Hawley Borough Council Meeting

August 9, 2023 7:00 pm

94 Main Avenue

Prior to the meeting there was an executive session regarding litigation. Present from Council were President Rojas, Vice President Faubel, and Councilpersons Bartleson, Herzog, and Mead. Councilperson Dougherty was on vacation and Councilperson Monaghan was out of town for work. Also present were Mayor Nichols, Chief Drake, Director of Public Works Mead, Solicitor Bernathy, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were Michele Hanson, Ed Ahern, and Peter Becker of TriCounty Independent. President Rojas began the meeting with a salute to the flag.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to accept the minutes from the July 12, 2023 meeting. Vice President Faubel recused himself because he was absent for that meeting.

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

Correspondence: on file.

Public presentation: Alexandria Swigon had cancelled earlier in the day. There were no non-scheduled comments related to the agenda.

Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to accept the treasurer’s report. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to pay the bills on the bills list as amended with the addition of $63 out of general for stamps, $131.25 out of general to C&C Equipment for a chipper rental and amending the Spring and Main blinker to $27.70.

Planning: There had been no meeting.

Rental Inspections: Councilperson Mead reported that no inspections were done in July, report on file.

Ambulance Report: Councilperson Herzog noted that the borough is now receiving call reports from the communications center. There will be no PPH meeting in August.

Fire: Given by Chief Mead, report on file.

Hawley Area Authority: Councilperson Monaghan was not present.

Zoning: In July there were issued one zoning permit and four certificates of occupancy, report on file.

Code Enforcement for Property Maintenance: the report by Ralph Bolinger is on file.

Park and Rec: There was a request for a pavilion at the dog park.

Grants: Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to authorize submitting payment request #1 for $43,885 from the grant fund.

President Rojas spoke about the Bandstand celebration and noted that no taxpayer funds were used for it. She spoke about donations for the bandstand repair project and thanked everyone involved.

Motion: made by Councilperson Bartleson, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously that the funding be put into a separate account that has the $20,000 and the $15,000.

EMA: nothing.

Mayor: Mayor Nichols thanked everyone involved with National Night Out.

Solicitor: Solicitor Bernathy discussed the Hunger Walk scheduled for September 24th by the local churches for donations to local food pantries. Solicitor Bernathy said the group must name the borough as an additional insured. Councilperson Bartleson would work on this. Solicitor Bernathy would have the declaration of taking prepared for the next meeting. There was a discussion about Solicitor Bernathy sending a letter to the Public Utility Commission regarding the railroad repairing potholes by the tracks.

Finance: Vice President Faubel asked Solicitor Bernathy about fulfilling the auditor’s request for a letter.

At this point, Mayor Nichols presented a “Bucks for the Bandstand” donation from the American Legion.

Vice President Faubel will execute the loan for the bandstand repair.

Police Committee: Councilperson Herzog gave the report, on file.

Chief: Chief Drake thanked everyone involved with National Night Out. The new car is waiting to be outfitted. Sergeant Bertholf needs to attend a taser instructor recertification course.

Streets: report from Director Mead is on file.

Building: Councilperson Bartleson had nothing to report.

Health and Welfare: Councilperson Herzog provided information about purchasing AEDs.

Personnel: Vice President Faubel noted that this was covered during the executive session.

Old Business: There was a discussion about purchasing pedestrian crosswalk signs. Director Mead reported that he had met with Duane Austin and Dean Johnson and had been trying to reach the contractor regarding Duane’s sidewalk.

President Rojas said that the levee inspectors were very happy about what they had seen.

Public comment: Michele Hanson spoke about how her life is being adversely affected by the quarry and especially the asphalt plant. It was suggested that she go to Palmyra Township with neighbors and documentation and that she do a right to know request to find what conditions were put on the plant including hours of operation.

Ed Ahern of 509 Welwood is having an issue with a neighbor loitering outside and smoking pot. Solicitor Bernathy pointed out that the man might have a medical card. Chief Drake said he would speak withMr. Ahern.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog and seconded by Councilperson Mead to adjourn. The time was 7:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary