

**MINUTES**  
**Bloomfield Borough Council**  
**October 4, 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, Michael P. Pray, and Karl L. Cless. Pierce L. Clouser, Jr. was absent due to illness.

Also present: Mayor Arlis Krammes, Borough Secretary Danielle Shope, Assistant Secretary Kathleen Miller, Zoning/BBCEO/Water Authority Officer Edward Albright, Jr., Perry County Times Reporter Jim Ryan, BBPC representative Melanie Rowlands, Borough employee Damon Hartman, Bloomfield Water Authority/COG representative Steve Dowell, Fire Company representatives Pete Ellerman, Dennis Askins and Chad Tressler, WSL representative Josh Leshner, and Borough residents Peg and Herb Robb, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Linda Jacobs, Mike Whitmer, Jonathan Whitmer, Chuck and Beth Fry, and Gerald Jansen,

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 10 minutes to present their concern. 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 Cless made a motion, seconded by Vice President Patterson, to approve the September 6, 2016 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**Approval of Financial Report** – Vice President Patterson made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman McCarty, to approve the financial report for September 2016 as presented. Motion carried.

***PUBLIC COMMENTS***

Mr. Charles Fry, a resident on Barnett Woods Road, New Bloomfield expressed concern about the Barnett Woods Road traffic issue again. He spoke about previous Councils breaking promises to his family, which were also heard at the public hearing on October 3, 2016.

**WAYNE LESHNER - VACATED MCCLURE STREET**

Josh Leshner, representative from WSL, asked Council to vacate the remaining unopened portion of McClure Street. Council was given a map showing what Mr. Leshner was discussing. President Anderson stated this type of action has been done before at the Hair property. The process will take an ordinance and that ordinance will have to be advertised for a two week period allowing anyone to come forward if they had any complaints or issues about the ordinance. Then, Council has 45 days to notify all the residents that live with property abutting that McClure Street property to see if they have any complaints or issues with

that until it is actually considered to be vacated. It is a long process. Councilman Cless asked if Mr. Leshner was aware of the right of way of the powerlines. Mr. Josh Leshner said he understood. Councilwoman Jones made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman McCarty, to make this into an ordinance. Motion passed. The ordinance will be typed and placed into the paper.

### **DON JACOBS - BARNETT WOODS ROAD BRIDGE**

Mrs. Linda Jacobs gave a signed petition about re-opening the bridge on Barnett Woods Road to Council. President Anderson took receipt of the petition.

Chad Tressler, New Bloomfield Fire Company representative, asked that Council move to a .60 mills increase for 2017. This has already been completed by Council last year. Mr. Tressler asked that his presentation be considered the Fire Company's yearly update to Council. He gave updates on the land the Fire Company owns and that the Company is moving ahead. Councilman Cless questioned the high fire tax in New Bloomfield. Mr. Cless would like to see the Fire Company do something tangible with their money that the taxpayers can see. Mr. Tressler responded to Mr. Cless by giving updates of where the Fire Company monies are going. The Fire Company is trying to stay ahead of the curve and be proactive. Mr. Tressler also responded to Councilman Cless by stating that Centre Township does support the Fire Company. Mr. Tressler gave Council a list of all their fundraisers and how much money the Fire Company alone has raised. Mr. Tressler then handed out their EMS financial audit to Council. Mr. Tressler invited everyone to their Fire Company meetings which are the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month at 8 p.m. at the Fire House.

### ***ENFORCEMENT***

**Solicitor's Report** – Mr. Richard Wagner was unable to attend the meeting.

**Development Judicial Judgment** – President Anderson stated the Court date for the Judicial Judgement concerning the Spring Lake Development is set for Friday October 28, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. This will also include the resolution as to what is going on with the Pump Station at that same property.

**Blighted/Disrepaired Homes** - President Anderson also stated Solicitor Wagner is looking into some ordinances Council may or may not consider regarding delinquent property owners and the blighted homes in town.

**Enforcement Committee Report** – Councilman Clouser was absent due to a medical emergency. No report.

**Mayor's Report** – Mayor Krammes reported the Borough is doing well. She and Mr. Ed Albright speak often to discuss what is going on in the Borough. Mayor Krammes and her husband drive through town several times a week looking for any issues that need attention. On a lighter note, Mayor Krammes spoke to her great-grandson's Cub Scout group about a Mayor's duties and the differences between a Borough and Township. The scouts were most appreciative.

**Parking Enforcement Officer Report** - Mayor Krammes stated 9 tickets were issued in September with 2 remaining unpaid.

**Borough Enforcement Officer Report** - Mr. Edward Albright had reports of drinking in the cemetery to which he responded. It was a family funeral ceremony. He had a complaint about cats on East High Street. It appears to have been resolved. President Anderson suggested a foundation entitled "Nobody's Cat" that could possibly be of help for future cat issues.

***ADMINISTRATIVE***

**Announcements and Correspondence** – President Anderson mentioned a thank you letter received from the Perry County Crime Stoppers. They appreciate the Borough's financial contributions plus the use of the Council Chambers for their meetings. PCC also appreciates Mayor Krammes' involvement with their organization.

**Budget Meeting Dates** – President Anderson reported the Budget Meeting dates are October 17, 18, and 19 at 4:00 p.m.

At this point in the evening, President Anderson summarized the Public Hearing held Monday October 3, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. She stated the Borough Council had agreed that they do have the funding available and they will make the funding allocation necessary during the budget negotiations to make sure the Barnett Woods Road Bridge gets repaired. Whether it will become a two-way or one-way street that remains to be determined. The minutes from this hearing will be posted on the Borough Website plus the official minutes of the Hearing can be found in the official minutes book held at the Borough Office.

Councilman Cless addressed Mr. Charles Fry and made the suggestion of making Barnett Woods Road one way from McClure Street to Main Street going out. Mr. Charles Fry reiterated that the speed of the cars is an issue. Cars do not even stop at the stop sign.

President Anderson will speak to the State Police to seek out all options for the best solution.

Vice President Patterson asked the HRG engineers to look into the various scenarios and suggest the best solution for the traffic flow on Barnett Woods Road.

**Library Lease** - President Anderson provided Kathleen Miller, who is a member of the Bloomfield Public Library Board, with a copy of the new library lease so it can be reviewed at their library meeting which will be held the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in November. If there are any issues, the library can let the Borough know in time for the December Council meeting.

**Join Hands Lease** - President Anderson also stated the Join Hands lease is in their possession and Council is awaiting final approval.

**Resolution #2016-02** - President Anderson reminded Council that at last month's meeting they spoke about applying for an extremely competitive grant to help purchase the UV bulbs needed for the sewer treatment plant upgrade. In order to do this, Council needs to pass a resolution tonight so it can become part of that grant package application. This resolution does not need to be advertised for a two week period because the Borough is not asking to spend Borough money. The Grant Application deadline is October 28, 2016. Council members have a copy of the resolution. Councilwoman McCarty made a motion, seconded by Councilman Cless, to pass Resolution #2016-02. Motion passed.

**Water Authority Report** - Mr. Albright reported some good news followed by some bad news. The good news – the SRVC has authorized the Borough to withdraw 210 gallons a minute out of the new well #3. Everything was in the process working towards beginning construction when DEP stepped in and said they (DEP) forgot to have the Borough run a certain test which will take 6 months. This test will set construction back at least a year and it will cost approximately \$32,000 to lease the equipment to do the test. Mr. Albright will meet with a representative on Tuesday since there are a lot of challenges ahead because of this test. No one (engineers or geologists) knew about this test. If the well is not operating within 3 years, the Borough will have to go through the whole process again. SRVC was even shocked that DEP waited till the last minute to inform the Borough of this test.

**Planning Commission Report** - Ms. Rowlands reported the Louis Hartford property at 20 W. Main St. was bought and the new owner wants to change it from one apartment upstairs to 2 apartments. Since it is in the historic district, the Planning Commission will have to do some more reviewing because they want to take the porch off and it may impact the aesthetics. She will talk to the owner about colors, etc. Ms. Rowlands will speak with Councilwoman McCarty about the materials used and the aesthetics before presenting to Council. Off street parking is an option also.

**Zoning/Permit Officer's Report** - Mr. Albright reported he just received those plans Ms. Rowlands mentioned above. Mr. Albright issued 1 zoning permit for 202 South Apple Street. Mr. Albright also received a call about the new Uni-Mart sign being too bright, so Mr. Albright took the light meter up to check it. The sign is in compliance with foot candles regulations.

**Administrative Committee Report** – Councilman Cless reported of complaints of a malfunctioning window in Join Hands. The operating mechanism was broken. He ordered a new assembly at \$38.93 from Andersen Window Co. and installed it. Mr. Cless purchased and installed a new 3 handset phone package in the Borough Office as the old base station was malfunctioning. This cost \$49.99. He installed new batteries in the thermostat of the vacant lower level room and replaced bulbs in two ceiling lights of the library. Mr. Cless responded to a purported smell of fuel oil odor in the Post Office. Since fuel oil is no longer on the premises, nothing was found. He later learned that two gentlemen smelling of fuel oil from a neighboring plumbing/heating company around that time had been in and mailed some things believing this to be the cause of the odor! Mr. Cless checked the office refrigerator for water leakage and found the unit to be inoperative. He reset thermostat to restart operation and will monitor it. Mr. Cless received a request for Damon Hartman regarding the need for a new computer at the sewer plant. The old computer is not Windows 10 compatible and will most likely cause problems in the future for required sewer plant electronic file submittals to DEP. Mr. Cless will look into this purchase.

**FEMA/PEMA Report** - Councilman Cless reported there was a FEMA meeting October 29, 2016 in the Penn State Ext. office in New Bloomfield to discuss the newest updates to the municipal flood plain maps. Mr. Cless was unable to attend or find an alternate so he will review the new maps at a later date.

**PCBA/COG** – Mr. Albright reported there was a meeting in September. Mr. Albright gave Councilwoman Jones the package he picked up at the meeting on grants.

**Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report** - Councilman Pray was out of the country so no report available.

### *AESTHETICS*

**Aesthetics Committee Report** - Councilwoman McCarty reported the committee met on September 20, 2016 at Mayor Krammes' home. The Christmas Tree Lighting program was the topic of discussion. It will be held Sunday, November 27, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. on the Square.

Since the accident on the Square used the spare lamp post to replace the broken one a new spare must now be purchased.

Councilwoman McCarty did receive one call from a resident about a tree and Ms. McCarty did call her back. It was not a Borough problem but a “neighborly” problem.

### *TELECOMMUNICATIONS*

**Telecommunications Committee Report** - Councilman Pray is not present for a report. President Anderson summarized this ongoing issue with Nittany Media and hopefully they will be coming to the November meeting.

**Wireless Ordinance Proceedings Report** - Councilman Cless reported everything has been done as far as advertising etc. for the proposed wireless cell tower ordinance. However, due to Mr. Cless's inadvertent error in processing, he forgot to submit a full copy of the proposed wireless cell tower ordinance and amendment of the Borough Zoning Ordinance to Tri-County Planning for review and comment. Since TCRPC requires 30 days for review a motion for approval at this meeting will be postponed until the November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

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

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

**Grants Report** - Councilwoman Jones reported she had no report except that she is working on a small water and sewer grant right now.

**Personnel Committee Report** - Councilwoman Jones reported she is reviewing the application for the Borough Enforcement Officer and will be setting up an interview.

***RIGHTS OF WAY & UTILITIES***

**Rights of Way & Utilities Committee Report** - Vice President Patterson reported the Church Street storm water rehab is still on, but the rest of the storm water rehab work that they intended to do this year is completed. They are getting ready for winter and getting equipment prepared, etc. President Anderson asked if the Borough was still waiting on their check from FEMA for last year's snow storm. VP Patterson stated the Borough is still waiting. The Borough is to receive that check by the end of October.

President Anderson made everyone aware of the fact that the Borough is being inundated with plans that are dropped off at the office with no identification as to who they belong to or who is to take receipt of them. Discussion followed as to a solution to this problem. A drop box was one good suggestion. Councilman Cless said he might be able to place a box in the wall and he would also put information about this issue on the Borough website. President Anderson thanked him. Councilwoman Jones also expressed her thanks to Mr. Cless for the good job he is doing on the Borough website. She has had several comments about how nice it is compared to other municipal websites.

***CLOSING COMMENTS***

There being no further business, upon motion by Vice President Patterson, seconded by Councilwoman Jones, the meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m. to meet on Tuesday, November 1, 2016 for a regular meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary