

MINUTES
Bloomfield Borough Council
May 5, 2026

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 Dean E. Dum.

Also present: Secretary Danielle L. Shope, Assistant Secretaries Suse Woolever and Kathleen Miller, Solicitor Isaac Wakefield, Borough Employee Damon Hartman, ZEO/BEO Becky Smiley, Mayor Gary Eby, HRG Representative Ryan Hostetter, CapTax Representative Karl Cless, Water Authority Representative C. Larry Weller, and Derek Nesbit from Nesbit Innovations and Ryan Woolever.

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 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 McCarty made the motion to approve the April 7, 2026 meeting minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial Report – Councilman Dum made the motion to approve the April 2026 financial reports, seconded by Vice President Fitzpatrick. Motion carried.

Announce Executive Session (If applicable) - President Anderson stated last month's executive session dealt with legal issues, both current and upcoming.

REQUESTED PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

No requested comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Karl Cless gave his CapTax quarterly report as follows:

The 1st quarterly meeting of the Capital Area Tax Collection Bureau was held April 15, 2026 in Council Chambers. The following agenda items were reviewed and approved:

1. Previous meeting minutes ... Dec 10, 2025

2. Municipal disbursements of tax dollars collected
3. Security updates of the main office ... camera system software with weapon recognition
4. Election of second vice president
5. Employee appreciation picnic at Knobels Grove
6. Business investments and cash balance
7. Remaining 2026 meeting dates: July 15, Oct. 21, and Dec. 9

Reminder: Mr. Cless will be stepping away from the position at year's end. Therefore, Council will need to appoint a replacement who must be present for building preparation at each meeting since the Borough is host for the quarterly events. An alternative option would be that Council could discontinue hosting the meetings to relieve the responsibility.

He did comment that he will stay on as the alternate representative.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Wakefield stated he did not have any further comments beyond what was in the written report presented to Council.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Eby stated there was recycling this past Saturday with an average number of volunteers. The Memorial Day Parade and ceremonies will be held May 25, 2026 at 9 a.m. The parade permit is still pending.

Parking Officer Report – Mayor Eby reported 26 parking tickets were issued in April with 12 unpaid and 1 voided.

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.

Planning Commission Report – **BBPC President Rowlands submitted the following report:**

The Planning Commission did not hold the April 2026 meeting as no projects met deadlines for official reviews. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 18, 2026 at 7 p.m. due to the holiday.

* DGS PENNDOT Final Land Development Plan (FLDP) is pending resolution of comments between the Borough Engineer and the agents. No further review was requested. Council will need to grant an extension, which should be done at the June 2026 Council meeting. We have been informed that the invoice through early April will be paid soon.

* Agents for West Perry submitted a sketch plan for consolidation of the district elementary schools at the New Bloomfield campus. No application or fees were submitted. BBPC will hear a brief presentation from the agents at our May meeting. We can answer questions about a future official process, but the Borough will not comment or engage in discussions without a formal submission.

* Sketch plans were submitted to the Borough office for new large commercial storage garages/buildings at the former Freysinger site, now under new property ownership *(Rebel's Group). We provided links to Borough documentation and have suggested their representative attend our May meeting to ask questions to facilitate a formal Land Development Plan submission.

* Lakeside Development is between the status of the Preliminary and Final Plans. Escrow fund top off was paid to maintain a positive balance.

* Nothing to report for Aishel.

Water Authority Report - President Anderson read the Water Authority Report submitted by Mr. Larry Weller:

Attorney Philpott said that Attorney Wakefield called him. Attorney Wakefield said there is a rumor that The Water Authority has financial problems. He wanted to know if the Water Authority had a debt service plan. If the Water Authority is going to sell the property at Cold Storage Road, the Borough needs to be involved. Jim said he was trying to find the pros and cons of selling the property at Cold Storage Road. He talked to several people about the property and they asked what would be done with the funds. He said the Water Authority would probably put it in the general fund or to reduce debt. The Board is not sure if this is what started the financial problem rumor. The Water Authority does not use the reservoir or spring; however, the swimming pool uses it. It was decided that it was better to keep the property as the swimming pool uses it and it could possibly be used by the Water Authority in the future. The Board approved changes made by Attorney Linus Fenicle to the water service agreement sent from Attorney Philpott.

For the West End Looping project, the Board approved JHA's proposal for the replacement of the existing water main along West Main Street from the western edge of the PennDOT County Office property around Cold Storage Road and the west end of High Street.

For the PennDOT project, Pete is not sure when the surveyors are going to start. The survey letters were sent to the residents seeking right of entry. It was discussed about replacing the resident's water service back to their house and West End Looping

PCBA/COG – President Anderson stated Council has to discuss if they want to continue to be a part of this group.

FEMA/PEMA - Councilman McCarty had nothing to report.

Zoning/Permit Officer's Report – Zoning Officer Smiley reported she issued a permit for 300 East Main St. for Solar Panels.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Statement of Financial Interest - Due now (Planning Commission Member Roger Watson has the only outstanding statement)

Spring Clean Up Day - Saturday, May 9th, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Budget Meeting - September 29th & 30th @ 4pm

Perry County America 250 Celebration Recap - President Anderson represented the Borough at this event.

Traffic Study - Intersection of Main Street (SR0034/SR0274) and Carlisle Street (SR0274) - Engineering and Traffic Studies will be performed according to Letter dated April 9, 2026, 60 days for completion of study - Some discussion followed as to whether or not this study will really take place.

New Bloomfield Elementary Expansion Discussion - Planning Commission Mtg. on May 18th

Secretary Shope stated she received the receipt from the Library for the security camera. It came in at \$1,000, which was under budget.

RIGHTS OF WAYS, UTILITIES, & SAFETY

- A. Mr. Damon Hartman stated that PA OneCall wanted to bore up North Church to 300 W. High Street (which is the elementary school). This request was denied. This was for Comcast HighSpeed Fiber Optics. Discussion followed
- B. **Tri-County Comprehensive Plan (Picture Perry)** - Vice President Fitzpatrick will meet with Jason Finnerty next week on Tuesday. They will work on the strategic plan review.
- C. **Paving Projects (2026)** - Mr. Hostetter stated they have been working with Rick Levan to set up a liquid fuels project. They will advertise for the projects for Veterans Way and the 2 aprons for the cemetery. The bid will go out in May. It is delayed a bit because of funding.
- D. **Roundabout (Monument) Details** - Mr. Hostetter passed out a drone overview picture of the Borough Square and monument. He explained what it would entail to create a “roundabout” around the monument. Parking would be affected. They looked at Linglestown for an example. “Back in” parking would be needed. The Borough has no funding. Mr. Hostetter suggested some PennDOT funding for safety grants. Lengthy discussion followed.

ADMINISTRATIVE & INSURANCE (PROPERTY/LIABILITY)

Councilman Dum stated he reviewed all the insurance policies and had a couple conversations with Cupp Insurance. Mr. Dum is generally satisfied with the Borough’s coverage and limits. He will be making a few recommendations at budget time for next year.

AESTHETICS

Councilman McCarty reported the committee had a meeting recently. The winter trees are coming out this week and the summer flowers will be going in. The contract for “Put ‘em on the Ground” has gone out. Tentative date for take down of the trees in the square will be some time in September. President Anderson stated it is New Bloomfield’s turn to host the Veterans Day Parade so they will be decorating the town for that. The committee is also kicking around ideas of how to decorate for the America 250 celebration. They might offer free flags to townspeople for help in decorating the town again. Councilman McCarty also stated the West Perry football team helped clean up the Square, swimming pool and mulched the Borough playground.

FINANCE

Sewer Account CD matured on April 29, 2026
General Account CD matured on May 2, 2026

Councilman Dum reviewed all internal financial statements and nothing was noted of concern. The above stated CDs were rolled over into a seven month CD at basically the same rate as those that were expiring. President Anderson stated she signed the paperwork today and it was at 3.65%.

GRANTS

Vice President Fitzpatrick spoke with Lauren from HRG regarding the deadlines on some grants. Mr. Hostetter is looking into alternatives for the bridge on Borough property because of safety concerns with Borough and Water Authority truck usage. This is not the Barnett Woods Road bridge. Vice President Fitzpatrick is also looking into ideas to make the Borough Building ADA compliant in regards to the ramp.

PERSONNEL & INSURANCE (HEALTH/DENTAL)

Councilwoman Grindle had nothing to report on personnel but she will be the voting delegate at the annual PSAB conference this year.

CLOSING COMMENTS

There being no further business President Anderson asked for adjournment. Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m., seconded by Councilman Dum. Motion carried. The next meeting of Bloomfield Borough Council will be held Tuesday June 2, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary