

MINUTES
Bloomfield Borough Council
October 7, 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, Solicitor Isaac Wakefield, Borough Employee Damon Hartman, ZEO/BEO Becky Smiley, Mayor Gary Eby, Planning Commission Representative Melanie Rowlands, HRG Representatives Ryan Hostetter, Katie Vollo and Lauren Zunbrun, Perry County Times Reporter Paul Wyatt, Library Representative Robert Nickel and 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. (Paul Wyatt from the Perry County Times is also recording.) 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 Cless made the motion to approve the September 2, 2025 meeting minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

Approval of Budget Meeting Minutes - Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve the September 29, 2025 budget meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman McCarty. Motion carried.

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

REQUESTED PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Robert Nickel from the Bloomfield Public Library presented to council the idea of a fun run fundraiser for the library on April 11, 2026. It would be the same course as the Perry 5,000 course. It would run from 9:30-10:30 a.m. He has a call into the Fire Police to handle traffic control. It will begin at the Square. He was asking the Council for permission to hold this event. President Anderson asked Mr. Nickel to meet with Mayor Eby so they can give notice to PennDOT for road closure etc.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

There were no public comments.

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. They had a hearing last month regarding the Leyder property. Ms. Smiley and Mr. Wakefield attended the hearing with a guilty verdict and a \$1,000 penalty. If there is no movement, they can take additional steps. There is a “for sale by owner” sign out in front of the house. Also, there is still no payment from the Marysville baseball team for the damages sustained to the Borough Building.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Eby stated he has had multiple people request a stop sign placed at the corner of Church and Barnett streets and also “No Trucks” signage for Barnett Street. Ms. Rowlands stated that there has to be reasons given for a “No Trucks” sign, not just because you do not want trucks on that street. Solicitor Wakefield suggested a traffic study and to have the engineering firm, HRG, put together an engineering study/memo to document the reasons. Engineers would look at the intersection for stop sign placement. Vice President Fitzpatrick suggested doing a study. Safety first. Discussion followed. Council requested an HRG study proposal of this issue and to present it to Council at the November meeting.

The Halloween Parade will be Saturday October 25, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. The Lions Club should get the fire police for that event. The permit has been approved and filed for this event.

Also, recycling was on Saturday and the volunteers were thin, but Mayor Eby will try to coordinate a volunteer roster for upcoming recycling dates.

Parking Officer Report – Mayor Eby reported 6 tickets were issued in September 2025 with 1 voided and 1 ticket remaining 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.

Planning Commission Report – Planning Commission Chair Melanie Rowlands submitted the following report:

- * DGS Preliminary Plan (PennDOT Maintenance State Shed)
 - Major invoice finally paid by DGS. Only \$89.50 recent invoice is outstanding.
 - Final Plan (FLDP) not yet submitted but being discussed. The concept of a site visit became complicated to schedule so photos have been requested with the FLDP submission.
 - No action required by the borough at this time.(Mr. Wakefield mentioned updating correct numbers in waivers and Ms. Rowlands believes this has been done)

- ** Swenson Subdivision (property line)
 - Signature plats are awaited from agent (J. Gibboney for Burget & Assc.) and are dependent on Centre Twp. Timing.
 - Official borough approval notice will be issued once we get word that Centre Twp issues are resolved.

- *** Lakeside Preliminary Plan
 - Agents (Melham) continuing to work through stormwater plans related to previously installed underground tiles including input from Damon Hartman.
 - Either agents will request the formal review for the October Planning Commission meeting (after HRG reviews) OR a mutual deadline extension will be requested beyond the current deadline for Council to act by 11/23/2025.

- *** South Church St. Right of Way
 - no further updates provided by agents (J. Gibboney for Burget & Assc.).

Water Authority Report - President Anderson read the Report submitted: The Water Authority is going to apply for a LSA grant to replace 4-inch lines with 8-inch from the monument to Barnett Woods Road. Starting January 2026, the Board will have their meetings quarterly with other meetings as needed.

PCBA/COG – Councilman Cless stated the 3rd quarter meeting was held September 11 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. The minutes and financial report were read and approved. Discussion took place regarding municipal subdivision plans, developments, and single family home projects throughout the county. BIU reported 300 permits were issued but revenue was down to \$7,000 from \$9,000 last year as new housing starts are down. Additionally, several municipalities have not signed onto the Perry County EMS proposal due to cost. Discussion followed about whether the new representative to PCBA/COG to replace Cless has to be an elected official or can they just be appointed.

FEMA/PEMA - Councilman Cless stated there was nothing to report. Councilman Kevin McCarty is considering replacing Councilman Cless on this board.

Zoning/Permit Officer's Report – Zoning Officer issued 1 permit this past month.

Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report– Councilman Cless stated the next quarterly meeting is scheduled for October 15th in Council Chambers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

- **Senator Rothman Letter** - Discuss projects to submit to his office.
- **TCRPC (Tri-County Regional Planning Commission) Representative discussion & Vote** - This nomination has to be named before the end of October. Discussion followed. Nomination has been tabled.
- **Leaf Collection** - Monday, October 13, 2025 through Wednesday, November 26, 2025. Residents have been notified.
- **Trick or Treat** - Friday October 31, 2025. 6-7:30 p.m. rain or shine.

RIGHTS OF WAYS, UTILITIES, & SAFETY

Vice President Fitzpatrick stated:

- 1) The paving of Veteran's Way and the Cemetery has been postponed till fiscal year 2026 because of budget costs. Liquid Fuels and General Funds will be used for this project in 2026.
- 2) Discuss possible ordinance for curb cleanup - President Anderson stated they put out a request in the Borough Newsletter for homeowners to clean up their curblines from vegetation and debris since this blocks the storm drains. She feels they might have to go to an actual ordinance if individuals do not comply with this request.
- 3) Replace Kubota Plow, not to exceed \$5,500 - Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve the purchase of this plow, not to exceed \$5,500, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.
- 4) Strategic Plan - HRG Representatives presented the plan to Council. Their presentation included:
 - a) Bloomfield Borough Municipal Building accessibility improvements - Planning Level Project Cost \$650,000-\$7000,000

- b) Bloomfield Borough Park improvements - Planning Level Cost \$250,000-\$300,000
- c) Barnett Woods Bridge replacement - Estimated cost \$1,384,000
- d) Trail extensions - Estimated Trail Improvement cost \$560,000

Lengthy discussions followed on all the above items. Grants are available to help fund improvements.

Vice President Fitzpatrick made a motion to approve this Capital Improvement Strategy, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE & INSURANCE (PROPERTY/LIABILITY)

Councilman Cless reported:

1. Moyers Lock Service installed a new lock on the upper level front door and provided 50 keys for dispersal. Keys were stamped with numbers 1 thru 50, placed in an Excel spreadsheet and assigned to pertinent individuals to maintain better security.
2. The latest Borough Building signage proposal offered by Paulus Signs was accepted by the majority of Council members. Mr. Paulus was instructed to proceed with construction to expedite the process. Council vote needed for final approval. Councilman Cless made the motion to approve \$4,500 for materials and installation, seconded by Vice President Fitzpatrick. Motion carried.
3. Purchased a new wide view security camera for the playground. The present camera is outdated and covered with a film on the lens with night vision compromised. Will install ASAP.

AESTHETICS

Councilman McCarty stated the committee met on September 25 to discuss the change over to Fall decorations in the Square. This has been done. There is a donor from Port Royal for the Christmas Tree. They also need to discuss the change over from Fall to Winter decorations now. Winter decorations will go up in the last week of November. Animal waste bags were replaced in the park. The Aesthetics Committee will take over this responsibility. Mr. McCarty spoke to Scott Morrison about the possibility of a bike rack in the square. Mr. Morrison was concerned it would just be a collection area for leaves and debris.

FINANCE

Vice President Fitzpatrick stated that for the last several months there has been a PCMS advisory board focused on EMS consolidation. This consolidation is because of the need for funding across all of Perry County. Both Vice President Fitzpatrick and President Anderson have attended these meetings. They met with Centre Township since both New Bloomfield and Centre Township rely on the same EMS. If the Borough stays with the advisory it would cost \$100,000. The EMS believes that if they use donations from the Borough, which would be \$12,000. Centre Township's donation would be more. They believe they could make a go of it without joining the consolidated approach. Vice President Fitzpatrick does not see how the residents could fund the proposed cost associated with the EMS consolidation. Other than a significant increase in taxes there is no way the Borough could fund the EMS consolidation. Vice President Fitzpatrick made a motion to go forward with supporting New Bloomfield EMS directly with donations rather than join the countywide EMS consolidation, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried. Mayor Eby mentioned that this does not mention staffing for EMS. Discussion followed.

GRANTS

Vice President Fitzpatrick stated his grants have already been covered.

PERSONNEL & INSURANCE (HEALTH/DENTAL)

Councilwoman Grindle had nothing to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There is no Executive Session.

CLOSING COMMENTS

There being no further business President Anderson asked for adjournment. Councilman Cless made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m., seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday November 4, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in Bloomfield Borough Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary