Hawley Borough Council Meeting

December 14, 2022 7:12 pm

94 Main Avenue

Prior to the meeting Mayor Nichols swore in Rebecca Mead to fill the vacancy on Council created when Mary Sanders resigned. Prior to the meeting there was an executive session regarding litigation. Present from the Council were President Rojas, and Councilpersons Bartleson, Dougherty, Herzog, and Mead. Vice President Faubel was absent due to medical reasons. Councilperson Monaghan was absent due to work. Also present were Mayor Nichols, Chief Drake, Public Works Director Mead, Solicitor Bernathy, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public was Peter Becker of the TriCounty Independent.

President Rojas appointed Councilperson Mead to join Councilperson Dougherty on Landlord/Tenant and appointed Councilperson Bartleson to Personnel with Vice President Faubel. Mary Sanders and Kevin Hawk will continue to work together on Emergency Management. President Rojas announced that Planning has an open spot and encouraged the public to apply.

There were no public comments.

Motion: made by Councilperson Bartleson, seconded by Councilperson Herzog and passed unanimously with Councilperson Mead abstaining because she was not yet on Council, to approve the minutes from the November 9 Council meeting. Motion: made by Councilperson Bartleson, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty and passed unanimously with Councilperson Mead abstaining because she had not been sworn in yet, to approve the November 29 meeting minutes.

Correspondence is on file.

There were no public comments.

Motion: made by Councilperson Bartleson, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to accept the Treasurer’s report. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list with the addition of $1,290 out of general to YCG for 2023 calibration of the Police vehicles.

Planning Commission: nothing to report.

Rental Inspections: Seven passed and three failed. President Rojas reported that Lori of SFM said they had no problem using the Borough inspection list that has been in place for years.

Ambulance: Councilperson Herzog said she had not received a report from Lake Region. The PPH report is on file.

Fire: Chief Mead gave the report, on file.

Hawley Area Authority: report on file.

Zoning:

Property Maintenance: Mr. Bolinger should list on his report the property owner’s names.

Park and Rec: There was no meeting because there was not a quorum. Motion made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty and passed unanimously to approve use of the ice skating rink and to post a rules sign written by Solicitor Bernathy. Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to approve spending up to $200 for trail cams for the ice rink.

Grants: President Rojas explained that approval had been granted for the DCED grant as well as approval to change the scope of the project. The project will now be the bandstand repair. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to authorize the engineer to begin the bidding process for the bandstand.

Emergency Management: There was no meeting.

Mayor’s report: Mayor Nichols performed two weddings and one renewal of vows.

Solicitor: Solicitor Bernathy reported that most of this had been covered in the executive session. The easement for Aqua’s waterline project was discussed.

Motion: made by President Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to approve Solicitor Bernathy creating a resolution for Act 57 of 2022.

Solicitor Bernathy will write a letter regarding the Welwood parking lot.

Personnel: Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to ratify the phone vote to hire Nancy Morales as assistant secretary at $15 per hour.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to hire Michael Church as patrol officer at $17 per hour.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog and seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to accept as presented the 2023 holiday schedule for employees. Motion: made by councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to approve the 2023 holiday schedule as presented with the revision of dropping Easter Monday and making Easter Sunday double time.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to approve these 2023 hourly rates for the following Police Officers: Jaferis $20.50, Roa $20, Moser $21.50, Bertholf $23.50, Morgan $18, Rowan $19, Meter$15, Chief Drake: $32.

Director of Public Works said that assistant Chris D’Andrea would be leaving in early January. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to advertise the assistant position.

The request for 2023 snow bids had been advertised and only one bid, from E. R. Linde, had been received. President Rojas opened the bid: per hour: two triaxle dump truck each $127, one ton truck with plow and spreader $ 127, 3 and ½ cubic yard loader $145.

Finance: The auditor for 2023 was discussed. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to approve the 2023 budget as was advertised.

Police: Report on file. Mayor Nichols swore in Officer Michael Church.

Streets: Report on file. Director Mead said that Daymon Miller would continue to plow as needed at the same pay rate as before.

Building: Director Mead reported that he had re-shingled the shed to use it to store the ice rink.

Health and Welfare: Councilperson Herzog warned everyone to be cautious with the weather.

New Business: Parking on River Street was discussed because restaurant customers are causing parking issues including parking too close to the stop sign, parking on the bridge, and causing congestion. This safety issue will be referred to Zoning Office McCrory.

Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by President Rojas, and passed unanimously to appoint Elaine Herzog as President Pro Tem until the 2024 Reorganization meeting.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to go into executive session for litigation. Council went into executive session at 7:55pm. Council came back into regular session at 8:04pm.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to adjourn. The time was 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary