Hawley Borough Council Meeting

June 11,2025, 7:00pm

94 Main Avenue

Present from Council were President Monaghan, Vice President Herzog, and Councilpersons Dougherty, Hawk, and Mead. Councilperson Faubel was absent for medical reasons. Councilperson Rojas was absent for family reasons. Also present were Mayor Nichols, Chief Drake, Director of Public Works Mead, Solicitor Weed, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were Michele and Bob Myers, Leslie Marro, Brian Hayes, Kim Kenowski,Channel 13, and Peter Becker of TriCounty Independent. President Monaghan began the meeting with a salute to the flag.

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

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2025, Council meeting.

Correspondence on file:

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to approve the request from the Hawley Fire Department to allow Verizon Fire House bill to be on autopay with the Hawley Borough Fire account.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to continue as the borough has been doing regarding the MMR provider panel approval. The borough has no panel in place and if a worker is injured, they go to the provider of choice.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Hawk, and passed unanimously to send a letter of support, as requested by the Wayne County Housing Authority, in support of Veteran’s Housing. President Monaghan read the letter aloud. Waymart had denied the veteran’s housing.

Public Presentation: Brian Hayes said that his neighbors had come up and found that he had blocked access to their property. Solicitor Weed said that this was a civil matter but that he had been researching to see if the Borough had an obligation to ensure that emergency vehicles could get to the property. He asked Mr. Hayes if he would be amenable to putting in a gate and providing the ambulance and fire services a key. Mr. Hayes said that he would not. President Monghan thanked him for the update.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to ratify the phone vote to purchase a weedwacker from Paupack Township for $200.

Motion: Made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to accept the treasurer’s report and to approve the bills list with the addition of $57.50 out of Park for Fenkner for a porta potty.

Mayor’s report: he had performed one wedding.

Park and Rec: Councilperson Dougherty said that they had approved another triaxle of fill for the path by the dog park. Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to spend up to $4,000 from the PMVB grant to instead of replacing the road steps at the playground to permanently close the opening and fill in where the stairs were affixed to the ground. Vice President Herzog explained that PMVB is a reimbursement grant at fifty percent.

Councilperson Dougherty reported that they had met with Pat Bartoszak who wants to hold free restorative yoga classes in Bingham Park in July and August. She does this for the county, and we received the same waiver that the county uses. Solicitor Weed emphasized that we want to make sure that everyone who shows up signs a waiver. He was concerned that someone might arrive during the class, and they must not be allowed to do the yoga class unless they sign the waiver. Councilperson Dougherty explained that she would have a helper. Solicitor Weed will look at the waiver.

There was a discussion regarding Alan Cooper’s concerns about the wetness of the Upper Field, where the Challengers play. President Monaghan brought up the condition of the retaining wall at the playground. The top row of pavers isn’t fastened. Director Mead will consult with a landscaper.

Planning: Councilperson Mead said there was nothing to report because Planning had not met due to lack of agenda items.

Rental Inspections: on file.

Ambulance Report: on file.

Multi Municipal Ambulance Update: Vice President Herzog said that there had been correspondence with the IRS. The grant award was only $75,000 to purchase a new ambulance. The committee is researching if they can purchase a less expensive vehicle. They also discussed other municipalities stepping up because they are getting coverage because PPH exists.

Fire Report: Chief Mead gave, on file.

Hawley Area Authority: on file. President Monaghan said that they are still waiting to meet with DEP and the owners who want to develop the property on Munich Street.

Zoning Officer and Building Code Official: on file.

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

Grants: report on file. Councilperson Rojas was absent.

Emergency Management: Councilperson Hawk was unable to attend the county EMA meeting. Mary Sanders attended. Next year, Council will pass a resolution to adopt the county’s update.

Solicitor Updates: The prothonotary is supposed to send the title work for the eminent domain on Welwood Avenue. Tebbenhoff is ongoing before the magistrate in regard to liens. The May 26, 2024, incident had been turned over to insurance.

Finance report: Audit update: Solicitor Weed will write a letter for the auditor.

Police Committee: nothing to report.

Police Chief’s Report: Chief Drake thanked everyone who helped with the Memorial Day Parade.

Streets and Roads: on file. Director Mead reported that we are on the list for crosswalks. The levee inspection is on July 1rst.

Building: Councilperson Mead had nothing to report.

Health and Welfare: Vice President Herzog reminded everyone to watch out for pedestrians.

Personnel: Councilperson Dougherty had nothing to report.

Unfinished business: none.

New Business: Mayor Nichols said that the American Legion always looks to donate to the community and would donate more money for bullet proof vests.

Public comments: Kim Kenowski expressed concern about junk on porches and abandoned vehicles, some of which she said were sinking into the ground near waterways. She was given a complaint form so she can provide the exact addresses for Ralph, the Code Enforcement Officer.

Leslie Marro asked if first responders would have access to the Novobliski property. Fire Chief Mead stated that if there was an emergency, he would get there.

Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty to adjourn. The time was 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary.