Hawley Borough Council Meeting

October 9, 2024 7:00pm

94 Main Avenue

Present from Council were Vice President Herzog, and Councilpersons Dougherty, Mead, and Rojas. Also present were Mayor Nichols, Chief Drake, Director of Public Works Mead, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were Duane Austin, Ann Johnson, Justin Hoffmann, Shawn Reid, Bob Myers, Glenn Weiseil, Christopher Hobbs, Adam Tannenbaum, Lou Cozza, Pat Schmidt, David Chicoski, Edward Vasko, Peter Becker of TriCounty Independent and Liam Mayo of the River Reporter. Vice President Herzog began the meeting with a salute to the flag.

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

Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously to accept the minutes from the September 11 Council meeting.

Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously to allow the borough building to be used for the November 5, 2024 election.

Public Presentation: Justin Hoffmann and Shawn Reid. Solicitor Weed recommended that Borough Council approve the parking agreement that he had reviewed in the past month. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to approve the parking agreement from last month.

Annie Johnson spoke about condition of the sidewalk at her mother, Duane Austin’s home at 636 Paupack Street. The borough office will send the information to Solicitor Weed so he can review it.

David Chicoski wanted to bring to Council’s attention the deterioration of the part of Bellemonte Avenue by C&C Equipment, which he owns. He had a letter from the state saying that it had abandoned the road. Solicitor Weed will look into this.

Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously to accept the treasurer’s report. Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list.

Planning: report on file. Councilperson Mead said that there was an informal discussion regarding Robyn and Rayvn but that the main discussion was regarding the Hawley project. Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously to table voting on The Hawley development project until next month. Council and Solicitor Weed need to review the documents.

Park and Rec: Councilperson Dougherty reported that the rock stairs that are part of the playground has been taken down due to wear.

Rental Inspections: report on file. Solicitor Weed is working on letters.

Ambulance: reports on file. Vice President Herzog said that the LSA grant is in play and that there was no PPH meeting in September.

Fire Report: on file.

Hawley Area Authority: no report this month.

Zoning Officer and Building Official: report on file.

Code Enforcement for Property Maintenance: on file.

Grants: nothing to report.

Emergency Management: nothing to report.

Mayor’s Report: Mayor Nichols said that he did one proclamation. There was a discussion regarding Halloween. The parade will step off at 5:45 and the recommended time for trick or treating is 4-8pm.

Solicitor’s report: Solicitor Weed said that he met with Solicitor Bernathy and Zoning Officer McCrory and that he will have a more detailed report in the future.

Finance: An email will go out to set up the budget meeting.

Police Committee and Chief: reports on file. The Wallenpaupack Student Volunteers will bag Halloween candy on October 24.

Streets and Roads: report on file.

Building: Councilperson Mead said that there was nothing to report.

Health and Welfare: Vice President Herzog urged everyone to drive slowly.

Personnel: nothing to report.

Unfinished business: nothing.

New Business: Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to approve the purchase of new uniforms for the Department of Public Works.

Public Comments: Christopher Hobbs spoke. He recently purchased the building at 200 Main Avenue and disagreed with the Zoning Officer’s opinion that he needs an architect to take out three studs from a non-bearing wall to improve a shower stall. Vice President Herzog said that the borough would visit the issue with SFM and reach out to him.

Sharon Wharton, a resident of Hawley Village, asked if the DEP report regarding the Hawley project has come back yet. Councilperson Mead said that things are aligning for the report to be done. Lou Cozza, head of Planning, said that the developers have not received the final approval from DEP and that this approval was a condition put on the project by Council.

Christopher Hobbs asked about a neighbor’s tree that might fall onto his property. Solicitor Weed said this was a civil matter.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas to adjourn. The time was 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary