

**MINUTES**  
**Bloomfield Borough Council**  
**May 6, 2025**

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 Karl L. Cless.

Also present: Secretary Danielle L. Shope, Assistant Secretaries Suse Woolever and Kathleen Miller, Solicitor Isaac Wakefield, Perry County Times Reporter Paul Wyatt, Borough Employee Damon Hartman, ZEO/BEO Becky Smiley, Mayor Gary Eby, HRG Representative Ryan Hostetter, Bloomfield Public Library Representative Miriam Nicholson, Ryan Woolever and Bloomfield Borough Resident Ed Apple.

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. Perry County Times reporter Paul Wyatt was also recording the meeting. 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.

**Prior Meeting - Executive Session (April/May)** - Both the April and May Executive Sessions were to deal with current litigation issues.

**Approval of Minutes** – Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve the April 1, 2025 meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

**Approval of Financial Report** – Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to approve the April 2025 financial reports, seconded by Councilman McCarty. Motion carried.

***REQUESTED PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS***

No requested public comments.

***PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS***

Ms. Becky Smiley reported that she purchased a 3x5 foot American flag to put on the baseball grandstand. Council approved this purchase and placement on the grandstand.

## ***MONTHLY REPORTS***

**Solicitor's Report** – Solicitor Wakefield stated that he provided the Council with his formal report and unless there were any questions, he would defer to the report.

**Mayor's Report** – Mayor Eby stated the upcoming press conference was cancelled at the CourtHouse, so no reserved parking spots are needed. Mayor Eby stated several residents brought up the issue of potholes at the entrance of Veterans Drive. Mr. Hartman will patch them next week until a permanent fix can be completed. Recycling went well. In April, there were over 30 people with 7 volunteers and in May, there were 41 people with 5 volunteers. Mayor Eby has prepared a parade permit for the Memorial Day Parade on May 26, 2025 sponsored by the New Bloomfield VFW. He will complete it and submit it to the office.

**Parking Officer Report** – Mayor Eby reported 13 tickets were issued in April 2025. 3 tickets remain unpaid.

**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.

**Reports to PSP regarding vandalism** - President Anderson reported the Borough has had several major acts of vandalism since last months' meeting. One involves juveniles, and one involves juveniles and adults. The Borough is pursuing both criminal and civil fines against these individuals. President Anderson will work also with BEO Smiley and Councilman Cless with charges pending with the Pennsylvania State Police. There is a \$500 cash reward for information leading to the conviction of vandals that are continuing to destroy Borough public property. A spreadsheet with timelines and damages is being kept for documentation. Councilman Cless provided a video flash drive for further evidence.

**Authorize Advertisement of Parking Ordinance Amendments** - Solicitor Wakefield mentioned various parts of the current parking ordinance need to be updated. Working with Mr Hartman, they came up with an ordinance that will address handicap, time limits, parking against traffic etc. and their enforceability. Councilman Cless made a motion to advertise this ordinance for adoption, seconded by Vice President Fitzpatrick. Motion carried.

**Planning Commission Report** – Planning Commission Chair Melanie Rowlands was absent so Vice President Fitzpatrick reported: The Planning Commission received a request for an extension for the preliminary plan for the State Shed project. Vice President Fitzpatrick made a motion to accept the extension that has been provided by the Commonwealth of PA, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried. Extension has been granted till Monday July 7, 2025.

**Water Authority Report** - President Anderson read the following report submitted by the Authority:

For the PennDOT Maintenance Facility, Jim Swenson expressed concerns about the lack of water flow to Borough customers when PennDOT is running at full capacity. It was discussed about doing our own flow tests. The Board is going to review the PennDOT flow test results and the draft PennDOT letter.

For the Dutch Canal Project, The Water Authority indicated they needed two easy valves. (shut off valves) PennDOT is going to install them. Discussion followed about pipe sizes.

Councilman Cless is planning to work with the Authority and Ned Zook about acquiring more up to date computers for the Water Authority.

**PCBA/COG** – Councilman Cless reported the scheduled May 8, 2025 meeting was cancelled due to the lack of business.

**FEMA/PEMA** - Councilman Cless stated after review of the FIRM (Flood Insurance Rate Map) regarding the naming of the small tributary on the western edge of the Borough to “Bloomfield Branch”, Mr. Cless found nothing to prevent that request. The updating of the FIRM map should be done during the next FEMA update cycle by our representative. President Anderson will contact the gentleman regarding the letter of support for this naming of the tributary.

**Perry County Advisory Committee** - Vice President Fitzpatrick stated they put forth two proposals on how to handle the EMS situation. They are waiting for information and the final costs. The cost allocation could be at a minimum of \$43,000 and the Borough would have to figure out how to come up with this amount. Vice President Fitzpatrick will be part of the advisory group but he has yet to be contacted. Discussion followed.

**Zoning/Permit Officer’s Report** – Zoning Officer issued 0 permits this past month.

**Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report**– Councilman Cless reported that the initial quarterly Zoom meeting was held on April 16, 2025 at 7 p.m.in Council Chambers and the launch went off without a hitch. Disbursements were reviewed and approved. Investments were reviewed along with CD renewals. Another employee day at the park was approved for Knoebels Grove in August.

## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE***

### **Administrative & Insurance (Property/Liability) Committee**

1. Statement of Financial Interest - Due April 1, 2025
2. Bloomfield Borough Clean up Day - Saturday May 10, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
3. Senator Rothman Letter - discuss projects to submit to his office - Vice President Fitzpatrick stated they do not have the final plan yet. They want to provide a strategic plan to present to Council and ask for the Senator’s support.
4. Budget meeting - Will be held September 29 and 30, 2025 at 4 p.m.
5. Proposal to name stream to Bloomfield Branch - discussed above
6. Updates to recycling program - The Borough currently provides donuts and coffee to volunteers, but this adds up in costs. Every time the recycling gets tipped the funds are taken from the garbage fund and right now that balance is down to approximately \$6,000. So, the Borough will no longer be able to provide volunteers with coffee and donuts. If there are no volunteers, a sign will have to be posted at recycling that it is closed for that day. This is not a borough employee's responsibility to provide this service. It is a volunteer help service. The Borough only pays for the pick up of the containers
7. Key Management - Secretary Shope is trying to get a better handle on who has keys to the building. Please inform Mrs. Woolever if you have a key.

### ***RIGHTS OF WAYS, UTILITIES, & SAFETY***

Vice President Fitzpatrick made a motion to ratify Council's purchase of a replacement pump (Vaughn Chopper Pump) in the amount of \$25,988 from the vendor. Kelso. Mr. Hartman identified this as being the sole source for the model of pump needed. This is the backup pump needed to keep the sewer plant running, Councilman McCarty seconded this motion. Motion carried.

### ***ADMINISTRATIVE & INSURANCE (PROPERTY/LIABILITY)***

Councilman Cless reported

1. Significant rowdy behavior by juveniles took place inside and out of the Borough Building. Some vandalism also occurred including a broken letter of the building signage along with concrete portions of the post office walkway being broken off and tossed around. After further investigation, the perpetrators were caught on security camera footage and the video was turned over to the State Police for an investigation.
2. Additionally, a rear door glass of the Borough Building was broken on Wednesday, April 31, 2025 prior to a scheduled baseball game between West Perry and Marysville little league. After further investigation, it was determined members of the Marysville team were the perpetrators. It is my recommendation the Marysville team be permanently banned from the property as they made no effort to report the incident to proper authorities in a timely fashion and the incident does not appear to be accidental. Furthermore, no attempt was made by the ball team to make contact with the Borough until after a post on FaceBook 2 days later offering a reward of \$500 for information on the incident. The door was covered with plywood to protect the area from the further damage and Hershocks gave an estimate on replacement costs at \$665. The glass replacement is on order.
3. Discussion commenced about a permanent ban for the Marysville little league team. BEO Smiley suggested a two year sanction. Vice President Fitzpatrick suggested a year ban. Mayor Eby, according to President Anderson, suggested reaching out to the team's sponsors to help pay for the door damage. President Anderson made a motion to ban the Marysville team from use of Bloomfield's fields for the rest of the season and that they must come before Council next season and make a request to ask permission to use the fields. Seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried
4. Vice President Fitzpatrick commended Councilman Cless for this quick attention for the door repair.

### ***AESTHETICS***

Councilman McCarty reported the Aesthetics Committee did meet last week. Plans have been ironed out for the Square. Flowers have been purchased and planting will begin May 19, 2025. Delivery of mulch has been set for May 17th and spreading will be done with the help of the West Perry Football team.

BEO Smiley asked about Crime Stoppers. Councilman McCarty said he had zero response from the State Police on this matter. Mr McCarty stated when he moved into town twenty odd years ago there was a Crime Stoppers group. He would like to see that again for the residents. He is trying to get official information as to how to set it up etc. The Borough gives Crime Stoppers a donation every year. Discussion followed.

The Lions Club would like to donate more benches for the park. Two more are needed.

***FINANCE***

President Anderson stated they received an invoice for the hardware for the Scoreboard. It comes to a total of \$953.44. Discussion followed about which budget to withdraw it from and how to protect the Scoreboard better. President Anderson made the motion to take these funds from the Aesthetics Committee, seconded by Councilman McCarty. Motion carried with Councilman Cless abstaining. Discussion followed about the scoreboard.

***GRANTS***

**Bloomfield Park Grant** - Vice President Fitzpatrick stated the good news is that we received the rest of the grant money in the amount of \$34,250.06. He praised Secretary Shope in her accounting and that the audit was not one penny off.

**Resolution #2025-03: PA Small Water & Sewer Program Grant** - On April 30, working with HRG and Ryan Hostetters's team they filed the grant for \$496,400 (15% match) which will come out of the sewer fund. This grant is to line the entire sewer line the length of Main Street. This is the end of the sewer line relining for the entire town. This is a 4 year window for project completion. This paperwork was submitted April 30th with letters of support from all 3 County Commissioners and Rep. Perry Stambaugh. Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to accept Resolution #2025-03, seconded by Councilman McCarty. Motion carried.

Vice President Fitzpatrick mentioned that he attended the Tri-County Planning meeting regarding the Picture Perry comprehensive plan and Mr Fitzpatrick volunteered to be Bloomfield Borough's Representative.

***PERSONNEL & INSURANCE (HEALTH/DENTAL)***

Councilwoman Grindle had nothing more to report.

President Anderson read thank you letters from the following agencies: Recycling - Electronic, BBC Pool, Keep PA Beautiful, and the Senior Center.

***CLOSING COMMENTS***

There being no further business President Anderson asked for adjournment. Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m., seconded by Vice President Fitzpatrick . Motion carried. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in Bloomfield Borough Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary