

MINUTES
Bloomfield Borough Council
August 4, 2020

Bloomfield Borough Council met this evening in regular session in the Bloomfield Borough Council Chambers with the following Council members present: Vice President Eric S. Berger, Kimberly A. McMullen, Michael J. Smith, Brenten S. Dum and Jacob L. Casey. President J. Kevin Fitzpatrick and Councilman Wayne S. Leshner IV were an excused absence.

Also present: Assistant Secretary Kathleen Miller, Borough Employee Damon Hartman, Mayor Arlis Krammes, Zoning Officer/Water Authority Representative Ed Albright Jr., Administrative Tech. Assistant Karl Cless, Parking Enforcement Officer Susanne Woolever, Tax collector Jayne Eckert, PSP Station Commander Lt. Robert S. Ligon and Borough residents Malinda Anderson, Becky Smiley, Donald Pelton, Cory Peters, and Nancy Pote, and visitor Ryan Woolever.

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

Vice President Berger led the gathered assembly in the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

MEETING OPENING

Recording of the Meeting – Vice President Berger 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. Vice President Berger 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. Vice President Berger asked if any individuals in the audience were also taping the meeting and if so to identify themselves for the record. Vice President Berger 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 - Councilman Smith made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman McMullen, to approve the July 7, 2020 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial Report – Councilman Smith made a motion, seconded by Councilman Dum, to approve the financial report for July 2020 as presented. Motion carried.

REQUESTED PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Borough Tax Collector Jayne Eckert presented her resignation letter to Council effective immediately on the grounds that she is no longer a resident of the Borough of Bloomfield. She has recently moved into Centre Township. Councilman Smith made the motion to accept Mrs. Eckert's resignation, seconded by Councilwoman McMullen. Motion carried.

Mrs. Jayne Eckert presented Council with another letter stating that Council can, by state tax law, reappoint her as Borough Tax Collector to fulfill her term of office if Council so chooses. Councilman Smith made

the motion to reappoint Jayne Eckert as Borough Tax Collector to fulfill the rest of her term which will end December 31, 2021, seconded by Councilman Dum. Motion carried.

Lieutenant Robert S. Ligon, PSP Station Commander at the Newport Barracks, introduced himself and discussed the types of issues the PSP will respond to within the Borough. PSP has responded to 450 calls in New Bloomfield since January, 2020 which includes 68 traffic stops, 36 citations, 51 warnings, 3 DUI arrested in the Borough, and 5 crashes (only 2 with injuries). Lt. Ligon asked for questions from Council. Vice President Berger mentioned the increase in traffic speed on Main Street and asked if there could be more of a PSP presence to help slow traffic especially early morning (8a.m.) and early afternoon once school is back in session (3 p.m.). Lt. Ligon stated he would let his people know about this issue. Lt. Ligon stated the PSP DOES NOT enforce local Borough ordinances unless it is a real safety issue. Councilman Smith asked about fireworks and if this was something the PSP could enforce? Lt. Ligon stated this is something they could respond to if it is a safety issue such as sparks landing on homes, and vehicles etc.

The PSP Newport Barracks is recruiting. There is presently 27 troopers at the Newport Barracks.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Malinda Anderson, 118 West Main Street, asked on behalf of the New Bloomfield United Methodist Church for permission to erect a 20' x 10' tent on church property for outside services or meetings. She did ask Mr. Albright and he stated that he had no zoning issue with this since it is a temporary structure. Council gave approval, but since there is no zoning issue no motion was needed to approve. The United Methodist Church Pastor will submit a letter to the Borough acknowledging approval to erect this tent.

Karl Cless, Barnett Street, placed an ad for Council on the Borough website for the new BEO position. Mr. Cless explained why he feels the ad is not properly/legally done. He mentioned that advertisement stated the responsibilities would only relate to Chapter 9. Mr. Cless informed Council that in 2010 an ordinance was enacted that established the position of code enforcement officer. Section 2 paragraph 8 states that this officer is to enforce borough ordinances as it is related to Chapters 6, 9, 15 and 20. This is in the law. Mr. Cless feels that if the BEO is only allowed to enforce ordinances related to Chapter 9, this is illegal because Council would be circumventing the law already established in 2010. Mr. Cless asked Council if they were planning to reduce these duties to just Chapter 9 without the benefit of repealing the 2010 ordinance? Councilwoman McMullen said she met with Councilman Leshner and shared Mr. Cless' concerns. She shared the ordinance that is currently on the books with Councilman Leshner. They are working to be sure all the ordinances will be enforced as they can within state and local regulations. They are also working with the PA State Association of Boroughs. Her feelings are that it will not be limited to just Chapter 9. Councilwoman McMullen stated at this point they are simply accepting applications. Mr. Cless also questioned the application because at the bottom it states "under Maryland law". He questioned if anyone proofread the ad. Mr. Cless just wants Council to do the right thing and if not, he will file a complaint with the state Ethics Commission. Councilman Smith stated Council will do the right thing.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Zimmerman was absent so there is no report.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Krammes had nothing to report.

Parking Officer Report – Mayor Krammes reported there were 24 tickets issued in the month of July, with 10 remaining unpaid.

Enforcement Report – Councilman Leshner was absent so there was no report.

Water Authority Report - Mr. Albright reported they are moving on with Well 3. The connection under Route 274 onto their site is finished. There is a drought watch right now. Water levels have dropped significantly. Anything fewer than 50 feet must be reported to DEP. Last time Mr. Albright checked the Borough was at 48 feet and falling. In the next two to three weeks, they should hear about the small waters grant they put in with the state.

Planning Commission Report – Ms. Rowlands was absent so there was no report.

FEMA/PEMA Report – Councilwoman McMullen had no report.

PCBA/COG – Mr. Albright stated there have been no meetings.

Zoning/Permit Officer's Report - Mr. Albright issued a 2 permits for July; one for an above ground pool installation for 108 N. Carlisle Street and one for a sidewalk at 110 South Carlisle Street.

Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report – Mr. Karl Cless reported they reviewed and approved disbursements to all municipalities. The audit had some software fixes needed. Disbursements are down by 40% so he suggests the Borough tighten their belts. Several counties were lost. The next meeting will be October 21, 6:30 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Announcements and Correspondence – None to report

Administrative Committee Report – Councilman Dum mentioned Thursday night roof work.

AESTHETICS

Aesthetics Committee Report – There is no chair at this time so there was no report.

FINANCE, INSURANCE, & SAFETY

Finance, Insurance & Safety Report – Councilman Smith stated he had nothing new to report.

Councilman Smith mentioned the Jewish holiday Rash Hashanah is approaching on September 19 and 20, 2020 and Rabbi Senter reached out to President Fitzpatrick mentioning that there will be quite a few people on campus who will be looking for places to rent for this holiday. They will pay very well for rental properties. This information will also be placed on the Borough website.

Grants – Councilman Smith had nothing to report.

Personnel Committee Report- Councilman Leshner was absent so there was no report.

RIGHTS OF WAY & UTILITIES

Rights of Way & Utilities Committee Report – Vice President Berger had nothing new to report.

CLOSING COMMENTS

There being no further business, upon motion by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Dum, the meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, September 1, 2020 for a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary