

MINUTES
Bloomfield Borough Council
August 2, 2022

Bloomfield Borough Council met this evening in a regular session in the Bloomfield Borough Council Chambers with the following Council members present: Jessica L. Grindle, Malinda C. Anderson, John J. Patterson, J. Kevin Fitzpatrick and Karl L Cless. Brenten Dum had an excused absence.

Also present: Secretary Danielle L. Shope, Assistant Secretaries Kathleen Miller and Susanne Woolever, Mayor Edward T. Albright Jr., Borough Employee Damon Hartman, Solicitor Isaac Wakefield, BEO/PEO Becky Smiley, HRG Representative Ryan Hostetter, Tax Collector Brenda Albright, Zito Media representatives Chris Rudig and Rudy Cadori, and Bloomfield Borough residents Julie Patterson, John Hair, C. Larry Weller, James A. Woods, Cory Peters and Deloris Jane Rosenberry.

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 taping the meeting and if so to identify themselves for the record. President Anderson stated that 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 a motion, seconded by Councilman Cless, to approve the July 5, 2022 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial Report – Councilman Patterson made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle, to approve the financial report for July 2022 as presented. Motion carried.

REQUESTED PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Mr. James Woods and Mrs. Becky Smiley have joined forces to raise money to help repair the baseball field grandstand. She has coordinated fundraising before and is confident she can raise funding for this project. Mrs. Smiley will create a committee. Councilman Brenten Dum will be on this committee along with Mr. James Woods and herself. Mr. Woods will handle the financials. Mrs. Smiley will create a 501 C3 account for the project. Solicitor Wakefield gave permission for Mrs. Smiley to raise this money. She already has some promised donations. The donations are tax deductible. Mr. Woods stated they hope to get a grant also. They do have to know how much will be needed for the repairs. HRG will provide Mrs. Smiley with

with the estimate for repair from the Greenways Trail grant. It will have to go through a bidding process. Discussion followed. They will reach out to the Historical Society. Mrs. Smiley will also reach out to the Lions Club, VFW, etc. for funding.

Mrs. Julie Patterson, 423 West High Street, voiced her frustrations and displeasure with Zito Media. She has had terrible internet service for over two years. She had more problems once the service included TV. In July her internet/TV was down for 16 days. When told a serviceperson would show up to her home, no one showed up.

Zito Media representatives Chris Rudig and Rudy Cadori spoke to Mrs. Patterson's complaints and how Zito Media is trying to solve various problems and the future of Zito Media within the Borough. Zito is slowly moving services closer. They have started construction on new fiber optics to the homes in New Bloomfield. It has improved speeds etc. There will be no additional charges. Mrs. Patterson voiced her frustration again about how Zito has done nothing. More discussion followed. Mayor Albright shared a letter from an elderly resident again expressing displeasure with Zito. Local channels were taken off TV. Mayor Albright stated there are other residents unhappy with Zito. Mr. Cadori stated there were deficiencies and he is trying to change the way technicians work. Walnut Bottom technicians will be supporting Perry County now. Mr. Cadori stated they have a lot of plans in place now to address various deficiencies. Mayor Albright asked for their card for phone numbers if people needed to contact Zito.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Mr. John Hair, 407 West Main Street, expressed his displeasure with the way tree trimming was handled on his private property. President Anderson stated it can be done based on right of way. If the limbs are 5 feet or less, the Borough has the right to trim the trees without permission. Mr. Hair asked for notification first. He is notified if his sidewalk is not cleared of snow, so he can go out himself and clear the sidewalk. But in the case of his trees, no one notified him and now his white pines are dead because all the limbs were cut off. Mr. Hartman stated PennDot made complaints about the trees sticking out over the sidewalk because of sight lines. Mr. Hair stated PennDot came to him and he trimmed them 30 feet off the ground. Mr. Hair just wanted notification first so he could have done the trimming himself to save the trees. President Anderson stated they try to make every effort to notify residents before doing this, but obviously it did not happen in Mr. Hair's case. Mr. Hair also complained about the mess the new borough employee makes during the grass/leaves pick up. He does not pay attention to details thus debris and cans are strewn about Mr. Hair's yard. President Anderson thanked Mr. Hair for bringing it to Council's attention.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Wakefield stated he submitted his formal report previously to Council and unless there were any questions he would defer to that report.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Edward T. Albright Jr stated the town is looking good. The Street Fair plans are coming along.

Parking Officer Report – Mayor Albright stated there were 11 tickets issued during the month of July with 3 unpaid. 1 was voided.

Enforcement Report – BEO Smiley had nothing extra to 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 – Vice President Fitzpatrick stated there are no active developments currently. They recommended one plan go before the zoning hearing board and that was up at the Rice Memorials.

FEMA/PEMA Report – Councilman Cless stated he received a request from PEMA to submit an overdue 2021 FloodPlain management report. This report was supposed to be filed last year but was not, so Councilman Cless completed and submitted it.

Water Authority Report – Mayor Edward T. Albright Jr. stated the water project for the pump station at Talmudic University is still on hold waiting for equipment. The generator may not be in until the end of December.

PCBA/COG – Councilman Cless had nothing to report.

Zoning/Permit Officer's Report – Zoning Officer Smiley stated she was approached by a landlord/property owner within the borough who would like to see some type of fence ordinance for the borough. Currently, there is no ordinance having to do with setbacks, building materials etc. Mrs. Smiley said she could write something up and Council can look into this matter at a future date. Mrs. Smiley had a request about filling out an analysis report for the dialysis center and certificate of occupancy. Solicitor Wakefield asked to see the request. President Anderson suggested not doing this until Solicitor Wakefield reviews it but it does not seem like something the Borough should be doing.

ZEO Smiley issued 3 permits for July, one for sidewalk and one variance. 5 total.

Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report – Councilman Cless reported they met July 20, 2022 at the Delaware Twp Municipal building for the 2nd quarter business review. They approved the disbursements to municipalities. They discussed different options to deal with cash flow with one bank. They approved the resale of the Harrisburg office building using a structured mortgage plan to avoid property taxes. He alerted the organization to the upcoming resolution to charge organizations a \$25 fee per event for the use of the Bloomfield Borough Council Chambers beginning January 1, 2023.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Announcements and Correspondence –

New Email Address: bloomfieldborough@gmail.com

Credit Card Option for paying sewer/trash invoices – Secretary Shope stated the Borough started accepting credit cards for a sewer/trash payment with the second quarter mailing which was the end of June. Several people have used it. The software issue has been corrected. However, the Borough has not received the money reimbursement from the company as of this date.

Dumpster for Recycling: Proposal & Vote - Mayor Albright presented Council with a proposal for a recycling program for the Borough. They will take aluminum cans, bi-metal cans (tin), newspapers, cardboard, and plastic containers & bottles (No. 1,2,5,7), magazines and glass bottles. Sylvester's will pick up the recycling, charging \$150 per tip and \$150 a ton. Mayor Albright is thinking the Borough will have a tip every two to three months. The bin will be locked. Only Borough residents may use this service. Proof of residency is needed. Cameras will deter illegal use with signs posted that it is under video surveillance. It will be staffed by volunteers. Discussion followed. Sylvester's does not require a contract, but President Anderson suggested there be a contract. This will hopefully begin in October. Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve the recycling proposal subject to a written agreement with Sylvester's, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

Proposed Budget Meeting Dates – September 27th & 28th at 4:00 p.m. Mandatory for all Council members. Councilman Patterson recommended members plan on things that are “needed” not just “wanted”.

Resolution #2022-04 : Zito Franchise Fee - President Anderson stated since Zito took over from Nittany Media, Zito is obligated to provide the Borough with a 5% franchise fee. Discussion followed. Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to accept Resolution #2022-04, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried with Councilman Patterson abstaining.

Zoning Hearing Board – New Member - President Anderson stated the Borough Council and the Zoning Hearing Board are very appreciative of Mr. James Woods stepping up to fill the vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board. Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to accept Mr. James Woods as a member of the Zoning Hearing Board, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

RIGHTS OF WAY & UTILITIES

Rights of Way & Utilities Committee Report – Vice President Fitzpatrick stated the work has begun to put the flashing lights in at the school. He is waiting for a note back from the school business manager transferring “liability” from the Borough to the school. The sidewalk projects begin tomorrow.

ADA Sidewalks – Mr. Hostetter remarked the signal bases have been installed by the school and the signs will be hooked up this week. The draft study for the sewer tapping fee is complete and waiting for Council to review. Hopefully, there can be a September vote.

Administrative Committee Report – Councilman Cless stated he did the following:

Replaced malfunctioning security items on the Borough Building...camera on the south side and security night light on the west side

Submitted an email to PPL suggesting a complaint would be filed with the Public Utility Commission regarding an important correction to our electricity accounts being ignored. Assurance was given that the problem would be given priority.

Met with construction contractor Steve Gill of Newport to discuss an update to the old Odd Fellows room currently for rent. Plans were exchanged and are now awaiting a response from him.

Met with Mark Beechey of Capital Coatings to check the section of the Borough Building roof that needs to be updated. The proposal was to apply EDPM paint to the roof. Utilizing the rubberized coating process with a 20 year warranty could be used on that surface in lieu of total rubber replacement. The bid to do the work is \$14,910. Keep in mind this company is the authorized agent for the specialty roof coating. Discussion followed.

Vice President Fitzpatrick made a motion to amend the agenda to allow the discussion of the roofing material. Seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to accept the roofing bid of \$14,910, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried. Councilman Cless can see to having the roof repaired.

Aesthetics Committee Report – Councilwoman Grindle stated the Mayor and others did surveys for the PCEDA about the Main Street Project. People seemed receptive. The next meeting is Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the PCEDA building.

President Anderson stated the playground has been re-mulched with weed prevention.

FINANCE, INSURANCE, & SAFETY

Finance, Insurance & Safety Report – Councilman Patterson stated there was nothing to report.

Grants – Vice President Fitzpatrick stated no additional grants would be pursued this year due to matching funding.

Councilman Cless stated he spoke to Library Board President Codi Steigerwalt. Codi told Councilman Cless that the Borough could possibly get a grant available through the library system to fix or repair the Borough Building since the library is within the building walls. Vice President Fitzpatrick will speak with Codi.

Personnel Committee Report-

Councilwoman Grindle had nothing to report. President Anderson stated the supervisors of all the committees have completed their personnel reviews, except for Damon, Jeremy and Sarah.

Executive Session – None

CLOSING COMMENTS

There being no further business, upon motion by Councilwoman Grindle, seconded by Councilman Cless, the regular meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary