Hawley Borough Council Meeting

July 10, 2024 7:00pm

94 Main Avenue

Prior to the meeting there was an executive session regarding possible litigation. Prior to the meeting there was also a hearing for Ordinance 2024-1, an ordinance of the Borough of Hawley, Wayne County, Pennsylvania regulating residential non-owner occupied units within the Borough by providing for an application and license and prescribing penalties for violation and repealing Ordinance 2-2018. Present from Council were President Monaghan, Vice President Herzog, and Councilpersons Dougherty, Faubel, Hawk, and Mead, and Councilperson Rojas. Also present were Mayor Nichols, Chief Drake, Director of Public Works Mead, Solicitor Bernathy, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were Bill Messeneti, Douglas Nahogyil, and Peter Becker of TriCounty Independent. President Monaghan began the meeting with a salute to the flag.

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

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead and passed unanimously to accept the June 12, 2024 meeting minutes.

Correspondence: None.

Public Presentations: none scheduled.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Faubel, and passed unanimously to accept the Treasurer’s Report.

Motion: made by Councilperson Faubel, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list with these additions: from General to Elan $383.25 and from Park: $252.19 for Movies in the Park.

Planning: Councilperson Mead’s report is on file. Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously to appoint Marie Riberio as a voting member of the Planning Commission. Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to authorize President Monaghan to sign the intent of Land Development Plan for Hawley Partners LLC. President Monaghan explained that this was on Barker Street. Planning made the recommendation to send to Reilly and the County the Hawley Sunoco Land Development and the lot combo of 79 and 80 at 232Bellemonte to Reilly Engineering and the County for approval.

Rental Inspection: Councilperson Mead noted that the new landlord/tenant ordinance passed earlier in the evening. President Monaghan said that Nancy should send the initial letters to landlords that are in violation of the ordinance.

Ambulance: The reports from Vice President Herzog and the Comm Center are on file. PPH will meet July 31. The LSA grant is moving forward. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to accept the letters of grant support from Senators Baker and Brown.

Hawley Area Authority: President Monaghan said that there had not been a meeting due to no quorum.

Zoning/Building: report on file.

Code Enforcement for Property Maintenance: report on file. Solicitor Bernathy is looking into the procedure of complaints, if they can be submitted anonymously or not.

Park: Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Hawk, and passed unanimously to ask Kiley Engineering to draw up the engineer plan for a dog park shade pavilion.

There was a discussion about amending the park use form. It does not mention Riverside Park. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to follow the same procedure for Riverside that is in place for Bingham. Councilperson Rojas spoke about the possibility of a damage deposit and to include language on the form that prohibits tacks, nails, etc. Park and Rec will look into these. President Monaghan told Bill Messenetithat the Borough would have a letter of support for him tomorrow.

Councilperson Rojas said that the levee inspection will be August 1.

Councilperson Rojas spoke about a potential grant for the area below the spillway. The estimated cost for the flood control project is $222,222. The grant sponsor said that the Borough needs to determine that the Borough is the 100% owner.

Councilperson Rojas said that she had contacted the contractor so he can begin the safety project. He has been waiting on parts. The discussion went back to who owns the area below the spillway. Councilperson Rojas looked it up and found that DEP says that the Borough got the easement and right of way in 1961. The Commonwealth constructed it and turned the project over the Borough, including the chutes. Since the Borough owns the sole responsibility to maintain, the Borough owns the project.

EMA: Councilperson Hawk has nothing to report.

Mayor: The Mayor said that he had performed one wedding and he thanked all involved in the July 4 Parade.

Solicitor’s Updates: Solicitor Bernathy was not present for this.

Finance Report: Councilperson Faubel had nothing to report.

Police Committee: Vice President Herzog’s report is on file. She spoke of the need to figure out where the money would come from for the ticket software to be installed in the Police cars. The cost for that is about $25,000.

Police Chief Report: Chief Drake thanked all who had helped with the July 4th parade.

Streets and Roads: The report from Director Mead is on file.

Personnel: Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty and passed unanimously to approve hiring Cayden Rose for twenty hours a week at twelve dollars per hour, conditional on clearances.This hire is until the end of September, at which point it would be revisited.

Building: Councilperson Mead had nothing to report.

Health and Welfare: Vice President Herzog encouraged everyone to stay hydrated and to check on people and pets.

The discussion turned to the spillway. Councilperson Rojas had reached out to the contractor, who said they would begin the repair in August. Director Mead said that he would contact the contractor when it is dry enough to begin work.

At this point Fire Chief Mead gave the fire report, on file.

After that Director Mead talked about the issues he had with the machine he had rented to mow the levee.

New Business: proposed resolution in support of pursuing Outdoor Town designation via Pennsylvania Environmental Council and DCNR is tabled to the next month.

Adjournment: motion made by Vice President Herzog. The time was 7:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary