

MINUTES
Bloomfield Borough Council
August 1, 2023

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, John J. Patterson V., Karl L. Cless, Brenten S. Dum. Jessica L. Grindle had an excused absence.

Also present: Assistant Secretaries Susanne Woolever and Kathleen Miller, Borough Employee Damon Hartman, Solicitor Isaac Wakefield, Mayor and Water Authority Representative Edward T. Albright Jr., HRG Representative Isaac Underhill, Tax Collector Brenda Albright, Planning Commission Representative Zeke Morrow, Water Authority Representative C. Larry Weller, Perry County Times Reporter Paul Wyatt, and residents James A. Woods and 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. President Anderson stated that Council will not deviate from the agenda and any questions should be addressed during the appropriate portion of the meeting.

Note: Perry County Times reporter Paul Wyatt was recording the meeting

Approval of Minutes – Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve the July 11, 2023 meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial Report – Councilman Dum made a motion, seconded by Vice President Fitzpatrick to approve the July 2023 meeting financial report. Motion carried.

President Anderson mentioned that last month's executive session was held to discuss legal and personnel issues.

REQUESTED PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

There were no requested public comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Mr. James A. Woods spoke about the grandstand project. He mentioned there is \$3,146.85 left in the grandstand fund. Mr. Woods apologized for fixing what he considered a safety issue at the grandstand without Council approval. He put up some boards to close an opening between the dugouts and the grandstand where a ball could go through and hurt someone. He did not ask permission and the repairs are not attractive. Council stated they want safety first, so they will look at the repairs before Mr. Woods takes them down. They thanked Mr. Woods for identifying a potential safety problem. Discussion followed.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Wakefield submitted his formal report to Council and unless there were any questions, he would defer to the report.

Mr. Wakefield asked for a vote to approve advertisement of three ordinances he and BEO Smiley presented to Council.

Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve advertising the fireworks ordinance, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

Councilman Dum made the motion to approve advertising Chapter 19 dealing with yard waste pickup and items left at curbside, seconded by Councilman Patterson. Motion carried.

Councilman Cless made the motion to approve advertising Chapter 9 related to health and sanitation and storing things on the exterior of homes, seconded by Vice President Fitzpatrick. Motion carried.

These ordinances will be voted on at the September meeting.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Albright reported that he gave Secretary Woolever the PennDOT paperwork needed to be submitted for the upcoming September Street Fair. Mayor Albright also received a phone call from the traffic study and sign supervisor from PennDOT about the traffic issue at the monument. He suggested placing a banner sign on the stop sign that states East/West traffic does not stop. President Anderson stated she had the phone number of the gentleman Mrs. Trace mentioned at the July meeting. Ms. Anderson suggested having a meeting with PennDOT to discuss all the options for the town square traffic control.

President Anderson asked how the Street Fair would be held without power in the Square. Mr. Hartman stated that the Fire Company would access electricity from various businesses located around the Square for power.

Parking Officer Report – There were 0 tickets issued in July. Mayor Albright has 2 court appearances this month for parking tickets.

Enforcement Report – BEO Smiley was absent, but President Anderson stated Ms. Smiley is still working with Mr. Arsenault at the old Freysinger building at the east end of town. The appearance has been slowly improving. BEO Smiley has been helping him with plan submission to the Planning Commission. See report on file.

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 – Mr. Zeke Morrow provided the following report for the Planning Commission.

**Report to Council of the July 24, 2023
Bloomfield Borough Planning Commission**

1. PLAN SUBMISSIONS

Matthew M. Rice – Preliminary/ Final subdivision / Land development Plan

- a. Joe Burget provided updated plans to address County review comments.
- b. A total of 7 Alterations of Requirements were submitted. Discussion and clarification of the requirement for sidewalk in front of the project area followed. Motion approved to recommend approval.
- c. Based on review comments from the Perry County Planning Commission and Borough Engineer, the plan will be further updated. Plan tabled to allow updates.
- d. Escrow deposit of \$1,000 will be submitted for the plan for outside expenses.

Lakeside Drive – Phase 4. Rezone of Property to R-3

- a. Lakeside Drive, Phase 4, is a 3.8 acre parcel located in the south central portion of the Lakeside Development. It is west of the Patio Court area.
- b. A request has been submitted to Borough Council to rezone the property from R-1 to R-3.
- c. John Melham presented 4 concept plans to show various types of residential units possible under R-3. Plans showed detached single-family homes, attached patio homes, duplex, and townhomes.
- d. Mr. Melham noted that the final mix of units would depend on market demand, but that all the plans are feasible from a planning and engineering standpoint.
- e. Questions from the public members were asked to Mr. Melham and the Planning Commission. Primary concern centered on the potential for attached units.
- f. A public hearing is required for the request. Tentative schedule for public hearing is in September followed by Council vote in October.
- g. The above schedule will allow for Council to have time to review sketch plans, ask questions, and encourage submission of questions, especially by neighboring property owners.
- h. The Perry County Planning Commission has recommended approval of the request.

2. Greg Arsenault, 219 East Main Street property

- a. This is the former Freysinger sales lot and garage.
- b. The proposed uses of the property are vehicle repair, sales of vehicles and a U-Haul rental site.
- c. Mr. Arsenault had received a “Notice of Violation” for not being in compliance with Chapter 26 (Zoning) of the Borough Code.
- d. Mr. Arsenault wanted to explain to the Planning Commission that positive steps are being taken to address the deficiencies.

Mr. Morrow also stated that Mr. Arsenault plans to plant 75 trees on his property and plans to be at that property full time.

The Planning Commission is also working on the SALDO subdivision land development ordinances. They hope to have it ready for Council in November. It has not been rewritten since 1975.

The Borough needs to advertise the public hearing and ordinance. It can be done together such as having the hearing at 6:00 p.m., and passing the ordinance at 7:00 p.m.

Discussion followed.

Councilman Cless asked if the Planning Commission would be open to editing the current version of R3 to disallow two story townhomes.

Lengthy Discussion followed.

FEMA/PEMA Report – Councilman Cless stated the annual county Hazardous Mitigation projects review will be held August 16th in the Perry County Commissioners conference room. Councilman Cless is scheduled to attend.

Water Authority Report – Mayor Edward T. Albright Jr. stated they will advertise for bids for their loop projects that they have grants for.

PCBA/COG – Councilman Cless stated the next meeting will be September 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Zoning/Permit Officer's Report – Zoning Officer Smiley was absent.

Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report – Councilman Cless reported the Board of Directors met on July 12, 2023 in Council Chambers. The financial audit by BakerTilly Auditors, municipal disbursements, and financial statements were reviewed and approved. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Budget Meeting Date: September 18 & 19, 2023, 4:00 p.m. - Mandatory

RIGHTS OF WAY & UTILITIES

Vice President Fitzpatrick stated that the paving at Church and West High Streets has been completed at the cost of \$8,100.

Mr. Damon Hartman commented about the power loss in the Square. A truck hit the PPL pole on July 20, 2023 knocking out the power around the Square. The pathway lighting is out. There is a meter base and distribution panel on that pole. PPL will relocate the pole approximately 20 feet south of its present location. The Borough can no longer put its meter base or the distribution panel on a PPL pole. They will have to talk with the County because a new distribution panel and meter base will have to be located on the Market Place which is County property. There is an insurance claim number from the trucker who caused the accident. This probably will not cover all the repairs. This will be an ongoing project for a while. Since there will be significant concrete work the crosswalk ramps will now have to be made to be ADA compliant and this was not in the budget.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Councilman Cless's administrative report is as following:

1. A new Mitsubishi mini split heat pump system was installed in Council Chambers by Greg Flickinger - Heating & Air Conditioning. The cost was \$5,000 for the complete install.
2. The newly signed lease agreement between the Borough and USPS was reviewed for mutually agreed text and signatures. It will be archived for future reference.
3. Repair parts to upgrade the Borough Building restrooms were purchased and installed; including new toilet seats and flush valve mechanisms.
4. CEO Smiley and Councilman Cless are looking for ways to liquidate the remaining funds in the 501 (c)3 (Grandstand fund) before the end of the year, in order that the account may be closed for tax purposes. Thoughts are to purchase a storage shed to be used by the sports teams. The process of obtaining quotes has begun. Councilman Cless asked if more funds were needed to purchase this shed could the Borough provide the extra funding. Solicitor Wakefield said it could since it will be on Borough property but would have to be voted on by Council. Discussion followed.
5. Councilman Cless presented Mr. and Mrs. Ray Adams with a picture in recognition for their generous contribution to the Grandstand project.

AESTHETIC

Councilman Dum had nothing to report.

FINANCE, INSURANCE & SAFETY

Councilman Patterson had nothing new to report on finance, Insurance has been covered under the pole accident. President Anderson stated they needed a dollar value on the pump station for insurance reasons.

Mr. Wakefield offered to provide volunteer waiver forms in case of accidents while volunteers are working on Borough property.

GRANTS

Vice President Fitzpatrick stated they are waiting for the approval for the DCED grant of \$250,000 for the park. If both grants are approved, they will offset each other for the Borough matching requirement.

PERSONNEL

Councilwoman Grindle was absent so no report.

CLOSING COMMENTS

There being no further business, upon motion by Councilman Dum, seconded by Vice President Fitzpatrick, the regular meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Council adjourned into Executive Session

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary