. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Mead and passed with four yes votes to reappoint the following to the Hawley Area Authority for a five-year term: Lou Cozza, Kevin Hawk, Ann Monaghan, and Kevin Palan. President Monaghan and Councilperson Hawk abstained from the vote.

Zoning Officer and Building Code Official: reports on file.

Code Enforcement for Property Maintenance: report on file.

Grants: Councilperson Rojas announced that the Borough levee system had received accreditation from FEMA. This had required specialized engineering and a lot of documentation, but it was necessary. Otherwise, the borough would have been mapped as a special hazard. This would have impacted flood insurance rates for residents and in turn, affected their ability to sell their homes. She asked Solicitor Weed to investigate if there was a warranty on the culvert pipes.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas and seconded by Councilperson Mead to pay the Reilly Engineering invoices except for invoice number five, which wasfor Church Street paving. Jim Martin was looking into the possibility of that invoice being covered by a grant. Vice President Herzog wanted to table the payment approval until February because some of them were from 2023. President Monaghan asked Solicitor Weed to look into if lot consolidations and simple subdivisions need to be sent to the engineer or if the county’s planning department recommendations were enough. Councilperson Rojas pointed out that Reilly had done some work for no charge. Councilperson Dougherty mentioned that Reilly was asked in May to send bills, but they hadn’t so maybe they need to be asked again to improve billing. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas to pay the Reilly Invoices except for invoice #5, which might be covered by a grant. President Monaghan called for a vote by roll call: Dougherty: yes, Hawk: No, Herzog: no, Mead: yes, Monaghan: no, Rojas yes. Mayor Nichols was called upon to break the tie. Mayor Nichols: yes.

Finance Report: none.

Police: Vice President Herzog mentioned the need to look for funding for equipment and personnel. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Hawk, and passed unanimously to approve the following events and street closures: for the Wally Lake Fest Car Cruise- Church Street from Main to Penn August 23 from 1pm to dusk, for the Hawley Harvest Hoedown – Keystone Street from Main to Penn and Church Street from Main to Penn October 4&5 including overnight from about 2am Saturday to 6pm Sunday. She then listed the 2025 Parades: from Downtown Hawley Partnership the Winterfest Parade December 13 lineup 10am, step off 11 am Spring Street down Main to Bingham Park. The Hawley Borough 2025 Parades: Memorial Day May 25 lineup noon, step off at 1pm Riverside Park down Main to Bingham Park. July 4th lineup 11 am, step off at noon Spring Street down Main to Bingham Park. Halloween: October 31, line up for a step off at approximately 5:15pm from corner of Church by the Ridge Restaurant down Main to Bingham Park.

Chief’s Report: on file.

Streets and Roads: on file.

Building: Councilperson Mead said that an electrician was coming to repair the electric panel.

Personnel: Councilperson Dougherty had nothing to report.

Health and Welfare: Vice President Herzog spoke about the Homeless Count later in the month.

Unfinished business: The Broadband Readiness Program was tabled until next month.

New Business: none.

Public Comments: none.

Motion: made by Councilperson Mead to adjourn. The time was 8:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary