Hawley Borough Council Meeting

November 10, 2021 7:10pm

94 Main Avenue

Prior to the meeting, the Hoffman Rowe Street conditional use hearing was convened.

Present from Council were President Monaghan, Vice President Herzog, and Councilpersons Dougherty, Faubel, Ferrara, and Rojas. Councilperson Bartleson was absent due to illness. Also present were Chief Drake, Mayor Hawk, Solicitor Bernathy, Director of Public Works Mead, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were Peter Becker of Tri County Independent, Jim Dougherty, Bob Myers, John Nichols, Matthew Smith, Duane Austin, Dean Johnson, Mary Sanders, Bob Myers, and Jack Robertson.

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

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

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to accept the October minutes. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Faubel, and passed unanimously to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously to pay the ARP fee out of the American Rescue Fund. Motion: made by Councilperson Faubel, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list.

Planning: Councilperson Rojas gave the report, on file.

Rental: nothing to report.

Ambulance: Vice President said Commonwealth reported 23 calls in October. Report on file.

Fire: Chief Mead gave, on file. Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Rojas and passed four to two; Vice President Herzog and Councilperson Faubel voted against, to allow leaf burning effective immediately until the end of the year with the following conditions: must not be done on windy days, must be attended, done during the day, on your own property, following the burn ordinance, and no burning on the street.

Hawley Area Authority: report emailed, on file.

Zoning: President Monaghan gave the report, on file.

Code Enforcement: President Monaghan read the report, on file.

Park and Rec: Councilperson Dougherty gave the report. The committee approved a 2017 Augello bill for excavation for the bathroom sewer hookup.

Grants: Councilperson Rojas gave the report, on file. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to adjust the scope of the Paupack Street project as stated on the change order. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to authorize the signing of the change order. There was discussion regarding Leeward’s paving project for Aqua and its effects on residents. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Faubel, and passed unanimously to go into executive session later to explore litigation regarding Leeward’s actions.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously that if there are excess funds once the project is completed we authorize our engineer to investigate and initiate process for county and contractor approval for a smaller project not surpassing funds that remain, potential projects to be considered: paving Church Street, addressing storm water issues at the base of Academy and Welwood section or a project related to or supporting near Paupack Street that falls within the remaining funds.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to pursue the project of removal of sediment around the island and engage our engineer in providing an estimate. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to make sure we have the contract regarding the fire company grant and if not get it.

Levee certification: nothing to report.

Emergency Management: nothing to report.

Mayor: Mayor Hawk performed four weddings. He made a proclamation for Small Business Saturday.

Solicitor: Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously to put the old truck on munibid for $5,000.

Finance: Motion: made by Councilperson Faubel, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to approve advertising the 2022 budget. General funds: $480,700, PLIGIT: $42,000, Parks & Rec: $9,000, Fire: $19,000, Ambulance: $6,000.00. Motion: made by Councilperson Faubel, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to repay the tax anticipation note.

Police: Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty to approve the 2022 dates for parades, events, and street closures.

Chief’s Report: given by Chief Drake, on file. He thanked everyone who helped with Halloween.

Streets and Roads: Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to re-advertise the snow bids since no bids were received.

Health and Welfare: A professional recommended against purchasing a reconditioned defibrillator.

Landlord/tenant: nothing to report.

Personnel: nothing to report.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to get estimates for other projects mentioned.

Council went into executive session at 8:32pm and went back into regular session at 8:43pm.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to modify the street opening permit.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously to adjourn. The time was 8:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary