

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

June 12, 2019

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

President Pro-Temp Tonya McNamara called the Blossburg Borough Council regular meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Room of the Blossburg Borough Building, 241 Main Street, Blossburg, PA.

Attendance: President Jolene Hall (Absent), Vice- President Jill Nickerson (Absent), Pro-Temp Tonya McNamara, Council Members Jerome Ogden, Paul Hosszu, Tim Martin, James Rakoski (Absent), Mayor, Shane Nickerson, Borough Solicitor, Patrick Barrett, Police Chief, Josh McCurdy, Borough Manager, George D. Lloyd and Borough Secretary, Cheryl Bubacz.

Guests: Henry Bartlett, Uni Hicks-Lee, Josh Jones, Bob Metarko, Natalie Kennedy, Sharon Manikowski, Dennis Gee, Liz Miranda and Corporal Bob Scott.

Minutes The Minutes of the May 8, 2019 meeting were accepted as presented, by Motion of Jerome Ogden; Second Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report Report accepted subject to audit by Motion of Jerome Ogden; Second, Tim Martin. All in favor.

Bills: Bills to be paid by Motion of Paul Hosszu; Second Tim Martin. All in favor.

Guests: Sharon Manikowski – wanted to thank Borough Manager for White Street being swept following the April Council Meeting. She also stated that the traffic issues previously discussed in April were better, however, now that school is out, people rolling through stop signs, etc. is picking up. She also was wondering about having the road from White Street up to the entrance to Arbon Cemetery oiled again. Borough Manager said he would ask at the next NTSWA Meeting on June 20th.

Henry Bartlett wanted to thank Mayor Nickerson, Chief McCurdy and the Borough Manager for their traffic control on Memorial Day. He also wanted to thank Ron and Margie Wesneski and Rich Williams, Sr. for cleaning around the Monument prior to the activities and the Borough for the removal of the dead pine trees. The Monument is looking better. He would still like to see property on the corner of Lynd and Morris Streets addressed. He believes it is becoming a hazard for drivers.

Dennis Gee received the insurance certificate for the Music Fest and wanted to know who should receive a copy of the certificate. He will give it to the Recreation Board at the next meeting.

REPORTS:

Junior Council Person:

Eion reported that the Teen Initiative Group, developed through the Library, sold beverages during the Coal Festival and was pleased to report that they made approximately \$450.00 which will be used for future community service activities. Additionally, the Group elected officers, and is learning how to conduct meetings and take minutes.

Committee
Business
Development:

Finalizing work on the 2nd Annual Island Park 150.

Working on getting the Community Garden into shape for Summer. A new plot was set up and Head Start planted vegetables in that plot.

The United Fund will be wrapped up the end of June.

Mayor:

1. The Mayor would like to see the Borough have three (3) American Flags on hand in the Office to replace tattered and worn flags as needed.
2. The benches that were built around some of the trees on Island Park need to have weeding and mulch or something around them. The Mayor will get in touch with the Probation Department to see about having more community service workers come over for that purpose.
3. Mr. Bartlett asked the Mayor about mowing lawns that are getting overgrown. The Mayor stated that was next on his list and he asked the Chief to approach specific homeowners regarding the same. The property on Davis Street that was the subject of a Sheriff's Sale scheduled for June 12th, the Mayor wondered if we could get the lawn mown and then charge the homeowner/bank back. Borough Manager said that he would contact Mr. Toothaker.

Police

1. The Police Report was accepted on Motion of Tim Martin, Second Paul Hosszu. All in favor.
2. The Chief and the Mayor would like to have a Police Committee Meeting on June 18th at 5:00 pm to discuss the issues with the various police cars.

Police
Committee:

No Meeting

Borough Manager:

1. Borough Manager's report accepted on Motion of Paul Hosszu; Second Tim Martin. All in favor.
2. The Borough Manager provided each Council Member with a copy of an article about Troy Borough being hit with a ransom virus which cost Troy \$5,000.00 to get their files unencrypted. One of the Municipal Authority Members would like to hold a cybersecurity meeting to discuss potential risks and traps. Council in favor of holding this meeting. A date and time will be provided.
3. Borough Manager wanted to thank Philip Boinske for allowing the Borough to take some boulders from his property and place them around Island Park and also thank House's Lumber for the donation of several loads of mulch/bark which was placed around trees at the Park.

4. The Borough received a request from the Blossburg Fire Department to conduct a smoke class in the old Borough Hall. Once additional items are removed, we can work with the Fire Department on this matter.
5. The Borough sold the 1969 Ford Tractor and mower deck (authorized to be sold in the May 8th Meeting) for \$2,400.00 which was deposited into the equipment fund.
6. The Borough employees checked the pine trees behind the Monument on Main Street and took down all of the pine trees, as all of the trees were either dead or dying. Manager would like to set up a plan for future plantings for that area.
7. The Lewis & Clark Circus was held on June 4th on Island Park and the Borough received \$250.00 from the Circus.
8. The Borough Manager wanted to thank Jill Nickerson, Tonya McNamara and Margie Wesneski for cleaning and organizing the pool, basket room and concession stand prior to the pool opening. This was a great help.
9. The Swim Association ordered 4 new picnic tables, 2 regular and 2 handicap, umbrellas for the tables and umbrellas for the lifeguard chairs. The items have been delivered and are being assembled at this time.

**Planning
Commission
Report:**

No Meeting.

**Zoning Hearing
Board:**

No Meeting.

Recreation:

1. The Recreation Board would like to further discuss insurance coverage for people who rent the pavilion, use the park, etc. and how to better cover ourselves. Solicitor said that he would look into this further.
2. The lawns at the park look great, a special thank you to Bob Metarko.
3. The Board contracted the Concession Stand to Misty Jo Osborn for the year. This seems to be going well. The Borough is to receive 10% of the sales.
4. The location for the GaGa Ball Pit was discussed. Initially the thought was to put it by the Bocce Ball court, but a Council member suggested it be placed by the basketball court if we can get fill for the location due to it being wet. The Council also recommended the location by the Basketball Court. Additionally there was discussion about getting more boulders to put between the trees by the basketball court to stop individuals from driving their cars near or onto it, which ruins the court and is costly to fix.

The Council asked if the Recreation Board would develop a landscaping plan/design so that the landscaping is consistent all around the Island. It was suggested that maybe a high school student could do this as a senior project.

5. The Board purchased several storage containers for swimming pool accessories, for example, swimming noodles and kick boards. This helps keep the pool basket room area free of clutter.
6. It was discussed that the large pavilion needs work and that Jill has a list of what needs to be done and will provide it to the Borough Manager.
7. There is a need for additional garbage containers, 55 gallon drums, around the Island Park. The Teen Initiative may be interested in painting the drums as one of their community activities.

Playground: The playground is completed and need to submit the necessary paperwork to the state for funds.

Tennis Court: The Mayor mentioned that one of the tennis court nets was broken and will add the weeding around the tennis court to the list for the Probation Department to work on. The Borough Manager will check on the net.

Island Park River Walk: Mayor reported that good things in the community are happening. The Mayor receives all of the “damaged” materials from a local company which he takes to the Island Park for Mrs. Patterson and Mrs. McNett to use. He usually has bags of mulch left by the gazebo by the walk bridge. He asked Mrs. Patterson if it would be better to have them left elsewhere. She said that when it comes time to move the mulch, she is never short of volunteers to help her move the bags. That is what *Community* is about. *Unity and connecting with people.* A big thank you to all. Especially to Mrs. McNett and Mrs. Patterson for their exception work. The gardens are beautiful!

Mr. Ogden said that he would mark some of the areas that need fill/gravel along walk.

Fire: No minutes were received. The Fire Department and Ambulance Association continue to prepare for the 150/70 Celebration on July 12th and 13th. There will be an Open House at the Fire Hall on July 12th. Please remember the Parade of Lights to be held the evening of July 13th.

Library: Liz Miranda, librarian from the Blossburg Memorial Library, presented a new Library program being held this summer. Besides programs for the children, such as the art camp (which is at capacity), music program and yoga classes, the Library is having a Summer Quest Challenge for Adults. This is a series of activities to be completed during the summer. When an activity is completed a “voucher” is dropped off at the Library for a drawing of random prizes. The person or persons who completes the most activities, is put in for a grand prize drawing. Liz hopes that a lot of residents will get involved in this FREE, FUN, CHALLENGE.

Street Committee: Street Signs have been ordered.

A list of the proposed streets to be tar and chipped in 2019 was provided to the Council. It is approximately 2.35 miles and will cost approximately \$57,577.00. Mr. Ogden asked about Dreas Lane and if it is a "Borough" street. Borough Manager stated that it is not and that area would not be paid from the liquid fuels money. Motion made by Paul Hosszu and second by Jerome Ogden to approve the tar and chipping as presented with Dreas Lane being paid out of the General Fund.

Shade Tree Commission: Nothing to Report

Budget: Nothing.

Blossburg Municipal Report: The new STP design was reviewed by the Municipal Authority Board with HRG, the engineering firm. The DEP Submittal is scheduled for June 21st.

OLD BUSINESS: _____

Borough Website: Communication Team will be meeting to put together content for the website and other communication ideas.

Street Signs: See Street Committee.

Consent Agenda: Nothing

Codification: By Motion of Jerome Ogden and Second Tim Martin, the Borough approved the Codification to be prepared by American Legal Publishing.

NEW BUSINESS: _____

VETERANS MEMORIAL: Bids for the Veterans Memorial Repair were opened:

First Bid Opened from Nelson Wise: Grind mortar joints to a depth of 3/4", pressure wash monument to remove dust from grinding process; re-lay any loose stones or capstones; point joints with Type S mortar, color to be determined, after pointing is complete, wash entire monument with Sure Kleen 600 masonry detergent or similar product; apply masonry sealer to entire monument; clean-up and remove debris.

Not included: Removal of plaque from Monument to ensure its integrity due to acid washing and sealing process, all shrubbery must be a minimum of 3 feet away from face of stonework in order to do repair; not responsible for damage to shrubbery. Total Quote \$5,250.00 for Labor and Materials.

Second Bid Opened from Brian Davidheiser Masonry: Chip out joints, power wash, reset loose stones, repoint with a recessed joint of natural colored gray mortar or preferred color, acid wash, if needed, spray with sealer, clean up and haul away debris. Not included, bushes to be trimmed before start of job. Total Quote \$9,000.00.

Motion made by Tim Martin to accept bid of Mr. Wise, Second Paul Hosszu. Additionally, letters will be prepared and sent to the Blossburg VFW, Blossburg American Legion, Morris Run American Legion, Masonic Lodge and Williamson Road Foundation to help with funding. All in Favor.

Lawn Mowing Bids: Two lawn mowing bids were received.

First Bid received from Scott Fessler: Mowing of designated Borough properties on as needed basis using his own equipment \$265.00 per mowing.

Second Bid received from Dane's Lawn Care and Landscaping: Mowing of designated Borough properties on as needed basis \$345.00 per mowing.

Motion made by Tim Martin and second by Paul Hosszu to accept bid from Scott Fessler. All in Favor.

Borough Manager asked if the Lawn Mowing would have to be bid each year. The Solicitor stated that first the value of the contract for mowing is below the requirements for the bidding process and therefore it doesn't need to be bid and second the existing bid could be maintained until such time as either Mr. Fessler or the Borough determines to cancel the contract.

Committee for 150th Anniversary Celebration: The Mayor will be gathering individuals who are interested in participating on the Committee in the next month or so.

Employee Recognition for Years of Service: A Certificate for each Borough Employee who was attained a service milestone was prepared. Each Employee's name and years of service was read. The Mayor and Council President and/or the Borough Manager will sign each Certificate to be presented to each Employee

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The TCAB Meeting for May to be held in Lawrenceville on June 19, 2019 at Rotsell Family Restaurant. Guest Speaker will be Scott Zubek, GIS Department Director.

ADJOURNMENT: President Pro Temp Tonya McNamara adjourned the meeting at 8:02 pm.

Cheryl L. Bubacz

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary