

Hawley Borough Council Meeting
November 13, 2024 7:00pm
94 Main Avenue

Present from Council were President Monaghan, Vice President Herzog, and Councilpersons Dougherty, Hawk, Mead, and Rojas. Councilperson Faubel was absent due to illness. Also present were Mayor Nichols, Sergeant Bertholf, Director of Public Works Mead, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were Bob Myers, David Chicoski, Ed Vaspol, Grant Genzlinger, Adam Tannenbaum, Jared Cooperman, Jay Cooperman, Lou Cozza, and Peter Becker of TriCounty Independent. President Monaghan began the meeting with a salute to the flag.

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

Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Hawk, and passed with five yes votes to accept the minutes from the October 9, 2024 Council meeting. President Monaghan abstained because she was absent from the October meeting.

Correspondence: on file.

Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to ratify last week's phone vote to have a burn ban in place for Hawley Borough, effective immediately and until further notice.

Public Presentations to Council:

David Chicoski asked who was responsible for Belemonte Avenue repairs. Solicitor Weed said that he was still looking into it.

Grant Genzlinger gave an update on the seasonal Gorge Trail that runs from Cromwelltown to the Wallenpaupack Creek Trail. Tentatively it may open in Spring of 2025, after Brookfield Energy inspects it. The Trails Group will pay for the painting of the crosswalk at Falls and Paupack to connect the trails. For DCED to pay there has to be a simple understanding between the Borough and the Township. There has to be a memorandum of understanding that the Borough will paint the crosswalk, the pedestrian walkway, and the steps from the dog park parking lot to the trail. Palmyra, the grant recipient, will reimburse the Borough. Attorney Henry has reviewed this on behalf of Palmyra. Mr. Genzlinger gave the agreement to Attorney Weed, who will talk to Attorney Henry regarding this matter. Grant met on site with Chief Drake and DPW Director Mead and they approved the location of signs.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Hawk, and passed unanimously to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list with the addition of: from PLIGIT \$3,866.76 to Leeward, and from Park \$39.77 to Elan Financials for safety glasses and a level, and from General \$124.57 for Police, \$255.77 for garage supplies including plywood and \$1065.50 for equipment repair.

Park and Rec: Councilperson Dougherty reported that they held a short meeting.

Planning: Councilperson Mead reported that no meeting was held. She noted that in October, the Planning Commission had recommended that Council vote to allow the Hawley Project to move forward with land development pending solicitor review. Councilperson Mead reviewed the actions that had been taken by the developer: MPDES plan for storm water, DEP sewage plan, the Barker Street sidewalk, to provide access for adjacent driveways on Church Street, and the developer's agreement. Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Hawk, and passed unanimously to approve the land development plan for the Hawley Project as per the recommendations from Planning.

Rental Inspections: Councilperson Mead's report is on file. Work is being done on delinquent letters.

Ambulance: The Comm Center report is on file. Vice President Herzog said that PPH hasn't met.

Fire Report: given by Chief Mead, on file. Gene and Wendy Krause have retired as line officers.

Hawley Area Authority: report on file. Motion: made by Councilperson Hawk, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to sadly accept P. J. Dougherty's resignation from the board, effective immediately. Motion: made by Councilperson Hawk, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to appoint Lou Cozza to the Hawley Area Authority Board.

Zoning Office/Building Code Official: reports from SFM on file.

Code Enforcement for Property Maintenance: report from Ralph Bolinger on file.

Grants: Councilperson Rojas had nothing to report.

Emergency Management: Councilperson Hawk had nothing to report.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Nichols thanked everyone involved in the Halloween parade. He has ordered the Christmas tree for the bandstand.

Solicitor Updates: Solicitor Weed will discuss the Coach Bus bankruptcy issue with Solicitor Bernathy. He has left messages with the insurance adjustor regarding the May streetlight accident.

Finance: President Monaghan reported that a budget workshop had been held and that the 2025 budget is approximately \$571,000. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed with five yes votes to adopt the 2025 budget. Councilperson Dougherty abstained because he had not seen the budget.

Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to reach out to Wayne County Housing about the check they sent for Barker Street Housing in lieu of taxes.

Police Committee: Vice President Herzog accepted a \$250 donation from Hawley Borough Council in honor of Robert Bernathy, former solicitor for the borough. The Hawley Police Department was the charity that he chose.

Police Chief's Report: Chief Drake's report is on file. Sergeant Bertholf said that the giving tree would be up soon and that donations would be accepted until December 13.

Streets and Roads: Director Mead's report on file. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to advertise for snow removal bids. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to approve Director Mead's purchase of a message board.

Building: Motion: Made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously to accept estimate 4093 from Marshall Computers for \$2,737.56 for two office computers.

Health and Welfare: Vice President Herzog had nothing to report.

Personnel: nothing to report.

Unfinished Business: Mr. Hobbs was not present.

New Business: Councilperson Rojas reported that she had spoken at the Rotary Club. They donated a book in the Borough's name to Head Start.

Public Comments: There were none.

Motion to adjourn: made by Vice President Herzog. The time was 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary