

MINUTES
Bloomfield Borough Council
September 3, 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: Secretary Danielle L. Shope, Assistant Secretaries Susanne Woolever and Kathleen Miller, Solicitor Representative Luke Gibson, Mayor and Water Authority Representative Edward T. Albright Jr., HRG Representative Ryan Hostetter, Planning Commission Chair Melanie Rowlands, Perry County Times Reporter Paul Wyatt, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Representative Kim Grunden 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. (No one else was 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.

Approval of Minutes – Councilman Cless made the motion to approve the August 6, 2024 meeting minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial Report – Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve the August 2024 financial report, seconded by Councilwoman Cunningham. Motion carried.

REQUESTED PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Daughters of the American Revolution - Proclamation for Constitution Week (9/17/24 through 9/23/24): Council Consideration & Vote: Ms. Kim Grunden from DAR explained the meaning of Constitution Week. President Anderson read the Proclamation. Mayor Albright presented the signed Proclamation to Ms. Kim Grunden.

Edward R. Apple, Jr. - New Bloomfield United Methodist Church Alleyway: Mr. Apple brought the alleyway located beside the United Methodist Church to the attention of the Council. He asked that the Borough consider paving the alley, even if it is next year, because it is in need of attention. President Anderson stated several temporary improvements were made, but it will be discussed at the next budget meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

There were no public comments.

MONTHLY REPORTS

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

Mayor's Report – Mayor Albright mentioned the Street Fair will be held next Saturday, the 14th. This Saturday, the 7th, is recycling.

Parking Officer Report – Mayor Albright reported 15 tickets were issued in August with 2 still unpaid.

Enforcement Report –President Anderson deferred to Councilman Cless. Mr. Cless stated 4 juveniles were caught on security cameras defacing the rear of the Borough Building with what appeared to be a white powdery substance. The children were confronted and photos were taken. The incident was reported to the Borough BEO with photos and video surveillance available for evidentiary information. The building was cleaned up with water to remove the majority of the material. These same four juveniles were previously caught committing other vandalism. Mayor Albright said they also defaced the construction trailer. President Anderson suggested that since this is a pattern of behavior criminal charges should be pursued. Mayor Albright agreed.

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:

Planning Commission Report (Melanie E Rowlands)

Bloomfield Borough accepted an application for a Preliminary Land Development Plan from DGS-Perry County (re: 'State Shed' project) on August 15, 2024.

This is the 'Submittal Date'. The official 'Filing' date will be 30 days later on September 14, 2024 and Council has 90 days (until Friday, December 13, 2024), unless extended by mutual agreement, to act.

BBPC will hold a Q&A session at the next Regular Meeting (Sept. 23, 2024) with the agents and various professionals present to further understanding and to determine what changes are necessary.

No other projects require official actions at this time. More discussions followed.

FEMA/PEMA - Councilman Cless stated he attended the second of a series of 2025 Hazardous Mitigation meetings at the County Emergency Management facility on August 29, 2024. Future projects for grant applications were the subject of discussion. Discussion followed.

Water Authority Report - Mayor Edward T. Albright Jr. stated their project (waterline replacement for restricted areas in the Borough: Barnett Woods Road, North Apple Street, and the County Prison entrance) is complete. There is good water pressure now. The state will do hydroflow testing by the state shed and Talmudic is also doing testing.

PCBA/COG – Councilman Cless reported the next quarterly meeting will be held September 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. They will be trying to complete two years worth of work. People are not attending. Councilman Cless is thinking of shutting down the use of the Chambers for the meeting.

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

Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report – Councilman Cless had nothing to report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

President Anderson stated the proposed budget dates are September 16 and 17, 2024 beginning at 4:00 p.m.

President Anderson explained the Expected Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for 2025 is \$9,946.00 (this dollar figure is the amount that the municipality must contribute to the Retirement Plan next year).

Ordinance #376 - Amending Chapter 14 “Motor Vehicles and Traffic” Part 3 “Parking Regulations” Section 14-54 “Parking Prohibited at All Times in Certain Locations: President Anderson read a letter from residents Rev. and Mrs. George Martz discussing parking issues. Discussion followed about parking spaces, etc. President Anderson suggested passing this Ordinance and then return at a later date to amend this ordinance once it is passed. Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to pass Ordinance #376 as is, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

Garbage Bid Opening & Vote: President Anderson stated only one bid was received. Sylvester’s submitted the bid. President Anderson opened the sealed bid envelope. Sylvester’s submitted the quote of \$14.49 monthly per unit for the years 2025, 2026, and 2027. Discussion followed. Councilman Cless made the motion to accept this garbage bid, seconded by Vice President Fitzpatrick. Motion carried.

Discussion of Weekly Trash Limitation: Discussion followed about limiting borough residents to only using cans for putting garbage collection on the curb or limiting the number of bags for garbage collection. Mayor Albright stated he drives around town and there is always garbage strewn about due to animals getting into trash bags. More discussion followed. The use of cans will prevent a rodent problem. An informational newsletter will be sent out first to all residents. This discussion will be tabled for now.

RIGHTS OF WAYS, UTILITIES, & SAFETY

Bloomfield Borough Park Project Update - Vice President Fitzpatrick stated the Bloomfield Park Project is underway. It should be finished by the end of October.

Letter of Support - Perry County Literacy Council - Perry County Basics Project Discussion - The Literacy Council put in for a grant to place educational signs throughout the park. The Council stated they will maintain this signage for the park if they receive the grant. Vice President Fitzpatrick gave them a letter of support for this proposed project.

Barnett Woods Road Bridge - They are in a holding pattern on this issue.

ADMINISTRATIVE & INSURANCE (PROPERTY/LIABILITY)

Councilman Cless reported the following:

1. Councilman Cless attempted to contact Scout leadership with regard to neglected maintenance of the Post Office bulletin board as that is the property of Troop 92, New Bloomfield Scout organization. With no response, Mr. Cless repaired the bulletin board. He is very disappointed with the Scout organization.
2. Councilman Cless caught 4 juveniles on the security cameras defacing the rear of the borough building with what appeared to be a white powdery substance. The children were confronted and photos were taken. The incident was reported to the Borough CEO with photos and video surveillance available for evidentiary information. Councilman Cless cleaned the borough building with water and was able to remove the majority of the material. This is the 2nd incident with the same children defacing the public property.

AESTHETICS

Councilwoman Cunningham reported the flowers are continuing to be watered. President Anderson and Councilwoman Cunningham met concerning the shade tree committee and discussed perhaps sending a letter to and/or meeting with the families that have not replaced their trees yet.

Ms. Cunningham hopes to pick out the town Christmas tree this month and work on the tree lighting program.

The two benches are in. The benches will need to be picked up and installed in the square.

FINANCE

President Anderson stated there was nothing significant to report.

GRANTS

Vice-President Fitzpatrick stated that it could be September or November before they get an answer about the grants previously submitted. Both grants were specific to the Borough Building.

PERSONNEL & INSURANCE (HEALTH/DENTAL)

Councilwoman Grindle had nothing to report.

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

CLOSING COMMENTS

There being no further business, upon motion by Councilwoman Grindle, seconded by Councilwoman Cunningham, the regular meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.. Motion carried. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in Bloomfield Borough Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary