

**MINUTES**  
**Bloomfield Borough Council**  
**April 1, 2025**

Bloomfield Borough Council met this evening in a regular session in the Bloomfield Borough Council Chambers with the following council members present: President Malinda C. Anderson, Vice President J. Kevin Fitzpatrick, R. Kevin McCarty, Jessica L. Grindle, and Karl L. Cless.

Also present: Secretary Danielle L. Shope, Assistant Secretaries Suse Woolever and Kathleen Miller, Solicitor Isaac Wakefield, Perry County Times Reporter Paul Wyatt, Borough Employee Damon Hartman, ZEO/BEO Becky Smiley, Mayor Gary Eby, Planning Commission Chairman Melanie Rowlands, Water Authority Representative Larry Weller, HRG representative Isaac Underhill, Bloomfield Public Library representatives Miriam Nichelson and Sarah Geesaman, Stream naming proposal representative Bill Roman, and Bloomfield Borough Resident Lucinda Thebes McHenry.

President Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

President Anderson led the gathered assembly in the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

***MEETING OPENING***

**Recording of the Meeting** – President Anderson advised the attendees that the meeting was being recorded by the Council for the accuracy of the minutes and stated that side conversations should be conducted in the hallway so as to not disrupt the meeting or its recording and reminded everyone that talking when someone else is speaking also disrupts the meeting and affects the recording. President Anderson further requested that those individuals in the audience desiring to speak during Public Comment identify themselves prior to speaking and they have 3 minutes to present their concern. Individuals have 10 minutes to present their concern if they are on the agenda. President Anderson asked if any individuals in the audience were also recording the meeting and if so to identify themselves for the record. Perry County Times reporter Paul Wyatt was also recording the meeting. President Anderson stated that the Council will not deviate from the agenda and any questions should be addressed during the appropriate portion of the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes** – Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve the March 4, 2025 meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

**Approval of Financial Report** – Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to approve the March 2025 financial reports, seconded by Councilman McCarty. Motion carried.

***REQUESTED PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS***

No requested public comments.

***PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS***

Ms. Smiley received a call from Mr. John Rhoads who does scrapping. He is willing to bring his truck to recycling and he will accept large appliances or anything with a coolant. He will take them away for free. There will be no cost to the Borough or the public. Councilman Cless will check into whether or not Borough insurance will cover this service and Council will discuss this offer at its' May meeting.

Mr. Bill Roman presented his proposal for naming the stream flowing through New Bloomfield. He is on the Centre Township Planning Commission. He presented a map showing the stream and other surrounding tributaries. It runs next to the sewer plant. Discussion followed. In a book from 1885, the stream is labeled “Bloomfield Branch”. He would like to see it named “Bloomfield Branch” based on this previously published map. Council will take this under consideration.

Ms. Miriam Ncholson and Sarah Gessaman extended greetings from the Bloomfield Public Library. She informed Council that the new library director is Ellie Cameron and there is a vacancy on the library board if anyone is interested or knows anyone who might be interested in serving. The library is looking into another library town tour. President Anderson suggested the library work in conjunction with the fire company, if they are interested in Holiday Festivities.

Ms. Cindy Thebes McEnry brought it to Council’s attention that the same juveniles are misbehaving around town again. They are the same children as before. She has pictures and has contacted the PSP. They are riding their bikes into South Carlisle Street. They also rode an office chair down the street. It is a safety issue. Mayor Eby just had the juveniles complete their community service from prior incidents. Mayor Eby will reach out to the parents again.

### ***MONTHLY REPORTS***

**Solicitor’s Report** – Solicitor Wakefield stated that he provided the Council with his formal report and unless there were any questions, he would defer to the report. He asked for a brief Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

**Mayor’s Report** – Mayor Eby stated he has received several calls about the “brush fee”. President Anderson and Secretary Shope reiterated that this information has been in the newsletter for over a year for the residents to read and this fee has been charged on the invoices for almost a year now. Mayor Eby said that if people have no way of getting their recyclables to the Borough (on the Spring Clean Up Day), he is willing to pick them up, within reason. Mayor Eby let Councilman Cless know that he has 2 brooms and a rake to return to the Borough from the community service clean up.

**Parking Officer Report** – Mayor Eby reported 19 tickets were issued in March 2025. 4 tickets remain unpaid.

**Enforcement Report** – BEO Smiley had nothing further to report other than what she submitted to Council in her written report.

President Anderson reported she had a request from the Perry County Commissioners for additional handicap spaces within the Borough. Additional parking spaces have been added up and down North Carlisle. A handicap space is for 3 hours. Councilman Cless suggested adding one on the North side of West Main Street in front of the Restaurant etc. There are 7 handicap spaces within the Square area. Lengthy discussion followed. Mr. Hartman and Solicitor Wakefield will look into this because this would require an ordinance change and subsequent vote at a future meeting.

**BEO Report: Becky L. Smiley** - For the complete detailed BEO report, please see Borough Enforcement Officer Monthly Report on file in the Borough Office. She had nothing to report this month.

**Planning Commission Report** – Planning Commission Chair Melanie Rowlands reported the following:

The Planning Commission reviewed the Preliminary Land Development Plan for DGS PERRY County-Bloomfield (State Shed replacement). Rather than granting Conditional Approval and recording 3 waivers, Council agreed, upon

recommendation by the Borough Solicitor to table the plan until next month. This will give time for Council members to review details. Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to table this discussion, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

**Water Authority Report** - President Anderson read the following report submitted by the Authority:

The Water Authority's engineer suggested at the Borough Planning Commission meeting that the PennDOT Maintenance Facility have a 3-inch line. For the Dutch Canal project, the Water Authority suggested putting an insertion valve on the north side of Fresenius. The pending start date for the project is April 14, 2025.

Vice President Fitzpatrick reminded everyone that when this project starts there will be one lane traffic on South Carlisle Street controlled by a temporary traffic light.

**PCBA/COG** – Councilman Cless had nothing to report. .

**FEMA/PEMA** - Councilman Cless had nothing to report.

**Zoning/Permit Officer's Report** – Zoning Officer issued 1 sidewalk and 1 driveway permit during the month of March.

**Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report** – Councilman Cless reported an impromptu work session is scheduled for April 3, 2025 in Council Chambers to instruct the appointed moderator on duties required for the Zoom meetings.

## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE***

### **Administrative & Insurance (Property/Liability) Committee**

1. Statement of Financial Interest - Due April 1, 2025
2. Electronic Recycling Event sponsored through the Perry County Conservation District - Saturday, April 19, at the Newport Fairgrounds, 10 a.m. - 1p.m
3. Perry County EMS Advisory Meeting - Tuesday, April 22, 7 pm, Perry County Courthouse - need a representative
4. Bloomfield Borough Yard Sale - Friday, May 2 and Saturday May 3, 7am until ?
5. Bloomfield Borough Clean Up Day - Saturday May 10, 8am - 12 pm
6. Join Hands Event - Saturday, May 17 from 2 pm to 5pm, The Winery at Hunters Valley Ticket cost \$45. Asking for a donation to help sponsor the event. Councilman Cless made the motion to donate \$150 for sponsorship, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.
7. Senator Rothman Letter - discuss EMS situation
8. Budget meeting - will be held September 29 & 30, 2025, 4PM - Mark your calendars.

## ***RIGHTS OF WAYS, UTILITIES, & SAFETY***

Vice President Fitzpatrick stated they sent the spare sewer pump out for rehab, but that model has changed and parts are no longer available. A new pump for the sewer plant from George Kelso and Company is \$25,988. Lead time is 8 weeks. This pump is necessary. This is the only vendor for such pumps in the tri-state area. Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to buy this pump, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

Vice President Fitzpatrick stated they had a very dated lawnmower. Mr. Hartman asked for a lawnmower replacement. This would be \$416 over the equipment budget. The actual cost of the mower is \$15,416, but with the trade in value of the existing mower the net cost would be \$6,416. Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to spend this extra \$416, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

Vice President Fitzpatrick stated that every so many years there is a Commonwealth Finance Grant for Small Water and Sewer Programs. So far, the entire Borough has had its sewer pipes lined except for East and West Main Streets. There is a grant of \$500,000 now available that would need to be applied for by the end of April. It is a 15% match. Vice President Fitzpatrick is requesting approval to work with HRG at the cost of \$4,600 to prepare this grant. This \$4,600 can come out of the sewer funds. It is approximately 5,200 feet of piping that needs done. This grant is awarded in 2026 if received. Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve allowing HRG to work on this grant, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

Vice President Fitzpatrick stated they will have to go out for bids for the paving of the Church Alley, which is Chestnut Alley. Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to advertise for bids, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

### ***ADMINISTRATIVE & INSURANCE (PROPERTY/LIABILITY)***

Councilman Cless installed the new heat thermostats with controllers throughout the Borough Building and motion sensor light/fan switches in all restrooms are now complete.

### ***AESTHETICS***

Councilman McCarty said the new military banners and hardware have been received. Mr. Hartman will mount them sometime in May. They received the memorial banner for former Mayor Ed Albright. That information has been submitted to the VFW. Councilman McCarty has been playing phone tag with Coach Boden. Councilman McCarty will contact him again when he returns on the 14th. Councilman McCarty will try to get some younger people on the Aesthetics committee. The playground needs to be mulched.

### ***FINANCE***

Nothing new to report.

### ***GRANTS***

Vice President Fitzpatrick stated this was discussed above.

### ***PERSONNEL & INSURANCE (HEALTH/DENTAL)***

Councilwoman Grindle had nothing more to report.

***CLOSING COMMENTS***

There being no further business President Anderson asked for adjournment. Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m., seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. . Motion carried. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in Bloomfield Borough Council Chambers.

Council adjourned into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary