Hawley Borough Council Meeting

March 13, 2024 6:15 pm

94 Main Avenue

 The meeting began with a discussion on how to improve ordinance 2018-2, the current landlord/tenant ordinance. Present from Council were President Monaghan, Vice President Herzog, and Councilpersons Dougherty, Faubel, and Hawk, and Mead. Councilperson Rojas was absent due to illness. Also present were Chief Drake, Mayor Nichols, Director of Public Works Mead, Solicitor Bernathy, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public was Carolynn Hanel, Hank Keil, Bob Myers, and Peter Becker of TriCounty Independent. President Monaghan began the meeting with a salute to the flag.

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

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes for the February 14 meeting.

President Monaghan reviewed the correspondence: DCED Façade grant, DOT safety grant, and the Spring clean up. Vice President Herzog will callMonroeCounty Vector Control to ask them when they are in the borough and if they spray.

Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Hawk, and passed unanimously to approve the Borough building for the April 23 elections.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Hawk, and passed unanimously to ratify the phone vote to approve purchase of a used chipper from Clinton Township for $1,800.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to submit the Pocono Mountain Visitors Grant for $19,980. Vice President Herzog said that there would be less money available for the grant this year.

Public Presentation: Hank Keil was present representing St. Paul’s Lutheran Church.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Faubel, and passed unanimously to pass Resolution 2024-5 for about June 22-July 8 and 2024-6 for about July 22-August 16 authorizing the hanging of banners by St. Paul’s Lutheran Church to advertise their summer concert series.

Motion: made by Councilperson Faubel, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to accept the treasurer’s report. Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list with the addition out of General: $270 for First Alarm annual coverage and Solicitor Bernathy for $1,200 for November through February.

Planning: Councilperson Mead reported that there had been no meeting, due to lack of agenda items.

Rental inspections: report on file. Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously for Solicitor Bernathy to send letters to the twenty-nine landlords that haven’t yet registered.

Ambulance: the report from Vice President Herzog is on file.

Fire Report: Chief Mead gave, on file.

Hawley Area Authority: report from President Monaghan on file.

Zoning/Building: report from SFM on file.

Code Enforcement: report from Code Enforcement Officer Ralph Bolinger is on file.

Park: Grant Genzlinger went to the Park and Rec meeting to give an update on the trails. Geneva Dougherty had asked about a passable slope from the top of the River trail to the dog park. MattRinehardt spoke to them about the DEP requirement that the Barker St. LLC plant 920 trees on 2.1 acres because of the impact of their development.

Grant report: Councilperson Rojas was absent due to illness. Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Hawk, and passed unanimously to confirm the PLCB grant submission of $29,800. The first year is for $17,720 and is for purchase of two Breathalyzers, one Fatal Vision Alcohol Campaign kit, training, and enforcement patrols. The second year is for $12,080 and is for training and enforcement patrols.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog and seconded by Councilperson Faubel to pay the Reilly Engineering invoice for the bandstand project for $16,150 from the ARP account. Vice President Herzog said that she had asked during a zoom call for a list of dates when Reilly had been on site and had looked at the quality of the work being done. Vice President Herzog amended her motion to make the payment conditional upon getting the dates that were requested for the days when they were evaluating the work being done, for example, painting, and the status of the project when they were there. Councilperson Dougherty called for a vote by roll call. Dougherty: No, Faubel: No, Hawk: No, Herzog: No, Mead: No, Monaghan: No. President Monaghan will set up an executive session with Reilly Engineering and Council on March 26th at 5pm.

Emergency Management: Councilperson Hawk spoke about the county working on a new hazard mitigation plan to be ready in 2026.

Mayor: Mayor Nichols swore in new Police Officer Forrest Erway. He gave everyone on Council a copy of the 1884 minutes on flash drive.

Solicitor: Solicitor Bernathy had provided the Barker Street LLC decision to sign.

Finance: Councilperson Faubel said the audit was ongoing.

Police Committee: report on file from Vice President Herzog.

Chief’s report: report on file from Chief Drake. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to purchase six double sided crosswalk signs for a total of $2,396.46. He discussed a message trailer he was researching. Onyx, the new Wayne County Sherriff K-9 will be at the Easter egg hunt.

Streets: report from Director Mead is on file. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Hawk, and passed unanimously to rent a street sweeper for $1,800. Motion: made by councilperson Mead, seconded by councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to send Scott Mead and Greg Sorg to a flagger class at seventy-five dollars each.

Building: Councilperson Mead had nothing to report.

Health and Welfare: Vice President Herzog had nothing besides following up on Monroe County Vector Control.

Solicitor: Solicitor Bernathy has reached out to and recommends Jason Ohligerof the Milford based firm Ohliger andMcIntyre as alternate borough solicitor. Councilperson Dougherty recommended that Solicitor Ohliger meet with Council.

Vice President Herzog recommended that it be on record that the borough donated the original meeting minutes of Hawley Borough to the Wayne County Historical Society for its permanent archive and is not to be sold. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously that the borough will receive a spiral bound copy for approximately fifty dollars. This copy will say that the original was donated to the historical society.

New Business: Motion: made by Vice President Herzog seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to hold a borough wide yard sale on Saturday, August 31 from 9-5. On this day only, the yard sale permit fee will be waived. Chief Drake is still trying to find a carnival. Councilperson Dougherty asked if it is time to get the street line painting estimates.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog to adjourn. The time was 8:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary