Hawley Borough Council Meeting

April 13, 2022 7:00pm

94 Main Avenue

Present from Council were President Rojas, Vice President Faubel, and Councilpersons Bartleson, Dougherty, Herzog, Monaghan, and Sanders. Also present were Chief Drake, Solicitor Bernathy, Director of Public Works Scott Mead, Paul Menichello of Reilly Associates, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were Duane Austin, Dean Johnson, Rebecca Mead, Zach Mead, Rebecca Castamore, Matthew Smith, Mike Novatnak, Joseph Stenger, Kristin Krauss of Lake Region EMS, Brian Woroby, Donald Robertson, and Peter Becker of the Tri-County Independent.

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

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

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed with five yes and two abstentions (Vice President Faubel and Councilperson Monaghan who were not present at that meeting), to accept the minutes from March 9. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Vice President Faubel, and passed unanimously to accept the minutes from the March 23.

Correspondence: motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to allow the Borough building to be used as a polling place for the May 17 primary election.

Paul Menichello of Reilly Engineering spoke about the process of bonding Pike, Falls, and Paupack. He suggested a “do not block the intersection” sign be put up if Brian Woroby goes forward with his potable water project. Brian Woroby explained that there was a delay in his project due to requirements by Aqua and DEP and therefore he was withdrawing his request at this time.

Engineer Menichello spoke about possible solutions for a driveway and shoulder impacted by Aqua’s work on Paupack and Falls. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously for Engineer Menichello to provide Solicitor Bernathy with an estimate to mill the driveway and repair the shoulder.

Non-Scheduled Comments: none.

Personnel: Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Vice President Faubel, and passed unanimously to recommend hiring Rebecca Castamore for part time Park maintenance at 20-25 hours per week at $11.50 per hour. Motion: amended by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Vice President Faubel, and passed unanimously that all clearances must be secured and the drug test passed in order for the employment to be obtained.

Treasurer’s Report: motion: made by Vice President Faubel, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to accept the treasurer’s report. Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list with the addition of $2,070.00 to Axon Enterprise a taser 7 certification bundle.

Planning: Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to have a checklist to be signed off for any zoning, planning, or conditional use.

Rental Inspections: nothing to report.

Ambulance Report: Councilperson Herzog gave the Commonwealth Ambulance report that had been emailed, on file. Kristin Krauss gave the report for Lake Region EMS, on file. She asked if Council had taken into consideration appointing Lake Region EMS as BLS for the Borough.

Fire Report: Chief Mead gave, on file.

Hawley Area Authority: Councilperson Monaghan gave, on file.

Zoning: report emailed, on file.

Park and Rec: Councilperson Dougherty emailed, on file. Park and Rec had approved a letter of support for the Hawley Skate Park. President Rojas and Councilperson Herzog had a conference call today with Aqua regarding the letter received this week about a project the water company will be staging in Bingham Park, as well as several other Borough sites in 2023.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to have Solicitor Bernathy send a letter to the railroad and Penndot regarding potholes around the railroad tracks.

Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to ask for an extension for the LSA Levee Certification grant.

American Rescue Plan: President Rojas gave an update and will meet with the consultant soon.

Emergency Management: Councilperson Sanders had nothing to report.

Mayor’s Report: Mayor Nichols gave the report.

Solicitor: Solicitor Bernathy discussed the generator.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Vice President Faubel, and passed unanimously to expend the funding to move forward with bonding.

Finance: Motion: made by Vice President Faubel, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to upgrade the Quickbooks for accounting and payroll.

Police: Councilperson Herzog gave the report. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to approve the request to close Church and Keystone Streets from Main to Penn on October 1 & 2 for the Hawley Hoedown.

Streets and Roads: Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to purchase the items on the Streets list: a new tractor bucket, boots for the road master, and shirts for the public work crew. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously for Scott to replace any street signs or stop signs that need replaced.

Building: nothing to report.

Health and Welfare: nothing to report.

Personnel: already addressed.

Old Business: none.

New Business: nothing.

Public Presentation: Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to when requested to give a letter of support to Keith Corey regarding adaptors for water hydrants.

Council went into executive session at 8:20pm and back into regular session at 8:30pm.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to appoint Lake Region EMS as Primary BLS provider based on their continued compliance. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to appoint Commonwealth as nearest available BLS and primary ALS.

Council went back into executive session at 8:34pm and back into regular session at 8:50pm.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Vice President, and passed unanimously to have Solicitor Bernathy execute judgment on Settler’s property. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to pursue whatever needs to be done with Mr. Tebbenhoff for violation on the conditional use.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously for Solicitor Bernathy to send a letter to the owner of 220 Bellemonte to collect the rental inspection fee and to copy the landlord’s attorney.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to adjourn. The time was 8:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary