Hawley Borough Council Meeting

December 8, 2021 7:00pm

94 Main Avenue

Prior to the meeting, there was an executive session regarding personnel.

Present from Council were President Monaghan, Vice President Herzog, and Councilpersons Bartleson, Dougherty, Ferrara, and Rojas. Councilperson Faubel was absent due to personal reasons. Also present were Chief Drake, Corporal Bertholf, Mayor Hawk, Solicitor Bernathy, Director of Public Works Mead, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were Peter Becker of Tri County Independent, Rebecca Mead, John Nichols, Matthew Smith, Duane Austin, Dean Johnson, Douglas McCarthy, 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 Dougherty, and passed unanimously to accept the agenda with flexibility.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Ferrara, and passed unanimously to accept the minutes with the correction of adding under the Police Report “approved street closures and events”.

Correspondence was emailed, on file. Douglass McCarthy of 101 Falls Avenue spoke up and asked to be on next month’s agenda.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to accept the Treasurer’s report.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Ferrara, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list with the addition of $241 from the Police account for Police items.

Park and Rec: Mayor Hawk and his wife Debbie were thanked for purchasing the tree for the bandstand. Vice President Herzog spoke about a potential grant from the PA Historical Society to help repair the bandstand.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to request an extension from DCNR for a $70,000 grant that was begun the Bingham Revitalization Group.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to request change of project from ball field to bandstand. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to authorize the Borough engineer to estimate lighting, electric, and speaker for bandstand.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to authorize spillway work with ARP funding.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to begin the process including bidding using ARP funding. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to purchase computers for the office and Police using ARP funding.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to upgrade the internet and website using ARP funds.

Planning: Councilperson Rojas gave, on file. The discussion regarding 219 River Street was tabled until Attorney Waldron was available.

Rental: Inspector Corino emailed the report, on file.

Ambulance: Vic e President Herzog gave the reports from Commonwealth and Lake Region EMS.

Fire Report: Chief Mead gave, on file.

Zoning: President Monaghan read, on file.

Hawley Area Authority: report on file.

Code Enforcement: a complaint about a diesel truck left running on Chestnut was addressed.

Levee Certification: Councilperson Rojas said the FEMA engineer has completed the review and it looks good except two modeling items, which Aterra is in contact with them about.

P. J. Dougherty gave an update on the tennis/pickle ball court. The final close out shows a deficit of $12,000. This is probably in the design part of the project. The work is satisfactory. Wayco came in at the contract price. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Ferrara, and passed unanimously to pay Wayco for the tennis court.

Emergency Management: Mayor Hawk had nothing to report.

Mayor: Mayor Hawk oversaw the promotion of Corporal Aaron Bertholf, with the Borough for thirteen years from Corporal to Sergeant and the promotion of Patrol Officer Shanequa Moser, with the Borough for eight years, to corporal. Certificates were given to Chief Drake for 31 years with the Borough, Officer Jaferis for 18, Officer Morgan for 13, Officer Roa for 2, Officer Boyd for one and Racht for 17 with parking meters. Council presented Mayor Hawk with a plaque. Mayor Hawk thanked the residents, the Police Department, and the Council.

Solicitor: Solicitor Bernathy spoke about correspondence from the Liquor Control Board and the need for an ordinance workshop.

Finance: Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously to approve the 2022 budget.

Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously to pass Resolution 2021-7, setting the tax rates for 2022 the same as 2021: occupation 28 mills, general 4.785 mills, fire .325 mils, recreation .15 mils, street lighting .415 mils, ambulance.1 mills, $5.00 per capita.

Police: Vice President Herzog noted that Mayor Hawk would be missed.

Streets and Roads: Report on file. Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously to spend up to four hundred dollars to letter the new truck. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to spend up to $1,400 for amber flashing lights for the new truck.

One bid was received for snow removal. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to accept the bid from E. R. Linde: $98 per hr for triaxle dump truck, $110 1-ton truck with plow and spreader, $124 per hr for 3 ½ cubic yard loader.

Chief’s Report: Given by Sergeant Bertholf, on file. The Police continue to address speeding on Bellemonte. The Police Department presented a plaque to Mayor Hawk.

Building: nothing to report.

Health and Welfare: Vice President Herzog said the next ambulance meeting would take place on December 22.

Personnel: Councilperson Dougherty requested an executive session.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to advertise the January 3rd 6:30pm reorganization meeting, followed by the regular Council meeting at 7pm, and the regular meetings for 2022.

Duane Austin and Dean Johnson spoke about damage Leeward did to sidewalks while performing work for Aqua.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to authorize up to two thousand dollars for parts only including inlet and box and have Scott do the work.

Motion: Made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to regard as a potential ARP funding project the underwater balusters between the spillway and the island and to engage the Borough engineer to come up with an estimate for inspection to determine if repairs are needed.

Jim Shook presented to each Park and Rec, the Police Department, and the Fire Department checks for two thousand dollars.

Two local merchants spoke about displaying merchandise along their store sidewalks. They were encouraged to be part of the ordinance workshop.

Council went into Executive Session at 7:50 and went back into regular session at 7:55.

Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to accept with regret the resignation letter from Raymond Paquette.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to adjourn. The time was 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary