

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

July 9, 2014

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President Thomas Bogaczyk called the Blossburg Borough Council regular meeting to order at 6:52 P.M. in the Council Room of the Borough Building, 245 Main Street, Blossburg, PA.

Attendance: (absent, Vice-President Jill Nickerson (sick)); Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, (absent, Jolene Hall (vacation), Paul Hosszu (sick)), Stephen Wagner, James Rakoski; Mayor Shane Nickerson; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Lauren Zumburum RETTEW Representative; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; David Thompson and Jacqueline Smith North Penn Area Concerned Citizens (NPACC).

Minutes: The minutes of the June 11, 2014 meeting were accepted on motion of James Rakoski; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Report accepted subject to audit on motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

Bills: Bills to be paid on motion of Jerome Ogden; second, James Rakoski. All in favor.

Guests: David Thompson and Jacqueline Smith North Penn Area Concerned Citizens (NPACC) explained the "Roar Card". The cards are to be given out to children that are caught doing something right (i.e. respect for self and others, owning your behavior, acting safely and responsibly, and ready to learn). The card entitles the bearer to one (1) free treat at Momma's, The Brick, Victoria Theater, or Acorn.

NPACC, Police Chief McCurdy, and Mayor Nickerson will sponsor a Drug Education and Community Action on July 20, 2014 at 6:00 P.M. at the Blossburg Fire Hall. Program agenda is to learn symptoms of drug use, drug overdose, paraphernalia use, and how to keep your home and neighborhood safe.

Resolution No. 7 Recreation Program (GTRP) Grant:

Lauren Zumburum RETTEW Representative discussed the Island Park Improvements Project Grant Application. Playground improvements for 2 - 5 year olds and 5 – 12 year olds are the main projects. Handicap parking at the Island and parking at the baseball fields are other proposed improvements. Greenways, Rails, and Recreation Program Grant is due July 21, 2014 to Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR) with a maximum request amount of \$250,000.00. If Grant is approved, the Borough will be responsible for a 15% match or \$37,500.00. Motion to approve Resolution #7 Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program Grant was made by James Rakoski; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

Island Park Master Site Plan (IPMP) was presented to Council. Technical Planning and Design Assistance was done by RETTEW and Williams S. Bray, PE. IPMP was accepted by Stephen Wagner; second, James Rakoski. All in favor.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Student:** Nothing to report.

(B) **Committee Business Development:**

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) meetings are held on fourth Wednesday of the month in the Blossburg Recreation Building at Island Park at 6:00 P.M.

V.I.B.E. Minutes were not available from the Internet.

V.I.B.E. projects: (1) October 12, 2014 Fall Festival. (2) Cat's Meow sponsors: V.I.B.E. / Green Bridge, North Penn Alumni / NPHS, and Victoria Theater / Victoria Theater at the cost of \$15.00 for each piece.

(C) **Mayor:** Noting to report.

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

The Police Report was accepted on motion of James Rakoski; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

Addition to Police Report: District Magistrate Fines Total - \$1,164.63.

Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett and Borough Manager George D. Lloyd are to review Police Pension Agreement per Act 600. This action is required because of the hiring of a third officer.

(E) **Police Committee:** Nothing to report.

(F) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, James Rakoski. All in favor.

TCCCC request a letter of support to apply for grant funding for lime treatment of Fall Brook Creek and of the willingness for Borough employees to operate system and Borough to be reimbursed for labor (8 hours / week).

Borough received \$118,487.30 Impact Fee money. Mr. Lloyd would like permission to spend \pm \$8,000.00 for floodplain field data to see if Borough can get some properties in Borough out of floodplain status. Motion to spend \pm \$8,000.00 for floodplain study was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

Ordinance "Creation of Upper Tioga River Regional Authority": Public Meeting on July 29, 2014 at 6:00 P.M. in the Covington Community Center. The purpose of meeting is "on the intention and desire of each respective municipality to organize the authority, under the Pennsylvania Act of June 19, 2001, P.L. 287, No. 22, known as the "Municipality Authorities Act" as amended and supplemented. Motion to advertise ordinance for adoption at August 13, 2014 Council Meeting was made by James Rakoski; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

Reports:

Resolution No. 8 Borough of Blossburg Appointing Two Incorporating Members to the Upper Tioga River Regional Authority:

This action was done at the April 9, 2014 Council Meeting. A formal Resolution appointing two (2) incorporating members to the Upper Tioga River Regional Authority is required. Motion was made by Jerome Ogden to appoint Shane Nickerson and George D. Lloyd to be incorporating members of the Upper Tioga River Regional Authority; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor. Shane Nickerson term expires December 31, 2016. George D. Lloyd term expires December 31, 2017.

Application for County Aid:

At the June 10, 2014 Tioga County Commissioners Meeting, the Commissioners made the decision to allocate County Aid to each political subdivision in Tioga County. The total allocation for 2014 County Aid for Blossburg Borough is \$1,202.32. Councilmembers agreed to make application to the County for allocation of County Liquid Fuels Tax Funds. The county aid will be used for tar & chipping and paving of borough streets, if funds are granted.

Information and design of proposed work the Blossburg Improvement Association is looking into for the downtown Riverside Plaza. Store owners will be contacted for their feedback and willingness to pay for their share of projected costs.

Construction has started on Borough garage located on Island Park.

New electrical service behind the downtown monument was started. The Borough, V.F.W. Post 8730, and American Legion Post 572 split the cost of the landscaping that was recently done.

(G) Planning Commission: No applications were submitted. No meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

(H) Recreation:

Island Park Master Plan is being finalized.

Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (GTRP) Grant was discussed earlier.

Island Park River Walk: Nothing to report.

(I) Fire: No Financial Report or Minutes were received.

Department is planning their annual picnic on July 27, 2014.

(J) Library: Nothing to report.

(K) Street Committee: Members to schedule a meeting to make a plan for replacing sections of sidewalks in town. Councilmember Jill Nickerson is working on details.

Tar & Chipping to be done 1st or 2nd week in July.

(L) Shade Tree Commission: Nothing to report.

Reports:

(M) **Budget:** 2014 2nd Quarter (until 06/30/2014) Budget Revenues / Expenditures Report was provided to Council for review. A Budget Meeting was scheduled for July 15, 2014 at 4:00 P.M. to discuss budget and the purchase of a single axle dump truck.

(N) **Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):**

BMA voted to raise sewer rates 3.04%. Increase will be approximately \$1.00 / month per customer. Increases to be rotated yearly between water, sewer, and sanitary. Monies to be applied to a Capital Improvement Plan (i.e. water and sewer improvements, plant upgrades, equipment, and wages for employees).

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Southern Tioga School District (STSD) Plans:** Nothing to report.

2. **Borough Code of Ordinances – Update:**

Keystate Publishers sent completed "Final Draft". Councilmembers reviewing information for changes. Council authorized Attorney William Stokes to review Final Draft, also.

3. **Condemned Properties Update:** 101 Post Street – Borough Solicitor met with property owner. Letters sent to all involved with property. All necessary paperwork started again. Borough will have right to raze if home not fit to live in. Deadline is September 21, 2014.

4. **New Electrical Service Behind the Downtown Monument:**

Borough crew installed conduit to control box area.

5. **Update Comprehensive Plan:**

Remove from agenda. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

6. **Ordinance No. 438: Engine / Jake Brake Ordinance:**

"An ordinance amending The Code of Ordinances and declaring the operation of an engine brake installation upon or in gasoline powered or diesel powdered motor vehicle not equipped with exhaust mufflers or equipped with inoperable or modified exhaust mufflers so as to permit the creation of excessive noise through the employment of said engine brake to be a nuisance in fact; establishing penalties for the violation of said ordinance and establishing exceptions to the enforcement of said ordinance in emergency situations". Motion to adopt this ordinance was made by James Rakoski; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

7. **Social Media Policy:**

Borough Solicitor reviewed and has a few changes. Policy to be discussed at the August Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: No new business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (TCDC) 21st ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 28, 2014 AT MANSFIELD UNIVERSITY, MANSFIELD, PA. SOCIAL RECEPTION 5:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY JULY 18, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT: President Thomas Bogaczyk closed the meeting at 8:20 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2014 at 6:30 P.M. in the Blossburg Borough Building Council Room.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary