

MINUTES
Bloomfield Borough Council
May 3, 2022

Bloomfield Borough Council met this evening in a regular session in the Bloomfield Borough Council Chambers with the following Council members present: Jessica L. Grindle, J. Kevin Fitzpatrick, Malinda C. Anderson, Brenten S. Dum, 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, Tax Collector Brenda Albright, Perry County Times reporter Jim Ryan, HRG representative Ryan Hostetter, Comcast representatives Kristen Ritchey and Jenn Frees, State Representative Candidate John Hershey, and residents Ed Apple Jr., John J. Patterson V., Deloris Rosenberry and Patience Hill.

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 taping 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 Cless made a motion, seconded by Vice President Fitzpatrick, to approve the April 5, 2022 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial Report – Councilman Dum made a motion, seconded by Councilman Cless, to approve the financial report for April 2022 as presented. Motion carried.

Council Member Vacancy – President Anderson called forth Mr. John J. Patterson V, who graciously volunteered to become a Council member again to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Councilman Michael Smith.

Oath of Office – Mayor Edward T. Albright Jr. administered the Oath of Office to Mr. John J. Patterson V.

Resolution #2022-03: Fill a Vacancy - Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve Resolution #2022-03, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

REQUESTED PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Comcast Presentation – Jennifer Frees

Ms. Jennifer Frees, Senior Manager of Government Affairs with Comcast, gave an informational presentation on the possible expansion of Comcast within the Borough. With Ms. Frees is Ms. Kristin Ritchie who is also a Senior Manager of Government Affairs with Perry County being within her footprint. They are asking Council to consider signing a cable franchise with Comcast to provide services, right now, to a portion of Bloomfield Borough. Ms. Frees explained various programs available and why only a portion of the Borough at this time would be considered. (109 residents and 19 businesses at this time and it would be all aerial.) Discussion followed with questions and answers. More discussion will be necessary before a decision is made. President Anderson suggested they host an informational session for the borough residents. Comcast has a team who can do this.

Ms. Jennifer Frees will work with Solicitor Wakefield directly.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Deloris Rosenberry, Patio Court, had questions about the letter she received from the Borough about zoning. Her biggest concern is about the lots that need to be developed. Vice President Fitzpatrick addressed the zoning issue. He stated the recommended changes in the zoning ordinance will not affect the properties at Patio Court in any way except they may give the owners more flexibility. They are zoned A1 which is agriculture. They are proposing they be changed to R3 (residential). The remaining 8 lots are owned by Lisa Fraker and she is planning on selling them to a developer out of Ickesburg, but there have been no land development plans submitted to the Planning Commission or the Borough with regard to those lots at this time. Ms. Rosenberry also commented about the property lines in Patio Court being a mess. When she bought her property they were told differently. President Anderson suggested she and other residents write down their questions and bring them before Council at the public hearing to be held June 2, 2022 at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers to discuss any questions. Ms. Rosenberry also had questions about the drainage on her property. Solicitor Wakefield stated her pipes etc. are privately owned. This was done in the 1980's by Mr. Thebes, but they are still her responsibility since they have not been signed over to the Borough like the roads were.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Wakefield stated he submitted his formal report to Council and unless there were any questions he would defer to that report.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Edward T. Albright Jr stated Ms. Smiley is doing a good job going around town getting a lot of the wayward residents to clean up their yards and the front of their houses. The Square is looking good and he put up the veteran banners. The County put in LED lighting around the Monument. The County is replacing some bushes in front of the Courthouse.

Mayor Albright brought up the Gusler Alley issue again. A resident has placed concrete blocks in the middle of the alley to close it off. President Anderson stated Council must do more research on this issue because several terms have been used to describe this situation, vacated, abandoned and amended. Vice President Fitzpatrick, Solicitor Wakefield and Zoning Officer Smiley have looked at this and they will do the research to resolve this issue once and for all.

Solicitor Wakefield stated if the alley was truly vacated then the blocking of the alley would be a private issue between the three property owners. If it was never actually vacated, then it could be a Borough issue. More discussion followed.

Parking Officer Report – Mayor Albright stated there were 7 tickets issued in April with 1 still unpaid.

Enforcement Report – BEO Smiley reported she is concentrating on getting the town cleaned up in 2022. Utilizing the May 14th Clean Up Day, she made a list of properties that could benefit from a cleanup. She reached out to the residents and spoke to either the landlord or owner telling them about the cleanup day and taking junk for free. She received positive feedback. After May 14, if these issues are not resolved she will be issuing these properties letters.

President Anderson thanked Ms. Smiley and Mr. Hartman for helping with the Borough Building clean up day.

BEO Report – Becky L. Smiley -

For the complete detailed BEO report, see the Borough Enforcement Officer Monthly Report on file in the Borough Office.

Planning Commission Report – Vice President Fitzpatrick stated Chapter 26, which are the Zoning Ordinances, have gone under significant revision and updates. There are several properties in the Borough that have not been properly zoned since the mid-seventies. Corrections are being made. These are being advertised in both the papers and the website. June 2, 2022 there is a public hearing at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers to discuss these changes. President Anderson asked all of the Council to attend this meeting.

FEMA/PEMA Report – Councilman Cless stated he received several invitations for classroom instruction and webinars, but he could not participate. He forwarded these to BEO Smiley.

Water Authority Report – Mayor Edward T. Albright Jr. reported they have finally reached an agreement with Talmudic about the water. They received their first payment for the tapping fee and the fee for the pump station. The generator has been ordered. There is no date for the installation of the pump. They are in need of another water operator and a new secretary.

PCBA/COG – Councilman Cless reported he received a letter from the State Association of Boroughs regarding an amendment they want to add to their constitution to invoke emergency powers during a state/federal disaster declaration. He does not know how this will impact the Borough. Solicitor Wakefield has not heard about this either.

Zoning/Permit Officer's Report – Zoning Officer Smiley reported no permits were issued in the month of April, but she fielded many calls. She attends the Planning Commission meetings so she understands Chapter 26 ordinances. She and Councilman Cless spent two months organizing zoning files.

Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report – no report.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Announcements and Correspondence –

New Email Address: bloomfieldborough@gmail.com

Statement of Financial Interest – Due to the office by April 6, 2022. President Anderson stated there are still two previous Council members who have not submitted their statements. Solicitor Wakefield believed it would be fine but he will look into this matter. Secretary Shope will reach out to these individuals one more time.

Dumpster for Recycling - Borough employee Mr. Hartman stated they have been looking around for a recycling program for the Borough. Sylvester's Services will provide a dumpster. Everything would be co-mingled with the exception of paper and cardboard. It would be \$150.00 per haul, plus \$150.00 per ton. The question is how to set this up. CCD is not reliable. One question is does Sylvester's have lockable tops on the dumpster. Concerns are the method of control for Borough residents only. Discussion followed. This project is still in the "fact gathering" mode.

RIGHTS OF WAY & UTILITIES

Rights of Way & Utilities Committee Report – Vice President Fitzpatrick stated there was not much to report except for the paving in Patio Court. Vice President Fitzpatrick allowed Mr. Hostetter to report on this. The Penn Bid project for the 2022 paving went out to bid last Thursday. The bid opening will be May 31, 2022. They expect to have a recommendation to award in front of Council at the June 7, 2022 meeting. This includes all the paving and the ADA improvements at Apple Street and the signals at the school. The second grant includes paving Patio Court. Signage for Barnett, Church and Apple Streets is on hold.

Administrative Committee Report – Councilman Cless stated he and the zoning officer organized the zoning office filing system. Mr. Cless had a commercial lease notice developed for the new room in the Borough Building to be advertised for placement in the paper. He read it to the Council. Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve the lease notice for submission to the paper, second by Councilman Dum. Motion carried.

Aesthetics Committee Report – Councilman Dum spoke to Mondie Cunningham. She has the flowers ordered for the Square. They will be planted after Mother's Day. Councilman Dum thanked Mayor Albright for putting up the veteran flags. Councilman Dum received a phone call from the resident at 301 Veterans Drive about trimming their trees and Councilman Dum gave him the go ahead.

FINANCE, INSURANCE, & SAFETY

Finance, Insurance & Safety Report – Vice President Fitzpatrick had nothing to report. Councilman Patterson will be taking over as chairman of this committee.

Grants – Vice President Fitzpatrick stated he is working with Penn Strategies to see if they can access other grants. He is meeting with Tri-County May 11, 2022 to get all the existing projects in the Borough into the comprehensive plan for the County.

President Anderson asked where the bid for the roof stands. Solicitor Wakefield stated they were exploring some additional options through CoStars. Mr. Hartman asked if Council should pursue the CoStar purchase

yet this year or would it be better to do it next year. Mr. Hostetter suggested they begin this year with looking at contractors etc. Discussion followed. Mr. Hartman will work with Mr. Hostetter on this.

Personnel Committee Report-

Councilwoman Grindle had nothing to report.

Councilman Cless remarked that he had to go to 110/112 Barnett Street about a tree issue and mentioned the residents have a very nasty pit bull.

President Anderson read a thank you note from the Bloomfield Public Library.

CLOSING COMMENTS

There being no further business, upon motion by Vice President Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councilman Dum, the regular meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary