

MINUTES
Bloomfield Borough Council
October 3, 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., and Jessica L. Grindle. Karl L. Cless, and Brenten S. Dum had excused absences.

Also present: Secretary Danielle Shope, 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 Ryan Hostetter, Planning Commission Chair Melanie Rowlands, BEO/ZEO Becky Smiley, Perry County Chief Assessor Randy Waggoner, Perry County Deputy Chief Assessor Karla McNaughton, Burget Associates Representative Sally Burget, Senior Center Representative Laurie Morris, Lisa Fraker and residents Ed Apple and Jane Rosenberry.

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.

Approval of Minutes – Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to approve the September 5, 2023 meeting minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

Approval of Budget Minutes - Councilman Patterson made the motion to approve the September 18, 2023 Budget Minutes, seconded by Vice President Fitzpatrick. Motion carried.

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

REQUESTED PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Countywide Reassessment Project for Perry County - Chief Assessor Randy Waggoner gave a presentation on the upcoming countywide reassessment Project. His Deputy Chief Assessor Darla McNaughton was also present. Assessment notices will be sent out beginning March 2025. Notices for the West Perry School District will be sent out last, possibly in June 2025. The tax bills affected will not be until 2026.

Burget & Associates - Keystone Way Solar Array - Sally Burget explained that Dan Paul sold the solar array to a new company called Keystone Way. These plans were previously approved by Council pending approval from Centre Township. Vice President Kevin Fitzpatrick made the motion to reapprove the plans for Keystone Way Land Partners Solar Array, seconded by Councilman Patterson. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Laurie Morris, from the Perry Senior Center, requested to be added to the Borough's donation list. Becky Smiley reminded everyone that Join Hands has kicked off their Adopt-A-Child Christmas program.

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.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Albright reported the Halloween Parade is set for October 28, 2023 beginning at 10:30 a.m. The Veteran's Day Parade will be November 4, 2023 beginning at 11:00 a.m. Mayor Albright is now in charge of the VFW Veterans Banner Project.

Parking Officer Report – There were 19 tickets issued in September with 6 still unpaid.

Enforcement Report – President Anderson deferred to BEO Smiley.

BEO Report – Becky L. Smiley - BEO Smiley had nothing more to report 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 – Melanie Rowlands provided the following report :

New Bloomfield Borough Planning Commission

- (1) Paul Brothers Solar Array Project, now under new ownership, was previously signed after conditions of 'conditional approval' were met. Burget & Associates requested an updated approval because more than 90 days had passed. Motion to approve by Vice President Fitzpatrick, Seconded by Councilman Patterson. Unanimous approval. Motion carried. Council President Anderson added notation of new approval date to the existing signed documents. Note, as previously required, solar construction will only occur on the Centre Township portion of the property.
- (2) Rice Memorial Project was ready to approve as Burget & Associates had addressed issues raised by engineers (HRG) and by County Planning. Motion to approve by Vice President Fitzpatrick, Seconded by Councilman Patterson. Unanimous approval. Motion carried. Burget & Associates will deliver copies of the final plan to the Council Secretary for necessary signatures.
- (3) Zoning updates including minor amendments to Chapter 26 Zoning as well as the request for a zoning district change from R-1 to R-3 on Lakeside Drive was requested to be tabled for one month out of caution recommended by the borough solicitor. This provides time to re-advertise and re-publish the small changes addressing further consistency with the PA Municipal Planning Code (MPC) and one previously unadvertised edit to address concerns of building density alongside existing R-1 dwellings. Motion to Table by Vice President Fitzpatrick, Seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Unanimous approval. Motion carried. Planning Commission requests this issue, numbered Ordinance 368, be added to the agenda for the November 7th meeting with a continued unanimous recommendation of approval by Council.

(4) Planning Commission plans to submit for review the updated ‘Subdivision and Land Development (SALDO) Chapter 21’ in the near future. As previously stated, the updated SALDO will adopt the approved County ‘Model’ Ordinance, with minor edits to reflect Bloomfield Borough being a small town.

Ms. Rowlands stated the public meeting by Borough Council with support of the Planning Commission held September 28, 2023 was well attended. It addressed the request by Lisa Fraker of the 8 vacant lots in Lakeside Development to be rezoned from agricultural to residential, so in the future there could be more density of housing.

FEMA/PEMA Report – Councilman Cless was absent so no report.

Water Authority Report - Mayor Edward T. Albright Jr. stated they awarded the bid to Grossers of Halifax to do the digging on Barnett Woods Road. They have to put a bigger water line from Main Street down to McClure and then out by the prison.

Councilwoman Grindle made the motion to approve George Dorundo to fill the vacancy on the Water Authority Board from 10/2023-12/2027, seconded by Vice President Fitzpatrick. Motion carried.

The Mayor performed a wedding free of charge in Snowshoe, PA.

PCBA/COG – Councilman Cless was absent so no report.

Zoning/Permit Officer’s Report – Zoning Officer Smiley issued 1 permit for the awning at the County Seat Restaurant.

President Anderson remarked about a request for the sale of beer at the bowling alley. Nothing more has been addressed on this issue. Solicitor Wakefield stated liquor can not be dispensed without a permit from the Liquor Control Board.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Trick or Treat scheduled for Tuesday, October 31, 2023 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Leaf Collection scheduled for Monday, October 9, 2023 through Wednesday, November 22, 2023.

Potential Brush Pick up Fee - President Anderson stated no decision has been made but it is under discussion.

RIGHTS OF WAY & UTILITIES

Vice President Fitzpatrick extended his congratulations to Jeremy for passing his sewer plant license exam. Now the Borough has two licensed employees.

Borough employees Damon and Jeremy did repairs to replace a valve. The valve itself was \$2,000, but there were no labor costs.

ADMINISTRATIVE

No report since Councilman Cless was absent. Mr. Hartman remarked about a ceiling collapse in the library. Gill's Construction is to be contacted by Councilman Cless about this project.

AESTHETIC

Councilman Dum was not present. President Anderson reported all the replacement bulbs for the snowflake street lights have been ordered. New Christmas tree lights were also ordered. Patriotic bunting has been ordered for use at the Veterans Day Parade celebration. The new PPL pole has been installed on the Square.

FINANCE, INSURANCE & SAFETY

Councilman Patterson had no report.

GRANTS

Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion to amend the agenda to discuss a retainer agreement for a grant proposal, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

Vice President Fitzpatrick is proposing that the Borough goes after a CFA local share grant which is funding provided by the casinos. There is 140 million dollars available. The grants are one million dollars for projects of public interest within a municipality. There is no match required. The proposed grant we have is being called the Municipal Complex Project to fix some of the ADA considerations specific to the Borough Building; as well as, adding the bridge between the tool shed and the sewer plant. Vice President Fitzpatrick has asked HRG to give him a proposal to work on this grant. Vice President Fitzpatrick received this retainer for \$3300. Vice President Fitzpatrick made the motion for Council to approve this amount, seconded by Councilwoman Grindle. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL

Councilwoman Grindle had no report.

CLOSING COMMENTS

There being no further business, upon motion by Councilwoman Grindle, seconded by Councilman Patterson, the regular meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m for Council to go into **Executive Session**. The next meeting is Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary