Hawley Borough Council Meeting

July 8, 2020 7pm

94 Main Avenue

Present from Council were President Monaghan, Vice President Herzog, and Councilpersons Bartleson, Dougherty, Faubel, Ferrara, and Rojas (who attended via zoom). Also present were Chief Drake, Zoning Officer P. J. Dougherty, Director of Public Works Mead, Solicitor Bernathy, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were Ed Ahern, Rebecca Mead, Geneva Dougherty, Carrie Dougherty, Attorney Tony Waldron, and Peter Becker of the Tri County Independent. There was an executive session prior to the meeting regarding personnel. President Monaghan began the meeting with a salute to the flag and a moment of silence in memory of past Council President Donald Kyzer. Mayor Hawk swore in new Junior Councilperson Camille Sealy-Otero Dougherty.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously with the exception of Councilperson Faubel who abstained because he was absent for that meeting, to accept the corrected minutes from the June 10 Council meeting.

Public comment: Attorney Waldron spoke on behalf of Ed Ahern. He stated that the Cora’s Bistro should be required to have a conditional use for the proposed expansion. Attorney Bernathy acknowledged correspondence from Attorney Waldron but said that since there was not permanent structure being built or land development occurring that he was still of the opinion that the conditional use was not needed.

Correspondence: The Borough received pictures of the 1975 4th of July Parade from the Makaravitz family.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Faubel, and passed unanimously to accept the treasurer’s report. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list.

Rental: No report.

Ambulance: 39 calls, report from Commonwealth Health on file.

Fire: Chief Mead gave the report, on file.

Hawley Area Authority: President Monaghan emailed, on file.

Zoning: had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

Code Enforcement: No report.

Grants: Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to allow Councilperson Rojas flexibility for investigating grant sources for the spillway and Church Street.

Park and Rec: Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to accept the Park and Rec Commission’s recommendation to accept the lowest bid for the Pickleball/Tennis Court project, which was from Wayco for $100,790, pending Solicitor Bernathy’s approval.

Emergency Management: Nothing to report.

Mayor: Mayor Hawk performed two weddings.

Solicitor: His list to do : 1) Writ of execution Tigue, 2) review SFM Consulting LLC, 3) Cora’s sketch release, 4) DCNR, 5) Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty and passed unanimously to approve Solicitor Bernathy filling a civil complaintagainst Robert Tebbenhoff at 224 Cedar Avenue for zoning violations.Solicitor Bernathy stated that there are twelve different non-compliance issues regarding Hawley Ambulance. 6) Solicitor Bernathy will send correspondence to Penndot and the railroad, with the Public Utility Commission copied, regarding the repair of the railroad crossings. 7) Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to execute the previous decision and issue a new citation for 915 Walnut Street.

President Monaghan stated that 920 Walnut Street should be addressed by the property maintenance officer.

Finance: Councilperson Faubel stated that the 4th installment of the 2017 General Obligation Note would be due August 15th.

Police Committee: Vice President Herzog reported that there had been no meeting.

Chief’s Report: Chief Drake gave the report, now on file. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to return to enforcing the parking meters from 9am to 6pm effective immediately. Motion: made by Councilperson Ferrara, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to get two bids for the streetlight and parking meter that had been damaged in separate incidents.

Streets and Roads: Roadmaster Mead had emailed the report, on file. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Ferrara, and passed unanimously to sell the sickle bar and three point mowerat the best possible price.

Building: motion made by Vice President Herzog, and seconded by Councilperson Bartleson to spend $1,150for a security lock to be installed on the inside door of the lobby by JnJ Security. Vice President Herzog amended her motion to spending $4,232.06 for a battery and rebuilt coolant system for the generator and the $1,150 for the door security lock, Councilperson Bartleson seconded it and it passed unanimously.

Health and Welfare: Nothing to report on the Regional Ambulance.

Landlord/Tenant: Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Ferrara, and passed unanimously to give Annette Bolinger the authority to waive the inspection fee if the property in question was compliant, had no complaints, and no new tenants.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Ferrara, and passed unanimously to appoint SFM Consulting for one day a week for one hour with a second hour added if needed for appointments with the contract amended with Solicitor Bernathy’s recommendations.

New Business: Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty and seconded by Vice President Herzog to ban fireworks in the Borough. Councilperson Dougherty and Vice President Herzog withdrew the motion so Solicitor Bernathy can research.

Councilperson Dougherty requested an executive session regarding legal matters. Council went into an executive session at 8:18pm. Council went back into regular session at 8:30pm. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to adjourn. Council adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary