Hawley Borough Council Meeting

March 9, 2022 7:00pm

94 Main Avenue

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

Present from Council were President Rojas, and Councilpersons Dougherty, Herzog, and Sanders. Councilperson Bartleson was absent due to personal matters, Councilperson Faubel was absent due to illness, and Councilperson Monaghan was absent for work reasons. 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, Christin Krauss, Ed Ahern, Rebecca Mead, Donald Roberts, Gene Resanski, Bryan Woroby, Carra Dougherty, Camile Sealey-Otero Dougherty, Dean Johnson, and Justin Genzlinger.

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

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to accept the agenda with flexibility.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes from the February 9 Tax Anticipation Note hearing. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to accept the minutes from the February 9 regular meeting.

Correspondence:

Public Presentation: Bryan Woroby discussed purchasing a lot in town to use for his bulk potable water hauling business. Council recommended a conditional use hearing.

Justin Genzlinger requested being on the April agenda regarding 219 River Street. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to schedule a zoning curative amendment for 219 River at 6pm prior to the April 13 Council meeting.

Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to accept the treasurer’s report. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list.

Planning: Councilperson Sanders gave the report on file.

Rental: Council had received a request to pause inspections for a longer period due to covid-19. There was a discussion as to why there was a procedure in place to inspect rentals every year. Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, to not inspect unless there was tenant turnover or complaint. Motion: amended by Councilperson Sanders seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to table the discussion.

Ambulance: The Commonwealth Health report was on file in the office. Christin Krauss gave the report for Lake Region EMS, on file. Councilperson Herzog gave the update on the multi-municipal. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to move forward on the modification to the inter municipal government agreement for the multi municipal ambulance.

Fire Report: Chief Mead gave, on file.

Hawley Area Authority: emailed, on file.

Zoning: report emailed, on file.

Code Enforcement: emailed by Enforcement Officer Ralph Bolinger, on file.

Park: Councilperson Dougherty emailed the report.

Grants: Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Herzog to sign the extension for the DCED grant. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to do phases for deducts for the DCED grant originally intended for the ball field but now for the bandstand and to authorize the engineer to give his opinion on the project.

American Rescue Plan: Motion made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to add President Rojas to the American Rescue Plan reporting system. Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to pursue the LSA grant for a Police car.

Levee Certification:

Emergency Management: Councilperson Sanders reported on the quarterly meeting. Hawley handed in the 2022 update.

Mayor’s Report: Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to allow Pike County Autism Support Services to put bows and information on the parking meters for the month of April.

Solicitor’s Report: Solicitor Bernathy is in the process of preparing a draft contract for 101 Falls Avenue.

Finance: Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to open a new bank account for depositing the $20,000 received from Aqua.

Police: Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to hire Lee Rowan as Police Officer on condition he meets all background requirements.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to install a security door for the Police side of the building using ARP funds as the first choice for payment and Police funds as second choice.. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to go aheadwith automatic vehicle locatorscovered by the County for the first year and covered by the Borough for $936 year two and three with the funds suing as a first choice ARP funds if eligible and as a second choice Police funds.

Chief: Chief Drake gave the report, on file. The Easter Egg Hunt will be April 9 at 10am in Bingham Park.

Streets and Roads: Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to accept the proposal by Kuharchik to repair the traffic light at Route 6 and Spruce for $3,200.

Building: The generator transfer switch has been installed.

Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to write a letter to the railroad company, with a copy to PUC, regarding complaints received about potholes in Welwood near the rails. The railroad, the Borough Roadmaster and engineer, and a representative from PUC had met. It was determined then that the railroad was responsible for potholes and drainage issues near the rails on Welwood and on Route 6.

Health and Welfare: nothing to report.

Personnel: Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to accept with regret Bill Delling’s letter resigning from the Park Department. Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to accept the pay rates as presented by Finance.

Old Business: nothing.

New Business: nothing.

Public comments: none.

Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to adjourn. The time was 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary