MINUTES
Bloomfield Borough Council
July 7, 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, J. Kevin McCarty, Jessica L. Grindle and Dean E. Dum.

Also present: Secretary Danielle L. Shope, Assistant Secretaries Suse Woolever and Kathleen Miller, Solicitor Isaac Wakefield, Bloomfield Borough Employee Damon Hartman, ZEO/BEO Becky Smiley, Tax Collector Brenda Albright, Paul Wyatt from the Perry County Times and resident John W. Hair. Planning Commission President Melanie Rowlands and Mayor Gary Eby were absent.

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 was 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 Minutes – Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to approve the June 2, 2026 meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman McCarty. Motion carried.

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

No Executive session for June.

REQUESTED PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

No Requested Comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Mr. John Hair asked about the paving of Veterans Way. Vice President Fitzpatrick stated the low bid contractor was approved and they were meeting with him July 14, 2026 to discuss the project.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Wakefield stated that he did not have any further comments beyond what was in the written report presented to Council. Mr. Wakefield also mentioned that the Resolution establishing 2026 attorney fees will be presented during the meeting.

Resolution #2026-03 - Updated Attorney Fees for 2026 - Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve the updated attorney fees for 2026, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Eby was absent so no report.

Parking Officer Report – Mayor Eby was absent so no report.

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.

President Anderson stated that she and Vice President Fitzpatrick patrolled the borough for fireworks usage over the July 4th holiday. The Borough is looking into the possibility of increasing fines for fireworks set off too close to buildings etc. Discussion followed.

Planning Commission Report – Vice President Fitzpatrick read the Planning Commission Report that BBPC President Rowlands submitted:

BBPC held its scheduled meeting on Monday, June 22, 2026 with some follow-up:

(1) 2nd Review of Final Land Development Plan (FLDP) for DGS/PennDOT (state shed)
(1a) per discussion, various open issues will be worked offline between agents and Borough reps and agents (engineering, maintenance, legal).
(1.a.1) an on-site visit will be scheduled to compare paved surfaces and green space represented on the plans to actual conditions for stormwater calculations and for finalization of buffer and landscaping treatment.
(1.a.2) Solicitors to complete 'developer's agreement' specific to a government funded project and related inspections.
(1.a.3) Borough stated expectations (such as buffers, ADA crosswalks, and manhole access)
(1.b) 3rd review expected at 8/31/2026 BBPC meeting
(1.c) Chair to work with Borough Secretary on the next invoice to DGS to recoup expenses.

(2) Rebel's Group - no Land Development Plan has been submitted to date, despite prior assurance that this would happen in mid-June.
(2a) Planning Commission Chair and Zoning Officer are communicating with agents to facilitate progress given that the owner wants to complete upgrades and move both employees and materials to the Bloomfield site.
(2.b) Their existing location lease is up at year end 2026, so they should be motivated to make progress on requirements with accommodations by the Borough to assist.

(3) Nothing new to report on other projects including: Lakeside, Aishel, and West Perry Schools.

(4) No action is required by Council at this time.

Vice President Fitzpatrick mentioned that at a town meeting last evening the West Perry School Board announced they were changing their plans yet again. Now, they say they are closing Blain at the end of 2027 and ⅓ of the students will come to New Bloomield and ⅔ to Carroll. The School Board says that a reason for the change in plans is that Bloomfield Borough has been uncooperative. Vice President Fitzpatrick stated for the record that Bloomfield Borough has received no formal application from the West Perry School District, nor has the Borough received any preliminary plans in accordance to Chapters 21 and 26. The Planning Commission did meet in May and received a sketch plan review, but they can not comment on that because the Borough has received no formal application. The Board wanted to meet with the Borough. The Borough gave them two dates to meet in a public meeting, but the School Board chose not to attend. The Borough has received nothing to review as of today.

Water Authority Report - No report.

PCBA/COG – Discussion on new representative - Tabled again.

FEMA/PEMA - Councilman McCarty had nothing to report.

Cap Tax - Meetings are Quarterly - Councilman Dum will not be available in July, but will attend the October meeting. Karl Cless is still the official representative.

Zoning/Permit Officer's Report – Zoning Officer Smiley gave out 2 permits this month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Statement of Financial Interest - Due now (Planning Commission Member Roger Watson is still the only outstanding statement) and Ms. Rowlands spoke to him about this issue last month.

RIGHTS OF WAYS, UTILITIES, & SAFETY

Vice President Fitzpatrick stated the low bid, Big Rock Paving, was accepted. This project will include the aprons at the cemetery and the bottom half of Veteran's Way.

Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to award the paving project to Big Rock Paving which was the lowest bid, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

Sewer Collection Procedural Discussion - Secretary Shope would like to look at revamping the ordinance on the sewer invoice collection procedure since the way it is now causes more financial hardship on those having trouble paying already. This will be an ongoing future discussion. The Solicitor also will look into this issue.

New Business Announcement - Vice President Fitzpatrick stated there are not a lot of opportunities in town to open a new business. He would like to work with new business owners and put an announcement on the Borough website about these new businesses openings. Discussion followed.

Bridge Update for Sewer Maintenance Facilities - A proposal has been received to put a bridge on Borough Property to access the entire Borough grounds. This is a safety issue for Borough employees. HRG will present a proposal to Council at the August meeting. Hopefully, the cost of this bridge will be less than $300,000. Discussion followed.

ADMINISTRATIVE & INSURANCE (PROPERTY/LIABILITY)

Councilman Dum had nothing to report.

AESTHETICS

Councilman McCarty stated they have a "soft date" for the trees to come down in the Square. That would be mid-September. There will be a bike race the day of the Street Fair, Sept. 12. The "Shade Tree" committee will be incorporated in the Aesthetic Committee's responsibilities. Mr. Hartman researched purchasing trash cans on Amazon. Three trash cans are needed for the park. Discussion followed.

The Literacy Council has installed the signs along the trail. Leslie Heimbaugh and Newport High School Students did the painting on the trail and it looks great.

Councilwoman Grindle mentioned that there was a complaint about the Perry County Cafe feeding squirrels peanuts on the sidewalk. Discussion followed.

FINANCE

Councilman Dum stated he has reviewed the May and June bank statements and there was nothing of concern.

GRANTS

Vice President Fitzpatrick had nothing more to report.

PERSONNEL & INSURANCE (HEALTH/DENTAL)

Councilwoman Grindle stated she is going over several personnel issues. She wants to check into the Title 65 and Sunshine Act legislation which could make it more difficult to amend agendas during meetings. Discussion followed.

Job descriptions need to be rewritten every 2-3 years. She will send out survey forms to all personnel. New evaluation forms will be sent out that should match the job better. She will check on possible training opportunities. She wants to create a better system of monitoring employee vacations, sick leave, etc.

CLOSING COMMENTS

There being no further business President Anderson asked for adjournment. Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m., seconded by Councilman Dum. Motion carried. The next meeting of Bloomfield Borough Council will be held Tuesday August 4 , 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary