

MINUTES
Bloomfield Borough Council
January 7, 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 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, Perry County Assessment Office Representatives Randy Waggoner and Darla McNaughton and residents/guests Ryan Woolever, Ed Apple, James Woods and Daniel Fine-Aishel.

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 – Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to approve the December 3, 2024 meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial Report – Councilman Cless made the motion to approve the December 2024 financial statement, seconded by Vice President Fitzpatrick. Motion carried.

REQUESTED PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Randy Waggoner/Darla McNaughton - Perry County Reassessment Project - Chief Assessor Randy Waggoner and Deputy Chief Assessor Darla McNaughton gave an update on the status of the Perry County Reassessment project. Preliminary values will go out February 10, 2025. The central part of the county will be done March 10, 2025. The formal notices will go out to property owners by June 30, 2025. Appeals will be completed by October 31, 2025. More discussion and questions followed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

No Public comments.

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. Mr. Wakefield did report that a civil action suit was filed against the owners and renters of the old Freysinger property. There are a few positive developments in this case. Also, a hearing will take place at the end of the month to prosecute a citation against the blighted Leyder property.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Eby reported there were 39 residents that participated in the recycling with 10 volunteers. Mayor Eby has been working with several young people who are doing community service. They have approximately 35 hours in. They have been helping at the Union Cemetery and the Fire House during inclement weather. Mayor Eby stated they are still working on addressing the parking situation around Fersters Meat Market. There is a car parked the wrong direction at 319 West Main Street. Mayor Eby made several unsuccessful attempts to talk to the residents. Mayor Eby will ask the parking enforcement officer to look into this matter and have them cited. Mayor Eby stated there were about 300 people attending the New Year's Eve Huckleberry Drop.

The Fersters Meat Market Parking issue was further discussed. Councilman Cless made a motion to have Solicitor Wakefield prepare an ordinance for a one spot 30 minute time limit, seconded by Councilman McCarty. Motion carried.

Parking Officer Report – Mayor Eby reported 10 tickets were issued in December, with 2 voided and 4 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 – No report.

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

- The Water Authority approached Sarah Keller from Senator Rothman's Office about keeping the leftover funds from the Targeted Bottleneck project. Ms. Keller looked into it and informed the Authority that the funds would have to be returned to the DCED.
- The PennVest rules have remained the same. They will only reimburse potholing if there are lead lines. Discussion followed.
- The Board talked about an inter-municipal agreement with Centre Township for providing water to their residents. Jerry Philpot is going to write up a draft inter-municipal agreement. Discussion followed. Some Centre Township buildings (Karns, etc.) will be Bloomfield Borough water customers.

PCBA/COG – Councilman Cless had nothing to report.

FEMA/PEMA - Councilman Cless had nothing to report.

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

Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report – Councilman Cless stated the final quarterly meeting of the year was held December 11, 2024 at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers. Municipal disbursements were reviewed and approved. Also, election of new officers for 2025 was held and meeting dates were approved and posted to the Borough Office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Bloomfield Borough Water Authority Appointment: Alex Bender - Term 1/1/25-12/31/2029 - Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve Mr. Bender, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

Develop park rules protocol for the new park - Mr. Hartman will install Dusk to Dawn signs. Also, the park rules will be displayed on the signs at the park.

Discuss potential Porta Potty rental for the new park - The VFW provides funding for porta potty during the months of April through November. If the Borough provides a regular and a handicapped porta potty it would cost approximately \$285/month. To just rent a handicap porta potty, the cost would be \$185/month. This cost was not budgeted for this budget year. President Anderson asked the Office Staff to contact both the VFW and Advanced Septic about this issue. Discussion followed.

Perry County EMS - Strategic Planning Committee - Bloomfield Borough District 2 - Workshop Meeting: February 13, 2025 at 6:30pm West Perry High School, Auditorium, www.PerryCountyEMS.com - Councilwoman Grindle and Councilman McCarty volunteered to attend this workshop. Mayor Eby stressed the necessity of EMS personnel. Discussion followed.

Humane Society Contract Discussion - The Borough has always contracted with the Humane Society at a cost of \$250 per year, but the Borough has never used this service. The contract cost is now going up to \$1,200/year which is not in the Borough's budget. BEO Smiley stated how the Borough has never utilized these services. Discussion followed. President Anderson made the motion to not enter into contract with the Humane Society, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

Ordinance & Resolution : Tax Collector Fees - Solicitor Wakefield stated that Tax Collector Brenda Albright needs proof that she can charge certain costs for certification in real estate closings. This needs to be done by ordinance. Solicitor Wakefield will draft an ordinance and fee resolution for the February 2025 meeting.

Statement of Financial Interests - These must be completed and returned to the Borough Office no later than April 1, 2025.

President Anderson also encouraged Council members to refrain from discussing meeting topics over email. These topics are sent to inform members what will be discussed at the next meeting, informational only, not for discussion via email. This violates the Sunshine Law.

RIGHTS OF WAYS, UTILITIES, & SAFETY

Bloomfield Borough Park Project Update - Vice President Fitzpatrick stated they are still waiting for a few benches to be installed in the spring. This will then give the park 8 benches in total. The railing has been installed. The new DCNR required sign has been received.

Barnett Woods Road Bridge - There is no news. The bridge is still 18 inches too short. Lengthy discussion followed. The Borough does not have the funding. Vice President Fitzpatrick has asked HRG to put a proposal together that will allow us to sit down and put together a strategic discussion on all outstanding projects that have been identified so far within this Borough including, but not limited to, the Borough Building. Hopefully, this proposal will be ready by the February meeting.

Park Rules - President Anderson made the motion to authorize signage for the park rules to be posted, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE & INSURANCE (PROPERTY/LIABILITY)

Councilman Cless reported the following:

1. Did some touch up painting in the Borough Office and Council Chambers.
2. Worked with the Boy Scouts to clean up the lower level storage room after leakage from a liquid container. Use of that room for food storage and cooking materials is not permitted and, therefore, off limits for health related concerns and to prevent rodent infestation.

AESTHETICS

Councilman McCarty stated they will begin taking the Christmas tree and lights down. Councilman McCarty suggested the small solar trees stay up for a while. President Anderson stated they are looking into replacing the five service flags at \$1,000 a piece. Discussion followed about where to purchase these flags.

FINANCE

President Anderson will be going to Sunbury to pick up audit books. She will also pick up the books for the Water Authority.

GRANTS

Vice President Fitzpatrick reported they were already discussed.

PERSONNEL & INSURANCE (HEALTH/DENTAL)

Councilwoman Grindle had nothing to report.

Executive Session - NONE

CLOSING COMMENTS

There being no further business President Anderson asked for adjournment. Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m., seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in Bloomfield Borough Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary