

MINUTES
Bloomfield Borough Council
February 3, 2026

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, and Jessica L. Grindle.

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, HRG Representative Isaac Underhill, Perry County Times Reporter Paul Wyatt, Planning Commission President Melanie Rowlands and Bloomfield Borough residents John Hair, Pat Woolever, and Patience Hill.

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 Reorganizational Meeting Minutes - Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to approve the Reorganizational meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman McCarty. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes – Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to approve the January 6, 2026 meeting minutes, seconded by Vice President Fitzpatrick. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial Report – Councilman McCarty made the motion to approve the January 2026 financial reports, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

Declaration of Council Vacancy - President Anderson announced that Borough Council is looking for a person to fill a Council vacancy. This person will be sworn in during the March meeting.

REQUESTED PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

There were no requested public comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Daman Hartman, representing the BCC Pool, thanked Council for their previous donations and to inform Council that they will be receiving a donation request letter for this coming year.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Gibson stated he did not have any further comments beyond what was in the written report presented to Council.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Eby stated there will be recycling this weekend. Also, North Apple Street was closed from Oak Road to High Street for sledding during the snow event. Many Borough residents were appreciative. Also, 46 Barnett Street is now on the tax rolls.

Parking Officer Report – Mayor Eby reported 11 parking tickets were issued in January with 1 voided. President Anderson stated that after speaking to PEO Grove a moratorium was issued on parking tickers during the snow storm, and will resume in a few weeks.

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 requested that Council agree to a 90 day extension for the Lakeside Preliminary Land Development Plan. This moves the action deadline from February 20, 2026 to May 21, 2026. Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion for approval, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried. The review by the Planning Commission is scheduled for February 23, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

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

For the West End Looping Consolidation grant, the Water Authority received partial funding for the project. The Board was presented with a proposal for their review from a JHA engineer with two options. Option A is the replacement of the existing water main along West Main Street from the western edge of the PennDOT County Office property around Cold Storage Road and the west end of High Street. Option B is the extension of the water main north along Cold Storage Road in the direction of Karns Plaza. The Water Authority did not receive funding for the PA Small Water and Sewer Program grant for Church and Apple Streets.

PCBA/COG – The Borough is not mandated to have a representative. This will be tabled until a new Council member is named. Then there will be discussion of the possibility of a new representative for PCBA/COG.

FEMA/PEMA - Councilman McCarty stated there was no activity.

Zoning/Permit Officer's Report – Zoning Officer issued 0 permits this past month. Ms. Smiley did submit her annual report to the tax assessment office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Keep Perry County Beautiful - Electronic Recycling Event - Saturday April 18th from 9 a.m - 11a.m. at the Newport Fairgrounds. The Conservation District is requesting \$250 or more in donation money. Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve a \$250 donation, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

Letters of Support written for New Bloomfield Senior Center and BCC Swimming Pool - Vice President Fitzpatrick stated that both the Senior Center & BCC Pool are pursuing a \$3,500 grant, so he wrote a letter of support for both organizations. Resident Pat Woolever, on behalf of the Senior Center, thanked Council for the support of the Senior Center.

Ballfield discussion - Discussion took place about not being reimbursed for building damages incurred by a ball team last year. Council is considering requiring proof of insurance for visiting and home teams before use of the field. They might follow the Newport Borough ball field requirements. Discussion followed about team vs. league insurance coverage and the administration portion of this issue.

RIGHTS OF WAYS, UTILITIES, & SAFETY

Vice President Fitzpatrick deferred to Mr. Hartman about the work performed at Pennian Bank. On 4/29/2025, JVI Inc. struck the lateral at Pennian Bank during the Dutch Canal Project. The lateral was supposedly repaired in early May. On 9/10/2025, Mr. Hartman received a phone call from the bank that they had a blockage. The bank called Advanced Septic. Advanced Septic found a lot of stone and construction material in the lateral. The blockage was opened. On 1/21/2026, Mr. Hartman received another call from the bank. The lateral was blocked again. The blockage was opened again and scheduled for excavation on 2/02/2026. At this point, there have been numerous bills from Advanced Septic to pay. While excavating the lateral, the Bloomfield Borough found that JVI never cleaned out the debris or installed a clean out cap on the pipe before paving over top. This was the 3rd time that the Borough had to respond to this location. Excavation was the only way to permanently correct the issue. Mr. Hartman has learned as a result of this situation, wherever PennDOT is working within the Bloomfield Borough's municipal boundary, the Borough will need to be present to inspect the work from now on.

President Anderson stated that information just came to the Borough about the West Perry School District making a PowerPoint presentation about their strategic planning stating that they want to expand New Bloomfield Elementary and expand the storm water set up at that school. The Borough was not notified about any of these plans. Mayor Eby stated this is all brand new. The feasibility study for the school district has changed and the study was just completed last Thursday. Discussion followed.

ADMINISTRATIVE & INSURANCE (PROPERTY/LIABILITY)

President Anderson read an email stating The Perry County Commissioners and the Perry County America 250 executive steering Committee proudly announce the Perry County Grand Celebration Event at the Family Life Center on Shortcut Road in Newport on April 19, 2026 at 2 p.m.

AESTHETICS

Councilman McCarty stated the Christmas tree was still standing. The committee hopes to decorate the little trees with hearts for Valentine's Day. The owner of Stumps and More, Jim Shank, is not interested in the tree removal of trees in the Square.

Councilman McCarty, President Anderson, and Mayor Eby will continue to research who owns the sidewalks in the Square and who is responsible to maintain them.

FINANCE

President Anderson stated the Capital Improvement Fund Account has been separated into a General and Sewer Account each.

GRANTS

Vice President Fitzpatrick stated Perry County Economic Development Authority (PCEDA) has announced the 2026 Community Walkways Grant program. This grant is refundable to \$20,000. There is not a match. Vice President Fitzpatrick stated they have to get 3 bids and present these bids with pictures with the application. He would like to focus on the Square. He asked for Council permission to work on this application. Council gave approval.

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PERSONNEL & INSURANCE (HEALTH/DENTAL)

Councilwoman Grindle had nothing to report.

CLOSING COMMENTS

There being no further business President Anderson asked for adjournment. Councilman McCarty made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m., seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried. The next meeting of Bloomfield Borough Council will be held Tuesday March 3, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers.

Borough Council adjourned into **Executive Session.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary