Hawley Borough Council Meeting

July 9, 2025, 7:00pm

94 Main Avenue

Present from Council were President Monaghan, Vice President Herzog, and Councilpersons Dougherty, Hawk, Mead, and Rojas. Councilperson Faubel and Mayor Nichols were absent for medical reasons. Also present were Chief Drake, Director of Public Works Mead, Solicitor Weed, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were David Chicoski, Jesse Chicoski, Duane Austin, Dean Johnson, Brian Hayes, 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 Dougherty, and passed unanimously to accept the agenda with flexibility.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead and passed with five yes to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2025, Council meeting. Councilperson Rojas abstained because she had been absent for family reasons.

Correspondence on file: Paperwork regarding the River Crossing and the Broadband program, on file.

Public Presentations to Council:

Paul Kameen- promoting outdoor access: not present.

David Chicoski said that the Borough had been taking care of his road since 1988 but has recently stopped. The sewer cap is coming off and several hundred feet of the road need repaired. Solicitor Weed said that it is not the borough’s road, it is a driveway. Mr. Chicoski said that it is a road because the post office goes down it and there are several houses.

Brian Hayes said that he thought that he would allow the neighbor to have an easement, but things have come to light. So, if Solicitor Weed thinks he will have any right to come through his property, they will have to go to court.

Treasurer’s Report: Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to accept the Treasurer’s Report and to pay the bills as on the bills list.

Mayor’s Report: no report.

Parks and Rec: Councilperson Dougherty thanked Director Mead for putting the shade tent up at the dog park. Solicitor Weed updated the yoga waiver.

Planning Commission: Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously for Solicitor Weed to write a resolution for the land development plan for the Barker Street Project.

Rental Inspections: report on file. Councilperson Mead asked Solicitor Weed if he had started with Russ Ehmke. He had not.

Ambulance Report: On file.

Multi-Municipal Ambulance: On file.

Fire Report: Chief Mead gave, on file.

Hawley Area Authority: President Monaghan reported that they didn’t meet.

Zoning Officer and Building Code: The Borough will be reaching out to Judy of SFM for reports for the last several months.

Code Enforcement for Property Maintenance: Report from Code Enforcer Bolinger on file. President Monaghan gave the history of 837 Oakland; that the owner was living inArizona, but we no longer have contact with her. She reported that 304 Bellemonte had a squatter, no water, and the garbage is piling up again. She asked that Solicitor Weed follow up on both of these.

Grants: Councilperson Rojas said that DCED has more requirements for the Academy Street project and she and Jim Martin are working on it. The engineer provided a ten-year use letter. Councilperson Roja asked for a short executive session regarding a contract.

Emergency Management: no report.

Solicitor’s Updates: Ed Merril of 315 Fern reported that the water trucks are going against the original agreement. Recently, there were twenty trucks in a twenty-four-hour period. The trucks are coming too early, and they are tearing up the road. Council discussed amending the 1994 ordinance that regulates when trash trucks can operate in the Borough to include all service haulers. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to authorize Solicitor Weed to create a draft ordinance that also includes a fine for the next meeting. The Merrills were thanked for bringing this to Council’s attention.

Finance Report: the audit is completed.

Police Committee Report: Vice President Herzog noted that the Police will need to be making large equipment expenditures.

Police Chief Report: Chief Drake is waiting for an updated cost of computers for the cars. National Night Out is coming up. Chief Drake emphasized the need to begin planning next year’s big parade very soon because everyone will be jumping on bands.

Streets and Roads: Report from Director Mead on file. He said that the levee passed inspection.

Building: Councilperson Mead said the toilet valves in the magistrate’s office need replaced.

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

Personnel: nothing.

Unfinished Business: Nothing.

New Business: Nothing.

Public Comments: Duane Austin said that on July 4th there were no Police in town and people were setting fireworks off. Chief Drake said that no calls about fireworks came in. Dean Johnson spoke about Duane Austin’s sidewalk. Solicitor Weed said that he would meet with Dean in his office. Mr. Johnson asked if the Borough could get a siren in case the dam fails. After discussion, it was decided that Council and Emergency Management will research an alert system.

At 8:04pm, Council went back into executive session.

Council went back into the public meeting at 8:41 pm. Motion: made by Councilperson Mead to adjourn.

The time was 8:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary