

MINUTES Bloomfield Borough Council September 1, 2020

Bloomfield Borough Council met this evening in regular session in the Bloomfield Borough Council Chambers with the following Council members present: President J. Kevin Fitzpatrick, Vice President Eric S. Berger, Kimberly A. McMullen, Michael J. Smith and Wayne S. Leshner. Jacob L. Casey and Brenten S. Dum were absent.

Also present: Secretary Danielle L. Shope, Assistant Secretary Kathleen Miller, Borough Employee Damon Hartman, Mayor Arlis Krammes, Zoning Officer/Water Authority Ed Albright Jr., Solicitor Randall Zimmerman and residents Malinda Anderson, Jayne Eckert, Brenda Albright, Richard Rogers, Becky Smith and New Bloomfield Fire Company representatives Dave McCluskey and John McLarren.

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

President Fitzpatrick led the gathered assembly in the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

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 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 Fitzpatrick further requested that those individuals in the audience desiring to speak during Public Comments 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 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 – Vice President Berger made a motion, seconded by Councilman Smith, to approve the August 4, 2020 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

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

Announcement of Executive Session – Council adjourned into Executive Session at 7:02 p.m.

Vice President Berger made the motion to resume Bloomfield Borough Council regular session at 7:16 p.m., seconded by Councilman Leshner. Motion carried.

REQUESTED PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

New Bloomfield Fire Company/EMS representative David McCluskey informed Council that the new Fire Company building is officially underway. They hope to be under roof by Thanksgiving. They hope to be

debt free within a five year period. Mr. McCluskey reported to Council the status of the EMS. The EMS is in dire need of financial support. They are losing money because they have no tax money coming in and memberships are down. Membership participation used to be 75% and now it is down below 20%. He explained how much money it takes to support the EMS/Medic Unit. Mr. McCluskey reported that by the end of 2021 the EMS could easily be out of business. Mr. McCluskey asked Council to consider a Borough tax of .5 (five tenths) per person for the EMS. President Fitzpatrick asked Mr. McCluskey to provide Council with information as to how the other municipalities are supporting the EMS and what New Bloomfield's contribution would be from a budget perspective. Mr. McCluskey agreed to provide this information. It is the actual population multiplied by .5. Mr. McCluskey provided Council members with an information sheet.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Richard Rogers asked Council four questions/points. 1) He would like to ask Council to re-evaluate the ordinance with regards to noise. (10:00 p.m. -7:00 a.m.). He asks that it be amended with regards to construction/demolition/and operation of heavy equipment from 5:00 p.m. -7:00 a.m. unless for emergency situations. 2) Storm drainage at 203 South Carlisle Street. During heavy storms it floods because this is the only drain on that side of the street from the Square. 3) Gussler Alley – He would like to know the status of ownership of Gussler Alley. 4) Board Membership – How long must you be a Borough resident before you can be on Borough Council. Mr. Rogers gave Council members a copy of his questions/point.

Solicitor Zimmerman answered number four. A person must be a resident for one year before they can become a member of Council.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Zimmerman had no further report other than what he advised during the Executive Session.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Krammes had nothing to report.

Parking Officer Report – Mayor Krammes reported 18 parking tickets were issued for August with 7 remaining unpaid.

Enforcement Report – Councilman Leshner reported he received 2 complaints for the same issue and he is preparing to send a letter. The issue has not been resolved yet. They are in final interviews for the Borough Enforcement Officer.

Water Authority Report - Mr. Albright reported the Borough has been issued a drought warning because they water level is now down 38 feet. This is a 10% water usage reduction. The Authority was awarded \$320,000 from the Small Waters grant. This will be used for the needed booster pump on North Carlisle Street. The building foundation is complete. Pipes are being put in under the floor. They are waiting for the building to arrive and hope to be under roof by November. They hope to be on line by late spring or September 2021. Everything, Talmudic and any new construction in that area will be supported. He reported they will be pumping 250 gallons per minute with the new well.

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

FEMA/PEMA Report – Councilwoman McMullen reported the Tri County Regional Planning Commission has completed their five year update of their hazard mitigation plan. They submitted it and received approval from FEMA and PEMA. Council has to sign the resolution that Bloomfield wishes to support and participate in this hazard mitigation plan should there be issues here.

Councilman Smith made the motion to approve Resolution 2020-04 for Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, seconded by Vice President Berger. Motion carried.

PCBA/COG – Mr. Albright stated there is a meeting September 10, 2020 in Borough Council Chambers.

Zoning/Permit Officer's Report - Mr. Albright issued a sewer permit to the New Bloomfield Fire Company. They already had one tap but they are putting in two more connections. They are being charged for one more connection. The Borough is giving them one because they are the Fire Company. The Fire Company is paying for all the piping.

Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report – Mr. Karl Cless was absent so no report.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Announcements and Correspondence – President Fitzpatrick read a thank you from the New Bloomfield United Methodist Church.

President Fitzpatrick announced the Borough Council Budget meeting is scheduled for October 19 and 20, 2020 at 4: p.m. in Council Chambers.

President Fitzpatrick announced the Perry County conservation District's Tire War would take place Saturday September 19 from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the Oliver Township Building located at 615 South 3rd Street in Newport. Residents must pre-register by September 10, 2020.

The Borough still has no statement of financial interest from Mr. Robert Wood.

The Fire Company Audit is available for review. See the Borough Secretary.

The tax collector has moved outside the Borough limits and thus Mrs. Jayne Eckert can no longer hold this position. Councilman Smith made the motion to rescind the letter of reappointment (there never being a resolution completed) made at the August meeting appointing Jayne Eckert as Borough Tax Collector, seconded by Vice President Berger. Motion carried.

Mrs. Brenda Albright has shown interest in fulfilling Mrs. Eckert's term as Borough Tax Collector. Councilman Smith made the motion to approve the appointment of Mrs. Brenda Albright as Bloomfield Borough Tax Collector for the duration of the term through December 2021, seconded by Vice President Berger. Motion carried.

Administrative Committee Report – Councilman Dum was absent so there is no report.

AESTHETICS

Aesthetics Committee Report – There is no chair at this time so there was no report.

FINANCE, INSURANCE, & SAFETY

Finance, Insurance & Safety Report – Councilman Smith stated he emailed everyone a spread sheet of account balances. Three checks he wanted to point out. 1) The paving of McClure Street was planned and budgeted. 2) The ADA sidewalks was planned and budgeted 3) The pass through for the Fire Company was planned and budgeted. These all totaled around \$140,000-\$150,000, but was all included within the budget. He will add the six certificates of deposit to the monthly spread sheet.

The Fire Company is selling bricks for \$500. Councilman Smith made the motion the Bloomfield Borough Council purchase a brick for \$500, seconded by Vice President Berger. Motion carried. The brick's inscription would have to be determined.

Grants – Councilman Smith had nothing to report.

Personnel Committee Report- Councilman Leshner had no report.

RIGHTS OF WAY & UTILITIES

Rights of Way & Utilities Committee Report – Vice President Berger reported the roof repair that was already budgeted is scheduled for September 14, 2020. He believes this project will come in \$4,000-\$5,000 under budget.

Vice President Berger mentioned the new curbing is being painted. He is beginning to work with PPL to change over Borough lighting to LED's. He will research cost and grants. He is looking into new signage around town at crosswalks.

President Fitzpatrick remarked that there has been a downtown revitalization initiative that is supported by the Perry County Economic Development Authority and there is a firm from Colorado that will hold zoom meetings in the near future to discuss revitalization possibilities.

CLOSING COMMENTS

There being no further business, upon motion by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman McMullen, the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, October 6, 2020 for a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary