

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

July 13, 2009

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President Jerome Ogden called the Blossburg Borough Council regular meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Room of the Borough Building, 245 Main Street, Blossburg, PA.

Attendance: Vice-President Thomas Bogaczyk; Councilmembers (absent, James Holleman and 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; David Mahonski, Richard "Rusty" Taylor and coworker Williamson Land Company.

Minutes: The minutes of the June 8, 2009 were accepted on motion of Thomas Bogaczyk; second Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Report accepted subject to audit on motion of Jeffrey Everett; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

Bills: Bills to be paid on motion of Jill Nickerson; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Guests:

Williamson Land Company representatives, Richard "Rusty" Taylor and coworker, attended the meeting in response to a 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. Mr. Taylor stated the time frame for construction is ASAP. Councilmember James Bogaczyk discussed how essential it would be to have the installation of streetlights on the Blossburg exit / interchange, especially if the new plant is built next to the current Route 15 exit. All Councilmembers agreed to contact PennDOT and have them do a new traffic / lighting survey. After reviewing the maps and pictures presented, and an extended discussion, Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett stated a Public Hearing needs to be held. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to comply with the requirements of the Municipal Planning Code to give the public an opportunity to comment regarding an ordinance that will change the zoning map of the Borough of Blossburg. Also, with ordinance advertising requirements, the date of the next regular Council Meeting would need to be changed and perhaps the location, due to more people attending the Public Hearing.

Councilmember Thomas Bogaczyk made a motion to hold the Public Hearing on August 17, 2009 at 6:00 P.M.; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

Public Hearing to be followed by the Council Meeting.

Councilmember James Bogaczyk made a motion to have the regular Council Meeting changed from August 10, 2009 to August 17, 2009 at 6:30 P.M., in the downstairs of the Blossburg Memorial Library, 307 Main Street; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

Reports:

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

Reports:

(B) **KCC:** David Thompson, Sr. reported the door at the KCC building, which was broke during the Coal Festival, is now repaired.

(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 were not available from the Internet.

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

- (1) Phase 1 Main Street Program is closed. V.I.B.E. is working on Phase 2 (Riverside Plaza).
- (2) Working on grant monies for walking path. (3) Newsletter.

Skate Park: Grant money of \$20,000.00 was received from Conservation & Natural Resources. Another \$20,000.00 to be received at a later date. Mrs. Nickerson to consult with Borough Manager George Lloyd on equipment.

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

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

The Police Report was accepted on motion of Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

Corporal McCurdy reported the department purchased new paint equipment for painting vascar lines.

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

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

As a fund raiser, Blossburg Pool Association is asking for permission to hold a 5K Run on September 19, 2009 at 9:00 A.M. The Borough insurance will cover the event with no extra cost. Motion to give the Blossburg Pool Association permission to hold the 5K Run was made by Jeffrey Everett; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Blossburg Monument is in need of repair. David Thompson, Sr. and Charles Freeburg are to clean the plaque with Council permission. Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Thomas Bogaczyk and James Bogaczyk to meet at monument on July 16, 2009 at 8:00 A.M. to assess repairs.

Request from Fortuna for non surface rights to any gas under the Union Cemetery (3.04 AC) and old landfill (8.5 AC) at \$500.00 / acre. Borough Solicitor to review agreement after it is received.

Borough Manager George Lloyd asked Council permission to renew membership with Central Westmoreland C.O.G. Membership dates are Sept. 30, 2009 to Sept. 30, 2010. The cost is \$175.00. Motion was made by James Bogaczyk; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

Reports:

(H) Planning Commission: Meeting of June 30, 2009.

Reviewed and approved zoning request to change Commercial property on Bloss Mountain Road (next to Kwik Fill) to Heavy Industrial. Need Public Hearing scheduled if Council agrees to pursue request. (The Public Hearing was discussed earlier.).

Zoning Hearing Board: Meeting scheduled for July 15, 2009.

Board is to review home occupation request for a sewing business at 158 St. Mary's Street.

(I) Recreation: Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 28, 2009.

Dave Mahonski attended the meeting to find out the Committee's decision on his request in naming of the junior baseball diamond on Island Park after his father, Gary. Councilmember Jill Nickerson explained the Committee would instead rather have a community plaque for all names that have contributed to Island Park. Mr. Mahonski stated he would like to stay with his original proposal and was disappointed on the Committee's decision and would like to meet with Committee to discuss. The Committee agreed.

Island Park cannon thank you cards to be sent to Jim Smith for donating cannon supports and to Jeff Winder for painting cannon.

Blossburg Pool Association and Blossburg Borough received permission to bid out new pool specifications. Advertising is to be completed this week.

Pool will be closing on August 17, 2009. School starts August 24, with teachers reporting on August 19, 2009.

(J) Fire: A Financial Report was received.

(K) Television: Nothing. May be removed from agenda by next meeting, because Williamson Road Television Co., Inc. is being sold.

(L) Library: Fund Raisers scheduled: (1) "Underneath the Lentil", a Hamilton-Gibson one-man play starring and written by Thomas Putnam, July 17, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. in the North Penn High School Auditorium. (2) The annual Library Garden Party will be held July 26, 2009.

(M) Street Committee: Tar & chipping is done. The loose chips will be brushed up in September.

(N) Budget: Nothing at this time.

(O) Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):

Blossburg started pumping water to Morris Run on June 24, 2009.

BMA expressed concern to DEP about biosolids on South Mountain.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Minor Sub-Division/Cul-D-Sac:** The Borough Solicitor put this on hold until the Blue Ridge T.V. Franchise is completed.

2. **Ordinance 420 Blue Ridge Cable Technologies, Inc. Franchise:**

Ordinance was reviewed and advertised for tonight's meeting. Motion to adopt defining and granting, by franchise, nonexclusive rights and privileges to Blue Ridge Cable Technologies, Inc. D/B/A Blue Ridge Communications (Blue Ridge) to operate CATV Facilities was made by Jeffrey Everett; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

3. **Resolution: Tax Collection Committee (TCC) Representatives:**

The following individuals are appointed as TCC delegates for the Borough of Blossburg:

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Primary Voting Delegate: | Mayor John E. Backman |
| 2. First Alternate Voting Delegate: | Councilmember Jill Nickerson |
| 3. Second Alternate Voting Delegate: | Council President Jerome Ogden |

Motion was made by James Bogaczyk; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **NPBS Parking Lot:**

Complaints were received on dirt / dust coming off NPBS parking lot and blowing into nearby homes. Perhaps something could be spread over the parking lot to help keep the dirt / dust down. Also, the dumpsters servicing the elementary and high school are unsightly. A suggestion of installing fencing around them would improve the situation. A letter is to be sent to the Southern Tioga School District explaining the problems and the proposed solutions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (TCDC) 16th ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 27, 2009 AT WILLIAMSON JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL, 33 JCT CROSS ROAD, TIOGA PA. SOCIAL RECEPTION 6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. PROGRAM, AWARDS & ENTERTAINMENT 7:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY JULY 17, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 8:27 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2009 at 6:30 P.M.