Hawley Borough Council Special Meeting

June 26, 2023 5:00 pm

94 Main Avenue

 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. There was no one present from the public. President Rojas began the meeting with a salute to the flag.

President Rojas reported that the bandstand was more deteriorated than expected. The estimate to repair this is $46,459. Vice President Faubel looked into a loan from the Dime Bank. At this time, President Rojas had not yet heard the answer to Council’s request to the grant sponsor for an extension.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan and seconded by Councilperson Herzog based on getting the extension we go ahead and do the repairs at about $47,000. Motion: amended by Councilperson Monaghan and seconded by Councilperson Herzog to add getting a loan of $50,000 to pay for the repairs. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously that based on the contingency of getting an extension to proceed with completing the repairs with a loan of $50,000 and if the borough does not get the extension to proceed with the repairs after June 30 with the loan of $50,000.

There was discussion regarding creating a pocket park and on street parking at Welwood and Church where the first corner is owned by the borough and the adjacent piece is owned by the Flora Stevenson estate. The latter piece has thirty feet road frontage on Welwood. Neither the Hawley Area Authority nor Solicitor Bernathy has been able to get in contact with anyone in the estate. Solicitor Bernathy discussed declaration of taking. Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to get an appraisal for the Flora Stevenson property.

Councilperson Herzog asked about the status of the Watering Hole parking lot.

There was a discussion about a new Police vehicle and new security cameras for Bingham Park. This would be funded through an LSA grant. With this particular grant, the purchase has to be made first and then the borough is reimbursed. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to pay for the Police vehicle out of the general account and then to reimburse it with the LSA grant.

There was another discussion on the current bandstand repair. President Rojas and Director Mead will visit the site.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan to adjourn. The time was 6:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary