Hawley Borough Council Meeting

 November 9, 2022 7:00pm

94 Main Avenue

Present from Council were President Rojas, Vice President Faubel, and Councilpersons Bartleson, Dougherty, Herzog, Monaghan. Mayor Nichols was absent due to health reasons. Also present were Chief Drake, Solicitor Bernathy, Director of Public Works Scott Mead, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were Rebecca Mead, Bob Myers, Ken Morrison of Lake Region EMS, and Peter Becker of the Tri-County Independent.

Prior to the meeting there was a conditional use hearing regarding 219 River Street.

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

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

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously with one abstention from Councilperson Dougherty who was absent in September, to accept the September minutes.

Correspondence: Motion: madeby Vice President Faubel, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to accept with regret the resignation letter from Megan Whitty, Assistant Secretary, effective as of December 31, 2022. Councilperson Herzog noted that an executive session would be needed regarding personnel. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to accept with regret the resignation of Councilperson Sanders effective as of November 9, 2022. President Rojas said that if anyone was interested in being considered for Council to apply. Rebecca Mead expressed her interest and was told to submit a letter of interest.

Public presentation: Jim Shook and daughter Aleah Shook presented checks to the Fire Department, Police Department, and Park and Rec.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Motion: made by Vice President Faubel, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list and to pay new bills that may come up and to ratify them at the next meeting.

Planning: There was no meeting as there were no requests from the public.

Rental inspections: Twelve properties were inspected. Five were in compliance and approved and seven will need deficiencies corrected and will be re-inspected.

Ambulance: Ken Morrison of Lake Region EMS gave the report. Councilperson Herzog gave the PPH report, on file.

Fire Report: given by Chief Mead, on file.

Hawley Area Authority: Councilperson Monaghan sent the report, on file.

Zoning: Sent by SFM, on file. No building or zoning permits were issued.

Code Enforcement for Property Maintenance: report on file.

Park and Rec: Councilperson Herzog said an ice rink had been purchased and will be set up in Bingham Park.

Grants: President Rojas reported that the Borough has been allocated $36,258.26 from the County Development Block Grant towards Highland and Cedar. The proposed cost for this project is $175,608.81.

Emergency Management: Councilperson Sanders had attended the quarterly meeting.

Mayor’s Report: Mayor Nichols performed one wedding in October.

Solicitor: Solicitor Bernathy received a settlement proposal from Churchill Preservation and this will need to be discussed in an executive session. He had received court notice regarding Tebbenhof. None of the parties need more evidence. The Zoning Hearing Board has 30 days from October 31 to file, Tebbenhoff has ninety days to respond, and Solicitor Bernathy has thirty days after that to respond on behalf of the Borough. A May 3, 2023 hearing has been scheduled. Implementing the street opening ordinance and permit was discussed.

Finance: The total budget of all funds for 2023 is $574,920. Motion: made by Vice President Faubel, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to advertise the proposed budget. Tim Farrell is resigning from doing audits so Vice President Faubel has been researching potential auditors.

Police: Councilperson Herzog said the committee did not meet.

Chief: Chief Drake said the Tahoe is being up-fitted and that there are two officer applicants whose paperwork is being processed. Report on file.

Streets: report on file.

Building: The garage door will need repaired.

Health and Welfare: Councilperson Herzog had nothing.

Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed with one no from Vice President Faubel, to make leaf burning from October 15 through December 31 permanent.

Council went into executive session at 8:02 for litigation and personnel reasons. Council went back into the regular meeting at 8:35pm. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to adjourn. The time was 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary