

MINUTES Bloomfield Borough Council February 2, 2016

Bloomfield Borough Council met this evening in regular session in the Bloomfield Borough Council Chambers with the following Council members present: President Malinda C. Anderson, Vice President John J. Patterson V., Michelle L. Jones, Patricia A. McCarty, Pierce L. Clouser Jr., and Karl L. Cless. Michael P. Pray excused absence.

Also present: Mayor Arlis Krammes, Borough Secretary Danielle Shope, Assistant Secretary Kathleen Miller, Borough Enforcement Officer Frank Freeland, Solicitor Richard Wagner, Tax Collector Jayne Eckert, Deputy Tax Collector Jean Anstine, Borough employee Damon Hartman, and residents John Long, Steve Dowell, David Pace, Antonia Tripoli, and Spring Lake Development LLC partner Joe Katkocin.

President Malinda Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00PM

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 identify themselves prior to speaking. 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 Reorganization Meeting Minutes - Councilwoman McCarty made a motion, seconded by Vice President Patterson, to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2016 reorganization meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes - Vice President Patterson made a motion, seconded by Councilman Clouser, to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2016 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial Report - Vice President Patterson made a motion, seconded by Councilman Clouser, to approve the financial report for January 4, 2016 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Antonia Tripoli would like to know what she is or is not allowed to do with her “vacant/parking lot”. President Anderson stated that the lot is zoned as a parking lot. To be a parking lot, it must be paved with spaces lined off at certain widths. Right now, she has only an empty lot that is for sale. Any signs to be displayed cannot be over 4 feet in square footage. Mrs. Tripoli could put posts in with small signs stating “no unauthorized parking, all violators will be towed”. Because it is a private lot, Mrs. Tripoli owns the property and the Borough cannot enforce the parking issue on that particular property. The “for sale” sign is within regulations and can stay. If she is going to have people park in the lot and pay her, the lot must be paved. Councilman Cless stated that this subject came up several years ago. The Planning Commission did approve the lot to be used as a parking, but PENNDOT required the ingress (into) from Route 34 and egress (exit) must be onto Cherry Alley by the old jail. It also must be paved.

President Anderson stated that this is what is required to comply with Borough ordinances and PENNDOT regulations. Mr. Dave Pace asked if the whole lot had to be paved or just the part that was being parked on. Solicitor Wagner stated that Mrs. Tripoli can go to the Zoning Hearing Board and ask for a variance, and address that. Discussion followed. President Anderson asked Mrs. Tripoli to review her plan and Council would do the same.

DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR

The Bloomfield Borough Council appointed Jean M. Anstine as Deputy Tax Collector for Jayne M. Eckert, Tax Collector for Bloomfield Borough. Mrs. Anstine does not need to be sworn in.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

President Anderson recognized former Bloomfield Borough Council President, Mr. John Long, by presenting him with a plaque in recognition for his many years of service to the Bloomfield Borough. President Anderson also recognized in absentia former councilman, Mr. James A. Woods, with a plaque for his service. President Anderson invited all present to partake of the light refreshments available following the meeting.

ENFORCEMENT

Solicitor's Report - Solicitor Wagner brought everyone up to date on the Declaratory Judgment.

Development Judicial Judgment – One of the issues with the Declaratory Judicial Judgment is being able to present evidence to the court as to the history and ownership of the streets and/or lots in the development. Solicitor Wagner solicited from various entities a cost to do this work. Solicitor Wagner received one cost estimate back. He also asked our own engineers for an estimate. The engineers thought they could have an estimate by the end of the week. At that point, Solicitor Wagner will call upon Borough Council to make a determination as to which of the two groups they want to use. Solicitor Wagner explained why we need this. The development was owned by one entity, but was then moved to another entity, and then there was a foreclosure and a Sheriff's sale. The deed passed to Orrstown Bank and then there were deeds from Orrstown Bank to the current entity. In effect, there were several passages of ownership. The court can make a decision and declare who the owner is in order to get from that owner a deed of dedication. The Borough can then take it over to maintain the streets and get the liquid fuels money. One of the entities raised an objection saying that they should not be part of the process which is something the court will be determining in the next couple weeks. They have been given assurances by emails, etc. that the only purpose of the Declaratory Judgment is to determine ownership. So, the Borough can take ownership from the people who are determined by the court to own it. Orrstown Bank by doing that has: 1) prolonged the process and 2) created a greater amount of money the tax payers are going to have to pay to litigate by making that decision. The Borough has no hidden agenda, we just want to clear it to get full title before accepting the streets for dedication.

Development Pump Station – Solicitor Wagner reported that the transfer of ownership of Lot 30 is still being worked on since the entity that owns it consists of 3 people, two wanting majority rules, and 1 wanting unanimity to sell it. Solicitor Wagner explained to the new members the history of this situation. He will keep Council apprised.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Arlis Krammes reported they had many calls about the snow. She congratulated President Anderson and Vice President Patterson on coordinating the snow removal in the Square and the

alleyways. President Anderson also stated the Council's appreciation of Damon Hartman's and Rick Robinson's hard work during this snow storm. President Anderson stated that Penn Dot can possibly help with the process for future snow removal. Mayor Krammes reported that 6 Parking tickets were issued in January, 2 remain unpaid.

Borough Enforcement Officer's (BEO) Report - BEO Freeland reported for the month of January. He had 3 incidents, 1 under cars, 9 under codes and responded to 8 calls.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Announcements and Correspondence – President Anderson stated they received an invitation for the Firemen's Banquet to be held at 7:00 pm on February 18, 2016. All are welcome to attend. Please let Danielle know. President Anderson read a Thank-you note from the Bloomfield Public Library for the Borough's annual donation. President Anderson, Councilwomen McCarty and Councilwoman Jones, and Tax Collector Jayne Eckert are attending the Annual County Convention to be held at Greenwood Elementary School on February 27, 2016. President Anderson reminded all council members to fill out the Statement of Financial Interest and return it to the Borough Secretary no later than April 1, 2016.

Appointments and Reappointments – President Anderson stated that there is a vacancy on the Bloomfield Municipal Authority and Councilman Cless may have someone for that vacancy.

Television Cable – Councilman Pray was absent but President Anderson stated there has been movement on Nittany Media's part to communicate with the Borough. Mr. Pray will have more to report in March.

Water Authority Report – Mr. Albright was absent, so no report.

Planning Commission Report – Ms. Rowlands was absent, so no report.

Zoning/Permit Officer's Report – Mr. Albright was absent, so no report.

Administrative Committee Report – Councilman Cless reported on a list of his activities for the month of January. Councilman Cless has worked on the website updates, he has researched and contacted Join Hands about replacing their entry door, and has initiated a discussion of flood plain update/rewrite.

FEMA/PEMA - No report.

PCBA/COG - Mr. Albright was absent so no report.

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

AESTHETICS

Aesthetics Committee Report – Councilwoman McCarty is looking forward to meeting with Mayor Krammes and President Anderson and possibly James Woods to be brought up to date on what needs done.

FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND SAFETY

Finance, Insurance, and Safety Report – Vice President Patterson reported the Borough budgeted for our flood insurance at about \$8,800. The bill was actually around \$9,500. The reason for the increase is because the flood insurance premiums through Nationwide are going up, not down. The flood plain area is to be reevaluated by the U.S. Geologic Survey. Nothing to report under Finance at this time.

Grants – Councilwoman Jones met with Dan Greene from SEDA/COG regarding the grant for the sewer project on McClure Street. It was a preliminary meeting to make sure they are all on the same page. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 8, 2016.

PERSONNEL

Personnel Committee Report – Councilwoman Jones received the surveys back from the employees about the insurance and various other work items. Everything was favorable.

President Anderson has tasked Councilwoman Jones to develop a “resident bulletin” to let residents know of Borough projects, ordinances, etc.

RIGHTS OF WAY & UTILITIES

Rights of Way & Utilities Report - Vice President Patterson stated the snow made the Borough make a financial move to hire a contractor to come in to perform snow removal. It had to be done. The Borough had a truck down. The cost can come out of the General Fund since the state declared it a state of emergency and he hopes to get back some money from PEMA.

President Anderson stated the Borough received notification from the Perry County Tax Claim Bureau that the Borough of Bloomfield will be receiving a check in the amount of \$3,536.91 as the result of the sale of Perry Lanes.

CLOSING COMMENTS

There being no further business, upon motion by Councilman Clouser, seconded by Councilwoman McCarty, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. to meet on Tuesday, March 1, 2016. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary