

**MINUTES**  
**Bloomfield Borough Council**  
**April 2, 2024**

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, Raymonda J. Cunningham, Karl L. Cless and Jessica L. Grindle.

Also present: Secretary Danielle L. Shope, Assistant Secretary Kathleen Miller, Borough Employee Damon Hartman, Solicitor Isaac Wakefield, Mayor and Water Authority Representative Edward T. Albright Jr., HRG Representative Ryan Hostetter, BEO/ZEO Becky Smiley, Baseball Field Former Coordinator Joshua McCord, Perry County Times reporter Paul Wyatt, and resident John Hair.

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. (No one else was 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** – Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to approve the March 5, 2024 meeting minutes, seconded by Vice President Fitzpatrick. Motion carried.

**Approval of Financial Report** – Councilman Cless made the motion to approve the March 2024 financial report, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

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

**Joshua McCord - Field Coordinator Concerns & Questions** - Mr. Joshua McCord presented Council with a history of the field coordinator position and his involvement with the fields. Mr. McCord sent an email to the Council presenting his case. An in depth discussion followed about who is in charge of the calendar and how to see the dates etc.

Mr. McCord presented Council with the men's softball liability insurance needed for the men's softball teams to use the fields.

Council told Mr. McCord that the leaders of the ball team associations need to decide who is in charge and then get back to Council with the field schedule.

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

Mr. John Hair presented Council with the bill for his clogged sewer line cleanout. Council had told him previously that they would reimburse Mr. Hair for the cost to fix the clogged line if it happened again and it did. President Anderson said she would stand by her word and the bill would be reimbursed. He would like to take down the trees because the roots continuously invade the sewer line to his property located on the Square, thus doing damage to the basement of his property. Mr. Hair is very frustrated because this issue keeps happening. The Borough would like to wait to find out what the PCEDA plans are for the Square. Discussion followed.

Councilwoman Cunningham stated that she feels the sewer problem is more important than the “decorative” part that the PCEDA plans to do. Councilwoman Cunningham stated that maybe it is time to worry about the most important part which is the trees damaging part of the town. President Anderson said the Borough could pursue this avenue with Mr. Hair agreeing that this would be amenable.

### ***MONTHLY REPORTS***

**Solicitor’s Report** – Solicitor Wakefield stated he provided Council with his formal report and unless there were any questions, he would defer to the report.

**Mayor’s Report** – Mayor Albright thanked employees Damon and Jeremy for the good street sweeping job. Recycling is going well.

**Parking Officer Report** – Mayor Albright reported 12 tickets were issued in March with 4 still unpaid.

**Enforcement Report** – President Anderson deferred to BEO Smiley.

**BEO Report – Becky L. Smiley** - BEO Smiley had nothing more to report other than what is in her report. For the complete detailed BEO report, please see Borough Enforcement Officer Monthly Report on file in the Borough Office.

Vice President Fitzpatrick mentioned the Mr. Arsenault (Freysinger property at the end of town) does not appear to be living up to his end of the agreement made with the Borough. BEO Smiley stated she spoke with him recently and told him she would be contacting him again. Ms. Smiley is in contact with CapTax and is trying to see what revenue he brought in from his business he claimed he was doing in 2023. Once she knows what revenue, if any, was brought in she will meet with him. Vice President Fitzpatrick stated that looking at the property it still looks like a junkyard and it has increased in volume instead of decreasing, as the owner said it would. There is no sewer/water to the business and Vice President Fitzpatrick stated he did not know how it could be a viable business without sewer/water hookup. Ms. Smiley will consult with Solicitor Wakefield to learn her options as she continues to pursue this situation.

**Planning Commission Report** – Ms. Melanie Rowlands was absent so Vice President Fitzpatrick reported on the Planning Commission. At their last meeting, they discussed the pending changes to Chapter 21, which is the SALDO. They are taking the SALDO from the state with very minor tweaks. They expect to bring this before Council within the next 60 days with the understanding that this will not be codified until 2025 because of costs. They do want to get Chapter 21 done.

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

**Water Authority Report** - Mayor Edward T. Albright Jr. stated they will be starting their projects next month. These include new piping on Barnett Woods Road and up by the Sunoco Station. There will also be the installation of a 6-8 inch pipe from Main Street to McClure Street and then also replace a main pipe on Apple Street from High Street to Main Street. Mayor Albright also reported that there is no P-fose in the water.

President Anderson stated the Office received a large email from PennDOT regarding planning meetings for their prospective building. Vice President Fitzpatrick spoke with Justin Kretzing from the Fire Company stating they have been dealing with PennDOT for 6-9 months and not getting anywhere. This is regarding the “dutch canal” which will affect access to firehouse bays.

Mayor Albright stated they got the easement from Pennian Bank to put their standpipe there.

**PCBA/COG** – Councilman Cless had nothing to report. At the next meeting he will bring up the issue of not hosting the meeting because of the lack of a quorum.

**Zoning/Permit Officer’s Report** – Zoning Officer Smiley issued no permits for the month of March but one was denied because it exceeded the setback.

**Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report**– Councilman Cless stated an executive board meeting will be held April 10, 2024 at 5 p.m. in the CapTax office to discuss personnel issues. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held April 17, 2024 in council Chambers.

### ***ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE***

**Ordinance #373-** Amending the text of Chapter 9, Health and Sanitation, Part 4, Blighted and Disrepaired Properties

Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve Ordinance #373 Amended, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

**Chapter 21 Codification Announcement** - President Anderson stated this codification will not be complete until 2025 because of budget. Discussion followed.

**Humane Society of Harrisburg Amendment to 2024 Contract** - Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to ratify this 2024 contract, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

**Zoning Hearing Board Appointment** - John Hair

Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve the appointment of Mr. John W. Hair to the Zoning Hearing Board from 4/02/2024-12/31/2024, seconded by Councilwoman Cunningham. Motion carried.

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

**Talmudic Sewer Reevaluation** - Vice President Fitzpatrick mentioned the outstanding pump for repair is still not back. They have done a review of sewer allocations for Aishel/Talmudic campus. They established 46 EDU at 6000 EDU and even with these limits the campus has not exceeded this usage. Mr. Fitzpatrick has asked Mr. Hartman to review this on a quarterly basis. If there are any future issues, they can review it, but right now, the deal struck with them a year ago seems to be fair on all parties involved from the sewer perspective.

Bloomfield Borough Park Project Update - HRG Ryan Hostetter - Vice President Fitzpatrick stated they are getting things together including the title certification needed which does require an expense. This will come out of the monies allocated toward the grant. The paperwork needs to be finished for DCNR review before it can go out for public bid. This bid is scheduled for the third week of May.

Consideration and potential action on Community Park Easement Agreement - Vice President Fitzpatrick thanked Solicitor Wakefield for getting the 35 foot easement needed.

PennDot Signage for Fire Company Location - Vice President Fitzpatrick inquired about this. Mr. Hartman said they are installed. Discussion followed about a “blinking light” for the firehouse. This “blinking light” would require a signal permit from PennDOT also.

Autistic Children Signage - Mr. Hartman stated the Borough would have to approach PennDOT about this signage for approval and then, it would be the Borough’s responsibility to buy and install. This request came from a rental tenant on South Carlisle Street. The property owner would have to be involved with this project also. PennDOT will tell the Borough where the signage would be placed. Discussion followed.

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

Councilman Cless reported the following:

1. The Thermostats on the electric heaters in the east and west stairwells were replaced as a maintenance measure
2. Installed a ceiling fan in the tax collector office to provide ventilation
3. Installed a mud scrubber at the entrance to the Borough Building to allow people to clean their shoes prior to entering the building. President Anderson provided the mud scrubber.
4. Scoreboard ballfield discussion: A resident from the Borough stated they are willing to donate an electronic scoreboard. President Fitzpatrick stated they needed more information about this scoreboard before discussing placement. More discussion followed.

President Anderson stated a Borough Building tenant asked about putting a pamphlet shelf up on the wall.

### ***AESTHETIC***

Councilwoman Cunningham stated that last month she mentioned a Timber Circle resident asked about shade trees. The resident decided he does not want to make any decisions on this until the Summer.

Councilwoman Cunningham also reported:

The Bloomfield Aesthetic Committee met Monday, March 20, at 4:00 p.m. at Mondie Cunningham’s house.

**Attending:** Mondie Cunningham, Barb Woods, Deb Smith, Peg McPherson, Peg Kingsborough, Malinda Anderson

Malinda informed the Aesthetic Committee that the yearly **budget** is \$8,000. Aesthetics have used \$139.98, some of which carried over from last year’s spending on Christmas decorations and/or Veteran’s Day Parade decorations. There are accounts at Heller’s Hardware and possibly True Value in New Bloomfield.

**Flowers and mulch:** Aesthetics decided to again use 3 geraniums, 3 marigolds, 3 vinca vines, and a spike in each flower pot on the square. Mondie will order these from Fisher's Greenhouse in Landisburg, as well as 3 Sun Impatiens in the triangle on the square. The perennials put in last year should come up again. Damon will be asked to put in new soil and do mulching for the triangle, around the trees, and around the spring. We can consider putting something decorative in the pots in the future. The small pine tree will likely need a new pot, as well. Mondie will set up a watering schedule and later we will discuss weeding the spring area and power washing the fence.

**Trash cans and benches:** We discussed buying some more trash cans to put along Main Street and buying 1 more metal bench (\$1,300). Mondie will call about the price of trash cans. Suggested places for cans were: Quik Mart, Fersters, and the Methodist Church. Malinda will find out if the courthouse bench is borough or county property.

**PCEDA Facade Program:** Mondie needs to discuss this program with Jessica Grindle, a board member. (This program ended 12/30/23) Stores can get help with painting, window boxes, etc. This is part of the Main Street Initiative. We need to check on the Tree Program that is offered; Jessica Grindle is leading this. (The first round of tree offerings has ended. Jessica will check if there is a second second chance to participate.) Mondie will check with appropriate authorities for suggested shade trees near sidewalks. We also discussed trying to get more street lights in the future, if possible.

**My Work Program:** This is a summer work program with youth. They will have an overseer, but we might be able to suggest some jobs for them, such as weeding the spring. One of us needs to be there to identify weeds from flowers.

### ***FINANCE***

President Anderson and Secretary Shope are reviewing CD's etc.

### ***GRANTS***

Vice President Fitzpatrick reported : Council has approved going after the COVID 19 ARPA Multipurpose Community Facilities Program Grant. They are highlighting the library. This grant would be for approximately \$544,000 for this building mostly benefiting the Bloomfield Public Library and community. This has no match. This will help with ADA compliance and accessibility to the library and offices downstairs.

Resolution #2024-02 for COVID 19 ARPA Multipurpose Community Facilities Program - Councilwoman Cunningham made the motion to approve this resolution, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

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

Councilwoman Grindle had nothing to report at this time.

Employee handbooks are being distributed.

President Anderson reminded Councilwoman Grindle of upcoming personnel performance reviews.

### ***MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS***

President Anderson mentioned the BCC Pool sent the Borough a thank you note for the Borough's \$1000 donation.

President Anderson mentioned they are working on a fence ordinance. Discussion followed.

Councilman Cless asked about the water authority insurance. Discussion followed.

**Executive Session - No Executive Session**

***CLOSING COMMENTS***

There being no further business, upon motion by Councilman Cless , seconded by Councilwoman Grindle, the regular meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.. Motion carried. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in Bloomfield Borough Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary