Hawley Borough Council Meeting

October 13, 2021 7:00pm

94 Main Avenue

Prior to the meeting there was a workshop regarding the inter municipal ambulance agreement.

Present from Council were President Monaghan, Vice President Herzog, and Councilpersons Bartleson, Dougherty, Faubel, Ferrara, and Rojas. Also present were Corporal Bertholf, Mayor Hawk, Solicitor Bernathy, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were Peter Becker of Tri County Independent, Jim Dougherty, Bob Myers, John Nichols, Matthew Smith, Duane Austin, Ann Johnson, Dean Johnson, Justin Hoffman, Joe Sciarrino, Meghan Whitty, Franklyn Paul, and Kristin Krauss.

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

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

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty to accept the minutes. Motion: amended by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty to accept the amended minutes by including that the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers recommended considering reducing the size of the island and fixing the concrete crack by Cora’s.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously to approve Wayne County’s request to use the Borough building for the November 2nd election.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Ferrara, and passed with one no cast by Councilperson Dougherty, and six yes, to send a courtesy letter to Palmyra Township, Wayne County to inform them that the borough will not be participating in or requiring approvals for the proposed solar farm because only a small part of the lot is in the borough and the township is the taxing entity.

Justin Hoffman gave an update on development at Grant’s Woods.

Park and Rec: Trick or Treat will be held from 4pm-8pm on Halloween. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Ferrara, and passed unanimously to authorize Trunk or Treat organized by Meghan Whitty to be held in Bingham Park on Halloween from 2pmto 4:30pm with confirmation by the borough’s insurance carrier and using a participant form modified by Solicitor Bernathy. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and approved unanimously to approve the Skate Jam organized by Franklyn Paul for Halloween from 2pm-5pm after confirmation from the borough insurance carrier and rules in the flyer.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Ferrara, and passed unanimously to continue if necessary the November 3rd hearing for Settlers, and if withdrawn that the Borough can recoup costs.

Treasurer’s report: Motion: made by Councilperson Faubel, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to accept the bills list with the addition of bills from General: from Luhrs $55.77 for primer, screws, socket, Mander Safety and Fire: $ 234 for annual service of fire extinguishers, and $363 on the credit card for Norton, street trash bags, truck fuel, and bathroom supplies.

Motion: made by Councilperson Faubel, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously with noting that Richard Mellow bill should be reimbursed by the person who hit the streetlight after the Police Department provides the insurance information.

Rental: nothing to report.

Ambulance: reports from Commonwealth and Lake Region EMS are on file.

Hawley Area Authority: report on file.

Zoning: emailed, on file.

Property Maintenance: nothing to report.

Grants: Councilperson Rojas announced that the borough was awarded $160,000 for the Welwood Avenue paving project. The grant does not cover engineering. The engineer estimates the total cost of the project will be $180,485. The borough will have to make up the difference.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to accept the 2021 County Block Grant for paving Welwood. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to authorize President Monaghan to sign the thank you for the County Commissioners for the grant.

Councilperson Rojas spoke about additional funding that might be available for spillway repair and towards the ambulance and other projects to prepare for and prevent pandemic. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to authorize Councilperson Rojas to ask the grant provider about funds to narrow the island that has been built up by sediment and was noted by the Army Corps of Engineers. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to authorize Councilperson Rojas to explore potential paving projects.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously for the borough to restore the resident’s paved area and resident’s driveway that might not be restored by Aqua’s contractor. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog , and passed unanimously to amend the motion with whatever our engineer determines as restoration work that would fall within the borough, that we do.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Ferrara, to authorize Solicitor Bernathy to deal with the breach of contract with Aqua and Leeward. Motion: amended by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Ferrara, and passed unanimously to authorize Solicitor Bernathy to do what he needs to do to resolve the situation including reaching out to the other engineer.

Levee certification: Nothing to report.

Emergency Management: Training will be November 10th.

Mayor: Last month he performed four weddings and two vow renewals.

Solicitor: Made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to reconvene the Purdytown LLC conditional use hearing, to advertise, to retain the stenographer, and to provide notice to the attendees. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to schedule the Purdytown hearing for 6pm on November 10th.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Ferrara, and passed unanimously to approve the inter-municipal ambulance agreement with Palmyra Wayne and Paupack Townshipbased upon incorporating five proposed suggestions: what is to be done with any surplus/profits, using $35,541.18 from the ambulance escrow, change the budget due date from October 1 to September 1, fundraisingto be accounted forand deposited into a singular account,and change the name so it is not similar to Lake Region EMS.

Finance: Budget workshop will be October 26, at 6:30pm.

Police: Vice President Herzog said that the Police need to replace bulletproof vests. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Rojas,and passed unanimously to approve sending Corporal Aaron Bertholf to mandatory control and defense training November 15 & 16 including $598 for training, the two-night hotel stay and fifty dollars a day for meals.

Chief’s report: Corporal Bertholf gave the report.

Streets : Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to advertise for snow removal bids.

Health and Welfare: nothing to report.

Building: nothing to report.

Landlord: nothing to report.

Personnel: nothing to report.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously to adjourn. The time was 8:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary