Hawley Borough Council Meeting

October 12, 2022 7:00pm

94 Main Avenue

Present from Council were President Rojas, Vice President Faubel, and Councilpersons Bartleson, Herzog, Monaghan, and Sanders. Councilperson Dougherty had asked to be excused because he was out of town. Also present were Chief Drake, Mayor Nichols, Solicitor Bernathy, Director of Public Works Scott Mead, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were Rebecca Mead, Ed Ahern, Duane Austin, Dean Johnson, Mike Novatnak, Matthew Smith, Judy and Gordon Potratz,Ken Morrison of Lake Region EMS, and Peter Becker of the Tri-County Independent.

President Rojas began the meeting with a salute to the flag.

There was a moment of silence in honor of former Mayor Ann Morgan, who had been Mayor of Hawley for twenty-eight years. Mayor Nichols gave a proclamation in her honor declaring October 21, 2022 as Ann Morgan Day and encouraging everyone to perform acts of kindness in her memory.

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

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to accept the minutes from the September 14, 2022 regular meeting.

Motion: to ratify the unanimous vote to authorize the solicitor to pursue a writ of execution against Settler’s Real Estate, LLC. Motion: to ratify the unanimous vote to authorize the solicitor to file an injunction against Settler’s Hospitality Group LLC.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to allow the Borough building to be used for voting on November 8, 2022.

The Borough received notification regarding the Route 6 bridge rehab.

Duane Austin asked when her driveway was going to be repaired. Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to go forward with Duane Austin’s driveway and engage a contractor as soon as possible.

There were no unscheduled comments related to the agenda.

Motion: made by Vice President Faubel, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Motion: made by Vice President Faubel, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list.

Planning: Councilperson Sanders explained that Planning did not meet due to nothing on the agenda.

Rental: Councilperson Bartleson had nothing to report. SFM’s rental report is on file.

Ambulance: Ken Morrison of Lake Region EMS gave the report, on file. Councilperson Sanders noted that the multi municipal ambulance report is on file.

Fire Report: Chief Mead gave the report, on file.

Hawley Area Authority: Councilperson Monaghan said the report is on file.

Zoning/Building: SFM’s report is on file.

Property Maintenance: Code Enforcer Ralph Bolinger’s report is on file. Ed Ahern said that the bear problem has been resolved.

Park and Rec: Councilperson Herzog said they did not meet and that she would try to get an extension for the skate park mural grant.

Grants: President Rojas reported that the Borough was approved funding for bullet proof vests. The LSA paperwork has been submitted. The levee conduit inspection report was received.

Emergency Management: No report.

Mayor’s Report: Mayor Nichols shared that there will be a Veteran’s Program in Bingham ParkonNovember 11 at 11:11 AM.

Solicitor’s Report: Solicitor Bernathy reminded Council to review the Short Term Rental draft ordinance he had provided. He will double-check the easement for the Aqua waterline project. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously for Solicitor Bernathy to send a letter to the railroad regarding the condition of the road along the rail line. Street bonding is tabled until more information is obtained.

Finance: Vice President Faubel announced that the audit of 2021 had been completed and filed with DCED.

Police Committee: Councilperson Herzog said the new Police vehicle would be here soon.

Chief’s Report: Chief Drake gave, on file. He would like to hire another officer soon. The Halloween Parade lines up 5pm and steps off at 5:30pm.

Streets: Road Master Mead’s report is on file. The Borough will advertise for snow removal bids to be opened at the November meeting.

Building: Councilperson Bartleson reported that the furnace had been serviced.

Health and Welfare: Councilperson Herzog reminded everyone to be cautious driving due to trick or treaters and deer.

Personnel: This was discussed under Police.

Unfinished business: There will be a conditional use hearing regarding 219 River Street October 24, 2022 at 7pm. Councilperson Herzog noted that the group that wishes to film in Hawley in the spring has been in contact with her.

New Business: Chief Mead declared that leaf burning can be done from October 1 to January 1 except on major holidays, not on windy days, not on blacktop and must be done with caution.

Jeffrey Rorbak of Penndot can do the bids for the repair of the two sinkholes along Route 6. The tractor will need new tires soon.

Public Comments: There were none.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to adjourn. The time was 7:34pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary