

MINUTES
Bloomfield Borough Council
February 2, 2010

Bloomfield Borough Council met this evening in regular session in the Bloomfield Borough Council Chambers with the following Council members present: President Pierce L. Clouser, Jr., Vice President John M. Long, John J. Patterson, V., Leroy J. Weller, Karl L. Cless and Jayne M. Eckert. Edwin G. Robinson was excused due to illness.

Also present: Solicitor P. Richard Wagner, Mayor Jean Anstine, Representative Mark Keller, County Commissioner Brenda Benner, Ashley Albert from Senator Jake Corman's office, Steve Dowell, Mark Miller, Dale Beaston, Vivian Beaston, Jerry Mealey (PSAB), Chris Thebes, and Zachary Lemon (Civics).

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

ADMINISTRATIVE

Recording of the Meeting – President Clouser 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.

Beaston Presentations – Jerry Mealey, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, presented former Councilman Dale J. Beaston with the Thomas F. Chrostwaite plaque, 100th Anniversary lapel pin and coin for his twenty-two years of dedicated service as Councilman for the Borough of Bloomfield. County Commissioner Brenda Benner presented former Councilman Beaston with a citation on behalf of the Perry County Commissioners and noted he well deserves the referenced name of “Mr. New Bloomfield.” Ashley Albert, representing Senator Jake Corman's office as well as Representative Mark Keller presented former Councilman Beaston with citations on behalf of the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives and reflected on his accomplishments. Councilman Beaston stated he felt honored to serve, enjoyed working with Council, felt good about his accomplishments and wished the best for Council to keep moving forward. Councilman Beaston thanked his wife for being supportive during his role as a Councilman.

Approval of Minutes – Vice President Long made a motion, seconded by Councilman Weller, to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2010 reorganization meeting as reviewed. Motion carried. Councilman Patterson made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Eckert, to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2010 monthly meeting as reviewed. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial Report – Councilman Patterson made a motion, seconded by Vice President Long, to approve the prior month's financial report as presented. Motion carried.

ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement Committee Report

Abandoned Vehicles – Vice President Long stated that the abandoned vehicles matter is on the docket at the courthouse. Vice President Long further stated that two abandoned vehicles that we were authorized by the landlord to address have been taken care of.

Solicitor's Attendance – President Clouser stated that due to financial constraints, Solicitor Wagner will meet on the Wednesday before a regular meeting if needed; however, unless requested by Council, he will not attend our regular monthly meeting. Solicitor Wagner stated that the Wednesday before a regular meeting he comes to address issues that are outstanding and a lot is accomplished in a short amount of time. Solicitor Wagner requested that issues that occur after the meeting be given to the President or Secretary so that matters can be addressed on the Wednesday before the meeting so he is given several days to address them and implement them prior to the Council meeting.

Solicitor's Report

Vehicle Ordinance Pending Court Decision – Solicitor Wagner stated that at the December meeting that the attorney representing the “defendants” had indicated that he wanted to prepare documents for review and their time was up; therefore, we have now filed a praecipe with the court which is a written document that you file with the Prothonotary and you say this case is now ready for disposition by the judge and we expect to be notified of a date at any moment. Solicitor Wagner stated that the disposition will be in the form of whatever the court deems necessary (i.e. argument with legal counsel, conduct a hearing, etc.) and he will report as soon as he hears something.

Permit Fees Established Annually by Resolution – Solicitor Wagner stated that he invites feedback to get the Resolution ready in final form so we can proceed to advertise. Mayor Anstine wants the firearm permit fee to be waived. Solicitor Wagner recommended that comments be given to the Enforcement Committee, so that when he meets at the end of the month it can be prepared in final form for adoption at our next meeting. Upon further discussion, President Clouser turned this over to Vice President Long, Chairman of the Enforcement Committee.

Chamber of Commerce Lease – Solicitor Wagner stated that today the Perry County Chamber of Commerce gave a letter with a check for all past money due and they are now current.

Deteriorated Structure (Demolition) – Solicitor Wagner stated this involves Mr. Slike's deteriorated structure located to the rear of 225 West Main Street. Having been delegated the responsibility of initiating filing suit, Solicitor Wagner spoke to Mr. Slike's attorney and he feels there may be a reason his client is not getting back to him; however, upon discussion with Council, they do not feel there is a valid reason. Solicitor Wagner stated he will notify Mr. Slike's attorney that Council does not feel there is a valid reason and if there is no resolution, he will move forward on Friday.

Sprinklake Development – President Clouser stated that Chris Thebes, Pam Keller, Councilman Cless, Vice President Long, Secretary Pote and himself met last week and then he turned the meeting over to Councilman Cless. Councilman Cless stated that with the stalemate that is going on between the two parties that the Borough is losing revenue in the form of taxes, water and sewer and Chris Thebes is losing money by not being able to sell the existing vacant lots. Councilman Cless felt a discussion between Springlake Development and Council with a constructive dialogue that we could move forward with this. Vice President Long provided notes from the meeting to all members of Council. Councilman Cless would

like to see us work with Chris and Harv Thebes and get this thing moving forward by removing the requirement for the construction of sidewalks prior to any zoning permits being issued. Vice President Long stated that at the meeting Chris implied that the sidewalks would be installed in the spring, possibly April. Chris confirmed that this is correct and all houses that are constructed and do not have sidewalks will have sidewalks in front of them and along the side where necessary. Chris Thebes stated where new construction exists, the sidewalks will be the last thing done because of truck traffic. Chris Thebes further stated all requirements are in the recorded plan. Solicitor Wagner reminded Council that a year or so ago, there was a request by Chris Thebes questioning what was needed for them to get building permits and the Borough authorized Solicitor Wagner to reply with 1.) engineering fees be paid, 2.) clean up lines and 3.) lift station and all were done. Solicitor Wagner stated as other things arose, Council amended it to add the sidewalk requirement. Solicitor Wagner further stated this is not keeping with the original understanding that permits would be issued if the three initial requirements were met. Chris Thebes stated that Lot #30 could be in a floodplain and this was confirmed by Councilman Cless. Chris Thebes proceeded to state this is something that can be worked out. Chris Thebes also asked that this not be worked out tonight but in the future is the roadway that goes down past the pump station where Lot #30 would have been and he has been approached about the construction of houses that would be located in Centre Township and there would be a request to connect to the Borough sewer system. President Clouser stated that this request would have to go through Centre Township Supervisors. President Clouser stated our engineer advised us to reserve sewer capacity for residents within the Borough and not outside the Borough. President Clouser questioned if they would be using the road through the development or the road that goes back to his father's residence. Chris Thebes stated it would be through the development over to where the chicken house was located. Upon questioning by President Clouser, Chris Thebes stated there are eleven lots that include Lot #30. Chris Thebes stated if the Borough can give him ten that would be good. Solicitor Wagner stated this is zoning permits. All agreed. Chris Thebes questioned if there would be a problem getting sewer. Council stated sewer capacity for property in the Borough is available. Chris stated that he pays sewer tap fees at the time a zoning permit is issued; however, certain water tap fees were issued previously. Councilman Cless expressed concern should the water supply problem come back and questioned if they intended to purchase all ten zoning permits at this time. Chris Thebes stated he was not sure if it will be one at a time or if an individual purchases all ten lots then he will let Council know that he will need ten building permits. Councilman Cless expressed the need to be careful should the water supply issue return. Councilman Cless further noted that Chris Thebes is aware of all PRD requirements. Councilman Cless made a motion, seconded by Vice President Long, to remove the condition that sidewalks be completed before zoning permits are issued. Solicitor Wagner noted if this is approved that means he can move forward with obtaining his zoning permits provided all other requirements are met. Motion carried.

Final Sub-Division – President Clouser stated that it is Council's wishes to have him get with Roger Thebes, Navtech, to prepare the final subdivision. President Clouser stated he has been in contact with the executors of Mr. Abbott's estate and his shed located to the rear of 215 South Carlisle Street has been broken into and he was given permission to board that up as well as use that property for ingress and egress for clearing out brush on Borough property and ballfield parking. President Clouser stated the executors had no problem with his request. Solicitor Wagner delegated Roger Watson to prepare the deed and now we want to consolidate all the property we own, one for the sewer plant and one for the Borough Building. Solicitor Wagner stated Mr. Watson was going to do the metes and bounds because the final subdivision plans consolidated all of them.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Benchmark – Vice President Long stated that he and Secretary Pote have not heard anything since the contract was signed with Benchmark. Vice President Long stated that he sent Jamie Rubb emails and in return was notified that his system was down for several days. Vice President Long further stated that in

their initial discussions that Mr. Rubb asserted that people from Benchmark would come in and sit down with us to assist us with the transitional process and also access to the bank and none of that has taken place. Vice President Long stated that Secretary Pote found on a bank statement that money has been taken out for one of those bills. Solicitor Wagner directed Secretary Pote to get a duplicate of that bill from PPL for our records. Solicitor Wagner stated that Benchmark should be getting copies of bills to us for our record. Secretary Pote stated that she has not received bills for accounts that require payment by check and PPL stated one bill is due February 13, 2010. Solicitor Wagner stated that we need to give them until a certain day to make arrangements for the transition. Vice President Long stated that Marysville Borough and Newport Borough both had problems that were worked out; however, Newport Borough's sewer plant did have their power cut. Vice President Long further stated that the points of contact for Newport Borough were wrong and never provided to Benchmark. Solicitor Wagner feels Benchmark needs to get someone here yesterday!

Solicitor Wagner exited the meeting at this time.

Announcements and Correspondence

Invitation to New Bloomfield Firemen's Banquet – President Clouser stated that the Firemen's Banquet will be held on February 18, 2010 at 7:00 PM at the firehouse and invited members of Council to attend. President Clouser requested that Secretary Pote be notified if attending.

Thank You Letter – President Clouser read a thank you letter from the Perry County Crime Stoppers for our \$200 donation in 2009 and thanking Dale Beaston for his continued support.

Statement of Financial Interest – Secretary Pote distributed the Statement of Financial Interest to those affected and requested it be returned to her by the May 1, 2010 deadline.

Public Comments

Ordinance #256 – Junk Cars – Mark Miller, 304 Barnett Street, questioned the status of the junk car docket and questioned if Council will be writing a letter to the administrator or the judges in particular stating their stance on where they want this to go along with the signatures that were obtained earlier or are they going to hold a neutral stance. President Clouser does not feel we have a neutral stance but as far as Council goes they know the stance on it because we made the ordinance and as far as the signatures go they can be provided to the Solicitor. Mark Miller feels it is time to do something instead of sitting back, it has been sitting entirely too long and it is irresponsible. Mark Miller further stated that he hoped Council would write a letter and include the 100 signatures. Vice President Long stated his opinion that we (Council) are not going to take a position of pushing the court to get on the docket; however, a public citizen can do whatever they want to. Vice President Long stated that from the petitions perspective, that is something our lawyer would use to support our stance. Vice President Long stated we have ample pictures to support our claim. President Clouser requested Vice President Long to provide the petition and photographs to Solicitor Wagner.

Zoning/Permit Officer – President Clouser stated that there four zoning permits issued as follows: #01-2010 - 15 Barnett Street for improvements to install a small beauty shop, #2- 2010 – 53 East Main Street for the construction of a storage shed to the rear of the property, #3-2010 – 420 West Main Street for the installation of an outdoor coal burning boiler and #4-2010 – 204 North Carlisle Street for the conversion of a garage to residential.

Administrative Committee Report

Building Water Damage – Councilman Cless stated that due to a power outage on January 25, 2010, water damage to carpets was sustained in the main Library, room #2 Library, the future Sadler/VNA room and a portion of the hallway. Councilman Cless further stated that George Dorundo was summoned to help with the water removal due to our lacking the necessary equipment. Councilman Cless further stated that a follow up cleaning and de-sanitizing of the carpets in the main Library and hallway is necessary at a cost of \$350 and if awarded the job, the charge for vacuuming water will be dropped. Councilman Cless made a motion, seconded by Vice President Long, to award Dorundo's Cleaning Service the carpet cleaning as presented at a cost of \$350. Motion carried.

Building Maintenance and Equipment – Councilman Cless stated that because of the power outage and subsequent damage, he would like to purchase a small portable generator (1,800 watt) and two electrical extension cords to power the two sump pumps during these types of emergencies at a rough cost of \$500. Councilman Cless stated that to preclude this from happening again and at a cost of \$1,050 for clean up in the past; he made a motion seconded by Councilman Weller, to purchase the generator (\$429) and two cords at a minimum of \$500 total. Councilman Weller questioned where this would be kept. Councilman Cless stated it would be kept in the kitchen and weighs only eighty pounds. Councilwoman Eckert stated we need to make sure the generator we select is going to do the job because her husband has seen many generators needing replaced because they are not right for the job. Vice President Long feels the real problem of keeping the carpets dry has not been addressed. Councilman Weller feels this is a huge problem. Councilman Cless stated that the water comes up thru the floor. Former Councilman Beaton stated that from his past experiences, the sump pump will take care of this as long as we have power for them and he feels the generator is the answer. Councilwoman Eckert questioned why we wouldn't install a generator that would come on automatically. Councilman Cless stated this would be too expensive and unaffordable. Councilman Cless stated there are systems available that will call someone if an alarm goes off and the cost is unknown. Councilman Cless stated he will not address any future water issues because this is ridiculous. Councilman Patterson stated that he understands the concerns and we might want to consider getting something heavier than what we really think we need. Councilman Patterson expressed concern with fuel capacity on a small generator. Councilman Weller stated that a heavier generator would require two people to carry it out instead of one. Councilman Cless stated these little generators are made for this type of scenario. Councilman Cless rescinded his motion and feels there needs to be more research due to the objection to it. Councilman Weller rescinded his second.

Electric Heat – Councilman Cless stated that due to a huge miscalculation in determining the installation cost of the electric heat in the IOOF room, Join Hands room, and upstairs hallway, Eckert Electric has withdrawn their original quote and returned the \$1,000 advance to purchase hardware for the installation. Because the job is anticipated to exceed \$4,000, Councilman Cless stated he is notifying contractors for the purpose of obtaining bids with bid opening at our March meeting. Councilman Cless will verify how much oil is in the tank.

Ballfield – President Clouser stated that because of the problems that exist regarding people using the borough's athletic fields, an authorization form has been prepared and this form outlines the allowed and prohibited uses of the field and provides for disciplinary action if violated. President Clouser stated the form will be given by the Borough's representative who schedules the use of the ballfield to the organizations desiring permission to use the ballfield. President Clouser further stated that each organization must acknowledge the requirements by signing the form, returning it to the Borough's representative and they will provide it to the Borough Secretary for filing. Vice President Long made a motion, seconded by Councilman Weller, to adopt the Bloomfield Borough athletic field use authorization form as presented. Motion carried

Acquisition of Land for Recreational Facilities – Councilman Cless stated that on January 6, 2010 there was a roundtable discussion to address the possible acquisition of a parcel of land for the purpose of establishing recreational facilities for Bloomfield Borough and Centre Township residents. Councilman Cless further stated that in attendance were Bloomfield Borough, Centre Township, Roger and Brenda Watson and a representative from DCNR. Councilman Cless stated that the Administrative Committee met and a written report was provided to members of Council outlining concerns and recommendations before we can commit monies; however, no monies are available for this and Centre Township must be committed. President Clouser stated that this property is entirely in Centre Township and it is their ballgame.

Grants – Councilman Patterson stated that the block grant for the replacement of the East McClure Street sewer line has been resubmitted as per Former Councilman Beaston and he doesn't feel they are spending any money at this time. Former Councilman Beaston stated that we are the only one that submitted and he expects to know something by the end of February. Councilman Cless stated he is working with Stacey Nybeck and she called Senator Spector's office concerning the two bridges on Barnett Woods Road and it was suggested we apply for a direct appropriation but we would have to go for a price. Councilman Cless further stated that he did research online for precast box culverts that are just set over the creek. Councilman Weller stated that the first bridge located on the northern end of Barnett Woods Road is a priority; however, the bridge located on the southern end of Barnett Woods Road is structurally sound. Councilman Cless questioned if he should proceed to have someone up here to get a quote because we need to know the cost prior to applying for the appropriation. Former Councilman Beaston stated that he had a quote of \$75,000 for a box culvert and would like to see the Borough go for funding. Councilman Cless further stated that he also discussed the windows replacement for the front of the Borough Building with the gentleman from Arlen Spector's office. Councilman Cless reiterated that the whole point is that before we apply we must provide them with a cost. Councilmen Weller and Patterson stated that you have to spend money to get money and do not feel this can be overlooked. President Clouser directed Councilman Cless to proceed to obtain information.

Computer and News Information – Councilman Cless reported that he added a page to the website for the code of ordinances and instead of the newsletter, news updates will be provided to local organizations. Councilman Cless further stated that he has added the agenda to the website.

Capital Tax Collection Bureau - Councilman Cless reported that on January 31, 2010, they held their reorganization meeting with new officers being installed and disbursements were reviewed and approved.

FINANCE, INSURANCE AND SAFETY

Finance, Insurance and Safety Committee Report

Finance – Councilman Patterson stated that finance was added this year for the oversight of Borough expenditures, suggestions on investment options, etc. with joint decisions and they will pursue this.

RIGHTS OF WAY & UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Rights of Way & Utilities Committee Report

Sewer Projects – Councilman Weller stated there are no new sewer projects.

East McClure Street Sidewalks/Curbing Project – Councilman Weller stated that he has an estimate in the amount of \$2,500 from Lou Harford to set the grades for the curbing on the west end of East McClure Street and stated this would be done on an hourly basis. Councilman Weller further stated that he would like to see the walks installed this year also. Councilman Weller made a motion, seconded by Vice President Long, to accept the proposal from Lou Harford in an amount not to exceed \$2,500 to set the grades for the curbing on East McClure Street as presented. Motion carried.

Sewer Collection Policy – Councilman Patterson stated that a copy of the policy adopted by the Bloomfield Borough Water Authority (BBWA) for the collection of unpaid bills was provided to each member of Council and it has worked well for them. Upon review by Council, Councilman Patterson made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Eckert, to adopt the procedures outlined by the BBWA for unpaid bills but adapt it for sewer and garbage. Motion carried.

Barnett Street – Councilman Weller stated that he and Councilman Robinson met and he has drawn up specifications for the 258' storm system, to include two boxes, on the south side of Barnett Street that will be reviewed by their committee. Councilman Cless questioned if the water problem at 123 Barnett Street is going to be addressed. Upon further discussion, Councilman Weller determined that another box could be installed in front of 101 Barnett Street and that would add approximately 200' to the project. Councilman Weller stated that he met with Rick Levan who is our PennDOT representative and he can provide us with a standard contract for bidding the job.

Borough Building Roof Leak – Councilman Cless reported that there are several bad spots that exist over the Borough Chambers and Borough Office where water ran down the vertical wall, running across the ceiling and dropping down into the ceiling tile and Perry Roofing will be coming to repair those spots. Councilman Weller stated the rubber on the grandstand flaps in the wind and also needs repaired. Councilman Cless stated he will also discuss this with Perry Roofing.

There being no further business, upon motion by Councilman Weller, seconded by Councilwoman Eckert, meeting adjourned to meet on Tuesday, March 2, 2010. Motion carried.

Sincerely,

Nancy A. Pote
Secretary

