

MINUTES
Bloomfield Borough Council
March 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, Jayne M. Eckert and Edwin G. Robinson.

Also present: Mayor Jean Anstine, Secretary Nancy Pote, Dale Beaston, Steve Dowell, Kaitlin Queen, Richard Groff, Barry Foster, Robert Hench, *Sam Forsyth and Elizabeth Weiner (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.

Approval of Minutes – Councilman Robinson made a motion, seconded by Vice President Long, to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2010 meeting as reviewed. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial Report – Councilman Weller made a motion, seconded by Councilman Patterson, 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 pre-trial conference will be held on March 18, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. at the Perry County Courthouse in Courtroom #2

Permit Fees Established Annually by Resolution – Vice President Long stated that the Enforcement Committee met and Councilman Cless came up with a list of proposed fees for review by Council. Vice President Long stated that #7 is for sewer maintenance, connection and inspection fees that have never been levied and asked the wishes of Council if there should be a fee established. Vice President Long recommended that we leave these fees as is with nothing being collected. Councilman Cless reported that he spoke to Solicitor Wagner and any permits that were not referenced in Ordinance #274 can be done by an amendment and he will provide that information to Solicitor Wagner. Upon further discussion, Council agreed to no fees for the sewer maintenance, connection and inspection. President Clouser questioned the need to add a permit fee for street excavating that is currently \$2 per square yard. Councilman Cless made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Eckert, to accept the final fee schedule and proceed to advertise the Resolution as presented with the addition of a permit fee for excavating a street at \$2 for each square yard. Motion carried.

Final Sub-Division – President Clouser stated that Solicitor Wagner reported that the chain of title was not in the documents Navtech provided; therefore, this information will be provided to him by the end of the week.

Deteriorated Structure (Demolition) – Vice President Long reported that Mr. Slike desires to renovate the deteriorated structure located to the rear of 225 West Main Street into a commercial establishment and they have an application pending before the Bloomfield Borough Water Authority. Secretary Pote stated she has not received anything from Zoning Officer Watson. President Clouser stated we need to keep on top of this matter.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Announcements and Correspondence

Statement of Financial Interest – President Clouser reminded individuals that are required to file a Statement of Financial Interest that the deadline to return the paperwork to Secretary Pote is May 1, 2010.

Public Comments

Sexual Assault Awareness Month – Katy Queen, YWCA of Greater Harrisburg, requested permission in April to hang and remove teal bows on the lampposts in the square as well as other designated areas that will represent sexual assault awareness month. Ms. Queen further stated that, if permitted, there will be posters as well as newspaper articles published to make the general public aware of what the ribbons represent. Councilwoman Eckert stated that the Aesthetics Committee discussed and approved this matter.

River of Life Church Parking Lot – Barry Foster, on behalf of the River of Life Church, requested permission to establish a stone parking lot in the grassy plot located behind the church located at 46 Barnett Street. Mr. Foster further requested permission to remove four trees on the west side (S. Church Street) of their church for ease of parking. Councilwoman Eckert stated that the tree removal was discussed previously by the Shade Tree Commission and a forester stated nothing is wrong with the trees except possibly one would be acceptable for removal. Councilman Cless requested that they draw up plans for review and discussion at the next Bloomfield Borough Planning Commission (BBPC) meeting scheduled for March 22, 2010 and further requested that the information be delivered to them prior to the meeting date. Mr. Foster agreed to provide the information requested by the BBPC.

Planning Commission Report

Sub-Division and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) – BBPC Chairman Steve Dowell reported that they will be working with the Tri-County Planning Commission to review our SALDO and a date has not yet been established.

1st National Bank of Mifflintown Sign - Chairman Dowell stated that the 1st National Bank of Mifflintown requested permission to change the refresh rate on their newly installed blinking sign from 2 ½ to 2 seconds and approval was granted by Councilman Cless.

Electric Choice (Benchmark) – Vice President Long reported that the Borough has experienced issues with Benchmark's electrical program and the salesman's pitch as well as the contract signed in November is not consistent with reality. Vice President Long stated that the power companies they are dealing with are not playing the game as Benchmark anticipated they would be playing and they have not, in our

opinion, been able to adapt very well to the situation. Vice President Long further stated as follows: 1.) that the generating companies are not coming up with prices for energy that Benchmark originally thought; 2.) they had separate contracts with individual municipalities that is inconsistent to what we were originally lead to believe; and 3.) we were given an open contract to sign without any specificity as to rates, cost, etc. in it and a termination fee applies which was not part of the original package. Vice President Long stated that Benchmark had a plan for being the agent for getting the best price and the generating companies are not agreeing. Vice President Long stated he spoke with the President of Benchmark several times and they want to work with us but Solicitor Wagner feels they don't know what they are doing and basically their entire plan has been turned around by the generating companies and they are not able to deal with it. Vice President Long further stated that they asked our Solicitor what he recommended. Vice President Long reported that the Bloomfield Borough Water Authority is awaiting a decision from Council. Vice President Long made a motion, seconded by Councilman Cless, to cancel the contract with Benchmark and follow-up with a letter. Motion carried. Vice President Long stated he and Secretary Pote will get to PPL Electric to get the bills back in the Borough's name.

Administrative Committee Report

General Maintenance Councilman Cless reported that an electrical ballast was replaced on a downstairs fluorescent light unit, stained ceiling tiles were replaced on the second floor, glass was replaced in the door of the IOOF room, the deadbolt on the door of the Nurse Family Partnership room was repaired, toilet paper dispensers are scheduled for installation on March 8 and the Grandstand rubber roofing that is flapping in the wind will be repaired by Perry Roofing.

Electric Heat – President Clouser proceeded to open the sealed bids from contractors for the electric heat installation in the hallway and two classrooms on the second floor of the Borough Building as follows:

Dion Boyer Electrical Contractor 3 Rambo Hill Road Shermans Dale, PA 17090	\$8,532.00
Eckert Electric P. Ashley Eckert P.O. Box 64 New Bloomfield, PA 17068	\$5,850.00
Charles H. Burns, Inc. 79 North Market Street P.O. Box 252 Millerstown, PA 17062	\$8,457.13

Councilman Cless made a motion, seconded by Vice President Long, to award the Borough Building electric heat installation contract to Eckert Electric in the amount of \$5,850.00. Motion carried. Councilwoman Eckert abstained because Eckert Electric is a family business.

Grants – Councilman Cless reported that he spoke to Representative Keller regarding grant money for the bridge replacement on Barnett Woods Road and we would need added to the TIPS list with an approximate five to eight year wait and money is tight. Councilman Cless further stated that Former Councilman Beaston continues to work with Senator Corman's office on this bridge project. Councilman Beaston reported that stimulus money is not available because Barnett Woods Road is not eligible for federal funding. Former Councilman Beaston stated he intends to follow-up with several individuals and will keep

Council abreast of his endeavor. Councilman Patterson stated that the block grant application for the East McClure Street sewer line replacement is still in progress and we have not heard anything.

FEMA/PEMA- Councilman Cless stated that a cost analyses report for snow removal during the two recent snowstorms to include hours and equipment costs was completed by Rick Robinson and forwarded to Larry Smeigh, Perry County Emergency Management Coordinator, for review and possible reimbursement from stimulus money.

Perry County Boroughs Association – President Clouser stated that a joint meeting was held with Council of Governments (COG) and Councilman Weller was elected second vice president for COG.

Computer and News Information – Councilman Cless reported a change of information was received from the Civic Club and the subject matter was corrected. Councilman Cless further stated that the pre-trial conference regarding the abandoned car Ordinance #256 scheduled for March 18 at 8:30 a.m. in Courtroom #2 was posted to the website.

Perry County COG – Vice President Long stated that one item of interest was they have access to salt for winterizing roads. Councilman Robinson stated that COG requires the municipality to take all of the preordered salt and the state only requires you to take what is needed. President Clouser and Vice President Long stated that is not what was told to them at the COG meeting. President Clouser further stated they were advised that if you ordered a set amount you paid the contracted price; however, if you exceeded that amount, you pay the going price.

AESTHETICS

Aesthetics Committee Report

Historical Signs – Councilwoman Eckert stated that she was contacted by John Graham concerning the old metal signs that are posted at the end of town and stated that he would like to see these signs moved so that they are not stolen or destroyed and Mr. Graham further suggested that placement of a sign in front of the Borough Building is a more secure spot. Councilwoman Eckert stated that Jay Smith is currently refurbishing one of the signs. Councilwoman Eckert further stated that these signs were apparently made in the 1930's for all of the towns in the area and Mr. Graham would like to see them preserved. Councilwoman Eckert requested Council's permission for the Aesthetics Committee to proceed to deal with this as well as purchase new signs. Council agreed.

Signs/Flags Grant – Councilwoman Eckert stated that the Borough has secured a grant from DCED in the amount of \$6,500 for welcome signs and flags and her Committee is still in the process of discussing the details.

Bows for Lampposts on Square – President Clouser stated he will discuss with the VFW the possible purchase of bows for the lampposts on the Square.

FINANCE, INSURANCE AND SAFETY

Finance, Insurance and Safety Committee Report –

Workers Compensation – Councilman Patterson provided handouts with regards to Council volunteering to work out and about our town with no protection. Councilman Patterson stated that he obtained a quote from Moore Insurance Agency in the amount of \$300 annually to be added to our Workers Compensation policy and this is available to us because Council is compensated annually. Councilman

Patterson stated that we have budgeted \$19,000 for workers compensation and to date we have paid \$16,800. Upon further discussion, Councilman Patterson made a motion, seconded by Councilman Cless, to add workers compensation coverage to Council for members working on projects within the Borough in the amount of \$300 annually. Motion carried.

Finance – Councilman Patterson reported that he has been working with the Trust Department of the 1st National Bank of Mifflintown to determine what our best option for financial investments is. Councilman Patterson stated that they have the ability to invest nationwide and they continue to do investments for municipalities and are aware of municipal restrictions. Councilman Patterson stated that we have a fair amount of money that in economic times need to grow. Councilman Patterson further stated that 1st National Bank of Mifflintown does have a fee schedule that has been provided to Council in his handout and Councilman Patterson is currently negotiating with them. Councilman Patterson stated we are not committed to 1st National Bank of Mifflintown and we have no contractual obligations. Councilman Patterson stated that three certificates of deposit have been converted to a better interest program that gives us significant flexibility. Councilman Patterson would like to give 1st National Bank of Mifflintown a chance and he will personally work with them and the only thing he is asking is to use 1st National Bank of Mifflintown to set up a program on their suggestions and if they can prove to us that we can make money with what they charge and if not, we don't need to stay with them. Councilman Patterson feels we can grow financially with their abilities to find us the best rates nationwide. Councilman Cless stated that he was at the meeting with Councilman Patterson and we will have a 100% growth potential above and beyond what we already get and he feels this is the right thing to do. Councilman Patterson made a motion, seconded Councilman Cless, to proceed with the Trust Department of 1st National Bank of Mifflintown to oversee finances until such time we are no longer interested. Vice President Long discussed the fee schedule and Councilman Patterson stated he is negotiating a better fee. Councilman Patterson stated that if we choose to do this he will have a gentleman from the bank come to our meeting to detail the specifics. Vice President Long expressed concern with not knowing the costs. Councilman Patterson stated that he is only looking for the ability to work with the bank and at this time it is not going to cost us anything. Motion carried. Councilman Patterson provided the following report: 1.) three certificates of deposit have been moved to two money market funds (general/sewer) with a 1.51% interest rate and a cushion to withdraw at any time; 2.) Page 6 – Garbage certificate of deposit in the amount of \$11,019.72 that matures on March 4, 2010 needs moved to the Borough Building fund to cover projects coming up; and 3.) the annual allocation for the state fund in the amount of \$21,172.23 was deposited into the checking account on March 1, 2010. Councilman Weller stated that Secretary Pote and he talked to a representative from PLGIT at the PCATO Meeting and information is forthcoming to the Borough.

RIGHTS OF WAY & UTILITIES

Rights of Way & Utilities Committee Report

Decanter Floats – Councilman Robinson stated that tomorrow he will speak to a representative from Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc. to make arrangements to have a man available for the installation of the decanters and also to make arrangements to have the decanters delivered.

Mixer in Digester – Councilman Robinson stated that the mixer must be replaced and Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc. will do this job also. Councilman Patterson added that we are shooting for the week of March 22 for the installations.

East McClure Street Sidewalks/Curbing Project – Councilman Weller spoke with Lou Harford and the \$2,500 quote shouldn't be a problem; therefore, he gave him the go ahead to proceed with the surveying and specifications for the curbing only on the south side of East McClure Street between South Carlisle Street and Gusler Alley.

Barnett Street Resurfacing/Stormwater – Councilman Weller stated that last month Council discussed extending the stormwater project on the south side of Barnett Street going west past Church Street. Councilman Weller stated that we had an estimate of \$12,619 on the first 250' and by eliminating the connecting “tee’s”, we probably could do the job for less than \$10,000. Councilman Weller further stated that he broke it down into two projects and to do up to the fire hydrant in front of 101 Barnett Street is 340' and the cost would be approximately \$11,753. Councilman Weller questioned if Council wants to spend in the area of \$20,000 to do 600' of ditches. Vice President Long expressed concern with water meandering along the street and if there is no storm drain it keeps on going down the street. Vice President Long stated he has a problem when you are starting to build storm drains and drains with no curbs. Councilman Weller stated he understood and the ideal scenario would be to put curbing in. Councilman Weller stated that it is 258' to Spring Alley to the creek opening at 200 South Carlisle Street. Vice President Long stated he would support the 258' to Spring Alley. Councilman Cless questioned what is going to be done with the water that runs in front of 101 Barnett Street which may cause the road surface to be vulnerable to freezing and breaking up if drainage is not provided. Councilman Weller estimated that the street paving would be between \$60,000 and \$70,000. Councilman Patterson feels that the biggest problem will be taken care of from Spring Alley east to 200 South Carlisle Street. A roundtable discussion on curbing followed. Councilman Weller stated that a determination of drains is needed and our PennDOT representative Rick Levan has the specifications ready to go out. Councilman Cless feels a drainage channel needs created across Church Street to alleviate the water problem in front of 101 Barnett Street. Upon discussion, Council felt this should be bid as one project; however, the drainage ditch can be two separate items (between Spring Alley and South Carlisle Street/continued to the west side of Church Street) and if the quote is too high, the continued portion could be eliminated. Councilman Weller's date for completion is the middle of September. Councilman Weller made a motion, seconded by Councilman Robinson, to proceed to advertise the street paving and the drainage with two alternatives. Motion carried.

West Main Street Between Church & Chestnut Streets Sidewalks – Councilman Weller stated that homeowners that were notified last fall of sidewalk violations are required to bring their sidewalks up to Borough specifications in 2010.

Sewer Collection – Councilman Patterson reported that the collection of past due sewer has had a good response and we will continue to pursue any outstanding accounts.

Emergency Generator Electrical Upgrades – Councilman Patterson stated that the generator at the sewer plant is more powerful and has much more capacity than we currently use; however, there is need for additional electrical work. Councilman Patterson reported that if power were down for several days, we would be in trouble. Councilman Patterson further stated that he has been in contact with Leon Zimmerman, the gentleman that initially did the work, to determine the cost of installation for the needed upgrades. Councilman Patterson stressed there is a need to place more of the sewer plant functions on the emergency generator.

Walnut Alley – Councilman Weller stated that a sewer line needs replaced at 121 West High Street; however, it runs through Walnut Alley and Ken and Lori Rauch requested permission to proceed with the sewer line replacement. Councilman Robinson made a motion, seconded by Councilman Patterson, to proceed to replace the sewer line for the above mentioned property and fill the ditch up with crusher run with a paving date to be later.

There being no further business, Councilman Robinson made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Eckert, to adjourn the meeting to meeting on Tuesday, April 6, 2010. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy A. Pote, Secretary

