

**BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 10, 2021**

Council Meeting was called to Order at 6:30 p.m. by President Jolene Hall. Meeting was held by both in person and by conference call due to Covid-19 concerns.

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

**Guests:** Bob Scott, Ron Warren and Pete Lupkowski

Pete Lupkowski stated he had nothing. Ron Warren stated that he would like a complete copy of his Personnel File. Bob Scott was there regarding his return to service.

**Minutes, Treasurer's Report, Bills, Police Report & Borough Manager's Report:**

Minutes and Reports were all accepted as presented by Motion of Jerome Ogden; Second Tim Martin. All in favor.

**Mayor:**

During the Task Force conference call held February 9, 2021, it was reported that there were no hospitalizations due to Covid. This was good news. Also discussed was the fact that Tioga County has a high mortality rate from Covid due to the age of our population and pre-existing health conditions.

As far as the vaccine goes, it seems that people want to get the shot, which is good. The biggest hold up is getting the vaccine to Tioga County. We are last to get the vaccines when the State sent them. As soon as the vaccine is received, groups or individuals eligible to receive the vaccine are contacted. The Task Force is working on a new system for individuals to sign up for the vaccine. As we previously discussed, when the vaccine is received, the groups or individuals in the authorized group are contacted. If UPMC has 25 scheduled vaccines for 25 confirmed appointments, and only 12 show-up, there are 13 vaccines that need to be used within a short window of time before they go bad. The hope is that 13 individuals who have contacted UPMC and have qualified for the vaccine, would be contacted to come in immediately for the "extra" vaccines. There is no promise of when or if you will get a call.

Rite-Aid has a signup online. You can access their website and sign up and you will get a call when the shots are available. Jerome Ogden said he signed up through Rite-Aid and has received is shot.

The Task Force would ask, if you have more than one appointment, please cancel any subsequent appointments after you have received your first shot. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is in its final review. A question was asked, can you pick which vaccine you receive. The answer is no, you get what they have when you have an appointment.

**Police:**

A recall notice was received for Car 1 and it is being looked at on February 11, 2021.

**Police Committee:**

Interviews were held for part-time officers. The Committee recommends that two (2) candidates be hired each under a one-year contract. Those candidates are Chris Pratt and Marina Geiser. Motion by Henry Bartlett, Second by Tim Martin. All in Favor.

**Borough Manager:**

The EV Charging Station was used for 47 hours during the month of January for charging. We estimate the cost of that usage to be approximately \$2.00. The Borough received a letter from David Bogaczyk regarding what he believes is a discrepancy in his bills. A response was written and sent to Mr. Bogaczyk. Council was provided a copy of the letters along with the attachments. Information will also be given to the Authority for review.

Jerome Ogden thanked the Borough Manager for taking care of the dead trees along the walking trail on the Park.

Henry Bartlett asked if, after the fire in Canton that destroyed their Borough Garage, we need to put up any signs at the Borough Garage for no smoking. (Even though the fire was not caused by smoking.) George said he didn't believe anyone smoked at the garage, but will check into it.

**Junior Council Person:**

Not Present.

**VIBE:**

Nothing to report.

**Planning Commission Report:**

The Planning Commission met to discuss the proposed subdivision of Jean & Larry Smith. They are taking a portion of their lands from 1 parcel and including it in another of their parcels. The Planning Commission recommended the subdivision and suggested Council do the same. Motion by Jerome Ogden, Second by Jill Nickerson to authorize the Subdivision. All in Favor.

**Zoning Hearing Board:**

Nothing.

**Properties Sold During Month:**

**Recreation:**

There was not a quorum at the Meeting, therefore no Business was discussed.

**Riverwalk:** Walking trail looks great.

**Skate Park Addition:** Funds are being raised and currently looking at plans for the small addition.

**Fire and Ambulance:**

Minutes were received and provided to Council for the Ambulance Association. No minutes were received for the Fire Department.

**Library:**

No Meeting

**Street Committee:**

Henry Bartlett commented that the street snow clean-up has been great, and the Borough Crew is doing a wonderful job. A resident who came from another town said the snow clean-up is the best he has ever seen.

**Shade Tree Commission:**

Nothing

**Budget:**

Nothing.

**Blossburg Municipal Report:**

Borough Manager, Borough Engineer and the Chairman of the Municipal Authority took part in a recent telephone conference regarding the new Sewer Plant. RUS is holding up funding and requesting that an Environmental Assessment be conducted to assess the increased cost of the Plant, which is due to the increased size of the Plant because of our existing I&I Issues. RUS asked if it would be cheaper to reline all of the sewer pipes and laterals in town. An analysis was prepared to reline all the mainline pipes and laterals in town and the cost would be approximately Three Million Dollars more than the cost of the increase in the plant size. Currently working on a way for the Borough Crew to complete some of the work needed to defray some of the increased costs.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Sesquicentennial Planning:**

Nothing.

**Shared Services Agreement:**

Solicitor is reviewing Agreement with Counsel of the other municipalities.

**Repsol Lease Agreement**

Lease was signed including the changes requested by Attorney Barrett.

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned by President Jolene Hall at 7:01 p.m. Motion by Tim Martin, Second by Jerome Ogden. All in Favor

Attorney Barrett called an Executive Session following the meeting to provide legal advice to Council. No action will be taken.

*Cheryl L. Bubacz*

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Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary