Hawley Borough Council Meeting

September 13, 2023 7:00 pm

94 Main Avenue

Present from Council were President Rojas, Vice President Faubel, and Councilpersons Bartleson, Dougherty, Herzog, Mead and Monaghan. Also present were Mayor Nichols, Chief Drake, Director of Public Works Mead, and Secretary Racht. Solicitor Bernathy was absent for family reasons. Present from the public were Bob Myers, Duane Austin, Dean Johnson and Peter Becker of TriCounty Independent. President Rojas began the meeting with a salute to the flag.

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

Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed with five yes and two abstentions to approve the August 9 minutes. Councilperson Dougherty abstained because he had been absent for family reasons. Councilperson Monaghan abstained because she had been absent for work.

Motion: Made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to ratify the unanimous vote to approve change order#3 for D&M Construction for $1,840.54 for the bandstand project.

Correspondence: Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to approve Chant Realty’s request to collect candy at their site for Hawley Borough residents to give out for trick or treat. Non-actionable correspondence is on file.

Public Presentations: There was none. There were no non-scheduled comments related to the agenda.

Treasurer’s Report: Motion: made by Councilperson Faubel, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Faubel, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list.

Planning Commission: Councilperson Mead reported that Planning did not meet.

Rental Inspections: Councilperson had nothing to report. SFM Consulting reported that two inspections passed and two failed, on file.

Ambulance: The County report is on file.

Multi-Municipal Ambulance: report from Councilperson Herzog is on file.

Fire Report: given by Chief Mead, on file.

Hawley Area Authority: Councilperson Monaghan reported that a resident on River Street is trying to turn a dilapidated garage into an apartment.

Zoning and Code Enforcement reports are on file.

Park and Rec: Councilperson Dougherty said they had met with Alan Cooper about the bandstand lift. Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to allocate $380 for a rain gutter over the top of the bandstand steps.

Grants: Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to pass Resolution 2023-6 to apply for an LSA grant application for levee maintenance equipment.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog and seconded by Councilperson Mead to approve the bills from D&M for the bandstand: $17,710.50 and $58,917.

Motion: made by Vice President Faubel, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to pay the two D&M bills contingent upon the grant consultant telling Council the balance that left in the grant fund, then using what is in the project account, and then use the loan money.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously to apply the grant check of $37,000 to the payment as Council had previously made the motion.

Mayor’s Report: He thanked everyone who helped with the Mayor’s concert and spoke about the 911 Ceremony he had performed.

Solicitor’s Report: Solicitor Bernathy was absent due to family reasons.

Finance: Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to advertise a budget meeting Monday October 23rd at 6:30pm.

Police: Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan and passed unanimously to approve Zach Mead and Christian Robinson as new officers at the rate already determined.

Streets and Roads: Director Mead had a traffic light letter for President Rojas to sign. He met with a paving contractor at Duane Austin’s sidewalk. The contractor will get back to him.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to advertise for snow removal bids.

Building: Motion: made by Councilperson Bartleson, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously for Director Mead to purchase a vacuum cleaner for the building, spending up to $300.

Health and Welfare: Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to purchase a Vid Tec Lifeline AED if General Med Services has a Zoll and if it is comparable within a hundred dollars to go with Stephen’s Pharmacy.

Personnel: Vice President Faubel asked for an executive session regarding personnel.

New Business: Chief Drake said that the Halloween Parade would line up at 5pm and step off at 5:30 on Halloween and the recommended time for trick or treat is 4-8 pm. Councilperson Monaghan discussed the candy given out by Borough Council after the Halloween Parade.

Councilperson Herzog spoke about the Downtown Hawley Partnership community grant of ten thousand dollars with deadline of December 31. She passed out copies of planter signs that let visitors know the direction of businesses. Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to approve the planter signs as long as the Zoning Officer approves. The park pillars and the need for a mason were discussed.

There were no public comments.

Council went into executive session at 7:48pm.Council went back into Regular session at 8:10.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Herzog, and passed unanimously for Secretary Morales to go back to the 16 hours per week the original hire level.

The garage behind Joe and Lorenzo’s restaurant and short term rentals were briefly discussed.

Fire Chief Mead said that leaf burning could be done October 1 to December 31, following the rules.

Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan to adjourn. The time was 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary