

**MINUTES**  
**Bloomfield Borough Council**  
**December 3, 2024**

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, Raymonda J. Cunningham, Jessica L. Grindle, and Karl L. Cless.

Also present: Secretary Danielle L. Shope, Assistant Secretaries Susanne Woolever and Kathleen Miller, Solicitor Isaac Wakefield, HRG Representative Ryan Hostetter, Perry County Times Reporter Paul Wyatt, Borough Employee Damon Hartman, ZEO/BEO Becky Smiley, Mayor Gary Eby, Tax Collector Brenda Albright and residents and visitors Ryan Woolever, Kevin McCarty, Richard Rogers, and Patti McCarty.

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 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** – Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve the November 5, 2024 meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

**Approval of Special Meeting Minutes (November 18, 2024)** - Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes from November 18, 2024, seconded by Vice President Fitzpatrick. Motion carried.

**Approval of Financial Report** – Councilman Cless made the motion to approve the November 2024 financial statement, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

**Declaration of a Council Vacancy** - Due to the resignation of Councilwoman Cunningham, President Anderson made the declaration of a Council Vacancy. Ms. Cunningham is moving out of the County.

**Nominations for Council Member** - Vice President Fitzpatrick presented the name of Kevin McCarty as a nomination to fill the Council Vacancy mentioned above. Councilman Cless made the motion to close nominations. Motion carried. Councilman Cless made the motion to approve Kevin McCarty to fill the Council Vacancy, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

**Resolution #2024-07: Filling a Council Vacancy** - Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve Resolution #2024-07, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

**Oath of Office** - Mayor Gary Eby administered the Oath of Office to Kevin McCarty. Councilman McCarty took his seat on Council.

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

Tax Collector Brenda Albright presented a letter to Council requesting a resolution for the Bloomfield Borough Tax Collector for the 2025 tax year. Mrs. Albright is choosing not to raise the tax certification fee for the ensuing year. The tax certification charge will remain at \$10.00. Borough Council will do Resolution #2025-01 for Mrs. Albright's fees during the first meeting in January 2025.

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

Resident Richard Rogers asked the following questions of Council.

1. Barnett Woods Road has been closed for bridge repairs per your website. This is causing south Carlisle Street traffic congestion, and an increase in Barnett Street traffic. When will repairs be made?

**Answer:** Vice President Fitzpatrick addressed this issue. To fix the bridge would be in excess of one million dollars! We do not want to bankrupt the Borough. The bridge is actually 18 inches too short in its span to qualify for state or federal funding. The Borough has asked the Perry County Commissioners for help to no avail. A traffic study was done. There are approximately 1,800 vehicles that travel that road every day, with approximately only 200 or less being Borough residents. The Borough can not do anything at this time because the money is not there and the County is not helping.

2. PennDOT work is planned for the Dutch canal under South Carlisle Street in March 2025 in front of the New Bloomfield firehouse and neighboring properties. Does the Borough have plans for the traffic situation?

**Answer:** Vice President Fitzpatrick stated that since South Carlisle Street is a state road the traffic control is out of Borough hands. The State will need to handle this traffic control.

3. At the monument, we witnessed drivers not yielding to Main Street traffic. Signs on Carlisle Street indicating "cross traffic does not stop" have not been effective. Is it possible to paint the word "stop" on the road to prevent an accident?

**Answer:** President Anderson met with several PennDOT officials last year about this issue. The Borough would like to write "Yield" or "Stop" on the road, but again this is a state road. There are the words "Stop Ahead" painted on South Carlisle Street headed toward the Square. People do not comply. Possibly solar panel stop signs with warning lights. The Square is NOT a roundabout.

4. There is a crosswalk marking (person walking) in the northbound lane of South Carlisle Street at Barnett Street, but not in the southbound lane?

**Answer:** The crosswalks had to go through the HRG permit process with PennDOT as well. The pedestrian warnings are on the streets. President Anderson stated this will probably be an ongoing process into 2025.

5. When installing the new walking path near the ball field, roots of several large trees were cut into. These trees border South Carlisle Street properties. Mr. Rogers wanted to make the Council aware of this damage.

**Answer:** Vice President Fitzpatrick thanked Mr. Rogers for bringing this to Council's attention. They will look into it and keep an eye on this issue.

6. Where does the increase in real estate tax go?

**Answer:** President Anderson stated there has not been a tax increase within the Borough in almost twenty years. The small increases from last year and this year is basically used to fund the Borough. Tax Collector Albright states where taxes go. The Borough taxes go into the General fund to help with Borough expenses.

7. In Bloomfield Borough, is parking allowed in a Right of Way?

**Answer:** Discussion followed about private vs. public ROW. Mr. Rogers is having issues with the ROW next to the fire company. Mr. Rogers signed an agreement in good faith about using the ROW next to the firehouse. He will go to the fire company meeting to discuss further. Mayor Eby invited him to attend the fire company meeting.

### ***MONTHLY REPORTS***

**Solicitor's Report** – Solicitor Wakefield stated he provided the Council with his formal report and unless there were any questions, he would defer to the report.

**Mayor's Report** – Mayor Eby mentioned the tree lighting went well, approximately 30-40 people attended. He suggested more portable lighting for the ceremony. Mayor Eby thanked the Civic Club and asked to have a thank you note be sent to the Civic Club. The New Year's Eve Huckleberry Drop permit has been submitted to the Borough office. The application was sent to the state for approval. The event will run from December 31st (10 p.m. ) until January 1st (12:30 a.m.).

Mayor Eby had several requests:

1. A Food truck is requesting 2 parking spaces in the vicinity of the Square from 6:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday. The vendor would pay to have these spaces. Discussion followed. The Borough is having trouble with lack of parking spaces as it is. Solicitor Wakefield advised Council against pursuing this request.
2. Fersters' meat market complained that rentals are utilizing parking spots all day. They would like one or two spaces for their customers. Discussion followed. President Anderson has no problem designating 1 space for 30 minute parking, but an ordinance would have to be passed to fulfill this request. Council will take it under advisement.
3. Mayor Eby asked about child abuse clearances whenever overseeing community service hours. The mother of the juveniles who are doing the community service hours is overseeing her children. President Anderson suggested to anyone who wants to do this it is a good idea. Mayor Eby and Councilman Cless will look into getting these clearances.

Mayor Eby mentioned about the recycling initiative on the 1st Saturday of every month.

**Parking Officer Report** – Mayor Eby reported 7 tickets were issued in November, with 2 voided and 3 still unpaid.

**Enforcement Report** – BEO Smiley stated in addition to her report, she submitted 1 civil action complaint and she got an email that she has to do the JIS audit in order for her to run plates.

**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 reported the activity with PennDOT has stalled. There is now a ninety day extension from 12/13/24 until they finalize all their plans. There are no other plans that have been submitted at this time. Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to accept this extension of time with PennDOT, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

**FEMA/PEMA** - Councilman Cless had nothing to report.

**Water Authority Report** - President Anderson read the following report submitted by Mr. Larry Weller:

The Targeted Bottleneck Project is complete. The Water Authority is going to approach the DCED people to discuss whether the excess funds can be used for another project. The West End Looping & Consolidation Grant has been applied for. The PennVest meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2024 to discuss financial assistance in replacing the lead service lines.

**PCBA/COG** – Councilman Cless reported the final meeting of the year was held November 14th at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers. Attendance was sufficient to conduct business for the PC Boroughs Association. Minutes and financial reports of the last meeting were reviewed and approved. BIU permits were down 9% from the same time last year. 2025 meeting dates were approved and given to the Borough Secretary for calendar entry.

**Zoning/Permit Officer's Report** – Zoning Officer Smiley issued 0 permits during the month of November.

**Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report** – Councilman Cless stated the final quarterly meeting of the year will be held December 11th at 7 p.m. in council Chambers.

**Executive Session** - NONE

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

**Ordinance #377: 2025 Local Services Tax** - Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to approve this ordinance, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

**Ordinance #378: 2025 Fire Protection Tax** - Councilman McCarty made the motion to approve this ordinance, seconded by VP Fitzpatrick. Motion carried.

**Ordinance #379: 2025 Tax Rate** - Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve this ordinance, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

**Ordinance #380: Bloomfield Park (Dusk to Dawn Hours/ Park Rules)** - Councilman Cless made the motion to approve this ordinance, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried. Discussion followed from Solicitor Wakefield about camping in the park and using buildings for only intended purposes etc. Councilman Cless would like “no loitering” signs on the front lawn. Mr. Wakefield will look into this.

**Resolution #2024-08: Independent Auditor** - Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to accept this resolution, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

**Resolution # 2024-09: 2025 Per Capita Tax** - Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to accept this resolution, seconded by Vice President Fitzpatrick. Motion carried.

**Resolution #2024-10: 2025 Fee Schedule** - Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to accept this resolution, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

Resolution #2024-11: Establish Attorney Fees for 2025 - Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to accept this resolution, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

Zoning Hearing Board - John Hair appointment ends 12/31/24 and does not want to be reappointed. Richard Bisbing's name was brought forth to serve from 1/1/25-12/31/27. Councilman Cless made the motion to accept Mr. Richard Bisbing for the Zoning Hearing Board, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

Bloomfield Borough Water Authority Reappointment - C. Larry Weller: Term 1/1/2025-12/31/2029 - Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to accept this reappointment, seconded by Councilman McCarty. Motion carried.

Bloomfield Borough Planning Commission Board Reappointment - Roger Watson: Term 1/1/2025-12/31/2029 - Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to accept this reappointment, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

President Anderson stated there is still a vacant position on the Water Authority.

Final Budget Discussion & Vote - No change from proposed. Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve the 2025 budget, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

Develop Park Rules Protocol for the new park - This discussion will be continued in January. Posting the new rules is approved. Mr. Hartman will take down the old signs until new signage is in place.

Potential Porta Potty Rental for the new park - The VFW will continue to pay the fee for the year 2025. The Borough will have to decide if they are going to pay for a handicap rental which would be \$185/ month. This is a non-budgeted item. To be discussed again in January.

Randy Waggoner/ Darla McNaughton - Perry County Reassessment Project - They will come to speak at the January Council Meeting.

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

Bloomfield Borough Park Project Update - They received final approval from DCNR on the walk through. The railing will be installed December 17, 2024. Once it is installed, the Borough will get the final bill from SLC Excavating at which time they can submit this to DCNR for reimbursement for the remaining 10% of the funds allocated for the park. 4 benches were installed and another 4 to be installed.

Barnett Woods Road Bridge - Barnett Woods Road was created for access to the sewer plant years ago, but once paved it became a thoroughfare. Unless we can get an exception to the missing 18", the road will be closed for the foreseeable future. President Anderson stated concrete stanchions had to be installed to prevent cars from traveling around stone piles on this road. These were put into place because of possible liability issues.

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

Councilman Cless reported the following:

1. He met with the mother of the juveniles responsible for the mischief at the Borough Building to discuss the progress and completion of hours of community service. Signed off on the service worksheet.
2. He acquired virtual Zoom meeting hardware from Capital Area Tax Collection Bureau to install in Borough Council Chambers for future Captax meetings beginning in 2025.

***AESTHETICS***

President Anderson stated there is a vacancy on this committee due to the resignation of Councilwoman Cunningham. Little solar Christmas trees were installed in the barrels around the Square. President Anderson thanked Ms. Cunningham for all her help on this committee.

***FINANCE***

President Anderson stated they cashed in the CD that came due from the garbage fund. This was cashed in and deposited into the Garbage Account. Also, a CD came due under the State/Liquid Fuels fund. This was rolled over for 13 months at a 4.05% interest rate.

***GRANTS***

Vice President Fitzpatrick reported they were unsuccessful in acquiring the COVID 19 ARPR Multipurpose Community Facilities Program and the LSA Multipurpose Grant. Both these applications were to be used for the Borough Building. Vice President Fitzpatrick has asked HRG to give us a proposal in 2025 to sit down and do a strategic planning process to expand the park and playground equipment and in making the Borough Building ADA compliant.

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

Councilwoman Grindle had nothing to report.

***CLOSING COMMENTS***

There being no further business President Anderson asked for adjournment. Councilman Cless made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m., seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in Bloomfield Borough Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary