

MINUTES
Bloomfield Borough Council
March 7, 2023

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, John J. Patterson V., Karl L. Cless, Brenten S. Dum and Jessica L. Grindle.

Also present: Secretary Danielle L. Shope, Assistant Secretaries Susanne Woolever and Kathleen Miller, Borough Employees Damon Hartman, Solicitor Idan Ghazanhari, BEO/ZEO Becky Smiley, Mayor and Water Authority Representative Edward T. Albright Jr., HRG Representative Ryan Hostetter, Bloomfield Grandstand Restoration Project Treasurer James A. Woods, Planning Commission Chairwoman Melanie Rowlands, Borough resident Ed Apple, West Perry High School civics students and parents Jewlean Engel, Steel Grafmyer, Megan and Harry Grafmyer, District Attorney/Political candidate Lauren Eichelberger and her father Herby Eichelberger.

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. 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 Minutes – Councilman Dum made the motion to approve the February 7, 2023 meeting minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial Report – Vice President Fitzpatrick made a motion, seconded by Councilman Patterson, to approve the financial report for February 2023 as presented. Motion carried.

REQUESTED PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

There were no requested public comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

District Attorney Lauren Eishelberger addressed Council highlighting her background, her role, and her accomplishments as District Attorney citing several of her projects; i.e. JohnDoe/Jane Doe cold cases, FBI threat assessment task force, and talking to kids about drugs and alcohol. She asked for support in the upcoming election.

Grandstand Treasurer James Woods stated the project has raised \$23,459. Expenditures so far have been \$20,959.15, leaving a balance of \$2,499.85. They still owe \$19,562 on the grandstand. The contractor will accept the rest of the money owed to them whenever it is given to them. President Anderson thanked the Grandstand committee stating this has been an outstanding community achievement. Mr. Woods also thanked the Council for their support.

Becky Smiley also mentioned that the committee has a verbal agreement with the contractor concerning payment, but she hopes to have the outstanding balance paid off in June. Ms. Smiley stated she currently has two grants pending, one for \$2,500 and one for \$3,500. She is hopeful these will be approved. Ms. Smiley has the sign project where people are ordering signs for the grandstand. She also planned the following fundraisers: April 29th Chicken BBQ dinner and May 20th Super Bingo. She is organizing the grand opening for the Grandstand on May 21, 2023.

Councilman Cless stated there was about a \$4,000 overage because of extra lumber needed. President Anderson stated it has been cleared with the Borough's legal council that the Borough is permitted to provide funding for the balance that may not be paid off through other means.

Resident Ed Apple presented Council with a picture of two benches the New Bloomfield Lions Club is offering for the Borough to use at the ballfield. President Anderson and Vice President Fitzpatrick thanked Mr. Apple for this donation, and to convey thanks to New Bloomfield Lions Club.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Idan Ghazanhari submitted Solicitor Wakefield's formal report previously to Council and unless there were any questions, he would defer to that report.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Edward T. Albright Jr. reported recycling was held this past Saturday with 28 cars showing up and 8 volunteers. It has been working well. Sylvesters will dump the bin before next month. They have been getting three months out of every tip. This will be the second tip.

Parking Officer Report – There were 9 tickets issued with 4 still outstanding. There was a court date for one of the tickets, but the person did not show up so the Borough won that case.

Enforcement Report – BEO Smiley reported she met with Mr. Arsenault (old Freysinger building) this past Saturday. He is making efforts to clean up old vehicles. He has been told it must be cleaned up by June. She is going to mail the May clean up flyers to certain residents that need extra incentive to clean up their properties. She and Mayor Albright have been driving around town making a list of areas that need to be cleaned up.

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 – Melanie Rowlands reported the Planning Commission received a thank you letter from the County Planning Commission for a project called Picture Perry. This has to do with filing a new comprehensive plan. Bloomfield Borough is the first municipality to do so.

The Planning Commission's regular monthly meeting was held. They had a guest who was the landscape architect for Lisa Fraker. He was there to discuss the 8 undeveloped lots in the development. The Planning Commission received a \$3,000 escrow check to begin exploration of certain issues of what the developers will be permitted to do. Once Lisa Fraker decides what they are going to do, there will be fixed fees based on their published fee schedule.

FEMA/PEMA Report – Councilman Cless stated he had nothing new to report.

Water Authority Report – Mayor Edward T. Albright Jr. stated that this Thursday or Friday a crane was coming to set the new generator. Hopefully, everything should be completed by the end of March. The water tapping fee has been increased from \$3,500 to \$4,000.

PCBA/COG – Councilman Cless stated the members met on February 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Jason Finnerty from Tri-County Planning was present to discuss business ventures within the County. The new warehouse project in Watts Twp and the proposed solar farms in Centre Township were the major subjects of discussion. The warehouse project, if completed, anticipates the creation of 350 new jobs. The solar farm proposal is stirring controversy from Centre Township due to inadequate or nonexistent municipal zoning regulations. Additionally, approval by members was given to submit a formal letter to Senator Rothman asking for support of legislation to increase the prevailing wage limit to \$100,000. The letter was submitted 2/23/23 to the Senator's office.

Ms. Rowlands stated the Bloomfield Borough Planning Commission would be happy to work with Centre Township on zoning regulations.

Zoning/Permit Officer's Report – Zoning Officer Smiley stated she issued one permit for the Grandstand.

Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report – Councilman Cless stated the next quarterly meeting will be April 19, 2023 in Council Chambers. He is still looking for an alternate delegate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Credit Card Option for paying for sewer/trash invoices is now available.

Beginning January 4th, the Borough Office will be open for in-person hours on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (on trial basis)

Statement of Financial Interest - Due April 3, 2023

RIGHTS OF WAY & UTILITIES

Vice President Fitzpatrick reported Bridge #2 on Barnett Woods Road is closed. They are working with Tri-County and the Perry County Commissioners to see if they can get any type of exception, since the bridge is 18 inches too short and does not qualify for traditional funding. The bridge will cost between \$900,000 and 1.2 million dollars to repair. The earliest the bridge will be open is mid 2025.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Councilman Cless's administrative report is as follows:

- a. During the February council meeting, a proposal regarding six office chairs in need of repair was offered with two options. Repair the chairs @ \$70 each or purchase new chairs @ \$75 each. At the time, the purchase of new chairs was selected but when the purchase was attempted, the price had doubled to \$150 each. In an effort to reduce costs it was decided to have the existing chairs delivered to an upholstery vendor for repair @ \$70 each.
- b. Upon receipt of all anticipated payments due from Senator Rothman's office a second set of building keys were delivered as requested. That project is now closed.
- c. An order was placed for magnetic sign holders to be placed on the front doors of the borough building to better organize the front door appearance.
- d. Received request from the Postal Service to open early negotiations for the next lease term which would begin in 2025. Future monetary terms were offered along with an option for the right to two additional 5 year terms through 2039. Further discussion is required.

AESTHETIC

Councilman Dum stated he has a meeting with Perry County Economic Development Association on March 16, 2023 and a committee meeting on March 27, 2023.

Councilman Dum and Mr. Hartman will put the new benches together for the Square.

FINANCE, INSURANCE & SAFETY

Councilman Patterson had no update on any financial issues.

Councilman Patterson stated there are some webinars on safety and has asked Mr. Hartman to participate in these webinars. Councilman Patterson stated they have revisited the Bloomfield Borough insurance policies and found some discrepancies. In some areas, the Borough was over insured. This survey has saved the Borough approximately \$4,000 a year. He will continue to look over the insurance every year. The new grandstand insurance has been adjusted with this new policy.

President Anderson stated the Borough and the Water Authority have bundled together for insurance which saves both entities money. Discussion followed.

GRANTS

Vice President Fitzpatrick stated they had their pre-contract discussion with DCNR parks grant which is through the end of 2025. They have asked HRG to give us a proposal because they have to put together a project scope for that. They will have to go out for three competitive bids for design. The Borough is also working with HRG to potentially use the greenways trails grant as an offsetting match to minimize Borough expenses.

PERSONNEL

Councilwoman Grindle stated she had nothing to report.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

President Anderson made everyone aware that in the quest to obtain Lot #30 and the Pump station the Borough has spent \$4,100 in legal fees from January 2022- February 2023.

No Execution Session

CLOSING COMMENTS

There being no further business, upon motion by Councilman Cless, seconded by Councilman Dum, the regular meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary