Hawley Borough Council Meeting

 August 10, 2022 7:00pm

94 Main Avenue

Present from Council were President Rojas, Vice President Faubel, and Councilpersons Herzog, Monaghan, and Sanders. Councilperson Bartleson was absent. Councilperson Dougherty was present via zoom . Also present were Chief Drake, Mayor Nichols, Solicitor Bernathy, Director of Public Works Scott Mead, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were Duane Austin, Dean Johnson, Diane Billard, Marian Keegan, Ken Morrison, Marilyn Cerato, and Peter Becker of the Tri-County Independent.

Prior to the meeting there was an executive session regarding litigation and personnel.

President Rojas began the meeting with a salute to the flag.

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

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to approve the July 13 Council meeting minutes.

Correspondence: The Wayne County Community Foundation is seeking donations, the county provided an update on the Broadband Project, and various newsletters were received.

Motion: Made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Vice President Faubel, and passed unanimously to pause action on the JNH proposal for video cameras since the proposal cost increased.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to select Highland and Cedar for the County Block Grant application.

Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to cover the seventeen percent cost requirement of the grant (10 % engineering, 5% contingency, 2% administrative costs) which if both streets would be $25,515 as 17% of $175,608.81, or Highland with $14,781.15 being 17% of $98,541.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan and seconded by Vice President Faubel to pass Resolution 2022-5 to erect an overhead banner from September 16 to October 3. Motion: amended by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Vice President Faubel, and passed unanimously to pass Resolution 2022-5 with the addition of a clause to include the cost of taking the banner down to be put in escrow and returned only if the banner is taken down in a timely manner and the Borough does not have to remove it.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to pass Resolution 2022-6 authorizing an application to the Wayne County Block Grant Program and a local match of $25,515.

Public Presentation: Mark Jungel was not present. Duane Austin spoke briefly about her driveway. Solicitor Bernathy gave her the right of way agreement related to her driveway repair. There were no more public comments at this time.

Motion: made by Vice President Faubel, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Motion: made by Vice President Faubel, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list with the addition out of General of $48.54 for Aqua for the building, $63 for Cardmember Services for DCED for building permits, and $153 to Mander for annual fire extinguisher inspection and service.

Planning: Councilperson Sanders gave the report from the Planning Commission. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to schedule a conditional use hearing on September 12 at 7pm on behalf of Lake Region Development regarding 219 River Street and a request of modification of the zoning ordinance.

Rental: Licenses are renewed based upon when they were issued.

Ambulance: Ken Morrison of Lake Region EMS gave the report for June and July.

Multi-Municipal Ambulance: Councilperson Sanders reported on PPH.

Fire Report: Chief Mead is on vacation.

Hawley Area Authority: No report.

Zoning /Building Report: President Rojas read SFM’s report, on file.

Code Enforcement: report on file.

Park and Rec: Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to install near the bandstand, at no cost to the Borough, an interpretational sign about Christopher Ellingsen and to name it “The Ellingsen Bandstand”.

Grants: President Rojas gave an update on grants. The County Block Grant for Highland and Cedar has been submitted.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to apply for an LSA grant in the amount of $100,000 for safety cameras and a Police vehicle including $19,000 for upfitting the car. The County Commissioners announced up to $30,000 grants for each borough and township with a June 2023 expiration date. President Rojas reviewed what ARP funds had been earmarked for up to this point to determine if the need was current. The computers and internet do not need upgraded. Purchasing and AED will be done with funds received by the insurance dividends and trust and not ARP funds. The $4,546 to come out of ARP for Church Street paving still has to stand. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to have this plan in place if the Borough does not get the LSA grant: purchase the Police vehicle using the $30,000 County Commissioner Grant and taking the remainder from ARP. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Sanders, and passed unanimously to provide the Police vehicle dealer with a letter of commitment. The DEP inspected the levee and complimented on how well it was maintained.

Emergency Management: Councilperson Sanders and Kevin Hawk will be attending a County EMA meeting.

Mayor’s report: Mayor Nichols thanked everyone involved with National Night Out.

Solicitor: Council can change the rental inspection checklist at their discretion.

Finance: Vice President Faubel reported that the audit has begun.

Police Committee: Councilperson Herzog announced that Trunk or Treat would be on October 29; report on file.

Chief’s Report: Chief Drake thanked everyone involved in NNO, report on file.

Streets: nothing to report.

Building: nothing to report.

Health and Welfare: nothing to report.

Personnel: Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously that the assistant secretary who is currently scheduled for twelve hours per week be allowed to work up to twenty hours as needed.

Unfinished Business: Motion: made by Councilperson Sanders, seconded by Vice President Faubel, and passed unanimously to approve Tax Collector Barb Middaugh’s request that Madison Simpson be Deputy Tax Collector.

Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Vice President Faubel, and passed unanimously to pay $40 to Joseph Stenger to work on the Quickbooks closing problem.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously for Scott to paint lines for the Coach buses.

Public Comments: None.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to go into an executive session for litigation. The time was 8:08pm. Council went back into regular session at 8:34pm.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously for Solicitor Bernathy to send a letter asking for all parties of Settler’s Hospitality and Lake Region Development to an executive session to discuss pending litigation.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to adjourn. The time was 8:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary