

**MINUTES**  
**Bloomfield Borough Council**  
**April 7, 2026**

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 Dean Dum.

Also present: Secretary Danielle L. Shope, Assistant Secretary Suse Woolever, Solicitor Isaac Wakefield, Borough Employee Damon Hartman, ZEO/BEO Becky Smiley, Mayor Gary Eby, HRG Representative Ryan Hostetter, TPA (Tourism Promotion Agency) Commission Representative Rich Pluta and Bloomfield Borough 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. Mr. Paul Wyatt of the Perry County Times is also recording. 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** – Councilman McCarty made the motion to approve the March 3, 2026 meeting minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

**Approval of Financial Report** – Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to approve the March 2026 financial reports, seconded by Councilman Dum. Motion carried.

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

**Perry County Commissioners - Resolution #2026-02: New Tourism Promotional Agency**: Mr. Rich Pluta is with the Economic Development Authority and spoke on behalf of the Perry County Commissioners. Mr. Pluta explained the tourism agency and how it came to be. The County is now proposing that the Alliance handle the tourism for Perry County. In order to do this, 65% of all municipalities had to approve a resolution stating this. The TPA would be funded by the County's hotel tax, which they are proposing to be 5%. Perry County is the only county in the Commonwealth that does not at this time have a hotel tax. Once the resolution is passed, TPA will apply for a grant. Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve Resolution #2026-02, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

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

Mr. John Hair stated that he is trying to get a bike race organized for the Street Fair. Mayor Eby suggested Mr. Hair contact Justin Kretzing of the Fire Company. He would like to reroute the bike route to go East out of town. He

will also need space for 10X10 tents. He asked to use a corner of the Borough's parking lot. President Anderson gave permission. This bike race will help support the Bloomfield Public Library.

### ***MONTHLY REPORTS***

**Solicitor's Report** – Solicitor Wakefield stated he did not have any further comments beyond what was in the written report presented to Council.

President Anderson announced that there was an Executive Session at the end of the March meeting dealing with pending legal issues as well as possible future legal issues.

**Mayor's Report** – Mayor Eby stated there was recycling this past Saturday with a lot of volunteers. He is looking at uninspected vehicles in the Borough very diligently and has informed the PEO to do more patrolling. Uninspected vehicles will be ticketed. These vehicles are being driven, but they are uninspected and there is a Borough ordinance on this issue.

**Parking Officer Report** – Mayor Eby reported 13 parking tickets were issued in March with 4 unpaid and 1 voided.

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

**BEO Report: Becky L. Smiley** - For the complete detailed BEO report, please see Borough Enforcement Officer Monthly Report on file in the Borough Office.

**Planning Commission Report** – **BBPC President Rowlands submitted the following report:**

Vice President Fitzpatrick read the following report:

BBPC held an official review for the DGS/PennDOT Final Land Development Plan (FLDP) at our scheduled meeting on Monday, March 23, 2026.

The plan requires further updates and clarification before it will be ready for a vote by the Planning Commission.

Specific written comments were sent afterward to agents so that they can work on the issues. (Stormwater, fencing, crosswalks, paving, etc.)

Perhaps this will be reviewed again at the May 18, 2026 meeting. Any further work after that would involve an extension request that would, if necessary, be approved at the June, 2026 Council meeting. Timing is subject to progress of the agents for the applicants.

Preliminary discussions were held by the borough team during the Planning Commission meeting related to a possible land development plan if West Perry school district chooses to proceed in New Bloomfield.

No official plan has been submitted. We have declined to participate in non-public meetings.

The superintendent and agents have asked to meet with us without having applied. No opinion can be given on sketch plans without a proper application.

**Water Authority Report** - No report. They only meet quarterly now instead of monthly.

**PCBA/COG** – President Anderson stated Council has to discuss if they want to continue to be a part of this group.

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

**Zoning/Permit Officer's Report** – Zoning Officer issued 1 permit this past month for a kitchen addition and 1 for a sidewalk.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE***

**Statement of Financial Interest - Due now**

**Keep Perry County Beautiful - Electronic Recycling Event** - Saturday, April 18th from 9-11 a.m. at the Newport Fairgrounds

**Town Wide Yard Sale** - Friday, May 1st and Saturday, May 2nd, 7 am-?

**Spring Clean Up Day** - Saturday, May 9th, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**2026 Bloomfield Borough Council Committees and Responsibilities:**

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

The Administrative Committee is responsible for overseeing all the Borough's administrative matters relative to the Borough Building to include maintenance, content and all Borough property except for the Borough sewer plant, garage, and its property. The committee is responsible for all property and liability insurance. The Committee is also responsible for overseeing the Janitor. The Committee Chair is responsible for reporting problems and recommendations to the Council for their determinations.

**Chair:** Dum

**Members:** Dum, Anderson

**Aesthetic Committee**

The Aesthetic Committee is responsible for overseeing the Borough's aesthetic matters relative to the Borough's appearance, including, but not limited to, the Borough's town square, working with the Borough's Ad-Hoc Aesthetic Committee & Borough's Shade Tree Commission, and organizing and facilitating the Christmas Tree Lighting. The Committee Chair is responsible for reporting problems and recommendations to the Council for their determinations.

**Chair:** McCarty

**Members:** McCarty, Anderson

**Enforcement Committee**

The Enforcement Committee is responsible for overseeing the Borough's enforcement matters and co-operating with the Mayor in overseeing the staff (parking enforcement officer, zoning/permit officer, and code enforcement officer). The Committee is responsible to see that ordinances are being adhered to and determine if additional ordinances are needed. The Committee Chair is responsible for reporting problems and recommendations to the Council for their determinations.

**Chair:** Anderson

**Members:** Anderson, Fitzpatrick

**Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee is responsible for overseeing the Borough's Finance and Grants including auditing the financial report on a monthly basis, developing the annual budget, seeking and preparing grants for additional funding for major Borough projects. The Committee Chair is responsible for reporting problems and recommendations to the Council for their determinations.

**Chair:** Dum

**Members:** Dum, Anderson

**Grants & Safety Committee**

The Grants & Safety Committee is responsible for preparing grants for additional funding for major Borough projects. The Committee Chair is responsible for reporting problems and recommendations to the Council for their determinations.

**Chair:** Fitzpatrick

**Members:** Fitzpatrick, Anderson

**Personnel & Insurance (Heath/Dental) Committee**

The Personnel Committee serves the function of the Borough's Human Resources Committee, responsible for the Employee Handbook, the interviewing and hiring of Borough employees, their pay, health insurance, periodic evaluations and benefits. **Note:** The first line supervisor of the Secretary is the Borough President, of the Maintenance Workers is the Rights of Way Committee Chair, of the Borough Enforcement Officer and Parking Officer is the Enforcement Committee and the Janitor is the Administrative Committee. The Committee Chair is responsible for reporting problems and recommendations to the Council for their determinations.

**Chair:** Grindle

**Members:** Grindle, Dum

**Rights of Way, Utilities, & Safety Committee**

The Rights of Way & Utilities Committee is responsible for overseeing the Borough's Rights of Ways (streets, alleys, curbs, sidewalks, driveway entrances and associated maintenance), Utilities (sewer plant building, garage and grounds, sewer lines, stormwater and runoff) and the equipment relative to those activities and overseeing the full-time staff. Additionally, this committee is responsible for ensuring that the Borough meets the National and State requirements for safety of employees and facilities. The Committee Chair is responsible for reporting problems and recommendations to the Council for their determinations.

**Chair:** Fitzpatrick

**Members:** Fitzpatrick, Anderson

**Possible Budget dates** - September 14, 15 or 29, 30th. At 4 p.m. Council members are to inform what dates suit best.

**Statement issued President Anderson about the article in the Perry County Times about the West Perry School Board plans for building onto the Bloomfield Elementary School -**

This statement tonight is in reference to the most recent article in the Perry County Times dated April 2, 2026. The article outlines issues from the West Perry School Board meeting on March 9, 2026. In that meeting, the new option called Option 5 was discussed in detail. At that meeting, the West Perry School Board voted 7-2, to move forward with the schematic design phase of Option 5.

Option 5 involves the building of an addition to the existing New Bloomfield Elementary School, with the closure of Blain and Carroll Elementary. As of tonight, April 7, 2026, the West Perry School board has yet to officially inquire as to Option 5 feasibility with either the Bloomfield Borough Council or the Bloomfield Borough Planning Commission. To address numerous rumors and telephone calls, Bloomfield Borough has NOT approved Option 5 nor has the Planning Commission.

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

Vice President Fitzpatrick had little to report. He stated they are looking at bid packages to get ready for the paving which would be Veterans Way and the aprons going into the cemetery. Depending on the price, the aprons might not get done. They would use Liquid Fuel monies to support this project.

They are still looking at submitting the grant for the sidewalks in the Square through PCEDA.

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

Councilman Dum was able to review the insurance policy and he is questioning whether coverage is adequate on a few policies. He is going to sit down with the agent (Cupps) and discuss his concerns.

### ***AESTHETICS***

Councilman McCarty reported he is still working on pricing for various improvements to the Square. Pricing for taking 10 trees down on the west side of the Square would be \$9,600 from "I.M. Good" or \$4,250 from "Put 'em on the ground" (this second price includes grinding out the stumps as much as possible).

President Anderson stated again that ownership of the Square sidewalks must be determined. At this point, it is the understanding that the business owner or property owner is responsible. But in the 1970-80's, the Borough did the planting of the trees. Lengthy discussion followed.

Councilman McCarty stated they have taken down the Christmas/Winter decorations. They will have the committee meeting in early May.

Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to amend the agenda to vote on the tree removal, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

Councilman McCarty made the motion to approve "Put em on the Ground" with a price of \$4,250 to remove the 10 trees in the Square on the condition of the Borough's time line, seconded by Councilman Dum. Motion carried.

### ***FINANCE***

Secretary Shope stated that as she was working on some of the Money Market accounts, she noticed that the interest rates were different. She spoke with Pennian and they have a product called the Pennian Plus Public Funds Money Market. It yields a higher interest rate. Secretary Shope switched everything over into this new type of account. The Borough will now be receiving more interest on all their money market accounts.

### ***GRANTS***

Vice President Fitzpatrick had nothing new to report.

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

Councilwoman Grindle had nothing to report.

President Anderson stated the Councilwoman Grindle has shown interest in attending the PA Borough's Association Conference in Hershey this year.

President Anderson read several thank you cards from the following: Library, Senior Center, and Literacy Council (Partnership for Better Health)

***CLOSING COMMENTS***

There being no further business President Anderson asked for adjournment. Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m., seconded by Councilman Dum. Motion carried. The next meeting of Bloomfield Borough Council will be held Tuesday May 5, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary