

## **MINUTES Bloomfield Borough Council July 5, 2016**

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

Also present: Mayor Arlis Krammes, Borough Secretary Danielle Shope, Borough Employee Damon Hartman, Zoning/BEO/Water Authority Officer Edward Albright, Jr., Planning Commission Chairman Melanie Rowlands, Perry County Times reporter Jim Ryan, Nittany Media representative Michael Hain, Business Owner Don Jacobs, and Borough residents Jeanne Heicher, Peggy and Herb Robb.

Vice President Patterson called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

### ***MEETING OPENING***

**Recording of the Meeting** – Vice President Patterson 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. Vice President Patterson further requested that those individuals in the audience desiring to speak, identify themselves prior to speaking, and that they have 10 minutes to present their concern. Vice President Patterson 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** – Councilman Clouser asked the June 7, 2016 minutes be amended as follows: Page Number 5 - **PABB01453** under Rights of Way & Utilities Committee, the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence should read: “The property owner, responsible for the Veterans Drive repair, will repay the Borough for the paving, but there is no time table established yet because of a personal tragedy in the owner’s family.” Councilman Pray made a motion to approve the June 7, 2016 minutes as amended, seconded by Councilman Clouser. Motion carried.

**Approval of Financial Report** – Councilman Cless made a motion, seconded by Councilman Clouser, to approve the financial report for June 7, 2016 as presented. Motion carried.

### ***PUBLIC COMMENTS***

Mr. Don Jacobs questioned the status of Barnett Woods Road and bridge. Vice President Patterson stated that there is no immediate plan to repair the bridge. Part of the reason is financial. He stated there are other priorities within the Borough before they can address the bridge repair. However, it is not a dead issue. Vice President Patterson stated the Borough’s engineering firm HRG inspected the bridge. These inspection reports are available for review. Mr. Jacob’s asked if the Borough has received any estimates on the repair cost. Vice President Patterson replied they have, indirectly. HRG estimates that it would cost approximately \$70,000-\$80,000. Mr. Jacobs stated how the road closure affects his insurance office. Mr. Jacobs asked if the Borough would entertain the idea of a no interest loan for a 5 year period. Vice President stated that it goes further than that. Even if the bridge is repaired, it would not stop the problem of large overweight loads using the bridge. That is what caused the problem to begin with. Even if

the bridge is replaced, we still have this problem and the other bridge also has an 8 ton limit. The Borough does not know how to address this problem. Vice President Patterson asked for a suggestion. Mr. Jacobs stated the sign on the Main drag is a big inconvenience. He understands the sign at Barnett Street so people cannot go down and cross the bridge. Councilman Clouser stated that Barnett Woods Road is actually on the GPS as a shortcut for some big rigs and they take it and have damaged adjacent properties, etc. when turning from Main Street. Vice President Patterson stated we cannot make everyone happy, but this situation is an ongoing issue. Mr. Jacobs asked it be recorded in the minutes that he is offering the Borough a \$70,000-\$80,000 no interest loan for five years. So noted.

**Resignation of Borough Enforcement Officer Freeland** - Due to health issues, Mr. Frank Freeland has resigned his position as Borough Enforcement Officer. Vice President Patterson asked Personnel Chairman Jones if she would revise the job description for advertisement (plus the job description for the Borough janitorial staff). Councilman Clouser made the motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Frank Freeland as BEO, seconded by Councilman Cless. Motion carried.

### ***ENFORCEMENT***

**Solicitor's Report** - Mr. Richard Wagner stated there has been some questions raised with the passage of the law allowing alcohol to be sold in grocery stores, etc. and what impact it may have on a municipality that heretofore has voted to remain dry. Mr. Wagner confirmed it with chief counsel of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Enforcement Bureau (PLCEB) that at the present time if your municipality has voted to remain dry, the law will not override that vote.

**Development Judicial Judgment** - Mr. Wagner stated he has received a date for a pre-trial conference. A pre-trial conference is a meeting with counsel and the court only to discuss issues that may be outstanding for a length of time to conduct the hearing etc. Since there are no other parties to this proceeding, no one has filed any answers or entered an appearance. Mr. Wagner suggested to the court that we circumvent the pre-trial conference and do it via telephone, since it would only be the judge and Mr. Wagner. Solicitor Wagner will be filing a motion to request the court do this.

**Development Pump Station** – Mr. Wagner stated the pump station is the same as the last meeting he attended.

Mr. Wagner did state that Ordinance #321 needs amended and re-advertised to include more of McClure Street. It states 50 feet now. It should be amended to read 300 feet.

Mr. Wagner stated he will not be able to attend the August 2, 2016 meeting.

**Zoning/Permit Officer's Report** - Mr. Albright reported he had an inquiry about the lot on Locust Street beside Zeke Morrow's house. Someone inquired about buying it and putting a house on it. It is a legal size lot but the East McClure Street extension runs down through the middle of that lot. This area is what they are talking about in Mr. Wagner's previous statement concerning McClure Street. Council members questioned its size, etc. Mr. Albright stated it is big enough to have set backs on each side.

Councilman Clouser made the motion to amend Ordinance #321, Section 1 from 50 feet to extend to approximately 300 feet. Councilwoman Jones seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Albright sent Sigrid (Deb) Hockenberry a certified letter about removing the overgrown vegetation on her vacated property. Mrs. Hockenberry did not pick up the letter. Mr. Albright spoke with the lawyer and the Hockenberry's have been exonerated through bankruptcy court. They do not have to pay any bills for

that property; however, the property is not exempt from any liens. Mr. Albright suggests that the Borough clean up the property, add the 10%, and Mr. Wagner can put a lien on the property. Councilman Cless felt the Borough employees had enough to handle and the Borough should hire someone to clean up that property. Vice President Patterson said this was a decision the Council can make at a later time.

Mr. Albright also reported overgrown vegetation at the Ronald Leiter property. Mr. Albright will contact him about the vegetation, but the condition of the house is getting very dangerous. Mr. Albright asked that Council let him know what they want him to do about that property. Vice President Patterson asked Solicitor Wagner what constitutes an unsafe building. Solicitor Wagner stated that if a building is factually unsafe. Someone would have to inspect it and give their professional opinion about the building.

Mr. Albright also reported there is a blue house on Barnett Street that has black mold growing inside and it will fall over sometime if it is not taken care of. The owner lives in San Diego.

Mr. Albright issued 3 zoning permits last month.

**Enforcement Committee Report** – Councilman Clouser reported on the revision to Ordinance #321 which was already revised and approved above. Vice President Patterson added that Fire Chief Robb provided President Anderson with the fire ordinance information. The Borough is going to revise and take the portion that is current for the Borough and make the changes. Vice President Patterson asked for a motion that the Borough proceed so those revisions can be made. Councilman Cless made a motion that the fire ordinance revision be tabled until everyone has had a chance to read and understand the fire tax revisions. The fire ordinance information will be tabled until everyone has had the chance to read it. .

**Mayor's Report** – Mayor Krammes reported that she and Mr. Albright went around town and noted the houses that are in very poor condition especially the blue house on Barnett Street. Mayor Krammes suggested it be torn down. Vice President Patterson stated that these problem houses have to be addressed, but is uncertain at this time just how to address the matters. He suggested Council get their ideas together to see what can be done to make that happen. Mayor Krammes also reported she has had 6 requests for marriages in the last two weeks.

**Parking Enforcement Officer Report** - Mayor Krammes reported 18 tickets issued in the month of June, 10 remain unpaid. Mayor Krammes praised the Parking Enforcement Officer's work.

**Borough Enforcement Officer's Report** – Mr. Albright reported 10 incidents, 2 being in the cemetery. He goes out after 11P.M. many times.

#### *ADMINISTRATIVE*

**Announcements and Correspondence** – Vice President Patterson stated they were given information from Cumberland County discussing medication take-back box locations. There are none in Perry County at this time so this really does not pertain to the Borough.

**Water Authority Report** - Mr. Albright reported there was a boil water situation in the Borough because the chlorine level dropped below the standard because there was a crack in the flooring line at Perry Village. That was repaired within 30 minutes of finding it. They had to sample water two days in a row and they all came back negative so DEP allowed them to lift the boil water advisory. Right now the water level in the Borough is at capacity. The tank is full and there are no issues.

**Planning Commission Report** - Ms. Rowlands reported there was no meeting this month. She is leaving for France tomorrow so her committee members will meet if anything arises.

**Administrative Committee Report** - Councilman Cless received the third and final installment billing of \$1,833.33 from the Cohen Law Group for the preparation work of the wireless cell tower ordinance. He needs approval for this final payment and a posting date for submission to the newspaper for a public hearing. Mr. Cless made a motion, seconded by Councilman Pray, to accept the final payment of \$1,833.33, payable to Cohen Law Group, and to proceed with advertising of a public hearing. Motion carried. Councilman Cless will work with Secretary Shope to post the advertisement in the paper.

The Borough office central A/C system had some problems and Swenson was called in to assess the situation. The fault code indicated "low refrigerant" so they added 1.5 pounds of 410 Freon and will watch for effect.

Received a call from Ginger from the Bloomfield Library regarding a possible moisture problem in the south room. Posters, bulletin boards, and book shelves that had been placed on or near the wall were causing moisture to be trapped and therefore, the wall surface was unable to air dry. Fans and a dehumidifier were placed at the wall to dry the surface for refinish work and the library was closed. Mold Armor was sprayed on the surface to remediate any possible contamination from mold. A new dehumidifier has been ordered by the Borough and will be offered to the library, temporarily, until the issue is resolved. The library will remain closed for the duration as clean up continues.

Received a call from a State Inspector involved with the Human Services as an inspection was done on the Diakon office and lobby area. A citation was issued for an inoperative exhaust fan in the restroom. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that there was no fan installed in the duct work as this type of system was merely updraft into the roof vent with no forced air capacity. The inspector was later notified that a problem was nonexistent and the citation was given in error. No response back from said inspector.

Installed a software update to the laptop computer to restore file download capability of the OLYMPUS digital voice recorder. The operation appears successful.

Received the new replacement window for the lower level of the Borough building and prepared to install. Upon removing the window from the packaging, it was discovered the wrong window had been sent ... back to the drawing board.

**FEMA/PEMA Report** - Councilman Cless had nothing to report.

**PCBA/COG** - Mr. Albright reported there was no meeting and the next one will not be until September.

**Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report** - Councilman Pray had no report.

#### ***AESTHETICS***

**Aesthetics Committee Report** - Councilwoman McCarty was not present, so no report given.

#### ***TELECOMMUNICATIONS***

**Telecommunications Committee Report** - Councilman Pray was in communication with Mr. Phil Fraga from Cohen Law Group who represents the Borough since the beginning of 2015 regarding the franchise with Nittany Media. The Borough of Bloomfield would like to see some movement on the franchise agreement that Nittany Media has so we can put the issue to rest. We feel we have given enough time for this matter.

**Wireless Ordinance Proceedings Report** - See first paragraph in the Administrative Committee report above.

***FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND SAFETY***

**Finance, Insurance & Safety Report** - Vice President Patterson had nothing to report.

**Grants Report** - Councilwoman Jones had nothing to report.

**Personnel Committee Report** - Councilwoman Jones had nothing to report. She is continuing to work on the policy updates with John Long.

***RIGHTS OF WAY & UTILITIES***

**Rights of Way & Utilities Committee Report** - Vice President Patterson reported there was a manhole at the corner of South Carlisle Street and Route 34 that needed repaired. The repair has been completed. The sewer casing work is scheduled for the July 12 and 13, 2016. That is on West High Street and Church St. Approximately 1,500 lineal feet.

There was an automobile accident on the Square. One of PP&L's light poles was taken out so there has been no light on the South side of the Square. On July 25, 2016, PP&L are supposedly coming to remedy this situation.

***CLOSING COMMENTS***

There being no further business, upon motion by Councilman Clouser, seconded by Councilman Pray, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M. to meet on Tuesday, August 2, 2016 for a regular meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary