MINUTES
Bloomfield Borough Council
September 1, 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, J. Kevin McCarty, and Jessica L. Grindle. Dean E. Dum had an excused absence.

Also present: Secretary Danielle L. Shope, Assistant Secretary Suse Woolever, Solicitor Isaac Wakefield, Bloomfield Borough Employee Damon Hartman, ZEO/BEO Becky Smiley, Tax Collector Brenda Albright, Mayor Gary Eby, HRG Representative Ryan Hostetter, Planning Commission Chair Melanie Rowlands, New Bloomfield Fire Company Representatives, Tom Burd and Chad Tressler, Ryan Woolever, and residents John Hair, and Karl Cless.

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 – Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve the August 4, 2026 meeting minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

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

REQUESTED PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Fire Company Protection Tax Discussion - Mr. Tom Burd (Vice President of the New Bloomfield Fire Company and Mr. Chad Tressler (Assistant Fire Chief and President of the EMS Association) presented. The Fire Company has not presented fire tax information since 2018. A hand out was given to all Council members that detailed everything the Fire Company has accomplished since 2018. The Fire Company has been operating on the same funding since 2018 due to aggressive fundraising and an extremely generous community. Mr. Burd explained what the Fire Company has accomplished since 2018. Fire tax figures for the future years will be forthcoming in the near future.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Karl Cless thanked the Council for the use of Chambers for an emergency CapTax meeting. Councilman Dum will attend the October meeting.

Mr. John Hair thanked the Council for paving Veterans Way. Mr. Hair spoke to Colin Reynolds from Centre Township and Colin stated he would like to speak to the Borough about the bridge. Council has discussed this bridge issue with Mr. Reynolds already. More bridge discussion followed. This issue is totally a financial issue.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Wakefield stated that he did not have any further comments beyond what was in the written report presented to Council. This report covered 2 months.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Eby stated permits for the street fair have been completed and submitted. The Street Fair will be held Saturday September 12, 2026. It is New Bloomfield's turn to host the Veteran's Day Parade for the county on November 7, 2026. Mr. Eby was approached by the Fire Company about brush removal to the east of their new building. They asked if they could burn it. Permission was given for a controlled burn. In the event of a major fire, the Fire Company is asking for an alternative fill site over by the New Bloomfield Mart; however, brush would need to be cleared. Could the Borough employees help with this? Discussion followed. Councilman McCarty will ask his son who may be willing to allow the Fire Company to get water in case of emergency at his property. Also, there will be recycling on Saturday.

Parking Officer Report – Mayor Eby stated there were 21 tickets, with 8 unpaid for the month of August.

Enforcement Report – BEO Smiley had nothing further to report other than what she submitted to Council in her written report. There was discussion on the progress of the North Carlisle Street Butler property. Discussion followed about the "old" Presbyterian Church facade also.

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 - Melanie Rowlands presented her report on the following:

Ms. Rowlands gave an update on the Rebel's Group, Lakeside and Aishel. Ms. Rowlands asked for an acceptance of a 90 day extension for the DGS/PennDOT project, which would move the date through December 18, 2026. Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion for a 90 day extension approval, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried. For a more detailed report see Ms. Rowland's formal report on file in the Borough Office.

Water Authority Report - President Anderson stated the Authority did not have a meeting this past month.

FEMA/PEMA - Councilman McCarty had nothing to report.

Cap Tax - Councilman Dum is planning to attend the October 15, 2026 meeting with Mr. Karl Cless.

Zoning/Permit Officer's Report – Zoning Officer Smiley gave out 1 permit this month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Budget Meeting Dates - September 29th and 30th (possibly) at 4:00pm

Community Fair (showcasing the Literacy Council Reading Trail) - Saturday October 17, 2026 - Time to be determined. This event will highlight the Borough Park and walking and literacy trail.

2027 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) will be $9,989.00 (This is the amount that the Borough must contribute to the employee's pension plan next year.)

Security Cameras in Borough Building discussion & Vote - Secretary Shope stated that Jeremy Foulkrod needs to replace the security cameras. The cost might be as high as $4,000. Another source suggested $2,500 to replace all of the necessary materials. Discussion followed. Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to allow up to $4,000 to replace cameras, seconded by Councilman McCarty. Motion carried.

RIGHTS OF WAYS, UTILITIES, & SAFETY

Vice President Fitzpatrick had nothing new to report.

Sewer Collection Procedures update - Secretary Shope stated they have been working on updating the sewer collection procedures with our solicitor. The solicitor will revise the current ordinance so the Borough can try to save some of the cost to residents of the Borough. Mr. Wakefield anticipates that the ordinance would be ready for Council to review at the October meeting and then pass in November.

Traffic study of Square - President Anderson read the traffic study letter done by PennDOT. President Anderson suggested getting solar flashing lights on the stop signs that are already there. Discussion followed.

ADMINISTRATIVE & INSURANCE (Property/Liability)

President Anderson stated Councilman Dum is working to get the numbers from the insurance provider for both the building and vehicles. Councilman Dum is also working with the Senator's office lease which is up for renewal.

AESTHETICS

Councilman McCarty stated the committee met on July 28, 2026 to talk about the trees and trash cans. Jasmine Colbert of PCEDA stated the forms that are needed to be filled out are available today. It is a two week process and they will approve whichever cans the Borough wants. It might be a possibility that the Borough will buy the trash cans and PCEDA will reimburse us. Discussion followed about the timing.

Councilman McCarty would like the shade tree committee to meet with Alex Bender from Forestry to get his professional opinion about replacement trees.

President Anderson mentioned the Aesthetics Committee will have to decorate for the Veteran's Day Parade also. Discussion followed.

The Aesthetics Committee is thinking about the Christmas tree.

Councilman McCarty had a call in with "Put'em on the Ground" tree trimmers to get a firm date, but has not received a call back. Discussion followed about sidewalk replacement etc. Council recommended Mr. Hair check with PCEDA for grant money for sidewalk replacement.

FINANCE

Councilman Dum was absent, but President Anderson mentioned that upon his review and with his expertise as a CPA, the Borough did convert a CD for the Sewer account and moved it to the Sewer Business Money Market so there would be more accessibility to those funds. Mr. Dum will have all the figures ready for the budget meeting.

GRANTS

Vice President Fitzpatrick had no report.

PERSONNEL & INSURANCE (HEALTH/DENTAL)

Councilwoman Grindle had nothing to report.

CLOSING COMMENTS

There being no further business President Anderson asked for adjournment. Councilman McCarty made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried. The next meeting of Bloomfield Borough Council will be held Tuesday October 6 , 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers.

Council held an Executive Session following adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary