

MINUTES Bloomfield Borough Council March 2, 2021

Bloomfield Borough Council met this evening in regular session in the Bloomfield Borough Council Chambers with the following Council members present: President Eric S. Berger, Vice President Wayne S. Leshner, J. Kevin Fitzpatrick, Jacob L. Casey, and Kimberly A. McMullen. Councilmen Michael J. Smith and Brenten S. Dum had excused absences.

Also present: Secretary Danielle L. Shope, Assistant Secretary Kathleen Miller, Borough Employee Damon Hartman with wife Tineill Hartman, Borough employee Jacob Morrison, Mayor Arlis Krammes, Zoning Officer/Water Authority Ed Albright Jr., Tax Collector Brenda Albright, Perry County Times reporter Jim Ryan, HRG Engineer Ryan Hostetter, Solicitor Isaac Wakefield, Planning Commission president Melanie Rowlands, BEO Becky Smiley, Bloomfield Borough Water Authority representative C. Larry Weller, NavTech representative Lisa Fraker, County Commissioner Gary Eby, Senior Center representatives, BJ Berquist and Laurie Morris, Downtown Revitalization representative Michelle Jones and residents Malinda Anderson, John Patterson, Galene Weller, Mike Whitmer, and Ed Apple.

President Berger called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

President Berger led the gathered assembly in the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

MEETING OPENING

Recording of the Meeting – President Berger 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 Berger 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 Berger asked if any individuals in the audience were also taping the meeting and if so to identify themselves for the record. President Berger stated that Council will not deviate from the agenda and any questions should be addressed during the appropriate portion of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes – Vice President Leshner made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman McMullen, to approve the February 2, 2021 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial Report – Vice President Leshner made a motion, seconded by Councilman Casey, to approve the financial report for February 2021 as presented. Motion carried.

Announcement of Executive Session – There was no Executive Session. President Berger commented that last month's Executive Session was for personnel reasons.

REQUESTED PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Roger Watson/Lisa Fraker – Pump Station and Proposed Subdivision - Lisa Fraker sent the Borough an email around 6 p.m. on Meeting night regarding a final lot addition/subdivision plan for the lands of Fraker/Watson/Hartman in the Spring Lake Development area. Ms. Fraker asked if everyone had the chance to review the printout of the costs of the pump and what the recommendations were. Not everyone has reviewed it at this time. Vice President Leshner stated Engineer Ryan Hostetter will have to review the proposal of Modern Pump to make sure it mirrors Mr. Hostetter's recommendations. This review should be completed by Friday March 5, 2021. As long as the proposal matches HRG's recommendations, then once the work is completed, HRG will do the final inspection. Vice President Leshner whoever he spoke to thought the work could be completed by May. Solicitor Wakefield stated once all the inspections are complete and everything is acceptable to HRG and Council there should be a deed of dedication along with some sort of security. He suggested a form of security like a maintenance bond for ongoing issues after it is operational for 18 months. Vice President Leshner stated that once the final inspection is done and the security is in place, they would do a deed of dedication where the Borough actually takes over the responsibility of the pump station. Solicitor Wakefield asked about real estate that goes with the pump station. Vice President Leshner stated Council is working on this issue. Councilman Fitzpatrick stated there is a land development plan that has doubled the size of the pump station and gives a right of way to Fraker and Watson to the back lot #66 but currently there is no way to get the this. There is an easement through the property. HRG has this information. Planning Commission president Rowlands explained what needs to go through the Planning Commission. Lot 30 would need to double in length to accommodate a larger pump station to support the proposed subdivision behind Lot 30. Vice President Leshner asked Ms. Fraker to have Mr. Watson send a fresh copy of the subdivision plan for Lot 30 for Council to review.

Downtown Revitalization Project - Michelle Jones - Ms. Michelle Jones, Program Director for the Perry County Economic Development Authority, explained the Economic Development Authority's function to the new Borough Council. The Authority wants to help with revitalization of municipal downtown areas. Ms. Jones explained the opportunities for grant funding. There is a tentative date for a meeting with the Borough of Tuesday May 25, 2021. Within the next few months the Authority will be sending letters of support. They will be asking for monetary support for very general projects. This pot of money could be used for signage, street scape, etc. Nothing would be done with Council's approval. The Authority is just asking for money at this time. Discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Lauri Morris from Central Perry Senior Center updated Council on the Center activities. The Center delivered 8,711 hot meals with 4,194 home deliveries. The Center is participating in Match Madness from March 1-31, 2021. She is asking for donations to the Senior Center especially during the month of March.

Perry County Commissioner Gary Eby explained several grants available. CHIRP (Covid Hospitality Industry Recovery Program) is available for restaurants in our area. The second grant is ERAP (Economic Rental and Utility Assistance Program) for rental and utility help if Covid has disrupted income. More information about these grants can be found on PerryCo.org. These grants will roll out next week.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Solicitor's Report – New Solicitor Isaac Wakefield introduced himself. His office is just dipping their toes into several issues cropping up in the Borough recently. He is looking into some financial issues and also “authorities” issues. He distributed a memo to Council for review. He was informed that the President and/or Secretary of the Borough Council would be the liaison persons he or his office can reach out to when necessary. He is here to represent Council and not the individual interests of members.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Krammes reported on the centennial plaques. She showed Council the image of the plaque. They will be placed on the borough churches, Stoops Barbershop, Rhinesmith Hotel and the Brodisch house. The pricing of the plaques changed from \$300 to \$350 per plaque since Mayor Krammes got donations to pay for the plaques. Mayor Krammes asked if the extra monies needed (approximately \$300-\$350) could come out of the \$6,000 Aesthetic Committee budget fund. Councilman Fitzpatrick made the motion to grant the extra monies (approximately \$300-\$350) needed to buy the plaques come out of the Aesthetic Committee funds, seconded by Councilman Casey. Motion carried.

Parking Officer Report – Mayor Krammes reported 7 tickets issued during the month of February with 1 voided and 3 unpaid.

Enforcement Report – Vice President Leshar deferred to BEO Smiley. Ms. Smiley reported it was a quiet month. Resident Malinda Anderson voiced her concern about a pile of refuse at 121 West High Street that is blowing onto her property. Ms. Anderson also reported a pole light out by the Café.

Water Authority Report - Mr. Albright reported the Borough pump at Well 2 went out over the weekend and instead of the water flowing into town from Perry Village it came from the tank which reversed the flow and stirred up silt in the pipes causing discolored water. It has been resolved. The new tank at Well 3 is now filled. The surveyor will shoot the elevation this week. Everything is looking good. Once the bacteria test from DEP comes back favorably the water will be used to fill the 48” retention pipe instead of pumping new water. All the filtration equipment is on site. The pump will be put back down into the well and hooked up to the adapter and run into the plant.

There is a construction meeting tomorrow morning at 10am to replace the tanzite pipe at Apple Street and Maple Lane so that project can begin.

They had to recertify Well 2 up on the hill to the cost of \$48,000. This has to be done every 15 years.

They replaced a lot of water meters in the Borough. They went from 22% loss of water down to 14%.

Once the tanzite pipe is installed these numbers should show more water saved.

PCBA/COG - Mr. Albright reported there was no meeting because of the snow storm.

Zoning/Permit Officer's Report - Mr. Albright stated he issued 1 zoning permit for the month of February to 205 Oak Road for a deck replacement.

Planning Commission Report – Ms. Rowlands reported the lot adjustment that Council approved last month for the Rosenberry property was signed by the Planning Commission. However, they have not been able to sign the subdivision that was done for the Talmudic University on North Carlisle Street because they have not received it back. Vice President Leshar stated that Centre Township has to approve their part of it and DEP has to also approve Talmudic tying into water and sewer. Vice President Leshar thought the

Planning Commission should sign plans before they come before Borough Council. Ms. Rowlands and Councilman Fitzpatrick adamantly stated that could not be done. Councilman Fitzpatrick stated if you are going to change the procedure to have the Borough Engineer at every Planning Commission meeting then the Borough would have to agree to incur the expense to have HRG present at every Planning Commission meeting. Council would have to approve this action. Solicitor Wakefield will look at the SALDO.

Ms. Rowlands further stated she has had extensive meetings with the Perry County Planning Commission and Mr. Jason Finnerty. There are very complex rules anytime the Borough wants to change ordinances. These issues have to go through both PCPC and the Tri County Planning Commission. Ms. Rowlands has been working with these commissions trying to get Borough zoning ordinances updated. One issue that has come up is the stand alone storm water ordinance which Centre Township passed one in May 2019. Ms. Rowlands has been reviewing their ordinance. She is reviewing and comparing various township ordinances in the hopes of creating one for Bloomfield Borough.

Ms. Rowlands held an informational meeting with Mr. Roger Watson associated with the eight remaining individual lots in the Spring Lake Development area. Watson/Fraker would like to reconfigure those lots to look like the Patio Court area that would be duplexes. Mr. Watson and Ms. Fraker are proposing twenty-two units which would be eleven duplexes but it would meet all the zoning requirements of the average lot size. However Ms. Rowlands made it quite clear to Mr. Watson and Ms. Fraker that nothing can happen until they have Lot #30 completed.

A lengthy discussion followed about the submission and procedures of PRDs (planned residential developments).

Ms. Rowlands stated the Planning Commission is in need of members. There are only three members currently where there should be five. Ms. Rowlands asked Council to appoint Mrs. Suzanne Dell to Bloomfield Borough Planning Commission. Ms. Rowlands asked for Councilman Fitzpatrick to rejoin the Commission. Solicitor Wakefield would like to check to make sure a council member may also sit on the Planning Commission. President Berger stated Council will appoint Suzanne Dell and will table Kevin Fitzpatrick until Solicitor Wakefield has had time to research this issue.

FEMA/PEMA Report – Councilwoman McMullen had no report.

Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report – Councilman Smith was absent so no report.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Announcements and Correspondence –

There is still no 2019 **Statement of Financial Interest** from Mr. Robert Wood. All members' 2020 statements are due to the office April 6, 2021.

Appointments/Reappointments –

Vice President Leshner made the motion to install Mr. Nathan Summers to the Bloomfield Borough Zoning Hearing Board for the term 3/2/21-12/31/23, seconded by Councilman Fitzpatrick. Motion carried

Councilwoman McMullen made the motion to install Mrs. Suzanne Dell to the Bloomfield Borough Planning Commission for the term 3/2/21-12/31/24, seconded by Councilman Casey. Motion carried.

President Berger stated Council received a letter from Mr. Karl Cless resigning from the Bloomfield Borough Municipal Authority. Vice President Leshar made the motion to accept Mr. Cless's resignation, seconded by Councilwoman McMullen. Motion carried. President Berger stated, as per Solicitor Wakefield's advice, if Mr. Michael Whitmer and Mr. Robert Wood are going to also resign they themselves must submit their resignations in writing. Council must contact these men, not the Secretary.

Mr. Michael Whitmer was present in the audience. Solicitor Wakefield stated Mr. Whitmer's resignation could be accepted since he was present. Vice President Leshar made the motion to accept Mr. Michael Whitmer's resignation from the Bloomfield Borough Municipal Authority, seconded by Councilwoman McMullen. Motion carried.

Solicitor Wakefield stated that since this Authority has never met in five years he will look into whether or not new appointments have to be made to fill these vacancies. It is within Borough Council's purview and obligation to do this but there are some issues with respect to this particular Authority that there may not be a necessity to reappoint but just to dissolve the Authority.

Administrative Committee Report – Councilman Dum was absent so no report.

AESTHETICS

Aesthetics Committee Report – Councilman Casey had no report.

FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND SAFETY

Finance, Insurance & Safety Report – Councilman Fitzpatrick had nothing to report on finance.

Grants – Councilman Fitzpatrick reported he and Councilman Smith met with Jason Fitzgerald last week in pursuit of two grants. The one grant is for Greenways, Trails and Recreation programs. This was drafted nine months ago to finalize a park and walking path including benches, etc. behind the Borough Building. This grant is due May 31, 2021. Mr. Fitzpatrick spoke with CEDA-COG and they were very supportive of this project.

A second grant is a Multimodal Transportation Fund Program due July 31, 2021. The pursuit of this grant is to finally put a top surface on the streets at Lakeside Development.

Councilman Smith and Fitzpatrick will work on these grants together with Mr. Hartman to create a project description, cost estimate signed, sealed and dated by HRG and a matching fund commitment letter. Penn Strategies will give them a draft waiver letter to try to get a waiver to matching funds for both of these grants. However, the money they would typically allocate to streets or in the Capital Improvement Plan could go to the potential match, at least on the Multimodal Transportation grant. It also requires a color coded map, a list of permits required for the project, a letter from the Planning Commission and a resolution from Council supporting all of the above.

Councilman Fitzpatrick also stated that for the first time in ten years Bloomfield Borough came in under HUD under 51%. This 51% is good for five years. Mr. Fitzpatrick has a call into SEDA-COG because sometimes associated with this type of designation there is additional funding that will be provided to us. This funding typically goes to the county. If this happens Councilmen Smith and Fitzpatrick will go to the Perry County Commissioners to try to get this funding transferred to the Borough which could also apply to the match for these two projects.

Personnel Committee Report - Vice President Leshar has all the review sheets. Councilman Fitzpatrick reminded Vice President Leshar that the personnel handbook has to be approved by Council at some point. Mr. Leshar asked if it was reviewed. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated it was reviewed by former solicitor Randy Zimmerman and submitted to all Council members about a month ago. President Berger tabled this issue until next month.

RIGHTS OF WAY & UTILITIES

Rights of Way & Utilities Committee Report – President Berger informed Council that PPL will install new LED lights in the 70 street lights beginning the end of April or beginning of May at no cost to the Borough. This will save to the borough electric bill. Ms. Rowlands reminded Council that there is an ordinance about light brightness, etc.

President Berger also commented they are trying to get school speed limit beacons put in on High Street and Main Street where the crosswalks have been completed.

CLOSING COMMENTS

There being no further business, upon motion by Councilwoman McMullen , seconded by Vice President Leshar, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 6, 2021 for a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary