

MINUTES Bloomfield Borough Council October 6, 2020

Bloomfield Borough Council met this evening in regular session in the Bloomfield Borough Council Chambers with the following Council members present: President J. Kevin Fitzpatrick, Vice President Eric S. Berger, Jacob L. Casey, Michael J. Smith, Brenten S. Dum, Kimberly A. McMullen and Wayne S. Leshner.

Also present: Secretary Danielle L. Shope, Assistant Secretary Kathleen Miller, Borough Employee Damon Hartman, Mayor Arlis Krammes, Zoning Officer/Water Authority Ed Albright Jr., Solicitor Randall Zimmerman, Tax Collector Brenda Albright, Planning Commission Chairperson Melanie Rowlands, Perry County Times reporter Jim Ryan, Perry County DOT representative Scott Reeser, Perry County Senior Center representatives, Laurie Morris and BJ Berquist, and residents Becky Smiley and Rick Rogers.

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

President Fitzpatrick led the gathered assembly in the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

MEETING OPENING

Recording of the Meeting – President Fitzpatrick 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 Fitzpatrick further requested that those individuals in the audience desiring to speak during Public Comment 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 Fitzpatrick asked if any individuals in the audience were also taping the meeting and if so to identify themselves for the record. President Fitzpatrick 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 Smith made a motion, seconded by Councilman Casey, to approve the September 1, 2020 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial Report – Councilman Smith made a motion, seconded by Councilman Casey, to approve the financial report for September 2020 as presented. Motion carried.

PennDOT Expansion – Hunt Engineering – Melanie Rowlands advised Council of the PennDOT Expansion. She explained about the subdivision and land development planned adjacent to the present State Shed. In July, Council passed an ordinance to codify what had been passed in 1964 to hand over the piece of McClure Street and old alley which was never a developed street, but in the middle of the PennDOT development. Tonight is just to sign the plans which will allow Centre Township to go ahead with their land acquisition for the PennDOT expansion since the Borough is contiguous with this land. A motion to approve the plans for the PennDOT expansion of the State Shed was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Dum. Motion carried. The appropriate Councilmen signed the plans.

Announcement of Executive Session – There was no Executive Session.

REQUESTED PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

There were no Requested Public Comments or Presentations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Perry County Senior Center representative Laurie Morris thanked Council for the funds to launch the metal can program. She explained they have received \$267 on metal cans to date. She stated the money received from the cans is directly used for supplies they need to provide the takeout meals. Councilman Leshar volunteered to build a big bin with a lid.

Mr. Richard Rogers asked Council how is he to know what the previous months minutes are if Council does not say what they are when approved? He is asking this because he was never given answers to his four questions presented to Council last month except for the one answered by Solicitor Zimmerman. He was quite upset that he was not contacted about his questions. President Fitzpatrick accepted responsibility for the lack of contact. President Fitzpatrick asked if anyone on Council believes the noise ordinance should be amended from 10 p.m. – 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. – 7 a.m. given the temporary nature of the construction of the Fire House. No response from Council. Mr. Rogers proceeded to say it was not because of the Fire House construction, but so that other residents do not have this noise happening to them is why he brought up this issue. Councilman Leshar stated Mr. Rogers is the only person requesting a change in this ordinance. Mr. Leshar stated Mr. Rogers would need a signed petition to pursue this change. Discussion followed.

The storm drainage at 203 South Carlisle Street is under PennDOT's jurisdiction according to Mr. Hartman. The Borough has no jurisdiction over this drain. Mr. Rogers said when they contacted PennDOT, PennDOT said that drain was the Borough's responsibility. Councilman Leshar wants Mr. Hartman to contact PennDOT about this type of issue without having to get Council's approval. President Fitzpatrick agreed and asked Mr. Hartman to double check with PennDOT on this drain. Councilman Leshar asked Mr. Hartman to try to coordinate a meeting with PennDOT, Mr. Rogers and himself (Mr. Hartman) about the drain. More discussion followed.

Gusler Alley is on the County map and is Borough property. The Borough put stone down so Mr. Rogers and his neighbors could have egress during this construction time. Discussion followed. President Fitzpatrick remarked that the Borough did what was in the best interest for Mr. Rogers and his neighbors out of safety during this time of construction. President Fitzpatrick stated Mr. Rogers cannot have this right of way while it is under construction. Mr. Rogers' issue is with the Fire Company. Solicitor Zimmerman stated this issue is not the Borough's responsibility, end of discussion. President Fitzpatrick stated that when the construction is finished, Mr. Rogers will have his right of way and his sixteen feet back, reiterating Mr. Rogers' argument is with the Fire Company.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Zimmerman reported he is aware of the Cupp easement and asked about the Talmudic Street naming issue. Secretary Shope stated Talmudic will check with Dave Unger at 911. President Fitzpatrick stated it is done. Mr. Zimmerman stated he sat down to write the audit letter for the Borough, but he realized the time period is for January 1 – December 31, 2019. He was not the Borough

Solicitor during that time period. He asked Council if he can forward this to former Solicitor Wagner to compile this letter. Council had no objections. Mr. Zimmerman thanked Secretary Shope and Councilman Smith for a job well done on the Cupp documents he needed.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Krammes brought up Halloween which will be discussed later in the meeting. The aesthetic committee planted the mums in the Square. Mr. Hartman planted a few in front of the Borough Building. She thanked him for watering them also. The Bloomfield Borough Public Library wants to donate 100 tulip bulbs to the Borough. Council accepted this offer.

Parking Officer Report – Mayor Krammes reported 13 parking tickets were issued during the month of September, with 7 paid, 1 voided and 5 still unpaid.

Enforcement Report – Councilman Leshner reported there were 3 complaints (two for the same thing). He is making some calls and sent some letters and still waiting on responses.

BEO – Becky L. Smiley (Approval by Council/Sworn In) – The Personnel Committee selected Becky L. Smiley to be the new Borough Enforcement Officer. Councilman Smith made the motion to approve the selection of Becky L. Smiley as BEO, seconded by Councilman Casey. Motion carried with one “nay” vote (Vice President Eric Berger). Mayor Krammes administered the Oath of Office to Becky L. Smiley.

Water Authority Report - Mr. Albright reported they are on track with the hopes of pumping water from the new well by July 2021.

Planning Commission Report – Ms. Rowlands reported she has fielded several informational requests that touch on concerns associated with Talmudic University. She spoke with Councilman Leshner who has informed her Talmudic will want to have more informational meetings before they come to the Borough with various proposals. There was nothing that needed to be voted on. The preliminary conclusion about the prospect of a kosher market to be at the old “Swenson business” building would be fine since it has always existed as a commercially used building. Discussion followed.

FEMA/PEMA Report – Councilwoman McMullen had no report.

PCBA/COG – Mr. Albright stated there is a possible meeting November 5, 2020.

Zoning/Permit Officer's Report - Mr. Albright issued 3 permits. 1 for a portable shed less than 900 sq. feet at 104 N. Carlisle Street. He issued a driveway permit for a right of way between the Briner and Patterson properties on Oak Road. He also issued a zoning permit for a new ramp and awning to be placed where the Coroner's cooler is located at the old jail.

Capital Tax Collection Bureau Report – There was no report because Mr. Cless only gives a report on a quarterly basis.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Announcements and Correspondence – President Fitzpatrick announced the Budget Meeting will be held October 19 and 20, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. This meeting is open to the public but not for public comments.

Halloween Parade – Councilman Leshner made the motion to hold the Halloween Parade on October 31, 2020 at 10:30am, seconded by Councilman Dum. Motion carried. Mayor Krammes must get a permit from the State.

Trick or Treat - Councilman Leshner made the motion to go forward with Trick or Treat as it has always been with the proper guidelines for social distancing, seconded by Councilman Dum. Motion carried.

President Fitzpatrick asked that these events be put on FaceBook and the Borough website.

There is still no **Statement of Financial Interest** from Mr. Robert Wood.

Administrative Committee Report – Councilman Dum reported two handicap accessible picnic tables were donated by Eagle Scout Blake Kelemen from Landisburg Troop 73. They are located on the playground.

AESTHETICS

Aesthetics Committee Report – Councilman Casey volunteered to be the Aesthetics Committee Chairman. He was jokingly informed that he now has 100 tulip bulbs to plant.

FINANCE, INSURANCE, & SAFETY

Finance, Insurance & Safety Report – Councilman Smith made a motion to cancel the phone land line for the BEO contingent upon a discussion with CenturyLink to make sure it does not affect the Borough Office or Sewer lines. This would be a savings of approximately \$133.46 per month. Councilman Leshner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Councilman Smith gave Council members his report. He thanked Secretaries Shope and Summers for helping him fill in the gaps on his spreadsheet. The Pennian statement has not been received to date so there were no numbers to report. There is about \$36,000 more than what they started with in January.

The EIT is current. They are only down about \$2,300 comparing the first nine months alone.

Grants – Councilman Smith had nothing to report.

Personnel Committee Report- Councilman Leshner will be doing Secretary Summers review soon and the new BEO was hired.

RIGHTS OF WAY & UTILITIES

Rights of Way & Utilities Committee Report – Vice President Berger reported while paving McClure Street, a drain line collapsed. This has been replaced and repaved. They are in the process of installing new street signs on McClure Street designating East and West. Leaf pickup will start Monday and run through Thanksgiving. He spoke with the gentleman who owns the farm where the leaves are dumped and he has approved the dumping for another year.

Vice President Berger also stated former Pharmacy owner John McClellan sent a letter asking for a reduction in his sewer rates since the pharmacy is closed. Since Mr. McClellan rents part of the building to

a hair salon the rate is still set at the commercial rate. There is only one water line into the building so water cannot be shut off. He will have to continue to pay the commercial rate.

Mr. Damon Hartman talked about the County installing a water line coming from McClure Street back Cherry Alley which went to the old flower shop building. They put it in and went through a lateral line which no one knew existed. The County will pay to replace the lateral line. The Borough will step in to help with the trench restoration for the alleyway.

CLOSING COMMENTS

There being no further business, upon motion by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Casey, the meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, November 3, 2020 for a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Miller, Assistant Secretary