

MINUTES Bloomfield Borough Council May 7, 2019

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, Charles N. Summers, Vice President John J. Patterson V, Eric S. Berger, Alex M. Bender (after swearing in) and Karl L. Cless.

Also present: Secretary Danielle Shope, Borough Employees Damon Hartman and Jacob Morrison, Mayor Arlis Krammes, HRG Borough Engineer Michael T. Postick, BEO Harry Nazzaro, Bloomfield Borough Zoning Officer and Water Authority Ed Albright, Jr., Bloomfield Borough Planning Commission representative Kevin Fitzpatrick, Burgett & Associates President Joe Burgett, VFW Representative Robert Snook, Bloomfield Library President Sandra Achenbach, Bloomfield Library Representative Heather Ackerman, New Council Member Alex Bender and wife Aimee, Residents Robin Dum, Gloria Trostle, Nancy Pote, Mike and Karen Whitmer and John McAdoo.

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

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 and they have 3 minutes to present their concern. Individuals have 10 minutes to present their concern if they are on the agenda. 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 Minutes – Councilman Summers made a motion, seconded by Councilman Berger, to approve the April 2, 2019 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial Report – Vice President Patterson made a motion, seconded by Councilman Cless, to approve the financial report for April 2019 as presented. Motion carried.

Council Member Appointment - Mayor Krammes administered the oath of office to Alex M. Bender installing him as a New Bloomfield Borough Council member.

Resolution 2019-03: Fill a Vacancy - Councilman Charles Summers made the motion to approve Resolution 2019-03, Fill a Vacancy, seconded by Councilman Eric Berger. Motion carried.

Executive Session-The Borough Council left Council Chambers for an executive session at 7:05 p.m.

Councilman Summers made the motion to reconvene the regular May 7, 2019 Borough Council meeting at 7:25 p.m., seconded by Vice President Patterson. Motion carried.

VFW – Rename Ballfield – Mr. Robert Snook reported the VFW supports most of the sports teams in the area. The VFW built the Teener ball field dugouts and since the Teener ball field has no name, he requested Council’s approval to name the field the “New Bloomfield VFW Post 7463 Ballfield”. Councilman Cless made the motion to approve the naming of the Teener ball field, seconded by Councilman Summers. Motion carried. President Anderson asked if the VFW would make and hang the sign indicating the new ball field name. Mr. Snook said the VFW would take care of the signage, such as a plaque.

New Bloomfield Library – Sandra Achenbach - Library Board President Sandra Achenbach asked permission from Council to paint the one wall of the library a light peach color. The library installed a new circulation desk and when the old one was removed, it was discovered the wall needed some attention. The Library lease states permission to do such a task is required from Council. No motion was necessary. This request was granted.

Burgett & Associates – Richwine Subdivision - Mr. Joe Burgett presented the plans for the Richwine subdivision to Council. Bryan Richwine purchased the property from his mother and father. It is an existing duplex. His intention is to split the property down the middle of the party wall into two lots. It is in the R2 district, so this is permissible. They have the lot frontage and the lot area. They are proposing two off street parking areas also. The two lots will be very close to the same size. They met already with the Planning Commission and the Commission had no issues with this project. There will be two laterals going into the building, one for each house. There are a few waivers that would need granted approval. One is a pre-application and data procedures since it is such a simple plan. The other is a preliminary plan so you can go right to final. Number three is the outline plan scale and the other waiver is sidewalks along McClure Street at that property. Mr. Burgett showed the plans to Borough Engineer Postick. Planning Commission Representative Kevin Fitzpatrick stated the Commission had no problems with the plan and had granted plan approval. Vice President Patterson moved to accept this subdivision plan with the aforementioned waivers, seconded by Councilman Berger. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. John McAdoo, landlord of 20 West Main Street, is facing some questionable sidewalks in front of his property. He presented Council with a copy of the Borough of Wellsboro’s Sidewalk Program. He asked Council to consider adopting something similar to this. President Anderson told him the Borough does have sidewalk program and sidewalk ordinances. Right now, sidewalk repair is the property owner’s responsibility. He thanked Council for their consideration of this program. President Anderson said someone would get back to him about his sidewalks.

Mrs. Robin Dum of East Main Street commented on the fact that she cleaned all her cinders up along her curbing and she cleaned up her neighbors’ curbs also. She does not understand why the cinder street cleaner had to come by her and her neighbor’s curbs when they were already clean. Then, when the street sweeper stopped, it left a pile of cinders in front of Dr. Summerscales’ home which the residents then had to clean up. She feels the Borough is wasting time and money sweeping in front of homes already clean when they could be doing other curbing where the cinders are not picked up. Vice President Patterson said they would do their best to straighten this situation out.

Fire Company Land Development Plan – No one from the Fire Company was present. President Anderson assumes everything is moving ahead. The Borough will be enforcing the towing ordinance for any vehicles parked in the back alley, etc. which might interfere with any building/demolition equipment. Borough Engineer Michael Postick stated he did receive the revised plan from NavTech with more detailed designs. He just needs to review these plans.

ENFORCEMENT

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Wagner was absent. President Anderson stated that the Borough may have a deed in hand for Lot 30 and the pump station by the end of the week. Once the deed is with the Borough, she will task Borough Engineer with the inspection of the pump station so the Borough knows what they are getting before filing the deed at the Court House.

Enforcement Committee Report – Councilman Berger stated that he and President Anderson are working on drafting a letter to the UniMart as they are in violation of the blight ordinance. They will be given thirty days to make corrections. He also stated there is still a gold Chrysler car sitting on Borough property and it has been out of inspection with two flat tires. BEO Nazzaro has given several warnings to the owner. President Anderson asked BEO Nazzaro to go through the court system and issue a citation through the Magistrate one more time and if there is no satisfaction then have it towed.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Krammes had to leave, but President Anderson stated that 5 parking tickets were issued during the month of April, with all paid and one voided. President Anderson stated that construction workers at the old Moore building are not being ticketed. President Anderson stated Mayor Krammes brought it to her attention that there is an ice cream truck operator who would like to operate his truck during baseball games. As long as he does not impede traffic, he may operate his ice cream truck during ballgames.

Borough Enforcement Officer's Report - BEO Nazzaro things have been quiet. He attended 2 events this month, the Egg Hunt and the Color Run. He checked on the Fire Police at Carson Long during the sale and made sure there were no issues with parking in that area. He checked on several small fires and found they were small, monitored and being used for recreational purposes. He completed a special detail checking on the 4 known vacant properties and summarized his findings in a report to the Mayor and the Borough Secretary. He reported a loose dog to the Dog Warden and he spoke to the resident. This led to the resident shouting obscenities at Mr. Nazzaro numerous times while driving and even once at Karns, shouting obscenities at the Mayor once. There was an incident in which this resident followed Mr. Nazarro, blocked the road and shouted obscenities while taking pictures of him. Mr. Nazzaro completed a report and gave the information Council to have the Borough Attorney mail the resident a letter. President Anderson stated the Council will look into this incident further including the solicitor. President Anderson was going to give Mr. Nazzaro the name and number of an individual who could pick up some refuse like sofas, etc. He issued the following warnings: burning leaves and sticks, 1; wrong way parking, 12; parking on Barnett Woods Road, 1; disabled vehicle leaking fluids, 1; loud music to a resident, 1st and 2nd; couch lying in the alley, 1; loud barking dog, 2; warning to a parent who was driving a vehicle without insurance, expired registration and inspection and parked facing the wrong way with two small children inside, 1; uninspected vehicles on Borough streets, 5; parking on yellow lines, 2; hydrant parking, 1.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Announcements and Correspondence – President Anderson stated the E- recycling will be June 1, 2019 at the Newport Fairgrounds.

Water Authority Report - Mr. Albright reported they found three leaks in the Borough. One has been fixed and the other two will be fixed next week. They are still waiting for the SEDA-COG finalization and they will pay DeTraglia the final payment from the Water Authority money. They are still waiting for DEP to look over their tests to give them permission to build the tank.

Planning Commission Report – Mr. Fitzpatrick left since he already spoke about the Richwine subdivision.

Zoning/Permit Officer's Report - Mr. Albright issued 5 permits during the month of April. One for the Café, one for solar panels on 202 South Apple Street, a demolition permit for 231 South Carlisle Street, a driveway/parking permit for 155 S. Carlisle Street, and a sidewalk repair permit for 101 West Main Street at no fee since it was just a repair. Mr. Albright also stated that the UniMart is going to be removing and replacing their gas tanks, so the parking lot will eventually be repaved. President Anderson and Mr. Berger will not include the parking lot repairs in the blight letter that will be sent out.

Administrative Committee Report – Councilman Cless received a communique from the PA Assoc. of Building Code Officials asking for support in defeating proposed legislation by the state to force municipalities into using two or more independent building inspection organizations. They would like us to pass legislation in the form of an ordinance to renounce the need for more vendors which might cause conflicting code requirements between vendors. We already use BIU through PCCOG and have experienced no problems. Do we want to join the crusade by passing an ordinance? Engineer Postick stated another client did pass such an ordinance. President Anderson asked for this to be tabled until more information is available.

Mr. Cless received approval from Penn Township Supervisors to utilize their mobile roadside speed indicator. He talked with PSP for joint venture to reduce speeds in the Borough and with PennDOT regarding regulation covering the use of the mobile device on PennDOT Right of Ways.

He received a request from Hunt Engineering Firm of Malvern, PA regarding the abandonment of West McClure Street (extended) in 1964 at the eastern boundary of the PennDOT facility on West Main Street. He researched old records and provided the necessary documentation. There was question as to whether the Council actually did this. They had a motion in 1964, not an ordinance, so PennDOT legally owns that property. Councilman Cless is also submitting a draft ordinance update amending Chapter 21 (Subdivision and Land dev) of the code of ordinances providing for an increased timeline of preliminary plan submittals and Chapter 26 (zoning) for clarification of permitted uses in an R-1 residential district. Section 1 will change the time period for submission of plans from 9 days to 21 days. Section 2 will amend chapter 26 (Zoning), Part 6, R-1 Residential Districts, permitted uses62, Para G-2. See the draft ordinance for specifics. President Anderson stated they will advertise the ordinance for amending Section 1 and 2 for the two week period. After the two week period, this ordinance will be voted upon at the next meeting.

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

PCBA/COG – Mr. Albright stated there was nothing to report.

Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report – Councilman Cless reported municipal disbursements were reviewed and approved. Negotiations are proceeding with out-of-county organizations to continue using CapTax as their collection agency. Meeting dates for the remainder of 2019 were approved.

AESTHETICS

Aesthetics Committee Report – Councilman Summers stated he replaced the basketball nets on the court, but they look bad again after one month. He does not know what to do than to just buy cheap ones and keep replacing them. The committee met and discussed the flowers on the Square. They should be planted next week depending on the weather. They are considering replacing the benches on the Square but because of cost that project might be postponed till next year. They will replace the bench at the Spring but will wait until the tree is removed. Mr. Summers handed out an application to a resident to remove a tree but is waiting to see if the removal will happen. As far as the baseball field goes, twenty gallons of paint has been bought but because of the rain the grandstand has not been painted yet. There are two tractors in the basement and neither one is running. Mr. James Woods said he would try to get the up and running for the baseball teams to use on the field. The Borough would buy some parts for these tractors. The Borough will reimburse Mr. Woods if he fixes them. One does not run so it should be removed. Mr. Hartman will check on this issue. The baseball teams brought up the ruts made when they spread the Diamondtex but they were told they are responsible for repairing the ruts.

FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND SAFETY

Finance, Insurance & Safety Report – Vice President Patterson had no report.

Grants – No report.

Personnel Committee Report- President Anderson welcomed new employee Mr. Jacob Morrison. President Anderson, Councilman Berger and Councilman Cless are working to make some needed changes and revisions to the employee manual.

RIGHTS OF WAY & UTILITIES

Rights of Way & Utilities Committee Report - Vice President Patterson reported whatever company can meet the Borough's time line will be the one selected for tree removal because the paving of Church Street is scheduled for May 28, 2019 and the trees must be removed before this happens. The Borough was fortunate to have received some very good prices on the paving projects bids so not all the budget was used for that paving. Mr. Hartman, Vice President Patterson and the paving company will look at other areas in the Borough to improve upon beginning with the worse areas first. Mr. Patterson will know tomorrow what they can do financially. They will not exceed the budget.

ADA Sidewalks – HRG Mike Postick reported they are proceeding with their design and will send same to PennDot. They will push PennDot to get the permits. Chestnut Street is the urgent one and will be done first before school starts. Three intersections will be done this year. Second will be Carlisle Street and the third Barnett. He is also looking into how our EDU's are defined.

Councilman Cless presented a storm water drain issue at the property of Mr. Mike Whitmer at 301 Barnett Street. He believes the drain is stopped up and needs cleaned out. There was never a collection box installed and the storm water just runs out into the ground. Mr. Hartman and Mr. Morrison will check on this issue.

CLOSING COMMENTS

There being no further business, upon motion by Councilman Summers, seconded by Councilman Cless, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, June 4, 2019 for a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary