

**MINUTES**  
**Bloomfield Borough Council**  
**August 5, 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, Jessica L. Grindle, and Karl L. Cless. Vice President J. Kevin Fitzpatrick and Councilman R. Kevin McCarty had excused absences.

Also present: Secretary Danielle L. Shope, Solicitor Substitute Luke Gibson, Perry County Times Reporter Paul Wyatt, Borough Employee Damon Hartman, ZEO/BEO Becky Smiley, Mayor Gary Eby, Planning Commission Representative Melanie Rowlands, Water Authority Representative Larry Weller and Library Representative Sarah Geesaman.

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** – Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to approve the July 1, 2025 meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

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

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

**Sarah Geesaman - Library Representative** - Ms. Geesaman discussed the current library sign outside the Borough Building and the library's proposal for an updated sign/positioning of the sign. Ms. Geesaman provided the Council with a sketch of the proposed new library sign. She stated that the materials and labor will be donated for this project. She explained how they would like to reposition it slightly. The new sign will allow the Library the ability to change hours and advertise programs, etc. Discussion followed. Councilman Cless will follow up on the Library's request as to location etc. BEO Smiley will work with Ms. Geesaman on a permit, etc.

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

**There were no public comments**

## ***MONTHLY REPORTS***

**Solicitor's Report** – Solicitor Gibson stated that he provided the Council with his formal report and unless there were any questions, he would defer to the report. President Anderson asked Mr. Gibson to inform Solicitor Wakefield that the Slike's seem to be taking care of their property at the end of town, formerly Freysinger's..

**Mayor's Report** – Mayor Eby stated recycling took place this past Saturday to the best of his knowledge. He was not able to attend. President Anderson stated they had 40 cars and \$25 in donations.

Mayor Eby had some concerns concerning the sidewalk tripping hazards. A question has been brought up dealing with tree roots upheaving the sidewalk while the homeowners are mandated to plant trees by ordinance. President Anderson stated this has been a question since she has lived in town, but there is an ordinance stating that if you are on a Borough street you must replace a tree and the homeowners are responsible for the sidewalks. The Borough does have a list of tree species whose roots are more "sidewalk friendly". This information is available to everyone. President Anderson stated that the Council will finally have to decide from a financial standpoint who is responsible for the trees planted in the Square. Traditionally a sidewalk in front of a business is still the owner's responsibility. Discussion followed. Tree replacement monies can be discussed at the budget meeting with a possibility of including it in the Aesthetic budget.

**Parking Officer Report** – Mayor Eby reported 10 tickets were issued in July 2025 with 1 voided and 1 ticket remaining unpaid.

**Enforcement Report** – BEO Smiley had nothing further to report other than what she submitted to Council in her written report. Ms. Smiley reported that as far as the Borough is concerned our involvement with the Slike property is good. July 1st has come and gone on the Leyder property so another citation has been issued to the property owners.

**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** – Planning Commission Chair Melanie Rowlands submitted the following report:

The Planning Commission has 3 open items:

1. The invoices for the conditionally approved DGS (State Shed) Preliminary Land Development Plan remain unpaid. The solicitor will also be verifying the corrected waiver documents.
2. A subdivision plan was submitted by Burget & Associates for the Swensons to change lot lines at their home on North Carlisle St. to correct where a driveway crosses the lines and an outbuilding straddles an unopened alley. This will be reviewed in August. Fees are paid.
3. A Q&A session will also be held at the August meeting regarding new subdivision/ land development plans on Lakeside Drive that will comply with current zoning requirements. Fees are paid along with an escrow fund.

**Water Authority Report** - President Anderson read the following report submitted by the Authority: For the Dutch Canal Project, the water part of the project is finished. The meeting was held between LB Water and gWorks. They are working on the billing program. Councilman Cless has procured 2 computers for the Authority with one more to go. Larry Weller stated the State Shed agreed to either a 6" or 8" line at Locust Street up to where they connect. Discussion followed.

**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 permit this past month for 46 Bartnett Street for renovation to the Christ Meeting House Church.

**Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report** – Councilman Cless reported the 2nd quarterly meeting was held July 16, 2025 at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers. The municipal disbursements were reviewed and approved. The 2024 annual audit was presented by Baker-Till with no findings and the insurance program breakdown was reviewed for acceptance. Also, an approved portion of the operating account was moved to a business money market to accrue working capital for future use. The next meeting will be held Oct. 15, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers..

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

- **Senator Rothman Letter** - Discuss projects to submit to his office.
- **Budget meeting** - September 29th & 30th, 4:00 p.m. - Mark your calendars. Committee chairs are to come prepared.

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

Mr. Hartman gave a sink hole update that was in the Square. The sink hole repair and line replacement is finished. The Dutch Canal Project has the sewer line replaced but now there are just some engineering questions. The Borough might need to fund some of this project to the Borough's surprise.

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

Councilman Cless reported:

1. He installed a new A/C unit in Senator Rothman's office.
2. Purchased repair parts and updated a toilet in the lower level ladies restroom
3. Received 3 Windows 11 replacement computers for disbursement to the Water Authority. 2 of the computers have been loaded with the necessary software required and placed in operation thus far.
4. Received a proposal from Moyers Lock Service for 3 possible upper level door lock scenarios. Since two council members are not present at this meeting, the subject will be tabled for future discussion.

### ***AESTHETICS***

Councilman McCarty was absent so there was no report.

### ***FINANCE***

President Anderson stated they cashed in some CD's and deposited them into money markets for both the Sewer and General Funds at a higher interest rate of 4.10%.

### ***GRANTS***

Vice President Fitzpatrick was absent so no report.

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

Councilwoman Grindle stated the “self review” forms have been distributed and should be returned by August 15, 2025.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There is no Executive Session

***CLOSING COMMENTS***

There being no further business President Anderson asked for adjournment. Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m., seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday Sept. 2, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in Bloomfield Borough Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary