

MINUTES
Bloomfield Borough Council
June 3, 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 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 Ryan Hostetter, Planning Commission Representative Melanie Rowlands, Ryan Woolever, Award Recipients and parents Rhett Jacobs, Ruehet Troutman, Troy Troutman, Emma Hare, Maddison Vaughn with Cody Hare and daughter Cali, and Bloomfield Borough Residents John Hair, Madeline and Richard Rogers.

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 – Councilman Cless made the motion to approve the May 6, 2025 meeting minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial Report – Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to prove the May 2025 financial reports, seconded by Councilman McCarty. Motion carried.

REQUESTED PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Richard Rogers - Chapter 26, Section 133, Abatement of Noxious Influences and Chapter 10 , Housing/Landlords - Mr. Rogers asked Council about the noise ordinance within the Borough. He is upset with the noise associated with the State construction going on outside his house on South Carlisle Street. He asked if the Borough has a sound meter (yes, the Borough does have a sound meter. Mr. Rogers should ask the Code Enforcement Officer to check the sound levels). The work starts at 6:15 a.m. Mr. Rogers is upset about the times and noise with which this construction is being conducted. He would like the Council to ask the construction company to start later. Mr. Rogers also asked if the Borough has a specific petition form that they require to obtain signatures if a resident of the Borough would like to file a petition? Mr. Rogers also asked about the Fire Alarm system used in the Borough. Lengthy discussion followed. Mr. Hartman will speak to PennDOT and voice a

complaint on behalf of the residents. Mayor Eby, speaking only as a fire company personnel, states they have put off changing the fire alarm pending the sale of the old building. Discussion followed about the fire alarms. BEO Smiley will get answers to Mr. Rogers questions and will present him with written answers as he requested.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Certificates of Appreciation - President Anderson read that the Bloomfield Borough would like to acknowledge the contributions to enhancing the Bloomfield community. Council appreciates the efforts in seeing something that happened and helping to clean it up and take responsibility for it. Very commendable. Certificates of Appreciation and gift cards for 3B ice cream were presented to Emma Hare, Maddison Vaughn, Rhett Jacobs.

Resident John Hair presented to Council his recommendation for traffic control at the monument in the Square of Town. This is a two way stop and not a round-a-bout, but out of town people use it as a round-a-bout. He suggested Yield Signs at the Square. He also mentioned how more space at the alley is needed at the Bob Morris office for safer traffic control. President Anderson stated several Council members have already spoken to PennDOT. Mr. Hartman will check on the parking space markings at that alley.

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 mentioned the Freysinger property's overgrowth and he has alerted the owner's attorney about it.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Eby spoke about handicapped parking spaces. He stated that a Borough can charge a resident or business to have "reserved" handicapped parking. He brought it up for consideration. Most of these places are not reserved for particular individuals. Ms. Rowlands stated that there are requirements for off street parking for all homes and businesses, including the County. The County has to provide a certain amount of off street parking. The County has an obligation to provide off street parking, at their expense, on land that they provide for all their employees. Lengthy discussion followed.

Mayor Eby also suggested a moratorium on rental properties. Ms. Rowlands stated there are limitations on conversion apartments in the R2 area zoning. Within R1, they are not allowed to have conversion dwellings. Passionate discussion followed.

Parking Officer Report – Mayor Eby reported 11 tickets were issued in May 2025. 3 tickets remain 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.

Ordinance #382-2025-Chapter 14, "MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC", Amend Part 3 "PARKING REGULATIONS" - Councilman Cless made the motion to approve Ordinance #382-2025, seconded by Vice President Fitzpatrick. Motion carried.

Councilman Cless mentioned a wrecked car under a blue tarp on the Barnett Street right of way that has been there for months. BEO Smiley will look into this.

Planning Commission Report – Planning Commission Chair Melanie Rowlands submitted the following report:

The Planning Commission reported that the 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 July meeting to prepare Council for a vote to approve them.

Resolution for Plan Revision for New Land Development (proposed Resolution #2025-06) (needed by DEP) - Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to accept this resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

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

Jerry Philpott spoke to the Chairman of the Board for Centre Township and they are open to the idea of water service, but they want to deal with only one entity in Bloomfield Borough. The Water Authority is going to have an informal discussion with the Borough about Centre Township wanting one billing entity.

For the PennDOT Maintenance Facility, a revised will serve letter has been drafted and approved by the Board.

For the Dutch Canal Project, the project is close to being done. The tie-in is ready to be done and concrete has to be poured over top of the pipe.

PCBA/COG – Councilman Cless had nothing to report.

FEMA/PEMA - Councilman Cless stated he completed and submitted the PEMA-Community Self Assessment for Bloomfield Borough floodplain management to comply with the mandated Floodplain Management Act of 1968.

Zoning/Permit Officer's Report – Zoning Officer issued 1 permit this past month for a roof at Mamma's Pizza.

Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report – Councilman Cless reported that the 2nd quarterly meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Administrative & Insurance (Property/Liability) Committee

1. Statement of Financial Interest - Due April 1, 2025 Still missing one from the Planning Commission.
2. Senator Rothman Letter - Discuss projects to submit to his office - will discuss later
3. Budget meeting - will be held September 29 and 30, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. - Mark your calendars.
4. Resolution #2025-04: Updated Fee Schedule - Returned Check Charge - Councilman Cless made the motion to approve this resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.
5. Resolution #2025-05: Picture Perry Amendments & Edits - Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve this resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.
6. Field Usage - Borough Building - Council was slammed in the Letter to the Editor in the Perry County Times. This was inaccurate information, but the Council did not want to participate in retaliatory behavior. The Marysville Team was seeking legal counsel. Invoices have been sent to the MarysvilleTeam, but no response. The accident caused approximately \$1,900 in damages. Discussion followed. Solicitor Wakefield will follow up.
7. Handicap Parking (Square and Courthouse) - no further discussion at this time

RIGHTS OF WAYS, UTILITIES, & SAFETY

Vice President Fitzpatrick stated they received the HOP permit to fix the sinkhole in the Square. It is the Borough's responsibility since our pipes go under the street. All material is purchased to fix the sinkhole. That part of the street will be closed and flaggers will be hired to re-route traffic around the square. This emergency situation took over three weeks to get the permit.

Vice President Fitzpatrick mentioned the paving needed in the alley next to the Methodist Church and on both entrances to the cemetery and also on Veterans Way. All these projects qualify for Liquid Fuels money. They are going to go after bids to get this paving done. Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to allow the Borough to advertise for sealed bids for these paving projects, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE & INSURANCE (PROPERTY/LIABILITY)

Councilman Cless reported:

1. Replacement of the broken rear door glass on the Borough Building was completed by Hershocks.
2. An order was placed with Andersen Window Company through Juniata Lumber to provide a replacement sash for the recently broken window of the COG room. The order included one terratone upper sash with hi-perf glass and retainer clips at a cost of \$397.08. Delivery of the special order is expected soon.
3. Purchased an all purpose 22 Ft. extension ladder at a cost of \$319 to perform exterior work to the Borough Building and, coincidentally, was used to repair the broken building letter on the front of the Borough Building.
4. Responded to a water leak in the lower level ladies restroom. Repaired a broken trap on one of the lavatories

Discussion about re-keying the Borough Building took place. Secretary Shope explained that Ken Gruber of Moyer's Lock & Security stated it would cost \$75 per lock and \$12.50 per key. Each key would have a number on it. Probably 35-40 keys would be needed. Discussion followed about other ways to secure the building.

Councilman Cless made the motion to re-key the Borough Building in some way not to exceed an expense of \$3,000, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

AESTHETICS

Councilman McCarty reported the Aesthetics Committee has planted flowers in the Square and a schedule for tending those plants. The mulch looks great on the playground with the help of the football team. Councilman McCarty is looking into the possibility of purchasing bike racks for town.

FINANCE

President Anderson stated they are looking at a CD that will mature at the end of June. It is for the sewer account in the amount of \$55,828.50. They will research other interest rates.

GRANTS

Vice President Fitzpatrick stated they submitted the grants but will not hear back for about one year. They will have a zoom meeting with HRG to follow up work on the strategic plan for additional grant planning for the Borough. Once a grant is available then these can be discussed with Senator Rothman.

PERSONNEL & INSURANCE (HEALTH/DENTAL)

Councilwoman Grindle had nothing more to report.

Mayor Eby inquired about next month's recycling. It will be July 5, 2025. Discussion followed. It was decided to keep it on July 5, 2025.

CLOSING COMMENTS

There being no further business President Anderson asked for adjournment. Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m., seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, July 1, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in Bloomfield Borough Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary