

MINUTES
Bloomfield Borough Council
December 2, 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, Vice President J. Kevin Fitzpatrick, R. Kevin McCarty, Jessica L. Grindle, and Karl L. Cless.

Also present: Secretary Danielle L. Shope, Assistant Secretaries Suse Woolever and Kathy Miller, Solicitor Luke Gibson, Borough Employee Damon Hartman, ZEO/BEO Becky Smiley, Mayor Gary Eby, Planning Commission Representative Melanie Rowlands, HRG Representative Ryan Hostetter, Perry County Times Reporter Paul Wyatt, Perry County Literacy Council Representative Leslie Heimbaugh, Swenson Subdivision Plan Representative Joe Burget Jr., and resident Bernice Reich.

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. (Paul Wyatt from 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 Cless made the motion to approve the November 4, 2025 meeting minutes, seconded by Vice President Fitzpatrick. Motion carried.

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

REQUESTED PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Leslie Heimbaugh - Perry County Literacy Council (PCLC) - Install a “Basics” Trail at the Bloomfield Borough Park -

Ms. Heimbaugh asked Council for permission to the Literacy Council to install a “Basics” Trail at the Bloomfield Borough Park. PCLC received a \$2,500 grant from the Perry County Community Foundation to install six permanent one-sided posters and a small free weatherproof children’s library box on the trail pathway, promoting early childhood kindergarten preparation activities. Ms. Heimbaugh presented packets to all Council members showing examples of the signs on similar trails and she shared statistics supporting the need for such information to be disseminated. This is at no cost to the Borough and the Literacy Council would install and do the long-term maintenance on the upkeep of the signs etc. They would hope to have the “Basics” Trail completed by mid-Spring with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Vice President Fitzpatrick thought it was a good idea. Councilman Cless voiced his concern about the positioning of the signs because of the ball teams. Discussion followed. This would be the

first “Basics Trail” to premiere in the County. Discussion followed. The Literacy Council will need an answer in February or March. Council will follow up on this idea and give Ms. Heimbaugh an answer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Bernice Reich, of 8 West McClure Street, approached the Council about an uninspected vehicle sitting on her street for over two months. She and another neighbor saw syringes in the back. The owner of said vehicle will race it up and down the street at night. She has notified the PSP, but nothing has been done. There is now a second car pushed back on the sidewalk. Mayor Eby asked Ms. Reich to bring her concerns to Council. She could not get her snow plowed because of this vehicle. BEO Smiley stated it is nearly impossible to get a vehicle towed unless there is a state police letter. If it is registered, H J Towing will not tow it. Vice President Fitzpatrick stated the Borough has had vehicles towed before and President Anderson stated there is an ordinance on the books about towing. It is not located on a state road. It is a borough street. Mayor Eby explained his interaction with the PSP, etc. and his wanting of a moratorium on rental properties. A letter needs to be sent to 911. President Anderson asked Ms. Smiley to look into the H J Towing and President Anderson will look into a letter to 911. Discussion followed. President Anderson stated this issue will be followed up on in the future.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Gibson stated he did not have a written report at this time, but will provide this report to Council later. There were no further updates at this time

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Eby stated the permit has been filed on behalf of the Masonic Lodge for the Annual Huckleberry Drop. The New Year festivities begin at 10:30 p.m. in the Square. There will be recycling this Saturday from 8-11 a.m.

Parking Officer Report – Mayor Eby reported 17 parking tickets were issued in November with 1 voided and 9 still unpaid.

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 – Planning Commission Chair Melanie Rowlands submitted the following report:

- 1) Land Development Plan for State Shed continues between phases for Preliminary and Final Plan. No action required by the Borough.
- 2) Swenson Subdivision: Joe Burget is present with signature plan copies. We need a motion to extend the approval date for signature purposes only. Councilman Cless made the motion to extend the deadline for signing purposes only, seconded by Vice President Fitzpatrick. Motion carried.
We also need a motion to approve the waivers that are shown on the plan. (approved)
- 3) Lakeside Development Preliminary Land Development Plan is still not ready for engineering sign off. Perhaps the Planning Commission can do the review at the January meeting. If there are any further delays or continuances, we will need Council to approve another mutually agreed extension. No action required by the Borough at this time.
- 4) Right-of-way question at Church and Barnett St. is awaiting input from the surveyor (Burget). No action required by the Borough at this time.
- 5) Reappointment of Planning Commission members: 1. Suzanne Dell (1/01/26-12/31/30) 2. Kevin McCarty (1/01/26-12/31/30) 3. Kevin Fitzpatrick (1/01/26-12/31/30) Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to approve these three reappointments, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

Water Authority Report - President Anderson read the Report submitted by the Water Authority:

The Board approved the Centre Township water service agreement written up by the Water Authority's solicitor. It is going to be forwarded to Centre Township's solicitor. The Board approved having the Water Authority schedule Grosser's Excavating to come for one day to see how many curb stops they can hydrovac to identify unknown service lines. The new billing program has been put off going live until December 4th. There are still a few issues being resolved.

Reappointment of James Swenson (1/01/26-12/31/30) Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve this reappointment, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

PCBA/COG – Councilman Cless stated the final quarterly meeting will be held November 13th at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers. Mike Gennsmer from BIU gave a detailed report on permits and revenue which were both down from the previous year. Jason Finnerty of TCRPC gave a comprehensive review of commercial construction plans submitted during the year. Since there was only one borough representative present at the meeting, borough business once again could not be conducted. Consequently the final discussion of the meeting involved borough discontinuance of hosting further COG meetings. Jason Finnerty was tasked to investigate possible hosting opportunities with the county.

FEMA/PEMA - Councilman Cless stated paperwork involving FEMA/PEMA rep responsibilities was prepared and given to the new representative councilman Kevin McCarty. No further action has taken place.

Zoning/Permit Officer's Report – Zoning Officer issued 2 permits this past month.

Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report – The final quarterly meeting will be held on December 10th at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers. Councilman Cless suggested the CapTax line item be removed from the Council meeting agendas as it is an independent business entity regulated by DCED for the collection of taxes under PA Act 32 to be disbursed to municipalities and school districts. Even though Councilman Cless is leaving Borough Council he will stay on as the Cap Tax representative.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

***Senator Rothman Letter** - Discuss projects to submit to his office.

***EMS Donation Letter (2025)** - The Borough received a letter of request for funding. Council budgeted \$10,000 so a check will be issued to EMS for this amount. Discussion followed about the Borough not committing to joining the Consortium. Mayor Eby says that there are potential problems about them not being part of the County Consortium, President Anderson stated she attended the consortium meetings. The Borough could join at a later date, but Vice President Fitzpatrick stated the cost of the Borough to join would be \$80,000 per year and he does not want to put this extra financial burden on Borough residents. It would be approximately \$300 per household in additional tax. The Consortium is not yet functional at this date.

* **Library Lease Approval** - All parties have approved the new lease which goes into effect January 2026.

***Penn DOT Letter - Request Concerning Bloomfield Borough Square & Traffic Patterns** - There have been numerous residents coming to Council about the traffic patterns in the Square. Borough Council members, HRG Representative Hostetter, and 3 PennDOT representatives had a meeting in September 2023 watching the traffic flow. All PennDot did was give 2 "Cross traffic does not stop" signs for North and South Carlisle Streets. They

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made another formal request to PennDot on November 20, 2025 to the same representatives to come to a Council meeting to discuss this matter. Discussion followed

***TCRPC (Tri-County Regional Planning Commission) Representative** - This will have to be decided in the new year.

***Resolution #2025-08 : Independent Auditor (2025 Fiscal Year Audit)** Herring Roland and Soloman-Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to accept this resolution, seconded by Councilman McCarty. Motion carried.

***Resolution #2025-09: Per Capita Tax (2026)** - Councilman Cless made the motion to approve this resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

***Resolution #2025-10: Fee Schedule (2026)** - Councilman McCarty made the motion to approve this resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried

***Resolution #2025-11: Establish Attorney Fees (2026)** - Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to approve this resolution, seconded by Councilman McCarty . Motion carried.

***Resolution #2025 - 12: Fixing a Revenue-Neutral Preliminary Tax Rate for the 2026 Tax Year - Countywide Reassessment** - Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve this resolution, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

***Ordinance #383-2025:Local Services Tax (2026)** - Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve this ordinance, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

***Ordinance #384-2025: Fire Protection Tax (2026)** - Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to approve this ordinance, seconded by Councilman McCarty. Motion carried.

***Ordinance #385-2025: Tax Rate (2026)** - Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to approve this ordinance, seconded by Vice President Fitzpatrick. Motion carried.

***Advertise Ordinance for Sidewalk Maintenance - Discussion and vote** - Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to advertise this ordinance, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle.

Discussion followed. Councilman Cless wants to purchase equipment to clean up the curb and he is concerned for the elderly. Councilman Cless made the motion to table this ordinance, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle, Motion passed. This ordinance is tabled.

RIGHTS OF WAYS, UTILITIES, & SAFETY

Vice President Fitzpatrick stated the paving of Chestnut/Veterans/Cemetery has been postponed till Spring. As stated before, there is no funding for the Barnett Woods Road Bridge. The estimate would be over \$900,000. Discussion followed. To place a bridge on the Borough Property to link the sewer plant to borough property is also going to cost \$400,000-\$500,000. More Discussion followed.

HRG Proposals for stop signs/no trucks signs - Discussion & Vote - The Barnett Street truck restriction study would be \$2,600 and an all way stop evaluation at South Church and Barnett Street is another \$2,900. Both Vice President Fitzpatrick and Mayor Eby felt this \$5,500 expenditure for these studies is frivolous at this point. No motion is needed.

ADMINISTRATIVE & INSURANCE (PROPERTY/LIABILITY)

Councilman Cless reported:

- 1) New toilets were installed in the lower level ladies restroom to eliminate the constant clog problem from the old toilets needing to be addressed on a recurring basis.
- 2) Individuals wanting to start a home school expressed interest in renting Room 8 on the lower level of the Borough Building. After discussion with the Council President and the Borough Solicitor, it was decided there were too many negative aspects with that opportunity...liability insurance, inadequate restroom facilities for very young children, possible state regulatory requirements, etc.; therefore, the request was denied.

AESTHETICS

Councilman McCarty stated the Christmas tree is up and decorated.

Reappointment of Shade Tree Commission Members -

1. Kevin McCarty - Chairman (1/01/26-12/31/30)
2. Gary Eby (1/01/26-12/31/30)

Mayor Eby did not know he was on this committee. Discussion followed. President Anderson stated the commitment with this committee. She also researched the trees in the Square. Mayor Eby asked to not be on this committee until he had time to review this research.

Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to reappoint Kevin McCarty to the Shade Tree Commission, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

FINANCE

President Anderson stated there are several CDs that are up for renewal.

Sewer Fund Pennian Bank CD - 9 months at 3.45 APY - Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to accept the 9 month CD, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

A Sewer Fund Bank of Landisburg CD and a Liquid Fuels Bank of Landisburg CD will be due in several days. Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to take the best rate at Landisburg or Pennian for these upcoming CDs, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

Separate Capital Improvement Fund monies into a General account and a Sewer account - Vice President Fitzpatrick made a motion to split these accounts, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

Final Budget Discussion & Vote - Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to approve the 2026 budget, seconded by Vice President Fitzpatrick. Motion carried.

GRANTS

Vice President Fitzpatrick had nothing to report.

PERSONNEL & INSURANCE (HEALTH/DENTAL)

Councilwoman Grindle had nothing to report.

President Anderson took a moment to recognize Councilman Karl Cless. This is his last meeting as a councilman. He has served this Borough off and on since 2005.

Mayor Eby questioned the Barnett Street property that was a church. ZEO Smiley explained all she had researched and followed up on. Heated discussion followed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There is no Executive Session.

CLOSING COMMENTS

There being no further business President Anderson asked for adjournment. Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m., seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried. The reorganization meeting will be Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 6:30 p.m., followed by the next regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Bloomfield Borough Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary