

**MINUTES**  
**Bloomfield Borough Council**  
**January 10, 2023**

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, John J. Patterson V., Karl L. Cless and Brenten S. Dum. Vice President J. Kevin Fitzpatrick had an excused absence.

Also present: Secretary Danielle L. Shope, Assistant Secretaries Susanne Woolever and Kathleen Miller, Borough Employees Damon Hartman, Jeremy Foulkrod and Sarah Kerstetter, Solicitor Elizabeth Kramer, BEO/ZEO Becky Smiley, Mayor and Water Authority Representative Edward T. Albright Jr., HRG Representative Ryan Hostetter, Parking Enforcement Officer James Kitner, PSP Sgt. Derek Johnson, Businessman Joe Casper, Bloomfield Grandstand Restoration Project Treasurer James A. Woods, Tineill Hartman, and residents John Hair and Cory Peters.

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 taping the meeting and if so to identify themselves for the record. Perry County Times Reporter Paul Wyatt is also recording the meeting. President Anderson 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** – Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to approve the December 2022 meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman Patterson. Motion carried.

**Approval of Financial Report** – Councilman Patterson made a motion, seconded by Councilman Dum, to approve the financial report for December 2022 as presented. Motion carried.

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

There were no “Requested Public Comments”.

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

PSP Sgt. Derek Johnson presented a statistical summary of calls responded to by the PSP within New Bloomfield for the year 2022 in comparison to 2021 calls. In 2021, they had 660 calls for service; whereas in 2022, they had 670 calls for service. In 2021, they had 121 criminal offenses dealt with; whereas in 2022, there was a slight decline with only 107 criminal offenses. There were 10 crashes in 2021 with 11 crashes in 2022, 5 with injuries, but no fatalities. Traffic enforcement served 103 citations in 2021, but only 47 in 2022. Numbers are down overall. 2022 saw 23 property crimes and 23 personal crimes. President Anderson stated the biggest concern from residents is the speeding on Main Street. Councilman Cless asked if PSP can use radar? Sgt. Johnson stated he would need to look at the distances where the speed limit drops.

Resident John Hair wrote a letter to Borough Council on November 21, 2022. Secretary Shope received this letter and she forwarded it to President Anderson. Mr. Hair presented Council members with a copy of this letter. Mr. Hair summarized the history of the sewer line installment on his property at 7 West Main Street. In 1999, Mr. Dale Beaston did not want the tree or recent brickwork disturbed on Mr. Hair's property. Now, the tree is causing problems in his sewer line. In 2014, the Borough paid to have the sewer line cleaned and Mr. Hair said the Borough accepted this responsibility and he questioned why the Borough is denying responsibility now. President Anderson replied stating Mr. Hartman reviewed past minutes and Mr. Hair's video tape of the property's sewer line. Mr. Hartman stated he researched everything and discovered there was nothing in the minutes stating exactly what happened. However, the dates do line up. The tree roots were an issue in 2014, but now the new video footage shows no sign of roots or debris blockage. Mr. Hartman did see a separation in the PVC pipe 13 feet out. Mr. Hartman stated that since there is an issue, the ROW committee and himself are making the suggestion that since the Borough paid the bill in 2014 that Mr. Hair should pay the bill this time and then in the Spring Mr. Hartman will do investigative work at the property and will correct any issues before they do the redevelopment of the Square. President Anderson stated it might involve more than just his property. Another thing President Anderson said was that there has been no definitive definition of who owns and maintains the brick sidewalks and trees in the Square. Years ago Council said it was the Borough with other Councils saying it is the property owners. So until Council makes a definitive decision, this is where it stands now. The Borough plans to correct this sewer issue and pay for it. Mr. Hair asked if the backup happens again before the Borough corrects the issue, who will pay for it? President Anderson stated the Borough will.

Mr. James A. Woods of the Bloomfield Grandstand Restoration Project stated the treasury balance on November 30, 2022 was \$9,733.95. On December 31, 2022 it was \$11,103.95. BEO Smiley stated that the Christmas dinner raised another \$370.00 serving 14 families with 42 people. Councilman Cless asked the Solicitor that since this group is a 501(C3) can the Borough offer money to them if the project cannot come up with the full \$35,000.00. Ms. Kramer will check on this issue to make sure it is legal for the Borough to do so.

Mr. Cory Peters of 119 South Carlisle Street presented his issue with a rat/mice infestation on his property. Mr. Peters stated his wife's car has been destroyed, wires for the internet eaten through, food destroyed and his barn foundation is being destroyed. He said it is not just his property. Mr. Peters stated he contacted the Dept. of Health and they told him to contact the Borough. BEO Smiley stated she interviewed his neighbors in September and October. She stated that when the bowling alley was first cleaned out there were some problems, but they have not had any problems since. BEO Smiley stated you have to eliminate any food sources. Mr. Peters has chickens. BEO Smiley will contact Perry Pest Control. Ms. Smiley and President Anderson will investigate.

### ***MONTHLY REPORTS***

**Solicitor's Report** – Solicitor Kramer stated Mr. Wakefield submitted his formal report previously to Council and unless there were any questions she would defer to that report.

Ms. Kramer stated Solicitor Wakefield wanted her to follow up on the pump station. Mr. Hartman stated that the three conditions that need to be met by February 21, 2023 have not been completed as of January 10, 2023. President Anderson will contact Solicitor Wakefield about this issue.

**Mayor's Report** – Mayor Edward T. Albright Jr. reported the New Year's Huckleberry Drop was successful with approximately 60 people attending. The January 7th recycling day serviced 38 cars with 6 volunteers helping. They received \$29.00 in donations. The dumpster tip cost \$365.00 for three months.

**Parking Officer Report** – There were 18 tickets issued during the month of December with 3 unpaid.

**Enforcement Report** – BEO Smiley had nothing in addition to her submitted monthly 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** – President Anderson gave the report for Ms. Rowlands. There was a meeting on December 19, 2022. There is a company wishing to install solar panels in a portion of Centre Township and a parcel within Bloomfield Borough. At this point, the Bloomfield Borough parcel has been withdrawn.

**FEMA/PEMA Report** – Councilman Cless had no report.

**Water Authority Report** – Mayor Edward T. Albright Jr. stated they are waiting on the generator and garage doors at the pump station at Talmudic. They are waiting on the official awarding of a LSA and CFA grant of \$350,000.00 for infrastructure.

**PCBA/COG** – Councilman Cless stated the next meeting will be February 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Cless is now the President of PCBA/COG.

**Zoning/Permit Officer's Report** – Zoning Officer Smiley stated she issued 0 permits for December.

**Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report** – Councilman Cless stated the final quarterly meeting was held December 14th at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Tax disbursements were reviewed and approved. A new employee was approved for hire. Mr. Cless was appointed to the executive committee to fill a resignation. 2023 quarterly meetings were approved.

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

**Credit Card Option for paying for sewer/trash** invoices is now available.

**New Email Address:** [bloomfieldborough@gmail.com](mailto:bloomfieldborough@gmail.com).

**Beginning January 4, 2023 the Borough Office will be open for in-person hours on Wednesdays from 9:00am-12:30pm on a trial basis.**

**Resolution #2023-01 - Fee Schedule:** Street excavation permit fees now as follows: \$25 for under \$50,000, \$50 for \$50,000-\$100,000 and anything over \$100,000 is an extra \$25. Councilman Cless made the motion to approve Resolution #2023-01, seconded by Councilman Patterson. Motion carried.

**Resolution #2023-02 - Code of Conduct:** President Anderson read the new Code of Conduct for the audience and all Borough employees present. A copy of the code of conduct can be found at the Bloomfield Borough Office. Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to approve Resolution #2023-02, seconded by Councilman Patterson. Motion carried.

**Reappointment: Melanie Rowlands to Planning Commission (Term: 1/1/2023-12/31/2027)** - Councilman Dum made the motion to approve Melanie Rowlands appointment to the Planning Commission, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

### ***RIGHTS OF WAY & UTILITIES***

Councilman Patterson discussed the Barnett Woods Road Bridge #2. Councilman Dum made the motion to approve \$48,050.00 for the preliminary HRG engineering and permitting for this bridge, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

On January 9, 2023 President Anderson, Vice President Kevin Fitzpatrick, Councilman Patterson, BEO Hartman and HRG Ryan Hostetter met with the County Commissioners about the Barnett Woods Road Bridge #2 to discuss its need for replacement. There are 2,000 cars using this road every day. It is not just a Borough road, it is a County road. The bridge is 18 inches too short to qualify for any funding. Commissioners noted Borough concerns and will be in contact concerning possible revenue help.

### ***ADMINISTRATIVE***

**Administrative Committee Report** - Councilman Cless's administrative report is as follows:

1. An in-depth investigation was done to address the street lighting debacle regarding PPL account #71538-20008. Based on the discoveries after review of past receipts to 2018, it became evident that an accounting error occurred during the update of the new LED street lights. As of June 2022, the error had been detected by PPL and corrected. Consequently, a request to rescind the motion in December to stop payment of the new account is hereby recommended. Councilman Cless made the motion to rescind the motion in December to stop payment of the new account, seconded by Councilman Patterson. Motion passed.
2. Councilman Dum made the motion to amend the agenda to discuss the State Senator Office, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.
3. Gill's Construction has completed 95% of the renovations, including carpet installation, of the upper level room in preparation for Senator Rothman's District office. Electrical wiring was completed by Eckert Electric. 3 items including the new ADA entry doors and sliding service window are on backorder due to supply chain issues, but will be installed immediately upon arrival. Since the project is very near completion and keys have been issued to the lessee, an invoice not to exceed \$18,777.50 will be submitted to Senator Rothman's office for payment in full as agreed to in the final lease.
4. Councilman Cless addressed some Borough Building issues. The roof leak stains in the upper level restrooms and rear stairwell prior to the recent roof repair were addressed with drywall repair and touch up painting. Also, replaced a defective ballast in a hallway ceiling light was repaired.

**Aesthetics Committee Report** – Councilman Dum thanked the Mayor and Fire Company for the Christmas Tree lighting. They raised \$128.00 from the luminaries. This money will go to the Grandstand project. Nothing to report on the benches, as to completion and delivery

January 10, 2023

Page 5

PABB01926

### ***FINANCE, INSURANCE & SAFETY***

Councilman Patterson is increasing Borough revenue by reviewing Borough CD's as they become due. One CD went from .35% to 4.30% with a term of 2 years.

### ***GRANTS***

Mr. Ryan Hostetter reported they had submitted a grant application to DCNR for the park improvements. The grant is worth \$428,000.00. They hope to hear from DCNR shortly. This had a 20% match.

Mr. Woods thanked Mr. Hostetter for the safety improvements made to the Apple Street crosswalk.

President Anderson stated the Herring, Roll, & Solomon group is conducting the audit of the DiSanto grant.

### ***PERSONNEL***

Councilwoman Grindle stated President Anderson and herself are continuing to work on the employee manual.

Ms. Grindle commented on the PCDA/Main Street initiative and its brainstorm projects. Bloomfield is now a Keystone Accredited Community.

### ***CLOSING COMMENTS***

There being no further business, upon motion by Councilman Dum, seconded by Councilman Cless, the regular meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary