

MINUTES Bloomfield Borough Council May 5, 2020

Bloomfield Borough Council met this evening in regular session via the ZOOM computer application so as to be in compliance with Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf's stay at home order and no public gatherings greater than ten people due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. The following Council members participating were: President J. Kevin Fitzpatrick, Vice President Eric S. Berger, Kimberly A. McMullen, Michael J. Smith, Brenten S. Dum, and Wayne S. Leshner IV.

Also participating: Secretary Danielle Shope, Assistant Secretary Kathleen Miller, Mayor Arlis Krammes, BEO Harry Nazzaro, Zoning Officer/Water Authority Ed Albright Jr., and Solicitor Randy Zimmerman. Borough employee Damon Hartman was absent due to his investigating an alarm sounding at the Borough Sewer Plant. Community members joining the Zoom meeting were Mr. Gary Eby, Ms. Karen Sill and Ms. Barb Sill.

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

MEETING OPENING

Recording of the Meeting – President Fitzpatrick advised the attendees that the meeting was being recorded by the Council for the accuracy of the minutes. President Fitzpatrick asked if any individuals in the audience were also taping the meeting and if so to identify themselves for the record. President Fitzpatrick 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 Smith made a motion, seconded by Councilman Dum, to approve the March 3, 2020 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial Report – Councilwoman McMullen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Dum, to approve the financial report for March 2020 as presented. Motion carried.

Councilwoman McMullen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Dum to also approve the financial report for April 2020 since there was no formal meeting last month, but the report was created. Motion carried.

Resignation of Councilman Alex Bender - Councilman Bender tendered his resignation due to the lack of time to commit to Council because of his job time restraints. Vice President Berger made the motion to accept Alex Bender's resignation, seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion carried. (Alex Bender being absent abstained from this vote.) President Fitzpatrick asked the other Council members to be thinking about a replacement for this open position. It should be filled within thirty days. Councilman Leshner asked if a Councilman's family member could fill the position. Solicitor Zimmerman said it was not a disqualifier.

Solicitor Randy Zimmerman asked that Council make a motion to ratify and confirm all actions, decisions and activities of Council, the Borough Secretary and the Borough employees since the last held

meeting through May 5, 2020. Councilman Smith made this same motion, seconded by Councilman Leshner. Motion carried.

Sewer Bills – Deferment/Late Fees Discussion - President Fitzpatrick stated the Borough received a request from Mrs. Tripolli to defer sewer bills based on COVID 19. President Fitzpatrick stated the Borough Council does not have this authority, only the Pennsylvania Governor has this authority. The Borough has on occasion waived the late fees of residents' sewer bills. Secretary Shope explained late fees are 10% of the regular fee. Each quarter there is a process for sending out late fee notices to those residents who have not yet paid their sewer bills. Three or four mailings go out to them with the final mailing coming from the attorney. Usually the delinquent residents pay once they get these reminders. However, the three or four that have not paid for a while will get a lien placed on their property. Usually it is the same people who are late every quarter thus proving COVID 19 is not the reason for them not paying their bill. Discussion followed. Councilman Leshner moved that no action needs to be taken on this issue, seconded by Vice President Berger. Motion carried.

REQUESTED PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Gary Eby was there to voice his ongoing complaint about the barking dog problem in his neighborhood. This particular dog is inside a neighbor's house. Mr. Eby states the dog ordinance does address a barking dog inside a house. This issue has been brought before previous Councils. Councilman Leshner remarked that this is his committee's jurisdiction. Councilman Leshner's committee will be looking into various ordinances to update or change. He stated that there will be a process to file a complaint about dogs. President Fitzpatrick then stated BEO Nazzaro has addressed this barking issue with the dog's owner. President Fitzpatrick went on to inform Mr. Eby that this Council has not and will not tell the Enforcement Officer not to do his job in regards to ordinances. President Fitzpatrick apologized that Mr. Eby has been dealing with this issue since 1978. The Mayor has instructed Mr. Nazzaro to address this issue and if it is warranted to issue a citation. President Fitzpatrick then informed Mr. Eby that the buck stops with him as President of Borough Council and also instructed Mr. Eby that in the future if he has any issues to bring them directly to President Fitzpatrick and he will see they get to the Council. President Fitzpatrick respectfully reprimanded Mr. Eby about his rather loud confrontation with Mayor Krammes thus informing Mr. Eby again to bring his issues to Mr. Fitzpatrick in the future. Councilman Leshner suggested other avenues to pursue such as contacting the SPCA or the Dog Warden. Mr. Eby stated the dog warden has been informed and bounces the problem back to the Borough. President Fitzpatrick stated this is the first time this Council has heard the problem and it will be addressed. Dates and times the dog is barking excessively have been recorded. Solicitor Zimmerman stated from his past experiences concerning dog problems that dog wardens tend to not do their jobs. Some success comes if the dog warden's superiors are contacted. Mr. Zimmerman also said that keeping records is important. More discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

There were no public comments.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Zimmerman just reminded Secretary Shope that once the stay at home mandate is lifted, he wants to visit the office to review various procedures. He also still wants to visit Lot 30 with Mr. Hartman.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Krammes stated the dog issue has already been discussed. She stated that since all businesses have closed, the PEO has not been working. Solicitor Zimmerman suggested providing a complaint form to any resident wishing to voice a complaint so it is properly recorded. Councilman Leshar stated his committee is working on this.

Parking Officer Report – No report

Enforcement Report – BEO Nazzaro reported on various dog issues (barking, loose, chasing children). Noise, children and dogs are the main issues now that everyone is home. He is just trying to get people to get along with each other. He resolved the issue of smeared cupcakes at the Post Office. Those kids will be dealt with by the State Police.

Councilman Leshar had no further comments.

Water Authority Report - Mr. Albright reported they withdrew their bid for pipe replacement for North Apple and Maple Lane because of funding. Because of all the delays and testing the water authority has had to do, they were eating up their loan, so this pipe replacement project had to be delayed till they can get more money on their own. There are no ramifications to the Borough. West McClure Street will be repaved hopefully in June.

Planning Commission Report – Ms. Rowlands was absent so no report.

Perry County Café – Outside Seating Area – Rita McCalf was not present. President Fitzpatrick discussed a request by the Café, which is in the Historic District, to place tables outside. The Planning Commission, as stated by Ms. Rowlands, has no problem with this outdoor seating. President Fitzpatrick has two concerns. First, that there is enough walking space to have **four seats per tabletop versus two seats per tabletop**. Second, under the social distancing mandate three tables will not work. President Fitzpatrick asked if Council was in favor of allowing outdoor seating by the Perry County Café with the condition that there is sufficient walking space so it does not become a hazard for pedestrians. Discussion followed. Councilman Leshar made the motion to approve the plan for **two seats per tabletop** as long as State mandates are followed, seconded by Councilman Dum. Motion carried.

FEMA/PEMA Report – President Fitzpatrick reiterated the need for a candidate to fill this position.

PCBA/COG – No report.

Zoning/Permit Officer's Report - Mr. Albright issued no permits for the month of April.

Councilman Leshar inquired about Mr. Peters' new fence at his home on South Carlisle Street. Mr. Albright told Mr. Peters he did not need a permit for a fence, but to keep the fence on his property. Mr. Albright observed that Mr. Peters went over his property line and Mr. Albright told Mr. Peters he has two weeks to prove he owns that property. If no proper documentation is received, the fence will have to be moved. Discussion followed about whether Gusler Alley has ever been vacated by the Borough. According to county maps, it is still Borough property. Even if the Borough decides to vacate Gusler Alley, Mr. Peters would have to move his fence anyway because he would only get half the alley. More discussion followed about what type of legal actions would be taken if Mr. Peters does not move the fence.

Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report – Mr. Karl Cless was not present so no report. Councilman Leshner remarked Cap Tax was cancelled.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Announcements and Correspondence – President Fitzpatrick asked if everyone had submitted their Statement of Financial Interest. Secretary Shope stated they have not. Those who have not know who they are. Secretary Shope replied that Mr. Richard Watson was the only one the office was having problems reaching because he has moved out of town and no one seems to know his new address. Councilwoman McMullen is friends with his wife on FaceBook so she will try to reach out about this issue.

President Fitzpatrick stated the Historic District review update is on hold. This is not a priority at this time.

President Fitzpatrick gave a quick update on Carson Long. Carson Long has now changed hands and is the property of Talmudic University. Right now they are working on the site. In approximately 10 days, there will be fifteen people at the Maples following full CDC guidelines. Over the next three to four weeks, there will be additional students on campus. They typically go from 5:30a.m. to 10:30 p.m.. They will be working with **Rabbi Zweig** who is the President of Talmudic as well as **Rabbi Senter** who will be running the school. Talmudic wants to get involved in the community. The cottage behind the Maples will be renovated for use until the students can move into the dorms. A “spec” house will be built across from the Maples in the next several months. The property reservoir is being filled. Once that is approved by DEP, the students will arrive and be there for three months. The dining hall will be converted immediately also.

Administrative Committee Report – Councilman Dum mentioned a rubber roof issue to Vice President Berger. The heater in Council Chambers needs repaired. Mr. Dum mentioned Mr. Blumenschein is not responding to his calls, so he would like permission to contact another HVAC company to fix this problem. Councilman Smith made the motion to grant permission to have another company fix the HVAC unit, seconded by Councilman Dum. Motion carried.

AESTHETICS

Aesthetics Committee Report – No report.

FINANCE, INSURANCE, & SAFETY

Finance, Insurance & Safety Report – No report.

Grants – No report.

Personnel Committee Report- Councilman Leshner stated the hiring of a new secretary to help Secretary Shope has been tabled until the June meeting. Councilwoman McMullen was not aware of this decision. President Fitzpatrick asked Councilman Smith to explain why this was tabled. Mr. Smith expressed concern about the financial issues that will affect the Borough budget. There was an overage of \$30,000 on the sidewalks. There are a lot of items that have financial implications that need to be discussed with Solicitor Zimmerman to make sure of the legalities of everything and then Council will have to put pen to paper to see the impact on the budget of all these decisions. President Fitzpatrick took the blame for not having a Zoom Executive Session to discuss these personnel issues before this regular meeting. Councilman Smith went on to explain there is more than just salary to consider with the hiring of another secretary. Councilwoman McMullen proposed the new secretary would receive \$15.00 per hour because the candidate receives \$14.50 at the Water Authority now, but her Borough duties would require more. There were three candidates interviewed. Councilman Smith says the Borough needs to see numbers. He is not opposed at all to the position, but he wants to make sure financially the Borough can afford it. Councilman Leshner asked Secretary Shope to put together the Borough's responsibility in regards to unemployment, FICA, etc. and what is involved financially for this new position. Mrs. Shope was to ask HR&S what the Borough's responsibility financially. Councilman Smith was adamant about making sure the Borough has the money for this new position. Councilman Leshner will break down what his company's \$15.00 employee makes. More discussion followed.

RIGHTS OF WAY & UTILITIES

Rights of Way & Utilities Committee Report – Vice President Berger reported they are about 90% complete on the pool project. They installed a new manhole and cover and 100 feet of 8 inch pipe from an existing manhole, replaced some shut off valves to the pool drain, removed 28 feet of pipe, etc. This Thursday at 9:30a.m. they will be performing the inspection at the Lot 30 pump station. The ADA ramp work should be complete by the end of the week. Councilman Berger will email all these projects' details to everyone.

President Fitzpatrick stated that they are coming to empty the tanks at Lot 30, but they will also be cleaning out at the sewer plant.

CLOSING COMMENTS

There being no further business, upon motion by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Leshner, the meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, June 2, 2020 for a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried. There was some discussion as to the logistics of the June meeting due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and social distancing.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary