

**MINUTES**  
**Bloomfield Borough Council**  
**October 1, 2024**

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, Raymonda J. Cunningham, Jessica L. Grindle, and Karl L. Cless.

Also present: Assistant Secretaries Susanne Woolever and Kathleen Miller, Solicitor Isaac Wakefield, HRG Representative Ryan Hostetter, Planning Commission Chair Melanie Rowlands, Perry County Times Reporter Paul Wyatt, Borough Employee Damon Hartman, Union Cemetery Representative James Swenson, resident Lucinda Thebes and observer 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**.

Due to the hospitalization of Mayor Edward T. Albright Jr., Council President Malinda Anderson, becomes Acting Borough Mayor. In this capacity as Mayor, President Anderson may not run the Council meeting so she turned the gavel over to Vice President Kevin Fitzpatrick to run the Borough Council meeting.

***MEETING OPENING***

**Recording of the Meeting** – Vice President Fitzpatrick 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. Vice President Fitzpatrick 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. Vice President Fitzpatrick 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 recording the meeting. Vice President Fitzpatrick 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** – Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to approve the September 3, 2024 meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

**Approval of September Budget Meeting Minutes** - Councilwoman Cunningham made the motion to approve the September 16, 2024 budget meeting minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

**Approval of Financial Report** – September financials will be revisited at the November meeting.

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

There were no Requested Public Comments.

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

James Swenson asked Council for continuous financial support for the old Union Cemetery located in town. This will be considered during the budget meeting.

## ***MONTHLY REPORTS***

**Solicitor's Report** – Solicitor Wakefield stated he provided the Council with his formal report and unless there were any questions, he would defer to the report. Mr. Wakefield did highlight two points: 1) He presented several Park Rules revision options and 2) He has been working with Ms. Smiley on violation issues and fees. Councilman Cless asked Solicitor Wakefield if we can differentiate and incorporate “the grassy areas and ramps” to the playground/park rules.

**Mayor's Report** – Acting Mayor Anderson stated the Street Fair was a success with no incidents. She is filling out the forms for the Halloween Parade. Ms. Anderson will touch base with Dan Paul about the parade.

**Parking Officer Report** – Acting Mayor Anderson reported 5 tickets were issued in September with 2 still unpaid.

**Enforcement Report** – Vice President Fitzpatrick stated this report was filed. Ms. Anderson spoke to Solicitor Wakefield about offering a monetary reward for any information leading to the identity of the juveniles who have been vandalizing Borough and residential private property. Crime stoppers have not responded back to Ms. Anderson's call. Ms. Anderson asked for discussion about an appropriate amount of money for the reward. Resident Lucinda Thebes commented that the children are very disrespectful and out of control. They hang out at the newly renovated grandstand and the soccer nets. Their pictures have been caught on film. They have been stealing from the library also. A question was posed: Can the PSP go to the school? Discussion followed. The amount of \$250 for a reward was suggested.

**BEO Report: Becky L. Smiley** - BEO Smiley was absent. There was nothing more to report other than what is in her report. For the complete detailed BEO report, please see Borough Enforcement Officer Monthly Report on file in the Borough Office.

**Planning Commission Report** – Ms. Rowlands sent this report:

The Planning Commission (BBPC) held the September 23, 2024 Regular Meeting as a Q&A session for the PennDOT State Shed (DGS-Perry Co.) Preliminary Land Development Plan (PLDP).

Hunt Engineering agents for the applicants, an HRG Engineer, County Planning, Planning Commission members, Zoning Officer and the borough public works/maintenance manager discussed the submission to clarify next steps.

Various non-conformities will require Variances (to be heard by the Zoning Hearing Board) unless design revisions and mitigations make a variance request unnecessary.

Since that meeting, we have been notified that PennDOT decided to further reduce the salt shed designs to 35'0" to comply with zoning requirements that are based on local fire department capabilities for height.

The Borough awaits applicant and agent next steps and they control the timing. BBPC will hear their updates at the next regular meeting (Monday, October 28, 2024 at 7 p.m.).

No other projects related to BBPC require borough actions.

**FEMA/PEMA** - Councilman Cless had nothing to report.

**Water Authority Report** - Vice President Fitzpatrick read the following report: The hydrant testing has been completed for both the PennDOT maintenance facility and Talmudic. The results will be back in two to three weeks. The Water Authority is looking into an LSA grant.

**PCBA/COG** – Councilman Cless reported the 2nd annual meeting was held September 12, 2024 at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers. The Secretary and Treasurer’s reports of the last meeting were read and approved. BIU gave approval to the terms of the new lease agreement and Council will need to approve the increase in monthly rate. Finally, an announcement was made to all members present that if attendance does not pick up by the end of the year, the Borough would no longer host the event.

Councilman Cless made the motion to increase the BIU monthly rental rate to \$700 per month, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle, effective February 1, 2025. Motion carried.

**Zoning/Permit Officer’s Report** – Zoning Officer Smiley was absent so no report.

**Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report** – Councilman Cless stated the next quarterly meeting will be held October 16, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

### ***ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE***

**Discussion of Weekly Trash Limitations for Residents** - Should the Borough limit the amount of bags placed on the curb or should containers be required? Any of these would require an ordinance change. Discussion followed. Suggesting residents use containers or limit the number of bags they use will be placed in the Newsletter. Mr. Swenson mentioned how some individuals from out of town are bringing in their trash.

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

**Bloomfield Borough Park Project Update** - Vice President Fitzpatrick stated the Bloomfield Park Project is underway and moving along nicely. The Project should be completed by October 25, 2024 with inspection by November 5, 2024. The path is already being used everyday. Eventually there will be 8 benches around the path, 4 will be ADA compliant and 4 have been donated by the Lions Club. The second leg of the path will lead to the Sewer Plant.

**Discussion to revise the curfew ordinance hours.** - In light of the issues the Borough is having involving juvenile problems, the Council asked Solicitor Wakefield about changing the ordinance on the Park Rules from Dusk to Dawn. Discussion followed. Solicitor Wakefield will work on this issue with Councilman Cless as his contact.

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

**Rights of Ways, Utilities, & Safety Committee Report** - Vice President Fitzpatrick had nothing of note to report except that a stop sign at Church and High Streets got taken out by a pick up truck . It has been replaced.

**Barnett Woods Road Bridge Update** - None since the bridge is 18” too short to qualify for grant monies.

**Traffic Control Discussion at the New Bloomfield Fire Station** - Councilman Cless read a letter he is sending to the Fire Company. Also, see Councilman Cless’s Administrative Report #2 below.

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

Councilman Cless reported the following:

1. He received notification from the library of a possible leak in the lower level hallway ceiling from the Post Office. Talked with Post Office personnel, then inspected the Post Office A/C condensate drain to the hallway and found nothing. Problem was located in the main Post Office room. They will have to resolve this issue.

2. After a discussion with Council regarding the installation of traffic warning lights at the new fire station, an investigation with PennDOT was conducted. Findings indicated there is no state mandate requiring the Borough to provide the lights, therefore, a letter will be sent to the Fire Company stating the Borough will not provide the requested lighting.
3. An encounter with juvenile children took place at the handicap ramp of the Borough Building during the September PCBA meeting. State Police were called to disperse the rowdy crowd. PSP suggested changing the playground hours to “dusk to dawn” rather than “10 p.m.-6 a.m.”.

### ***AESTHETICS***

Councilwoman Cunningham mentioned the Christmas Tree Program is almost complete. The people providing the tree are donating it again this year.

### ***FINANCE***

Vice President Fitzpatrick stated there were some changes made with Borough CD's to take advantage of higher interest rates. Discussion followed about which amounts from the sewer account should be moved to a 13 month CD.

Councilman Cless made the motion to move \$70,000 from the Sewer Account to a Bank of Landisburg CD at 4.10% APY interest rate for 13 months, seconded by Vice President Fitzpatrick. Motion carried.

### ***GRANTS***

Vice-President Fitzpatrick stated he is not applying for any more grants at this time.

COVID 19 ArPA Multipurpose Community Facilities Program - No report at this time.

LSA Multipurpose Grant - LSA is scheduled to meet on November 19, 2024. This grant was also for the Borough Building.

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

Councilwoman Grindle had nothing to report.

Councilman Cless mentioned a drop off and a rail needed at the Park. Vice President Fitzpatrick mentioned it is being worked on with more information to follow.

### ***CLOSING COMMENTS***

There being no further business Vice President Fitzpatrick adjourned the meeting. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, November 5, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in Bloomfield Borough Council Chambers.

**Executive Session - Council broke into session after the meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary