Hawley Borough Council Meeting

December 9, 2020 7pm

94 Main Avenue

Prior to the regular meeting there was a workshop regarding short term rentals.

Present from Council were President Monaghan, Vice President Herzog and Councilpersons Dougherty and Rojas. Councilpersons Bartleson, Faubel, and Ferrara were present via ZOOM. Also present were Mayor Hawk, Chief Drake, Director of Public Works Mead, Solicitor Bernathy, and Secretary Racht. Peter Becker of Tri County Independent, Jim Shook, and Bill Delling were present from the public. Present from the public via Zoom was Bob Myers.

The order of the meeting was altered in order to comply with occupancy requirements during Covid. Jim Shook presented $2,000 donations to each the Police Department, Park and Recreation, and Hawley Fire Department and left.

Planning: Bill Delling presented paperwork to be signed for his minor lot consolidation. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to approve the lot consolidation. Mr. Delling asked that the recycling area be repaired. Then he left. Councilperson Rojas reported that Lev Sigolor had come to Planning because he was interested in buying 628/630 Hudson Street. Planning informed him that because this is in R1 he would not be able to open a restaurant there.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously with the abstention of President Monaghan who was absent for medical reasons, to pass the November meeting minutes.

Motion: made by Councilperson Faubel, seconded by Vice President Herzog, 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 bills as on the bills list with the addition of $222.14 out of Generalto Highhouse Energy for Police vehicle fuel and $2,356.79 out of PLIGIT to Krempasky Equipment for tractor repair.

Rental: Inspector Corino had emailed the report, on file.

Ambulance: Vice president Herzog gave the report from Commonwealth, on file.

Fire: Chief Mead gave the report, on file.

Hawley Area Authority: President Monaghan had emailed the report, on file. The 2021 budget was passed.

Zoning: no report had been received from SFM.

Code Enforcement: Ralph Bollinger has addressed a few issues.

Grants: Reilly will coordinate with Aqua regarding street openings and paving projects.

Park and Rec: Councilperson Dougherty gave the report.

EMA: Mayor Hawk said that Wayne County put together a pandemic emergency action plan.

Mayor: Mayor Hawk performed one wedding in November.

Solicitor: Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously to approve correspondence forwarded to Attorney Magnotta regarding Tebenhoff putting them on notice. Solicitor Bernathy recommended scheduling an additional workshop regarding short-term rental at 6pm before the January meeting. Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously that if any more complaints come in regarding Tebbenhoff Solicitor Bernathy can filefor contempt.

Finance: Councilperson Faubel read the 2021 budget summary: General: $462,800, PLIGIT $42,000, Parks and Rec: $9,000, Fire: $19,000, Ambulance: $6,000. Councilperson Faubel explained that a balanced budget was required and that no one was able to give any recommendations on how to cut $30,000 from the budget. Motion: made by Councilperson Faubel, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed five to two with no from Councilpersons Dougherty and Rojas, to pass Ordinance 2020-1, raising the tax for general purposes by one-half mill. Motion: made by Councilperson Faubel, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to pass Resolution 2020-7 to take out a $50,000 Tax Anticipation Note from Dime Bank with 1.99 percent interest.

Police: the Police Committee did not meet in December.

Chief’s Report: Chief Drake gave the report, on file. He received three substantial donations towards helping local families for Christmas.

Streets and Roads: Director Mead had emailed the report, on file.

Building: Councilperson Bartleson thanked Scott for decorating.

Health and Welfare: Vice President Herzog reminded everyone to wash their hands and stay safe.

Landlord/tenant: Councilperson Ferrara reported that all apartments inspected last month passes without issue.

Personnel: Motion: made by Councilperson Ferrara and seconded by Vice President Herzog to hire Daymon Miller at thirteen dollars per hour, conditional upon clearances passing, for part time as needed snow plowing. After a brief discussion, Councilperson Ferrara and Vice President Herzog withdrew the motion. Councilperson Dougherty requested an executive session regarding personnel.

New business: Motion made by Councilperson Dougherty and seconded by Councilperson Rojas to amend the zoning ordinance to include political signs. After a discussion, Councilpersons Dougherty and Rojas withdrew their motion.

Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously to go into executive session regarding personnel. The time was 7:51pm. Council came back into the regular meeting at 7:55pm. Motion: made by Councilperson Ferrara, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to hire Daymon Miller, conditional upon passing clearances, at thirteen dollars per hour for part time as needed snow plowing.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary