

MINUTES
Bloomfield Borough Council
December 1, 2020

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

Also present: Secretary Danielle L. Shope, Assistant Secretary Kathleen Miller, Borough Employees Damon Hartman and Jacob Morrison, Mayor Arlis Krammes, Zoning Officer/Water Authority Ed Albright Jr., BEO Becky Smiley, Tax Collector Brenda Albright, Perry County Times reporter Jim Ryan, Solicitor Randy Zimmerman and residents Richard Rogers, John J. Patterson, Malinda Anderson, and Cameron Smiley.

President Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
President Fitzpatrick led the gathered assembly in the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

MEETING OPENING

Recording of the Meeting – President Fitzpatrick 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 Fitzpatrick 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 Fitzpatrick asked if any individuals in the audience were also taping the meeting and if so to identify themselves for the record. President Fitzpatrick 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 Berger made a motion, seconded by Councilman Smith, to approve the November 3, 2020 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

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

Announcement of Executive Session –No Executive Session

REQUESTED PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Roger Watson/Lisa Fraker – Pump Station

- Mr. Watson and Ms. Fraker did not show up.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Mr. John Patterson asked several budget clarification questions. First, he inquired about the snow removal contract. He explained that if those monies are not used for snow removal, they can be moved and used for street maintenance. Also, the liquid fuels budget in 2020 was \$40,000 for traffic control devices and in 2021 \$48,000 has now been budgeted. In 2020, half of the 40,000 was designated for radar control speed signs, but nothing has been done about this to date. He asked if this was still part of the budget item. Vice President Berger stated it was still part of the budget and these devices will be purchased in 2021 along with some other safety signs for various crosswalks.

Ms. Malinda Anderson reminded Council that the previous Council had purchased 2 blocks to be placed at the Perry County Memorial Wall in Marysville. Ms. Anderson did not see these bricks during her visit over Veterans Day. She requests that someone follow through on this issue. President Fitzpatrick thanked her for bringing this to Council's attention. Ms. Anderson also had some budget items she questioned. In 2020, the health plan budget was \$40,000 and this year it is only \$22,900. She questioned why it is such a significant reduction. Secretary Shope stated that the \$22,900 is a true number from the insurance company. Ms. Anderson questioned the pension aid (this is what is given to the municipality from the state). Last year it was \$6,500 and this year the correct number is \$1,495. It was lower because of COVID. Lastly, she noticed there is a \$500 retainer for the Solicitor, but not for the engineer and questioned if this was something they were not doing anymore? President Fitzpatrick stated it is a budget issue and they will go back to HRG and it is just to have their services on an as needed basis.

Mr. Richard Rogers stated when he looked up about the crosswalk signs he believes PennDOT is willing to give them to the Borough so they should not have to be purchased. Vice President Berger remarked that Mr. Hartman was going to make contact with PennDOT to get the specifics before they get the signage.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Zimmerman spoke with Councilman Smith who updated him on the Cupp matter. He has given Secretary Shope the W-9. Solicitor Zimmerman and Vice President Berger are going to schedule a joint telephone conference with PPL regarding inconsistencies in their lighting contract. Hopefully, this will be done by the end of the week. Mr. Zimmerman would like a copy of the codification. Mr. Zimmerman praised Council's effectiveness.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Krammes stated people are glad to see BEO Smiley out and about. She mentioned there is still a lot of dangerous skateboarding happening. President Fitzpatrick said BEO Smiley will look into this issue. Councilman Leshar stated his feelings about the fact that BEO Smiley is not law enforcement and this is something the police should be handling, not code enforcement. President Fitzpatrick informed Mr. Leshar skateboarding is an ordinance. Mr. Leshar asked what can BEO Smiley do? Solicitor Zimmerman stated BEO Smiley could investigate and have Mayor Krammes prosecute. BEO Smiley spoke with the skateboarders. Councilman Leshar asked Solicitor Zimmerman if a monetary penalty can be attached to the ordinance. Solicitor Zimmerman stated the Borough can prohibit the use of skateboards on public property for liability reasons. Councilwoman McMullen stated that according to the State Association because the Borough does not have a police force the Borough can only enforce civil ordinances, not criminal. Solicitor Zimmerman stated the Mayor is the chief law enforcement officer.

BEO Smiley cannot prosecute but Mayor Krammes can prosecute. The ordinance will have to be reviewed.

Parking Officer Report – Mayor Krammes reported 11 tickets were issued in the month of November, with 6 still unpaid.

Enforcement Report – BEO Becky Smiley submitted her report. She has had conversations with the Mayor and Zoning Officer Albright about issues that have been resolved and they have been giving her help. She spoke with Damon about trees in the alley of the Senior Center that need trimmed. Jacob is taking care of this issue. She received complaint #3-20201028 to which she responded and researched the ordinance. She spoke to Mr. Albright about this complaint and took video of spouting after it was raining for 2 hours. She got an email from complainant on this case. She spoke to the Mayor about people putting furniture out for free and residents on Church Street parking vehicles in the wrong direction. Mayor Krammes would like BEO Smiley to patrol more. One complaint was actually in Centre Township and she referred them to the Centre Township Office. BEO Smiley discussed parking and leaves in culvert on Church Street and neighbors hanging laundry over fencing on McClure Street with the Mayor. She took pictures of a trailer at 102 Church Street parked on the road and there was a chest freezer and several bags on the curb at 138 McClure Street, but there was no answer when she knocked on the door.

BEO Smiley asked what the protocol is for towing a vehicle. President Fitzpatrick said to ask either himself or Vice President Berger. There was a disabled vehicle parked for over a month in front of the Veterans Building. It was removed after she placed a yellow notice on vehicle. Solicitor Zimmerman would like to see the ordinance on towing. BEO Smiley would like to run plates prior to towing. President Fitzpatrick said she has this authority to run plates.

Water Authority Report - Mr. Albright reported the building is on site and hopefully by the end of the month the building will be up. The 48 inch contact pipe is being installed today.

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

FEMA/PEMA Report – Councilwoman McMullen had no report.

PCBA/COG – Mr. Albright stated they adopted a new fee for in-ground pools. It went from .5-1% of the pool cost.

Zoning/Permit Officer's Report - Mr. Albright issued 1 zoning permit for 42 West Main Street for a new roof for the Perry Housing Partnership building.

Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report – Mr. Cless was not in attendance. President Fitzpatrick asked for a motion to appoint Councilman Smith with the alternate Councilwoman McMullen to take over the responsibilities for Capital Tax Collection for the tax year 2021. Vice President Berger made this motion, seconded by Councilman Dum. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Announcements and Correspondence –

There is still no **Statement of Financial Interest** from Mr. Robert Wood.

President Fitzpatrick read a **thank you letter from the New Bloomfield Fire Company/EMS** for the honor wall brick the Borough purchased.

The **2019 Borough Audit** was approved and completed. Each Council member has a copy for their review.

A request from the **Perry County Community Foundation** was received but this request will be held for the March meeting so Council can see where they are as far a budget goes. This addresses the historical markers going in town for the bi-centennial which have all been paid for by private donations, including two Council members.

The **TCRPC 2021 contract** was approved. President Fitzpatrick will sign this at the end of the meeting.

Vice President Berger made the motion to accept **Resolution #2020-06: Appointment of Bloomfield Borough Auditor** (HRS), seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion carried.

Vice President Berger made the motion to accept **Resolution #2020-07: Fee Schedule**, seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion carried.

Vice President Berger made the motion to accept **Resolution #2020-08: Per Capita Tax** which remains the same as last year, seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion carried.

Councilman Smith made the motion to accept **Ordinance #349: Establishing a Fire Tax** which did not change, seconded by Councilwoman McMullen. Motion carried. Discussion followed. The Fire Company will be requested to attend a Borough meeting to present how the money is spent.

Councilman Smith made the motion to accept **Ordinance #350: Establishing a Tax Rate** which did not change, seconded by Vice President Berger. Motion carried.

Councilman Smith made the motion to accept **Ordinance #351: Establishing the Local Services Tax** which was kept at \$52.00, seconded by Councilman Casey. Motion carried. Some discussion followed about ordinance number assignment.

Councilman Smith made the motion to approve the **2021 Budget** as presented, seconded by Vice President Berger. Motion carried.

Administrative Committee Report – Councilman Dum reported the downstairs room is still available for rent. Mr. Dum reported that Larry Brodisch is still looking for one additional person for the Zoning Hearing Board. Dum also suggested the placing of luminaires along Main Street to help bring the community together to spread holiday cheer. Mr. Dum will be in charge of this project. BEO Smiley will help. Community members would buy the bags from the Borough. Ms. Anderson suggested battery operated candles. BEO Smiley thought the bags were fireproof. Councilman Dum made the motion to follow through on this project, seconded by Councilwoman McMullen. Motion carried. Information about this will be put on the website.

AESTHETICS

Aesthetics Committee Report – Councilman Casey had no report.

FINANCE, INSURANCE & SAFETY

Finance, Insurance & Safety Report – Councilman Smith stated he will email his financial solvency spreadsheet to Council members within the next few days. There were 3 minor recommendations on the audit (developing an investment policy, recording of fixed assets, accounting manual). He praised the office staff for doing such a good job. Secretary Shope stated an accounting manual has been started.

Grants – Councilman Smith had nothing to report.

Personnel Committee Report- Councilman Leshar stated they will be doing reviews this month.

RIGHTS OF WAY & UTILITIES

Rights of Way & Utilities Committee Report – Vice President Berger reported they are waiting on several clarifications about the contract with PPL for updating the street lights to LEDs. This is at no expense to the Borough. It should save money once installed.

Vice President Berger made the motion to approve the contract, pending the telephone conference with the Solicitor and PPL, seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion carried.

Mr. Berger and Mr. Hartman are looking into posting signage at several Main and Carlisle Street crosswalks. They will investigate cost, or no cost, for this project with PennDOT. The Christmas tree is up and decorated. Mr. Berger read a thank you note that was sent to Mr. Hartman, Mr. Morrison and Mr. Albright for a job well done and much appreciated.

CLOSING COMMENTS

There being no further business, upon motion by Councilman Smith, seconded by Vice President Berger, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, January 5, 2021 for a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary