Hawley Borough Council Meeting

July 11, 2023 7:00 pm

94 Main Avenue

Prior to the meeting there was an executive session regarding litigation and personnel. Present from Council were President Rojas, and Councilpersons Bartleson, Dougherty, Herzog, Mead, and Monaghan. Vice President Faubel was absent for family reasons. Also present were Mayor Nichols, Chief Drake, Director of Public Works Mead, Zoning Officer Lori McCrory, and Secretary Racht. Solicitor Bernathy was absent due to work. Present from the public were Mike Novatnak, Rikki Ann Carlson, Duane Austin, Dean Johnson, Jay Cooperman, Adam Tannenbaum, Sharon Wharton, and Peter Becker of TriCounty Independent. 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 Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to accept the minutes from the Regular June 14 meeting. Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to accept the minutes from the June 26 Special meeting.

Zoning Officer McCrory gave the reports for zoning, building and rental, reports on file. Council requested the building and zoning reports include addresses.

Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to ratify the vote to authorize signing bandstand project Change Order #1 with the amended amount of $41,348.00.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to authorize signing bandstand Change Order #2 for $1,069.83.

Correspondence: reports, newsletters, and the road opening plan for Aqua’s project, on file.

Public Presentation: Jay Cooperman and Adam Tannenbaum discussed changes to the design of their proposed Barker Street apartment building project. Council recommended they go to Planning with their new design. Sharon Wharton and Rikki Ann Carlson, residents of Barker Street asked Cooperman and Tannenbaum questions about the proposed building.

Treasurer’s Report: Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to accept the report.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list with the addition of $212.11 out of General to Elan Financials and $232.14 to Elan Financials out of the Park account.

Planning: There was no meeting in July due to the holiday.

Ambulance: Councilperson Herzog reported that the next PPH meeting would be held next Wednesday.

Fire Report: given by Fire Chief Mead.

Hawley Area Authority: Given by Councilperson Monaghan, on file.

Code Enforcement for Property Maintenance: Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously for Ralph Bolinger to include dates of contacts in his report.

Park and Rec: there was no meeting.

Grants: Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to authorize, after solicitor’s review, signing of the engineer’s contract for the bandstand.

Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to authorize a payment to D&M Construction for $43,885.00 from the grant for bandstand repair.

Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to submit to the current LSA grant cycle for $75,835 for a flood protection project: $62,950 for a remote control mower, $10,953 for a John Deere mower, two chainsaws, and two Red Max weed whackers.

There was a discussion regarding using the $2,189.50 MRM dividend check for purchasing an AED.

Emergency Management: nothing to report

Mayor: Mayor Nichols thanked everyone involved with the July 4 parade.

Solicitor: Solicitor Bernathy was absent due to work.

Finance: Vice President Faubel had sent financing options for bandstand repair after the grant money has been exhausted. President Rojas noted that engineering fees for the entire bandstand project is $17,000 and that Council had previously voted to take out a five-year loan to cover the extra costs. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to procure a loan from the Dime Bank for the bandstand repair project in the amount of $50,000, to be paid in monthly installments, conditional on there being no early payment penalty.

Police: Councilperson Herzog sent the report, on file.

Chief’s report: Chief Drake thanked everyone involved with the July 4th parade. Joe Snedeker will be in Bingham Park on July 28th at noon.

Streets and Roads: Councilperson Monaghan said Scott’s report was on file.

Building: Councilperson Bartleson had nothing to report.

Health and Welfare: Scott posted a speed limit sign on Park Place. Councilperson Herzog has been trying to contact the mobile farm market. There was a discussion regarding the stop sign at Joe and Lorenzo’s pizza shop.

Public Comments: Duane Austin asked about her sidewalk.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to go into an executive session for personnel. The time was 7:50.

Council went back into regular session at 8:10 pm. Motion: made by councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to adjourn. The time was 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary