

PUBLIC HEARING

August 17, 2009

Attendance: Mayor John Backman; Council President Jerome Ogden; Vice-President Thomas Bogaczyk; Councilmembers (absent, James Holleman), Cheryl Bubacz, Jill Nickerson, James Bogaczyk, Jeffrey Everett; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Corporal Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Richard "Rusty" Taylor and David Hedrick Williamson Land Company; 28 Local Residents; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; Cheryl Clarke Sun Gazette.

As advertised a Public Hearing was held on August 17, 2009 at 6:00 P.M. in the Blossburg Fire & Ambulance Building located at 324 Main Street, Blossburg, PA. The purpose of the Public Hearing is for a request for reclassification of zoning submitted by the Williamson Land Company. The Williamson Land Company is requesting the reclassification of Tax Parcel 02-07 A00-015A, consisting of 10.13 acres located on Bloss Mountain Road zoned as Commercial to Heavy Industrial.

Williamson Land Company representatives, Richard "Rusty" Taylor and David Hedrick, attended the meeting in response to the rezoning request for the property located next to the Kwik Fill on Old Route 15 that borders Ward Manufacturing and Taber Street. They were seeking the property to be rezoned from commercial to heavy industrial for the purpose of erecting a frack water recycling center, worth over \$5 million. The plant would remove chemicals, mostly salt, from the water which flows back to the surface after a Marcellus Shale natural gas well is hydrofractured. This plant would employ approximately 10 employees, with 24 / 7 operations, and include 250 trucks coming and going each day.

Local residents expressed concerns on what type of chemicals are found / used in the recycled wastewater, as well as, a chemical spill at the plant or a truck spill due to an accident in route to or from the plant. Another concern is the increase of traffic coming off Route 15 and including the increase of traffic in the borough. Some residents that live in close proximity were concerned about noise and light issues. Councilmember James Bogaczyk discussed the risks of traffic flow on the off ramps at the proposed plant location.

The rezoning of the land is only the first step in the process before construction of the plant can begin.

Those attending were reminded by Council President Jerome Ogden, "A change in land use; that is the only thing we can address."

The Public Hearing was closed, leaving many unanswered questions for local residents.

Hearing closed at 7:10 P.M.

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

August 17, 2009

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President Jerome Ogden called the Blossburg Borough Council regular meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. in the Blossburg Fire & Ambulance Building, 324 Main Street, Blossburg, PA.

Attendance: Vice-President Thomas Bogaczyk; Councilmembers (absent, James Holleman), Cheryl Bubacz, Jill Nickerson, James Bogaczyk, Jeffrey Everett; Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; (absent, Chief Ronald Steffen); Corporal Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; David Thompson, Sr. KCC Committee and Chairman of the Coal Festival; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; Cheryl Clarke Sun Gazette; Richard "Rusty" Taylor and David Hedrick Williamson Land Company; Roger Bunn; 28 Local Residents.

Minutes: The minutes of the July 13, 2009 were accepted on motion of James Bogaczyk; second Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Report accepted subject to audit on motion of Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

Bills: Bills to be paid on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Guests: All guests attending were from the Public Hearing, held earlier, awaiting decision of proposed Ordinance 421 Zoning Change to Heavy Industrial.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Student:** No student present.

(B) **KCC:** David Thompson, Sr. announced he would be resigning, in one (1) month, from his duties with the KCC Building. Council expressed their appreciation for his work and will look for a replacement.

(C) **Committee Business Development:**

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) V.I.B.E. meetings are held on third Wednesday of the month in the community room of the Blossburg Memorial Library at 6:00 P.M.

V.I.B.E. Minutes for July 2009 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

Councilmember Jill Nickerson reported on V.I.B.E. topics:

(1) Working on river walk trail. (2) The Theater was purchased by a private individual. New owner has begun repairs to the outside. The building will remain a Theater with apartments upstairs.

Skate Park: A Skate Park demo was held on the new basketball court at Island Park. The American Ramp Company, based in Joplin, MO brought in four pieces of equipment. The park will be open to BMX bike riders, as well as, skateboarders. The location of the new Skate Park is on the right side of Water Street as you are going into Island Park.

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman had nothing to report at this time.

Reports:

(E) **Police:** Everyone has received a copy of the Police Report.

The Police Report was accepted on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk.
All in favor.

The burglary on Liberty Street was solved.

(F) **Police Committee:** Nothing further to report.

(G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, Thomas Bogaczyk.
All in favor.

2009 Halloween Trick-or-Treat Date: Amy Mahonski requested Halloween Trick-or-Treat Date to be set, due to the scheduling of the Southern Tioga Youth Football (STYF) Screaming Eagles (kindergarten through 6th grade) football games. Mayor Backman set the date of Saturday, October 31, 2009 for Halloween activities.

2010 Financial Requirements & Minimum Municipal Obligation for Pension Plans (MMO's):
Police - \$10,248.00 / Non-Uniform - \$26,525.00. (An overall increase of \$1,000.00 compared to 2009.)

A Petition was presented regarding the condition / appearance of the property located at 206 Main Street. Councilmember Jill Nickerson acknowledged she would talk with the owner on getting the property cleaned up. Other unsightly properties mentioned are located on the corner of Granger and Nevins Streets, Davis Street, and Maple Hill Road.

(H) **Planning Commission:** Meeting of July 28, 2009.

Reviewed and approved request from John Murphy for a sign variance. The proposed sign is ± 11 square feet, non-lighted, and will be used to advertise the Murphy-Grabowski trailer court that is located on Gulick Street.

Zoning Hearing Board: Meeting of July 15, 2009.

Reviewed and approved home occupation for a sewing business at 158 St. May's Street.

(I) **Recreation:** Pool scheduled to close on Wednesday, August 19, 2009.

Pool Bids to be submitted to Borough on August 25, 2009. Bids to be reviewed and scheduled to be accepted at the next Council Meeting, which is advertised for September 14, 2009.

(J) **Fire:** A Financial Report was received.

Myra Kreger informed Council the new sign for the Fire & Ambulance Building should be installed within a month. On August 18, 2009 the contract is to be signed and a down payment to be made.

Reports:

(K) Television: On August 1, 2009 Williamson Television Co. was sold to Blue Ridge Communications. The money received for the assets of Williamson Television Co. will be put in a trust fund. Monies are to be used for improvement projects within the Blossburg community.

Mayor Backman commended the Television Board for all their years of service.

This report to be removed from the agenda soon.

(L) Library: "Underneath the Lentil", Library Garden Party and silent auction were all a big success. The total profit was approximately \$1,800.00.

(M) Street Committee: The loose chips will be swept up in next couple of weeks by NTSWA sweeper.

The faded "No Parking" sign in front of the Higgins home on Carpenter Street should be replaced. Before and after school parking in this area, as well as, the Hannibal / Ruah Street intersection needs to be policed for offenders. Parking in these areas makes it dangerous for school children to be seen.

(N) Budget: Nothing at this time. A Budget Meeting is to be scheduled at the September 14, 2009 Council Meeting.

(O) Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):

Seven (7) new homes are scheduled to be setup in the Grabowski Trailer Park on Gulick Street.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Minor Sub-Division/Cul-D-Sac:** Nothing.

2. **Blossburg Memorial Repairs:**

Two (2) Proposals were received for removal of loose stones and mortar, clean, and repoint problem areas on Memorial:

Priset Construction Co. -	\$1,500.00
Wrisley Construction, Inc. -	\$7,800.00

Motion was made by Cheryl Bubacz to accept Priset Construction Co. proposal, not to exceed \$1,500.00; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ordinance No. 421 – Zoning Change to Heavy Industrial:

Public Hearing held tonight before Council Meeting.

Councilmember James Bogaczyk made a motion to table the zoning change until the September 14, 2009 Council Meeting, pending an effort to meet with PennDOT for more information on traffic census / lighting; second, Thomas Bogaczyk.

Roll Call: Table – Jill Nickerson, Jeffrey Everett, Thomas Bogaczyk, James Bogaczyk
Cheryl Bubacz.

Motion carried.

2. North Penn High School Homecoming Activities:

A letter was received from Sarah Brion, NPHS Student Council Advisor/English Teacher asking Council's approval on the upcoming Homecoming activities. The parade is scheduled to start at 6:00 P.M. on Friday, September 18, 2009. Traffic control and a parade permit from PennDOT are requested. A Block Party is to take place on Morris Street, which will require a portion of Morris Street (Carpenter Street to Hannibal Street) to be closed from 7:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. on Friday, September 18, 2009. Parents and community members are welcome to attend in the afternoon.

Motion to approve NPHS Homecoming activities on Friday, September 18, 2009 was made by James Bogaczyk; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Flu Shots will be available on October 14, 2009 at the Blossburg Fire & Ambulance Building from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 8:25 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2009 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary