

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
August 12, 2020

A Public Hearing was called to Order at 6:00 p.m. The Hearing was for public comment regarding the Ordinance to prohibit apartments on the ground level of any building situated in the C-1 Commercial District of the Borough. There being no public in attendance and no comment, the Hearing was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Council Meeting was called to Order at 6:30 p.m. by Vice President Jill Nickerson.

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

Guests: Mataya Nickerson, Luke Tanner and Natalie Kennedy from the Wellsboro Gazette.

Mataya Nickerson: Mataya came to ask Council's permission to paint a mural on the wall along St. Marys' Street. The Mural will have a portrait of Aaron Bloss on one end, Blossburg, in the middle and an eagle on the other end, with flowers throughout. Motion by Jim Rakoski, Second Henry Bartlett to allow Mataya to paint the mural as presented. All in favor.

Luke Tanner: Nothing

Natalie Kennedy: Nothing.

Minutes, Treasurer's Report, Bills, Police Report & Borough Manager's Report: Minutes and Reports were all accepted as presented by Motion of Tonya McNamara; Second Tim Martin. All in favor.

Mayor:

In the Mayor's absence, he asked Chief McCurdy to present the March of Honor which will be held on Saturday, August 15th from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The March will be honoring first responders, EMTs, police officers, military and other essential employees. The March will start from the Methodist Church on N. Williamson Road and from Momma's Restaurant on Gulick Street and converge at the Monument on Main Street.

Police:

Chief McCurdy stated that the Officers will be qualifying with their weapons this week.

Police Committee:

No meeting

Borough Manager:

We have received the 2021 Minimum Municipal Obligation Budget costs for Uniform and Non-uniform Pension Plans. The amounts are \$34,982 for Uniform and \$33,069 for Non-Uniform.

Borough Secretary has been researching an EV Station for charging electric vehicles. There is a grant of up to \$4,500 available to assist with the purchase and installation of stations. The plan would be to put the charging station in the Plaza to bring people into town and connect into electric currently available behind Veterans' Monument. Motion by Tim Martin, Second by Henry Bartlett to continue with the project and grant submission. All in favor.

Junior Council Person:

Not Present.

VIBE:

The first outdoor movie was held on Monday, August 3, 2020 and approximately 55 people were in attendance. Everyone seemed to enjoy the location and movie. The only comment was a request to hold future movies on the weekend. Vibe would like to host the next movie night on Friday, August 14. Motion by Jerome Ogden, Second Jim Rakoski to authorize the movie on Friday, August 14. All in Favor.

A new business, Northern Tier Spice Company, will be opening on Main Street on August 13, 2020. The business will have coffee, tea and spices for purchase.

The welcome packet for new residents and businesses is being reviewed.

Planning Commission Report:

Nothing

Zoning Hearing Board:

Nothing.

Properties Sold During Month:

County Report not received prior to meeting. Believed there to be 3 new residents in town.

Recreation:

The Art in the Park program seems to be going well and is well attended.

The Pool continues to be open and being used by many people. The restrictions do not seem to be causing many, if any, issues with swimmers.

The Rec. Board received a donation of \$5,360 from the Williamson Road Foundation for the purchase of six (6) new picnic tables and six (6) new grills. The concrete has been poured for the stands and the grills will be installed this Friday.

Southern Tioga Youth Football, while not having any games this year, needs to renew its small games of chance license. In order to do so, they need a letter stating that the Recreation Board and the Borough authorize their use of the facilities. Motion by Tim Martin, Second Jim Rakoski to sign the proposed letter. All in Favor.

Playground: Swing set is complete and in use.

Riverwalk: Nothing to report.

Fire:

Minutes were not received prior to meeting.

Library:

The Library Board meeting is August 18, 2020. The Librarian hopes following that meeting the Library can be opened to the public and yoga classes can be scheduled. The sneeze guards have been installed.

Street Committee:

The tar and chipping for 2020 has been completed and loose 1B stone were swept up with the Borough sweeper.

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing

Budget:

Nothing

Blossburg Municipal Report:

The culvert to the new sewer plant has been completed. The Authority is now working on laying the 10" DIP pipeline at Taylor Run. This pipe will eventually connect into two (2) new wells and a new 1-million-gallon tank, to be built on Authority property.

Today the Authority purchased approximately 400 acres of land adjacent to the Taylor Run property. This property is part of Blossburg's watershed and has the potential for a new water well based on the hydrogeologist's report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ordinance First Floor Apartments:

The public hearing was held at 6:00 p.m. there being no comment and no public in attendance, Motion by Jim Rakoski, Second by Tim Martin, the Ordinance is hereby accepted. All in Favor.

Sesquicentennial Planning:

The meeting held on August 3, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. was not well attended. The next meeting is scheduled for September 3, 2020 at 6:00 in the Council Room. We are hoping that by changing the time, we will have a better turn out and more people interested in helping.

Repeal of Mechanical Device Tax:

Ordinance presented by Solicitor, previously approved at the June 10, 2020 meeting. Authorization to sign the Ordinance. Motion by Henry Bartlett, Second by Tim Martin. All in Favor

Shared Services Agreement:

Solicitor is reviewing Agreement with Counsel of the other municipalities.

Municipal Agreement:

Borough Manager submitted to Municipal Authority for their review. Municipal Authority approved the Agreement. To be presented to Council for their September 9, 2020 meeting.

Dog Leash Ordinance:

The question raised during the June 10th meeting was addressed by Chief McCurdy during the July meeting and confirmed by our Solicitor. This can be removed from the Agenda, Motion by Tim Martin, Second Henry Bartlett. All in Favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

A question was raised regarding the School District and their use of the Park for 2020-2021 School Term. Solicitor will contact their Counsel to discuss.

Councilman Bartlett asked if the Covid Grant Relief would be an option for the TNR project. Councilwoman Nickerson explained that that grant is only for businesses that “suffered loss” during the red and yellow phases of the Pandemic.

Councilman Bartlett also asked if the lot on Granger Street near his home could be addressed. It is part of a civil action by Wells Fargo against the property owner. Borough Manager or Borough Secretary will contact Dane’s Landscaping regarding mowing the property.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned by Vice President Jill Nickerson at 6:59 p.m. Motion by Henry Bartlett, Second by Tim Martin.

/s/ Cheryl L. Bubacz

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary