Hawley Borough Council Meeting

 June 8, 2022 7:00pm

94 Main Avenue

Present from Council were President Rojas, and Councilpersons Bartleson, Herzog, Monaghan. Vice President Faubel was absent due to family responsibilities and Councilperson Dougherty was on vacation. Councilperson Sanders was present via zoom due to illness. Also present were Chief Drake, Mayor Nichols, Solicitor Bernathy, Director of Public Works Scott Mead, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were Rebecca Mead, Ed Ahern, Kathleen Reichman, Will Wyckoff, Duane Austin, and Peter Becker of the Tri-County Independent.

Prior to the meeting there was an executive session regarding litigation.

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

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

Motion: made by Councilperson Bartleson, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to approve the May 2022 Council minutes.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to ratify the phone vote setting the fine for Settler’s Inn Realty LLC at $6,000 because there were zero votes for $1,500, four votes for $6,000, and three votes for $12,000.

Correspondence: There was clarification that TriCounty Independent does not require a legal ad be requested thirty days in advance.

Motion: made by Councilperson Bartleson, seconded by Councilperson to decline the MRM offer to have a panel of physicians.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to write a letter of support for Wallenpaupack School District in seeking a grant for paving.

Public Presentations: Duane Austin asked when her driveway and sidewalk repair would begin.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to cancel the zoom subscription and get a free account.

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

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list.

Planning: Councilperson Sanders gave the report, on file. Planning had received an internal drawing of 219 River. 314 River Street is being advertised for sale as a two family but should only be a one family. Zoning will look into this. Planning recommended a conditional use for applicant Bellemonte Realty for three 8 unit (24 units total) apartment buildings at the corner of Electric and Bellemonte.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to schedule a conditional use hearing at 6pm on July 13, 2022 regarding Bellemonte Realty’s request to build three 8-unit apartment buildings at the corner of Bellemonte and Electric.

Landlord/Tenant: No report. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to reduce the fee charged for rental inspections from $125 to $100 and to engage SFM Consulting LLC to do the inspections subject to Solicitor Bernathy’s review of the contract.

Ambulance: Councilperson Herzog read the report from Lake Region EMS and gave the report for the Multi-Municipal Ambulance meeting, both on file.

Fire Report: Chief Mead gave, on file.

Hawley Area Authority: no report.

Zoning: President Rojas reviewed the report from SFM, on file.

Code Enforcement for Property Maintenance: President Rojas gave the report from Code Enforcer Ralph Bolinger, on file.

Park and Rec: Councilperson Herzog gave the report. Downtown Hawley Partnership will hold a Cornhole Tournament and Lumberjack event in Bingham Park on October 1 & 2.

Grants: President Rojas reported that all the signatures had been completed on the DCED grant, they are waiting for the sponsor to process and the scope will be changed to the Bandstand. The sponsor is processing the LSA grant extension in which $5,000 would go to Attera for Levee work already performed and the remainder, about $16,000, would go towards the spillway repair.

President Rojas said it would cost $2,900 to complete the driveway repair on Paupack as milling is required and $500 to repair the curb on Falls. Avenue. Motion: made by Councilperson Bartleson, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to approve $3,400 for Paupack, and Falls curb and driveway restoration.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to apply for a USDA grant for a Police vehicle and taking the balance, approximately ten to twelve thousand, out of ARP funds.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to apply for a LSA grant to restore the bandstand. Motion amended by Councilperson Herzog, amended by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to include and approve engineer fees and to authorize the engineer to come up with a new estimate.

President Rojas announced that the MRM trust dividend received this year was $4,412.

Emergency Management: Nothing to report.

Mayor’s Report: Mayor Nichols discussed the 5k run against suicide.

Solicitor’s report: Solicitor Bernathy recommended the following corrections to the proposed street opening permit: correct typos, support PA One Call notification, use the language “hold harmless and indemnify the Borough”, make it mandatory to provide insurance and a surety bond for one year, and change “may” to “shall”. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to accept the street opening permit as amended by Solicitor Bernathy.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to meet on July 11 to vote on amended the landlord tenant ordinance and whatever else may come up.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to approve the right of entry for Paupack and Falls.

Finance: nothing to report.

Police: Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to approve seeking three bulletproof vests through the bulletproof vest grant.

Streets: report on file.

Building: Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to allow Troop 129 to use the bandstand to meet on Monday evenings if it is not otherwise reserved and to allow them to meet in the building at that time if needed due to weather.

Personnel: Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to accept with regret Annette Bolinger’s resignation from the assistant secretary position.

Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders and seconded by Councilperson Herzog, to advertise for an assistant secretary for twelve hours a week and that the minimum wage be $11.50 per hour no matter where one is working in the Borough. Motion amended by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to advertise for an assistant secretary for twelve hours a week at $11 per hr and after the 60-day probation an increase to $11.50.

Unfinished business: none.

New Business: Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to go with the copier lease including color.

Will Wykoff spoke about his concerns regarding crime in Hawley.

Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by President Rojas, and passed unanimously to install Ed Ahern as an alternate on the zoning Hearing Board. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to have Solicitor Bernathy attend the zoning appeals board hearing.

Chief’s report: Chief Drake thanked the veterans and everyone involved with the Memorial Day Parade. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to reach out to Tons of Fun to see if they can bring a carnival to Bingham Park for July third through ninth conditional upon insurance and the solicitor’s review.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to go into executive session regarding litigation and personnel. The time was 8:51pm.

Council came back into regular session at 9:14pm. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to adjourn. The time was 9:14pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary