Hawley Borough Council Meeting

November 8, 2023 7:00 pm

94 Main Avenue

Present from Council were President Rojas, Vice President Faubel, and Councilpersons Bartleson, Dougherty, Herzog, Mead and Monaghan. Mayor Nichols was absent for medical reasons. Vice President Faubel was out of town. Chief Drake, Director of Public Works Mead, Solicitor Bernathy, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were Aleah Shook, Bob Myers, Ed Ahern, and Peter Becker of TriCounty Independent. President Rojas began the meeting with a salute to the flag.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to approve the agenda with flexibility.

Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to accept the October 11 regular meeting minutes. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed to accept the October 23 meeting minutes with Councilperson Herzog abstaining. She had been absent from that meeting due to illness.

Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to ratify the vote to award the Bingham pillar work to RCO in the amount of $7,000, with fifty percent coming from the Community Impact Grant.

Correspondence: Barker Street LLC requested a January date for their conditional use hearing. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to hold the Barker Street LLC Conditional Use Hearing on January 10 at 6:30pm and to at that meeting to also handle any other business that may come up and to hold the Reorganization meeting on January 2, at 6:45pm followed by the regular meeting.

Public Presentation: Aleah Shook, on behalf of the Lake Region Dock Foundation, presented two thousand dollar checks to the Hawley Fire Department, Park and Rec, and the Hawley Fire Department. There were no non-scheduled comments related to the agenda.

Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to accept the treasurer’s report. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to not pay the unemployment solvency fee for 2024.

Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list with the addition out of General of $1,300 for an invoice for June and July from Solicitor Bernathy and $198.28 to Schwarz for an oil change and tire rotation for a Police vehicle.

Planning: Councilperson Mead reported that the Planning Commission did not meet because the building was being used for the election.

Rental: Councilperson Mead reported that there are eleven inspections that still need to be done, nine of those are re-inspections. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously for Solicitor Bernathy to send letters to the landlords with overdue inspections. He will then provide the form to be used by the rental inspector going forward.

Ambulance: Reports on file. Councilperson Herzog said that Penn Ambulance is covering over ninety percent of the Borough calls.

Fire: Chief Mead gave the report, on file.

Hawley Area Authority: Councilperson Monaghan reported that there are fifty-four properties in arrears and about two dozen liens. Report on file.

Zoning: Report on file. Councilperson Herzog showed an example of the signs for the planters that will come from the Community Impact grant. According to the Zoning Officer, permits are not needed because they are directional and do not list business names. There was a brief discussion regarding ordinances that need worked upon.

Code Enforcement: report on file.

Parks and Rec: Councilperson Dougherty reported that

Grants: President Rojas had nothing new to report.

Mayor: Mayor Nichols was absent for medical reasons but had sent a message that he wants to follow up on garbage on Rt. 6.

There will be a tree lighting ceremony on November 24 at 6pm.

Finance: Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to advertise the proposed budget.

Police Committee: report on file.

Chief’s report: Chief Drake thanked everyone involved in the Halloween parade. Report on file. The AEDs have arrived. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to sell a Police Tahoe once a reasonable value for it has been attained.

Streets and Roads: Mead and Sorg are now certified for Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume. Report on file.

Building: Councilperson Bartleson had nothing to report.

Health and Welfare: Nothing to report.

Personnel: nothing to report.

Unfinished business: none.

New Business: none.

Public comments: none.

President Rojas requested an executive session for legal purposes. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to go into executive session. Council went into executive session at 7:41 pm. Council went back into regular session at 8:09pm. Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty to adjourn. The time was 8:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary