Hawley Borough Council Meeting

 February 9, 2022 7:00pm

94 Main Avenue

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

 Present from Council were President Rojas, Vice President Faubel, and Councilpersons Bartleson, Herzog, Monaghan and Sanders. Councilperson Dougherty was absent. Also present were Chief Drake, Mayor Nichols, Solicitor Bernathy, Director of Public Works Mead, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were Peter Becker of Tri County Independent, Meghan Whitty, Lou Cozza, Ed Ahern, Kevin Hawk, Rebecca Mead, Jack Robertson, Bob Myers, Gene Krause, Tony Waldron, and Justin Genzlinger.

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

Motion: made by Vice President Faubel, seconded by Councilperson Sanders and passed unanimously to accept the minutes of the January 3 Reorganization meeting. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Vice President Faubel, and passed unanimously to accept the minutes from the January regular meeting.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Vice President Faubel, and passed unanimously to allow three minutes per person for public comment.

Correspondence: There was a violation on Cedar Avenue, a trip and fall over a store display and from a merchant a suggestion about a merchandise display ordinance.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to appoint Lori McCrory as Zoning Officer with Shawn McGlynn as alternate.

Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to appoint Attorney Mark Zimmer as the solicitor for the Zoning Hearing Board as needed.

Attorney Waldron and Justin Genzlinger spoke about the use of 219 River Street by Settlers Hospitality. Attorney Waldron will submit a curative amendment by February 18. Next, 240 Main, another Settler’s property was discussed. Attorney Bernathy and Waldron agreed that no land development was being done at that site. Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to direct the Zoning Officer to issue the proper permits. Attorney Waldron then spoke about Settlers property on Hudson Street.

Cara Jean Dougherty was not present to speak.

Megan Whitty spoke about the possibility of having an ice skating rink in Bingham Park. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to approve going forward on the process of a ice skating rink. The funds would be earmarked separately as the skate funds are handled.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Vice President Faubel, and passed unanimously to pass Resolution 2022-1 and 2022-2 to give permission for the Chamber of Northern Poconos to hang banners announcing their June and September Craft Fairs. The motion was amended by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by vice President Faubel, and passed unanimously that if the Chamber does not take down the banner within the time allotted the Borough will take it down and bill them.

Motion made by Vice President Faubel, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to accept the Treasurer Report. Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list.

Planning: Councilperson Sanders reported these positions for the Planning Commission: Lou Cozza –President, John Reid –Vice President, Megan Whitty – Secretary.

Rental Inspections: Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to pause inspections for thirty more days due to covid.

Ambulance: Councilperson Herzog gave. Commonwealth Health’s report is on file. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously that if the time comes and it is beneficial from a fiscal point of view to offer shared space with whatever regional ambulance company is formed.

Fire Report: Chief Mead gave, on file.

Hawley Area Authority: emailed, on file.

Zoning: President Rojas read the report from SFM, on file.

Property Maintenance: President Rojas read the report from Code Enforcer Ralph Bolinger, on file.

Park and Rec: The skate park was discussed.

Grants: Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously for President Rojas to sign the Kiley agreement for the Fire Department grant. The levee certification grant has eleven thousand left over. Aterra performed slightly over five thousand dollars worth of work but did not charge for it because it was not part of the contract. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to ask approval from the grant sponsor for this bill. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Sanders and passed unanimously to ask the grant sponsor if it is possible to direct remaining funds towards the spillway repair project.

Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by President Faubel, and passed unanimously to separate the twenty thousand dollars received for the water line Aqua/Leeward project into the storm water account.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to purchase two Zoll plus AEDs with add ons by using six hundred dollars from General Funds and the remainder from ARP funds with a total of up to five thousand dollars.

EMA: Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to pass Resolution 2022-3 approving the adoption of the updated emergency operations plan for Hawley Borough.

Mayor’s Report: Mayor Nichols encouraged the public to look out for each other, citing an incident when a man fell and lay in the snow for awhile before anyone noticed him.

Solicitor’s Report: motion: made by Vice President Faubel, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to pass Resolution 2022-4 authorizing a tax and revenue anticipation note maturing on December 31, 2022 in the amount of $35,000 at 1.39% interest from the Dime Bank.

Motion: made by Councilperson Bartleson, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to hold an ordinance workshop on March 23 at 6:30pm.

Finance: Vice President Faubel had nothing to report.

Police: Councilperson Herzog reported that the Police need a new vehicle in the next year.

Chief’s Report: given by Chief Drake, on file.

Streets: Road master Mead emailed the report, on file.

Building: motion: made by Councilperson Bartleson, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to approve the generator contract with Solicitor Bernathy’s corrections. Motion: made by Councilperson Bartleson, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to purchase water coolers for the Police and Council Room to cut costs.

Health and Welfare: Councilperson Herzog noted this had been covered already.

Personnel: Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to add New Year’s Eve as a double time holiday commencing after 6pm.

Council went into executive session at 8:25pm regarding personnel.

Council came back into session at 8:50pm. Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to advertise for a temporary assistant secretary for six months for twenty hours a week at ten dollars per hour. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to adjourn. The time was 8:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht