Hawley Borough Council Meeting

April 12,2023 7 pm

94 Main Avenue

Prior to the meeting a hearing for an ordinance for road posting was held and there was an executive session for personnel and litigation. Present from Council were President Rojas, Vice President Faubel, and Councilpersons Bartleson, Dougherty, Herzog, Mead, and Monaghan. Also present were Mayor Nichols, Chief Drake, Director of Public Works Mead, Solicitor Bernathy, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were Peter Becker of TriCounty Independent, Bob Myers, Mike Stankiewicz, Duane Austin, and Dean Johnson. President Rojas began the meeting with a salute to the flag.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to accept the agenda with flexibility. Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Vice President Faubel, and passed unanimously to acceptthe March 8 minutes with the correction provided by Councilperson Herzog of clarifying that the culvert Public Works Director Mead will photograph is the one by A.M. Skier by the spillway.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to accept the March 20 minutes.

Correspondence: Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead and passed unanimously to approve the boro building as a polling place for the May 16th election.

There were no public presentations.

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

Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan to pay the bills as on the bills list with the addition of $2,070 for a taser bundle from Axon to come out of the Police Account.

Planning: Councilperson Mead reviewed the discussion of the A. M. Skier lot consolidation.

Rental: Councilperson Mead reported that Nancy was doing a great job. There was a discussion regarding the inspection checklist but the decision was tabled until the UCC was looked at and expert advice was obtained. Inspector Kevin McCrory had been instructed to use the current list. There was a discussion about a bill from SFM that included a charge for a two-hour meeting between Kevin and Council and it was decided to hold off paying that bill until it had been discussed with SFM.

Ambulance: Mike Stankiewicz gave the report for Lake Region EMS. Councilperson Herzog sent the multi municipal report, on file.

Fire Report: Chief Mead gave, on file.

Hawley Area Authority: Councilperson Monaghan reminded everyone that grease should not be put down the sewer.

Zoning and Building: Motion: made by Councilperson Bartleson, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to direct zoning officer Lori McCrory to provide as part of her monthly report the name of the applicant, what work was being done, the address where the work is being done, and the cost if the permit was issued, to supply the report the Thursday before the Council meeting, and to keep all borough records in the building.

Property Maintenance: Code Enforcement Bolinger’s report is on file.

Grants: Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to authorize Councilperson Rojas to sign the documents to move forward on the repairs of the bandstand and the Middle Creek spillway.

Park: Jim Shook dropped off a check for the money left over from fundraising for the dog park. This is to be used for its upkeep. The fee for the basketball tournament was not waived. Councilperson Herzog talked about a “Bucks for the Bandstand” fundraiser. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously for President Rojas to tell Joe Durkin of Reilly Engineering to make no modifications to the original bandstand plans unless approved by Council. Councilperson Herzog asked if the grant consultant could look into grants to replace the diseased trees that were cut down in the park.

Emergency Management: nothing to report.

Mayor: At this point Mayor Nichols swore in Kathleen Petti as a new Police officer. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to approve Mayor Nichol’s use of the bandstand on August 26th from noon to 6pm for a concert. President Rojas spoke about the Ellingsen Family celebration for the community that will include a concert by the 23-piece band that played at the bandstand in 1932. This will be on July 29 from 10am-4pm. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to waive the fee for the Mayor’s August 26th concert and the July 29th Ellingsen Family community celebration.

Solicitor: Solicitor Bernathy has not heard back from Doug McCarthy’s lawyer. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to send a letter to Doug McCarthy and if there is no response in thirty days to remediate. The carnival contract was discussed and Solicitor Bernathy found it unacceptable.

Finance: Vice President Faubel reminded Solicitor Bernathy that the auditor needs a letter from him.

Police: The report was sent by Councilperson Herzog, on file. The Winterfest Parade will be December 9th.

Chief’s report: on file. The officers will be getting new bulletproof vests soon. Half of the cost will come from a grant and the remainder out of the Police Special Account.

Streets and Roads: Director Mead had sent the report, on file. Councilperson Monaghan discussed sign replacement.

Building: nothing to report at this time.

Personnel: nothing to report at this time.

Unfinished business: Motion: made by Vice President Faubel, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to authorize Chief Drake to put the old Police car on munibid and the agreed minimum bid is $5,400.

New Business: there was none.

Public comments: Duane Austin inquired about her sidewalk being repaired. Councilperson Rojas had emailed the borough engineer and would let her know when she hears back.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by President Rojas, and passed unanimously to adjourn. The time was 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary