Hawley Borough Council Meeting

May 11, 2022 7:55pm

94 Main Avenue

Present from Council were President Rojas, and Councilpersons Bartleson, Dougherty, Herzog, Monaghan, and Sanders. Vice President Faubel was present via zoom for health reasons. Also present were Chief Drake, Mayor Nichols, Solicitor Bernathy, Director of Public Works Scott Mead, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were Duane Austin, Anne Johnson, Ron Bates of Aqua, Bob Myers, and Peter Becker of the Tri-County Independent.

President Rojas thanked everyone for their patience during the executive session following the zoning curative amendment hearing. The hearing was regarding 219 River Street. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan and seconded by Councilperson Herzog to approve the curative amendment with the modifications discussed at the previous time. The motion passed four to three with a roll call vote: Bartleson: N, Dougherty: Y, Faubel: Y, Herzog: Y, Monaghan: Y, Rojas: N, Sanders: N.

President Rojas began the regular Council 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 Monaghan, and passed unanimously to accept the minutes from the April 13 meeting with the addition of “Brian Woroby requested to withdraw his water transport application without prejudice.”

Solicitor Bernathy spoke about the time constraints Tri County Independent had put upon legal ads.

Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to approve American Legion Post 311 request for a coin drop on Main Avenue in front of Bingham Park on June 25 and August 27, 2022 with rain dates the following Sundays conditional upon Penndot approval.

Two separate complaints were received from residents questioning zoning use of 220 Cedar Avenue.

Correspondence was received from PSAB, DEP, NEPA, PMVB, and the Wayne County Legal Journal.

Ron Bates discussed Aqua’s 2023 new water line project. They will drill under the Lackawaxen River by the library and come out near the baseball backstop in Bingham Park. There will be a secured staging area in the park. The date is not certain.

Duane Austin asked about her sidewalk. President Rojas said the engineer and contractor did a site visit and it would be addressed. There were no unscheduled public comments at this time.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list.

Planning: Councilperson Sanders reported that Planning had discussed dining on sidewalks, if it was an extension of business and how the no outdoor alcohol consumption law would be enforced.

Landlord/Tenant: to be discussed under personnel.

Ambulance: Councilperson Herzog said that no report was received from Commonwealth health. She read the report from Lake Region EMS, on file. She gave an update on the Multi Municipal Ambulance meetings, on file.

Hawley Area Authority: Councilperson Monaghan had emailed the report, on file.

Zoning: Zoning Officer McCrory had submitted the report, on file.

Fire Report: given by Chief Mead, on file.

Code Enforcement: Councilperson Sanders shared Ralph Bolinger’s report.

Park and Rec: Councilperson Dougherty said that the Park Commission gave Councilperson Herzog permission to fill out the form to possibly get grant funding for the skate park mural. Franklyn Paul spoke about expanding the skate park from the current 50x100 to 125x65. Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to allocate space for this expansion.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to send an updated letter of support the Gorge Trail.

Grants: President Rojas met with the ARP consultant. ARP can be used for the spillway. Reilly will be bidding that out. A potential $36,700 USDA grant was discussed for a new Police vehicle.

EMA: Councilperson Sanders had nothing new to report.

Mayor: Mayor Nichols swore in Lee Rowan as Police Officer.

Finance: Vice President had nothing to report.

Police Committee: Councilperson Herzog discussed the problem with parking on River Street now that there is a restaurant at River and Main. Perhaps the engineer should look at eliminating the first parking space so line of site can be improved.

Chief: report on file.

Streets and Roads: Report on file. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to approve Universal Line Painting to do the crosswalks and stop bars for $6,278. This is under the bidding threshold of $11,800. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to have Penndot give an estimate for paving Barker Street from Wayne Avenue to Hawley Village.

Building: nothing to report.

Health and Welfare:

Personnel: There will be an executive session.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Public Comments: None.

Council went in to executive session at 9:15pm. Council went back into regular session at 9:40pm.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to authorize up to $2,000 to be spent to repair the damage done to Duane Austin’s driveway by Leeward working for Aqua for a water line project on Paupack Street.

Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to contact SFM Consulting about becoming the Borough’s rental inspector and if the cost is less than $150 per inspection to take them on in this position.

Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to accept Harry Corino’s resignation as rental inspector with regret.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Sanders, and passed unanimously to contact the engineer to move on the layout for the skate park expansion and the parking issue on River.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to adjourn. The time was 9:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary