

MINUTES
Bloomfield Borough Council
July 6, 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., John J. Patterson, V., Leroy J. Weller, Karl L. Cless, Jayne M. Eckert and Edwin G. Robinson. Vice President John M. Long excused absence.

Also present: Solicitor P. Richard Wagner, Mayor Jean Anstine, Secretary Nancy Pote, Dale Beaton, Steve Dowell, Richard Miller, Darrin Foster and Pebbles Comolli.

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

MEETING OPENING

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.

Approval of Minutes – Councilwoman Eckert made a motion, seconded by Councilman Robinson, to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2010 meeting as reviewed. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial Report – Councilman Patterson made a motion, seconded by Councilman Weller, to approve the financial report for June 2010 as presented. Motion carried.

ENFORCEMENT

Solicitor's Report

License # Authorization – President Clouser stated that Robert Anstine is our only authorized individual to research license plate numbers at this time.

Crime Watch – President Clouser reported that James McLaughlin has not reported back to us with any information. Councilman Cless stated he did a survey in his neighborhood and had a good response with people willing to help. President Clouser stated that upon the hiring of a Borough Enforcement Officer, he would like that individual involved.

Borough Enforcement Officer – Councilman Cless reported that the Enforcement Committee has had several meetings with a candidate, Frank Freeland. Councilman Cless stated that Mr. Freeland is Act 235 qualified and is an ex-security officer at Newport School District that lost his position due to reduction of positions. Councilman Cless stated that two other candidates backed down. Councilman Cless stated that details of the position were provided to members of Council for their review and asked if there were any questions. Councilman Patterson questioned 909 hours per year and was told that based upon our proposed hourly wage that was the maximum hours Mr. Freeland could work and not exceed his allowable income, however, it is not expected that he will work that amount of hours. Councilman Cless further stated that Mr. Freeland's boss will be Bloomfield Borough Council through the Enforcement

Committee. President Clouser noted that this position will not interfere with the responsibilities of the present Code Enforcement Officer. Solicitor Wagner stated Council can proceed to hire Mr. Freeland upon the condition of the development of an ordinance. Discussion followed as to whether he would be hired as an independent contractor or an employee. Mayor Anstine questioned why we don't hire a part-time police officer instead. Council mutually agreed that previous attempts to hire a satisfactory policeman that could perform the duties the Council wanted were not successful and the cost and liability was a factor. President Clouser stated this individual will do foot patrol. Councilman Cless made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Eckert, to hire Frank Freeland on a ninety day probation period at \$11 per hour to be supported by the passing of an ordinance. Motion carried. Solicitor Wagner requested the criteria needed to develop that ordinance.

Vehicle Ordinance Pre-Trial Follow-Up – Solicitor Wagner reported that August 6, 2010 is our preliminary schedule for the stipulation of facts and there will be no hearings; therefore, it is not open to the public.

Final Sub-Division – As reported last month, letters were sent to the abstract company and he has not gotten the deeds back yet.

Deteriorated Structure Status – Solicitor Wagner stated that Zoning Officer Watson sent a letter to Mr. Slike today denying his zoning permit for the building located to the rear of 225 West Main Street. Councilman Cless added that the Pennsylvania State Police have been notified that kids are playing inside the deteriorated structure. Solicitor Wagner stated that you can not declare something to be a public nuisance unless you prove it to be a nuisance. Solicitor Wagner feels the property owner needs a letter because he is liable when there is trespassing in and around a dangerous condition. Solicitor Wagner was directed to proceed to notify Mr. Slike's attorney by letter.

Zoning Officer/Councilman – Solicitor Wagner stated that the municipalities planning code defining the zoning officer indicates that the zoning officer cannot be an elected official; therefore, a councilman cannot serve in that capacity. President Clouser stated that at the end of this year, Zoning Officer Watson desires to resign his position. Solicitor Wagner stated that Lester Nace, Zoning Officer for Wheatfield Township, can provide us with the name of two potential individuals.

Curfew - Upon discussion, the consensus of Council is to enact a curfew that ends at 11:00 p.m. for minors under the age of 18. Council directed Solicitor Wagner to prepare a tentative curfew ordinance for their review and approval.

Sewer Bond – Solicitor Wagner stated that a request to meet with 1st National Bank of Mifflintown concerning a possible refinance of the sewer bond with significant savings has not taken place and he will work with Councilman Patterson to arrange a date and time for this meeting.

16 West McClure Street – Councilman Weller questioned what the next step is to an individual not responding to a letter requiring the repair or replacement of a portion of a sidewalk at 16 West McClure Street by July 15, 2010. Solicitor Wagner stated that the Code Enforcement Officer can proceed to enforce this ordinance. Solicitor Wagner further stated that we must go to court to enforce the ordinance and to be directed to proceed with the repair/replacement and a lien then can be placed against that homeowner.

Solicitor Wagner exited the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Public Comments – President Clouser stated that anyone not on the agenda can have three minutes for their presentation and requested if anyone desires to discuss any matter at this time.

Chamber of Commerce Banner – Pebbles Comolli, representing the Perry County Chamber of Commerce, requested permission to place a 15' X 4' banner across North Carlisle Street at the square for approximately two weeks (end of July) to advertise a fundraiser. Councilman Weller made a motion, seconded by Councilman Cless, to approve the placement of the banner as discussed with the condition that they must follow PennDOT requirements for hanging a banner over a public street. Motion carried.

Barnett Street Patching – Mr. Richard Miller, a resident of Springlake Development, requested the Borough patch the holes on the lower part of Barnett Street. President Clouser stated this is a private street and he would need to approach the Thebes'. Mr. Miller feels as taxpaying residents they should be entitled to this. Councilman Cless stated they may be asking for tax relief if they don't get some kind of action down there because they don't get any street service. Councilman Cless stated he would be willing to seek approval from the Thebes' for the Borough to proceed. Councilman Weller stated this is not a public street until dedicated. President Clouser stated he will discuss this with Solicitor Wagner and then discuss it with Council.

Bloomfield Borough Planning Commission Report (BBPC)

UCC Parking Lot – BBPC Chairman Steve Dowell stated that on June 28, 2010 the BBPC met to review the sub-division plan between Carson Long Institute and Trinity UCC for a church parking lot. BBPC Chairman Dowell reported that action was taken to unanimously approve those plans with one stipulation from the Pennsylvania Attorney General's office and that is the plot must be used for educational purposes; however, this matter has been resolved.

Administrative Committee Report

Borough Building Rubber Roof – Councilman Cless reported that the rubber roof installation on the west wing over the post office is now complete and Perry Roofing has been paid in full.

Second Floor Window Replacement – Councilman Cless reported that the second floor windows and air conditioners have been replaced and due to an equipment malfunction, interior trim is not complete. Councilman Cless further stated he will be purchasing blinds for those windows.

Front Ramp Repair – Councilman Cless reported that the concrete work on the handicap ramp to the upper floor has been completed by Lloyd E. Geesaman Masonry and final payment has been made.

Concrete Stormwater Headwall – Councilman Cless reported that Lloyd E. Geesaman Masonry made an emergency repair to a concrete stormwater headwall on South Church Street between Perry Printing and Century Link in the amount of \$320 which was paid.

Bricks Loose Above Post Office – Councilman Cless reported that the next project will be repairing broken mortar joints in the brick of the entire building and the replacement of the rotting T1-11 covering on the exterior wall of the 1st floor of the east wing at a cost of \$2,200 with an expected start date in September. Councilman Cless stated he will be obtaining a quote from Fences and More for an eight foot fence with a gate on the east wall. Councilman Cless further stated that the metal window box enclosures will be removed.

Ballfield Chain Link Fence – Councilman Cless reported that the installation of the fence at the ballfield has been completed by Fences and More at a cost of \$1,630 with the New Bloomfield VFW paying half of the bill or \$815.00.

Rubber Playground Turf – Councilman Cless reported that Peachey Lumber will no longer provide wood chips for the playground at no cost to the Borough for liability reasons. Councilman Cless feels that \$1,025 per year is not practical; therefore, he obtained the cost to use black treated rubber playground turf (samples provided) is \$4,620 for the same coverage from Mahantango Enterprises of Liverpool. Councilman Patterson questioned if there is grant money available for a playground project. Councilman Weller wondered if Centre Township would be willing to split the cost. Upon approval of Council, Councilman Weller was directed to pursue the possibility of cost sharing with Centre Township.

Security Cameras – Councilman Cless stated that the matter of security cameras has been postponed.

Library Board Request – President Clouser stated that no meeting took place for a formal decision. President Clouser stated if the decision would be to switch rooms, it might be possible for the few times the Boy Scouts need a larger room, they could use the fire house, Carson Long Military Institute or another location. Councilman Weller stated that Carroll Township has a larger facility. Councilman Weller agreed to check into this.

Space Shuttle – President Clouser reported that the space shuttle windows are now bigger for more visibility and there was an attempt to burn the shuttle down and also to remove the sign recently placed on the shuttle.

Dialysis Facility – Councilman Cless stated that County Commissioner Amsler would like the Borough of Bloomfield to enter into a feasibility study to determine if we care to host a dialysis facility within the Borough. Councilman Cless detailed the need for the facility (transportation/Juniata County) and specific requirements for a building (6,600 sf, water, tractor-trailer access, parking, leased). Councilman Cless discussed this with Mike Scheffey, Bloomfield Borough Water Authority and also the Borough's engineer and there is apparently no water or sewer problem. Borough Council gave the go ahead for Councilman Cless to continue with the discussions.

FEMA/PEMA – Councilman Weller stated that we recently received \$2,817.17 for the 2010 snowstorm.

Perry County Boroughs Association – President Clouser reported that the Pennsylvania State Police met with them last month to discuss municipal problems and hopefully to form a better working relationship.

Computer and News Information – Councilman Cless reported that he posted the 2009 Borough Water Quality report to the website for the Bloomfield Borough Water Authority.

UCC Parking Lot – As a follow-up to the BBPC report, Darrin Foster presented the sub-division between Carson Long Institute and Trinity UCC and the deed restriction for educational use has been lifted; therefore, he is here for signatures. Councilman Patterson made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Eckert, to approve the plans as reviewed and approved by the BBPC. Motion carried.

AESTHETIC

Aesthetic Committee Report

DCED Grant – Councilwoman Eckert reported that Arlis Krammes is taking care of this matter and she would report back to Council their findings.

Flower Pots – Councilwoman Eckert stated she would welcome volunteers to water the plants on the square.

Shade Tree Commission – Councilwoman Eckert reported that a permit was issued to Robert McCarty, 131 West Main Street for the removal of one tree that had roots grown into the sewer and was too big for the space.

FINANCE, INSURANCE AND SAFETY

Finance, Insurance and Safety Committee Report

Investments – Councilman Patterson stated that investment opportunities are limited and certificates of deposit have been put into money market funds with 1.33% as good as we can do and he would recommend we continue to do so until the market gets a little stronger.

PERSONNEL

Personnel Committee Report

Part-time Position for Secretary (2nd Person) – President Clouser stated that the position has not been filled and will be considered at a later date.

RIGHTS OF WAY & UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Rights of Way & Utilities Committee Report

Barnett Street Resurfacing/Stormwater – Councilman Weller stated that tomorrow afternoon they will meet with G & R Charles Excavating and he expects them to start soon.

East McClure Street Curbing – Councilman Weller stated that Lloyd E. Geesaman, Jr. Masonry expects to begin the East McClure Street curbing project at the end of July.

East McClure Street Sewer Line – Councilman Patterson stated that his committee hired Burget and Associates to do the engineering portion of the East McClure Street sewer line because the cost was about one half of the cost of using Buchart Horn. Councilman Patterson stated that the surveying of the lines and the depth charts have been completed and he expects to have the plans to go ahead for approval and advertising in the next several weeks.

West Main Street Between Church & Chestnut Street Sidewalks – Councilman Weller stated that more permits have been issued. Councilman Weller stated the sidewalk completed at 215 West Main Street is not sloped right and two people have fallen; therefore, he wrote a letter to the property owner requiring him to cut the sidewalk back to Labor and Industry specifications with a maximum of 1” to the foot slope.

Sidewalk (16 East McClure Street) - Councilman Weller stated the noncompliance of the sidewalk repair/replacement will be turned over to Zoning Officer Rick Watson.

July 6, 2010
Page 6
PABB01071

Emergency Generator – Councilman Patterson stated that with the two ongoing projects, he would like to postpone this matter until the fall.

There being no further business, upon motion by Councilman Robinson, seconded by Councilwoman Eckert, meeting adjourned until Tuesday, August 3, 2010. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy A. Pote
Secretary