Hawley Borough Council Meeting

June 10, 2020 7pm

94 Main Avenue

Present from Council were President Monaghan, Vice President Herzog, and Councilpersons Bartleson, Dougherty, Ferrara, and Rojas (who attended via zoom). Councilperson Faubel was absent due to personal reasons. Also present were Chief Drake, Zoning Officer P. J. Dougherty, Director of Public Works Mead, Solicitor Bernathy, and Secretary Racht. There was an executive session prior to the meeting regarding personnel. President Monaghan began the meeting with a salute to the flag. Present from the public were Ed Ahern, Rebecca Mead, Bob Myers, and Peter Becker of the Tri County Independent.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to accept the minutes from the May13 Council meeting.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to allow Ed Ahern to speak even though he was not on the agenda. He declined to speak at that time.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to accept the Treasurer Report. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Ferrara, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list with the addition out of the state road account of $1,540 to Scranton Craftsman for concrete boxes to help with drainage.

Rental: no inspections had been performed due to Covid-19.

Ambulance: 27 calls, report from Commonwealth Health, now on file.

Fire: report given by Fire Chief Mead, now on file.

Hawley Area Authority: emailed, on file.

Zoning: nothing to report.

Code Enforcement: nothing, position unfilled.

Planning: no meeting due to the Borough being a site for the primary election.

Grants: Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to pursue a grant for the identified portion of church Street with flexibility and to gather the required data.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to make an application for a DCED grant to repair the spillway.

Park and Rec: P. J. Dougherty gave the report. The tennis court project went back out for bid. A private grantor will make up the difference between the grant and the cost. He met with the PA Fish and Boat Commission regarding a launch area in Bingham Park. They will have the liability and it will be a designated PA fish and boat launch.

Emergency Management: Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to rescind on Monday June 15, 2020 the Hawley Borough Declaration of a State of Emergency.

Mayor’s Report: He performed two weddings last month.

Solicitor: The owner of Cora’s contacted him regarding proposed outdoor serving of alcohol on her ramp. His opinion is that she does not need a permit. Zoning Officer Dougherty saw nothing that impacted zoning.

Finance: Councilperson Faubel was not present.

Police: Vice President Herzog reported that the carnival and the July 4th parade had been cancelled for 2020. She explained that Penndot was not issuing the necessary permit for parades on state roads.

Streets and Roads: Emailed, on file.

Building: The furnace will be replaced.

Health and Welfare: There was no regional ambulance meeting due to Covid-19.

Landlord Tenant: Annette has sent up the non compliant landlord information to Solicitor Bernathy.

Personnel: Motion: made by Councilperson Ferrara, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to ratify the phone vote to hire as part time street person Austyn Bivins. Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Ferrara, and passed unanimously to hire Ralph Bolinger if he passes all clearances for $125 a month as Property Code Enforcer. Motion: made by Councilperson Ferrara, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously with the exception of Councilperson Dougherty’s abstention, to accept with regret P. J. Dougherty’s resignation as Zoning Officer effective after a transition period. Motion: made by Councilperson Bartleson, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously with the exception of Councilperson Dougherty abstaining, to approve Camille Sealey-Otero Doughertyto join as a new Junior Councilperson. Motion: made by Councilperson Ferrara, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously with the exception of Councilperson Dougherty opposing to change the office hours to Monday through Friday 9am-3pm.

Old Businesses: Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Ferrara and passed unanimously to allow census training in the building conditional upon approval by the insurance carrier.

Vice President Herzog requested an executive session regarding personnel.

Ed Ahern of 509 Welwood expressed his concerns regarding Cora’s Bistro’s proposed courtyard where people could be drinking alcohol and requested that a councilperson look at the card in their window regarding the PA Liquor Control Board.

Council went into executive session at 8pm and went back into regular session at 8pm: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Ferrara, and passed unanimously to adjourn. The time was 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary