Hawley Borough Council Meeting

April 10, 2024 7:00pm

94 Main Avenue

 Prior to the meeting was an executive session regarding personnel. Present from Council were President Monaghan, Vice President Herzog, and Councilpersons Dougherty, Faubel, Hawk, Mead, and Rojas. Also present were Mayor Nichols, Chief Drake, Director of Public Works Mead, Solicitor Bernathy, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were Mike Miller of Tafton Ambulance, Duane Austin, Dean Johnson, Grant Genzlinger, and Peter Becker of the TriCounty Independent. 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 approve the agenda with flexibility.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog and seconded by Councilperson Faubel to approve the March 13, 2024 meeting minutes. This passed with Councilperson Rojas abstaining because she had been absent due to illness.

Correspondence: on file.

Public Presentation: Mike Miller asked that Tafton Ambulance be considered as an additional ALS provider. No action was taken at this time. Vice President Herzog noted that the PPH meeting had just been held last week.

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

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list with the addition of out of General $50 to Palmyra Township for motor vehicle fines and $63.48 to PPL for Keystone Street lighting.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to pay the Reilly Engineering invoice for the bandstand project for $16,150.00 out of the American Rescue Plan account.

Planning: Councilperson Mead had nothing to report because there had been no meeting due to lack of items on the agenda.

Rental: report on file. Councilperson Mead spoke to Solicitor Bernathy about the letters to landlords who aren’t in compliance with the ordinance.

Ambulance: on file.

Multi Municipal Ambulance: report on file. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to apply through the current LSA grant cycle combining with Paupack and Palmyra Wayne for money to purchase an ambulance. Paupack will take the lead on the grant. Vice President Herzog reported that as of April 2024, Hawley Borough’s allocation to PPH would be $24,000 annually. The Borough’s share of 6.42% will go from $17,500 to $24,000. Motion to approve the increase by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Faubel, and passed unanimously.

Fire Report: Chief Mead gave, on file.

Hawley Area Authority: on file.

Zoning Officer and Building Code Official: report from SFM on file.

Code Enforcement for Property Maintenance: Report from Code Enforcer Ralph Bolinger on file.

Park and Rec: Councilperson Dougherty gave the report. Grant Genzlinger spoke as a member of the Lackawaxen River Trail about a sojourn they are planning for the October 12 weekend. He believes that the liability for overnight campers in Bingham Park would be covered through the PA Rule Law Statute. The canoes would be packed up right away and sent on instead of stored in the park overnight. Lackawaxen River Trails would cover the park use fee. Solicitor Bernathy said that the Borough would have to be named as an additional insured. Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously if it meets with Solicitor Bernathy’s approval to approve use of Bingham Park on October 12. Motion amended by Councilperson Dougherty and seconded by Vice President Herzog to set quiet time for this event to begin at 9pm. Amendment passed unanimously.

Grants: Councilperson Rojas reported that the LSA grant board at their March 26, 2024 meeting approved the amendment to the Public Safety Grant. The Borough signed the electronic acknowledgement. Grant Consultant Jim Martin needs it to be in writing that the labor for the security camera installation does not have to be prevailing wage.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to deposit the $2,454.54 MRM trust dividend into the account used for grants. Councilperson Faubel noted that it was not a dividend but a refund. Motion amended by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously that if this money was not needed to finish paying the 2024 insurance then it would be deposited into the account used for grants.

Councilperson Rojas reported that fourteen community volunteers have signed up for the We Care Hometown Initiative and have assisted with community outreach to date.

Vice President Herzog announced that the Borough received a $9,990 Pocono Mountain Visitor’s Bureau grant for park beautification. The request was just under twenty thousand.

Grant Genzlinger said that the Lackawaxen River Trail would commit to fifty percent of the cost of the path from the dog park up to the levee. Grant will work with Scott and Michele to submit an application to the Pocono Forrest and Water mini grant. Grant will forward this application. It has an April 29 deadline. DEP submitted the drawing to Scott. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to submit an application to the Pocono Forest and Water mini grant not to exceed $ 9,000 for steps that are going up the levee from the dog park. Motion amended by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to base the project on approval from the Army Corps of Engineers.

Emergency Management: Councilperson Hawk had nothing to report.

Mayor: Mayor Nichols reported that the American Legion has authorized $2,500 for new Police vests and has pledged fifty dollars per month to the Fire Department.

Solicitor update: Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Hawk, and passed unanimously to approve updating amendments to the landlord/tenant ordinance at 5:45pm before the next meeting on May 8th. Solicitor Bernathy will get these to Council beforehand and will advertise. Solicitor Bernathy reminded Grant Genzlinger that no alcohol was allowed in the park. Solicitor Bernathy asked Councilperson Mead to send him the letters for non-compliant landlords. He said that he had sent a letter to Duane Austin regarding repairs. Duane said she did not receive it so he said he would resend it. Dean Johnson spoke about people walking in his yard, thinking it is part of the walking trail. Grant Genzlinger said that when the trail is completed the Lackawaxen Trail might have money to put up signs.

Finance: Councilperson Faubel said we are checking with the auditors to make sure they have everything they need.

Police: report on file. Vice President Herzog reported that the Police Committee would like the meter enforcement officer to be able to ticket for non-moving violations.

Chief’s Report: report on file. Chief Drake thanked everyone involved in the Easter Egg Hunt.

Streets and Roads: Motion: made by Councilperson Faubel, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to approve line painting to be done by Universal Pavement Maintenance for $7,781. This is the same price as last year. There was a discussion regarding the PUC, the railroad, and Penndot regarding potholes near the tracks. Solicitor Bernathy read from his phone a 2019 response from the state that said that the railroad is responsible for twenty-four inches beyond the rail.

Building: Councilperson Mead said we are still waiting on a phone proposal from Pentele Data.

Health and Welfare: Vice President noted that the speed trailer seems to be helping people to slow down.

Personnel: Council is planning on meeting with an alternative solicitor.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: none.

Public Comments that were unscheduled but related to the agenda: none.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty and passed unanimously to adjourn. The time was 8:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andre Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary