

MINUTES
Bloomfield Borough Council
July 1, 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, R. Kevin McCarty, Jessica L. Grindle, and Karl L. Cless. Vice President J. Kevin Fitzpatrick was absent.

Also present: Secretary Danielle L. Shope, Assistant Secretaries Suse Woolever and Kathleen Miller, Solicitor Isaac Wakefield, Perry County Times Reporter Paul Wyatt, Borough Employee Damon Hartman, ZEO/BEO Becky Smiley, Mayor Gary Eby, HRG Representative Isaac Underhill, and Planning Commission Representative Melanie Rowlands.

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 also 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 June 3, 2025 meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial Report – Councilman McCarty made the motion to prove the June 2025 financial reports, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

REQUESTED PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

There were no requested comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

There were no public comments

MONTHLY REPORTS

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Wakefield stated that he provided the Council with his formal report and unless there were any questions, he would defer to the report. He did give an update on the Slike/Arsenault Property.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Eby spoke about checking on some cars parking on Oak Road. This issue has been addressed. Mayor Eby reminded Council that on August 2, 2025 there will be a Fireman's Association parade in Newport at 12 noon.

Parking Officer Report – Mayor Eby reported 12 tickets were issued in June 2025 with 1 voided and 6 tickets remain unpaid.

Enforcement Report – BEO Smiley had nothing further to report other than what she submitted to Council in her written report. Ms. Smiley stated that since it was July 1, they will be moving forward acting on the Leyder property. The old Freysinger property has been mowed. Ms. Smiley is now working on abandoned cars accumulating on Barnett, McClure and Chestnut Streets.

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:

The Planning Commission reported that pending notations for the DGS Perry County (State Shed) Preliminary land development plan were anticipated soon from the applicant based on coordination between the DGS Solicitor and the Borough Solicitor. Once submitted, plans will be made available to Council for 10 days or more prior to the August meeting to prepare Council for a vote to approve them.

The following motions were made involving the SALDO.

Councilman Cless made the motion to approve the request to waive the requirements of Section 21-51 for posting of financial security for this fully-funded state project, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to approve the request to waive the requirements of Section 21-33.A for a minimum 20 foot easement for all drainage facilities, seconded by Councilman McCarty. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to approve the request to waive the requirements of Section 21-33.B to provide a drainage easement for the Unnamed Tributary to Trout Run, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

Councilman Cless made the motion to approve the Preliminary Land Development Plan for the PennDOT Maintenance Facility and Stockpile conditioned upon the applicant's payment of all outstanding professional review fees associated with the Plan within 60 days of plan approval and updating the Plan to reflect the correct sections of the SALDO being waived, seconded by Councilman McCarty. Motion carried.

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

For the Dutch Canal Project, the water line is in place and hooked up. (Discussion followed about this project and water issues) A meeting has been set up with L.B. Water and gWorks to resolve the uploading and downloading of the reading files to set up the new billing program.

PCBA/COG – Councilman Cless had nothing to report.

FEMA/PEMA - Councilman Cless stated he participated in a 2 hour PEMA-Community Assistance Contact seminar for Bloomfield Borough regarding floodplain management. A Powerpoint Presentation was given and technical information along with internet links were provided to assist in further educational opportunities for FPA Managers and Zoning Enforcement. The newest construction near the floodplain area (McCarty property on S. Carlisle St.) was discussed in detail to determine compliance with the Borough's floodplain requirements and PEMA conformity. Validating information was forwarded to PEMA as requested.

Zoning/Permit Officer's Report – Zoning Officer issued 1 permit this past month for 113 W. McClure St. BEO Smiley stated that she has been called and emailed relentlessly by one individual about handicapped parking. She reiterates to them that it is 3 hour parking for handicapped spots, when the handicap spot is in a 2 hour parking area. The Court House wants one designated spot solely for one of their employees. Ms Smiley stated this will not happen, but they are welcome to come to a Council meeting to discuss this issue. President Anderson said the Borough will follow up in writing to explain Borough policy to the County and the Court House.

Ms. Smiley and Councilman McCarty went out and assessed sidewalks along East Main, West Main down to Church, and High Street from Church to North Carlisle and down, measuring according to ordinances the ¾ inch (however they gave leeway and went to an inch). There were 19 possible tripping hazards. Letters will be sent out to the homeowners.

Ms. Smiley also hand delivered answers to Mr. Rick Rogers for his previous questions at the June 2025 meeting.

Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report – Councilman Cless reported the next quarterly meeting is scheduled for July 16 at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

- **Senator Rothman Letter - Discuss projects to submit to his office.** - They are waiting on HRG's summation as to what the Borough's five year plan will be and then they can submit a project to Senator Rothman.
- **Budget meeting** - September 29th & 30th, 4:00 p.m. - Mark your calendars.
- **Annual County Convention** - September 13, 2025 at 8 a.m. - Perry County Fairgrounds - Please let Danielle know by July 10, 2025 if you plan on attending

President Anderson read a thank you note from Join Hands Ministry.

RIGHTS OF WAYS, UTILITIES, & SAFETY

Mr. Hartman gave a sink hole update that is in the Square. They have installed the new box on the downstream side. Next week might impede traffic flow, but that should be fairly easy compared to what has already been done. He explained the traffic pattern. The pump has arrived.

ADMINISTRATIVE & INSURANCE (PROPERTY/LIABILITY)

Councilman Cless reported:

1. He installed the new replacement window sash and cleaned the A/C coil in the COG room
2. He performed the annual Borough Building safety inspection. One security light battery was inoperative requiring the purchase of a replacement. Displayed the updated inspection document in both upper and lower level hallways.
3. Received notification from the Water Authority regarding excess demand for water at the Borough Building. Inspected the building for leaks and found none. Unable to account for the doubling of the water usage for the 2nd quarter compared to the 1st quarter. The Water Authority will monitor the meter for possible trouble going forward. Additionally, he corrected a computer software problem for the Water Authority.
4. Contacted Mr. Tech, an electronic door lock specialist, to assess the Borough Building front door for possible update to an electronic lock. The review was completed and the estimate is forthcoming.

Secretary Shope mentioned that she was in touch with Moyers and Ken Gruber is preparing an estimate as well on various options.

AESTHETICS

Councilman McCarty had nothing to report.

FINANCE

President Anderson stated they did renew a CD for the sewer authority at a rate of 4.12% for 5 months at Pennian Bank.

GRANTS

Vice President Fitzpatrick was absent and the HRG representative had nothing new to add.

PERSONNEL & INSURANCE (HEALTH/DENTAL)

Councilwoman Grindle had nothing to report. Annual employee reviews are coming up.

An Executive Session will take place after the meeting adjournment.

CLOSING COMMENTS

There being no further business President Anderson asked for adjournment. Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m., seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in Bloomfield Borough Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary