Hawley Borough Council Meeting

July 13, 2022

94 Main Avenue

Prior to the regular Council meeting there was a conditional use hearing regarding a request by Churchill Properties to build three apartment buildings with eight apartments each at Electric Street and Rt. 6. Panko Reporting supplied the transcript for this hearing. At the end of the hearing, a vote was taken by roll call. Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty and seconded by President Rojas to deny Churchill Properties’ request to build three apartment buildings at Electric Street and Rt. 6 because of the adverse affect on traffic:

Bartleson: Y, Dougherty: Y, Faubel: Y, Herzog: Y, Monaghan: N, Rojas: Y, Sanders: Y.

The Conditional Use Hearing was over at 8:05pm. The regular Council meeting began at 8:15pm. Present from Council were President Rojas, Vice President Faubel, and Councilpersons Bartleson, Dougherty, Herzog, Monaghan, and Sanders. Also present were Mayor Nichols, Chief Drake, Director of Public Works Mead, Solicitor Bernathy, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were Peter Becker of Tri County Independent, Lou Cozza, Duane Austin, Dean Johnson, Ed Ahern, Diane Billard, Gene Krause, and Mary Ellingsen.

Motion: made by Councilperson Bartleson, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to accept the agenda with flexibility. Motion made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed with five yes to approve the June minutes with the following corrections: correct the sentence beginning with “Motion: made by Councilperson Bartleson..”, add “paving” to explain the school district grant, and to add “cornhole tournament” to the discussion regarding the lumberjack event “. Councilpersons Dougherty and Faubel abstained because they were absent from the June meeting.

Correspondence: The Wayne County Comprehensive Plan Survey has begun and residents are encouraged to take it. DEP will inspect the levee on August 9 at 10:30am.

Public Presentation: Mary Ellingsen asked that at no cost to the borough, a plaque be placed on the bandstand in honor of Christopher G. Ellingsen, who designed it. She had spoken to Park and Rec at their last meeting but they did not have a quorum then. After a discussion, Council decided to put this on the August agenda.

Duane Austin asked when her sidewalk and driveway would be repaired.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to accept the treasurer’s report. Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list with the addition out of Pligit: $6,278 to Universal Line Painting for crosswalks and stop bars and $2,899 to purchase a tamper from Rent E quip, and out of General $292 for Cardmember Services credit card for Police tolls going to New Jersey on a warrant, street trash bags, and a u- post.

 Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to ratify the phone vote to purchase the tamper.

Planning: Report on file.

Rental inspections: nothing to report.

Personnel: nothing to report.

Ambulance: Councilperson Herzog has not received communication from Lake Region EMS.

Multi Municipal Ambulance: They did not meet in June. They will meet July 20.

Fire Report: Chief Mead gave, report on file.

Hawley Area Authority: report on file.

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

Code Enforcement: President Rojas reviewed the report from Code Enforcer Ralph Bolinger, on file.

Park and Rec: there is no report because there was no quorum. Councilperson Herzog reported that $1,925 was received towards a mural for the existing skate park. Councilperson Sanders said that Megan was researching how to add a donation button to the website for Park projects.

Grants: President Rojas said that the County Block Grant closes October 28 so Council should be thinking of projects. She reported that Hawley was awarded $80,000 for a portion of Church Street. $32,846 was not covered by the grant. Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to ratify the phone vote that the $32,846 be made up of $15,000 from Pligit and $4,546 from ARP. This section is from Cora’s restaurant to the railroad tracks. The grant sponsor had requested an answer before the meeting.

The County consultant will mail survey letters at the county’s cost to survey residents near Falls Avenue**.**

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to increase the bulletproof vests applied for under the bulletproof vest grant from three to six.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to execute the LSA grant contract on behalf of the Hawley Fire Department.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to move forward on the JnJ Security proposal for $1,850 plus the additional $325 camera network for Bingham Park.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to execute the bandstand DCED grant. There is a fifteen percent match, which will be about $12,000.

Emergency Management: The 3rd quarterly training will be on August 17th.

Mayor’s Report: Mayor Nichols thanked everyone who played a part in the July 4th parade.

Solicitor’s report: Solicitor Bernathy will send a letter to the railroad owner regarding the 2018 decision by PUC that Penndot and the railroad must repair the pothole and drainage issues around the railroad tracks, after which the Borough will maintain. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to approve and authorize the application for Highway Occupancy permit for Eagle Village.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to meet on August 16 at 6pm for amending the long-term rental ordinance and to handle any other businessthat may come up.

Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to authorize signing the SFM Consulting contract so they will be the rental inspectors for the Borough.

Police: Councilperson Herzog noted that everything has already been discussed.

Chief: Chief Drake thanked everyone that helped with the July 4 parade and spoke about National Night Out. His report is on file. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to spend $295 for a dunk tank for National Night Out.

Streets and Roads: Report on file. Councilperson Monaghan asked for an update on bonding Paupack. President Rojas said the core samples had been completed.

Building: Councilperson Bartleson had nothing to report.

Health and Welfare: Councilperson Herzog discussed the new stop signs.

Personnel: Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to ratify Juneteenth as a holiday. Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to ratify the phone vote to hire Megan Whitty as assistant secretary at $11 per hour and to $11.50 after the sixty-day probation period. Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to approve a $150 PSAB online course for the office staff. Councilperson Sanders asked for an executive session regarding personnel.

Unfinished business: all had been covered.

New Business: Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to ratify the phone vote to change the zoning office hours to Tuesday and Friday from 12:30-2:00 pm.

Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed six to one with Councilperson Dougherty voting no, to allow Megan to do the free YouTube account for the website as long as a Councilperson previewed and approved the content. The discussion regarding MRM trust physician panel was tabled until August.

Public Comment: Gene Krause spoke about the problem of cars parked on sidewalks and of missing “No Parking” signs.

President Rojas requested an executive session regarding litigation.

Council went into executive session regarding litigation and personnel at 9:32pm. Council came back into regular session at 9:50pm. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to adjourn. The time was 9:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary