

MINUTES
Bloomfield Borough Council
July 5, 2022

Bloomfield Borough Council met this evening in regular session in the Bloomfield Borough Council Chambers with the following Council members present: Jessica L. Grindle, Malinda C. Anderson, Brenten S. Dum, John J. Patterson V., J. Kevin Fitzpatrick and Karl L. Cless.

Also present: Secretary Danielle L. Shope, Assistant Secretaries Kathleen Miller and Susanne Woolever, Mayor Edward T. Albright Jr., Borough Employee Damon Hartman, Solicitor Isaac Wakefield, BEO Becky Smiley, Perry County Times Reporter Andrea Kitner, HRG representative Ryan Hostetter, Tax Collector Brenda Albright, visitor Tineill Hartman and residents Pat Woolever, James A. Woods and Yitzzy Zweig.

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, Andrea Kitner, was also recording the minutes.) 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 Public Hearing Minutes - Vice President Fitzpatrick made a motion, seconded by Councilman Dum to approve the Public Hearing Minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes – Councilman Cless made a motion, seconded by Vice President Fitzpatrick, to approve the June 7, 2022 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

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

Nominations for President Pro-Tem - Vice President Fitzpatrick made a motion to appoint Councilwoman Grindle as President Pro-Tem, seconded by Councilman Dum. Motion carried.

REQUESTED PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

There were no Requested Public Comments or Presentations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Mr. James Woods inquired about the Ballfield Grand Stand being blocked off from public use. Councilman Cless and several other Council members replied that the Grand Stand was found to be structurally unsound. It is a major safety issue. Discussion followed about the future of the wooden Grand Stand to Mr. Woods' satisfaction.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Wakefield stated he submitted his formal report previously to Council and unless there were any questions he would defer to that report. He did have an additional item about a franchise agreement Comcast wants to put in place with the Borough. Right now, it is for a limited area for rollout with the potential for future expansion. Comcast gave him an agreement to which he made some edits and discussed with particular Council members. Comcast has agreed to most of the revisions presented to them. It will be the maximum franchise fee permitted to be charged to which they agreed. It will be a ten year term to this agreement. The Borough Building and the WasteWater Treatment Plant would be included in this agreement. Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to accept this Franchise Agreement subject to an agreement to add on the WasteWater Treatment Plant, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

Councilman Cless asked Council if it was appropriate for him to send a threatening email to PPL due to an overcharging issue that has been ongoing without resolution. Discussion followed. Solicitor Wakefield's recommendation to Councilman Cless was to have Borough Council authorize this complaint before sending.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Edward T. Albright Jr stated several residents complained about Zito taking away local television channels. President Anderson stated the Borough is currently in negotiations with Zito. Zito is on the agenda for the August meeting so bring questions to the August 2, 2022 meeting. Discussion followed.

Mayor Albright stated several Borough organizations have asked him how they could help the community. Mayor Albright said once the Borough knows how much is needed for the Ballfield Grand Stand revitalization, he will help get the money from various community organizations.

President Anderson noted that she and Secretary Woolever took a trip to New Hope recycling over the weekend. It is in Cumberland County's Hopewell Township. President Anderson gave more information to Mayor Albright for further research.

Parking Officer Report – Mayor Albright stated there were 15 tickets issued during the month of June with 5 paid.

Enforcement Report – BEO Smiley had nothing extra to report except she sent an email out regarding parking against traffic. Cars are parking against traffic in several locations in town. Discussion followed. The PEO, James Kitner, is allowed to ticket anywhere within the Borough, not just the historic district. The PEO will be reimbursed for any extra mileage. Solicitor Wakefield will delve further into the ordinance to see if there need to be any additions or corrections.

BEO Report – Becky L. Smiley - For the complete detailed BEO report see Borough Enforcement Officer Monthly Report on file in the Borough Office.

Planning Commission Report – Vice President Fitzpatrick stated the Commission met and went over the sketch plans for the Rice Building and discussed some fee changes. There have been no formal pump station plans presented to the Commission.

Councilman Cless stated he had spoken with Ms. Rowlands regarding commercial work vehicles parked in residential zones. Discussion followed. This item will be revisited at a further date. Vice President Fitzpatrick made a note to discuss this at the next Planning Commission meeting.

FEMA/PEMA Report – Councilman Cless had no report.

Water Authority Report – Mayor Edward T. Albright Jr. reported things are moving along at Talmudic University. The pump is on order, expected to come in September, and the generator is on order with a delivery date of December. The electric and plumbing is ready to go. The Authority hired Denise Fisher as their recording secretary and Stone Coldwell is the new Water I hire.

PCBA/COG – Councilman Cless reported the next meeting is in August.

Zoning/Permit Officer's Report – Zoning Officer Smiley reported she issued 2 permits in June. One for a sidewalk and one for a sign. No fees.

Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report – Councilman Cless suggested charging a nominal fee for the use of Borough Council Chambers by Cap Tax and other organizations, especially since electric prices have risen. Discussion followed. Solicitor Wakefield suggested making this into a fee resolution for use of Council Chambers. It would not take effect until next year.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Announcements and Correspondence –

New Email Address: bloomfieldborough@gmail.com

Dumpster for Recycling – Under further research.

Credit Card Option for paying sewer/trash invoices – Secretary Shope stated the Borough began accepting credit card payments for the second quarter sewer/trash bills. There are some programming issues. The 4% fee was not charged to the resident, but charged to the Borough. This will hopefully be resolved soon. Seven people have used this option so far.

109th Annual County Convention – September 10, 2022 (RSVP by 7/25/22) This year it will be held at the Newport Fairgrounds.

Proposed Budget Meeting Dates – September 27th & 28th at 4:00p.m. Mandatory for all Council members.

RIGHTS OF WAY & UTILITIES

Rights of Way & Utilities Committee Report – Vice President Fitzpatrick stated they are focusing on the paving project. The pre-construction meeting with the contractor is on July 12, 2022. They have until Sept. 26, 2022 to have the paving completed. They are paving the East-West Alleys, Hickory Alley and Locust Street under one grant. Lakeside Development will be paved using the second grant.

ADA Sidewalks – Mr. Hostetter remarked on the tapping study for the sewer fees. This information should be ready for the August meeting.

Administrative Committee Report – Councilman Cless stated he did the following:

Prepared a newspaper post for a possible daily room rental on the lower level of the Borough Building. \$25 daily usage fee will be assessed with a \$200 deposit will be required if the tenant wishes to rent per day on a monthly basis.

Attempted unsuccessfully to access the CoStars website for research on a possible purchasing plan for the Borough Building roofing materials. The current password and username provided would not allow entry. He will need to get assistance from Mr. Hartman for another attempt.

Met with individuals for a possible Borough Building room lease. Discussed upgrades that would be necessary to meet their needs. Further discussion with contractors regarding the work will be required.

Councilman Cless signed the necessary contract documents for a 5 year agreement at 8.9 cents per kwh with our new energy provider.... Constellation Energy.

Several Borough property deficiencies were discovered during a recent inspection: a new relay was installed in the lower level restrooms. He installed new P-Traps in the lavatory drains in the men's restroom. The Ballfield Grand Stand main support beams were found to be in extremely poor condition with imminent roof collapse possible so the decision was made to close the entry points until a repair solution can be found. Councilman Cless also replaced the light bulb and cleaned the globe in the lower level stairway.

Aesthetics Committee Report – Councilman Dum thanked Mondie Cunningham and Deb Smith for ordering and planting the flowers on the Square. Playground mulch will soon be done. Mr. Woods and Mayor Albright changed out the light post flaps. Mr. Woods and his wife, Barb, cleaned around the Spring.

FINANCE, INSURANCE, & SAFETY

Finance, Insurance & Safety Report – Councilman Patterson stated the insurance company has been notified about the ballfield Grand Stand and that it has been blocked off for entry. There was no further information on Finance.

GRANTS

Grants – Vice President Fitzpatrick stated there is a new accounting process they must go through with Penn Strategies. He is working on the application process. He will attempt to apply for a grant for the Grand Stand if possible.

President Anderson and Vice President Fitzpatrick will attend the Perry County Commissioners meeting on July 11, 2022 to make them aware of the Grand Stand issue. Hopefully, the county will help with some financial backing toward this project.

PERSONNEL

Personnel Committee Report-

Councilwoman Grindle had nothing to report other than they are getting the personnel reviews scheduled.

President Anderson read two thank you notes. One from Perry County Crime Stoppers and one from former Mayor Arlis Krammes and daughter JoAnn Wilson.

Executive Session - None

CLOSING COMMENTS

There being no further business, upon motion by Councilwoman Grindle, seconded by Vice President Fitzpatrick, the regular meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, August 2, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary