

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 9, 2021

Council Meeting was called to Order at 6:30 p.m. by President Jolene Hall.

Attendance: President Jolene Hall, Vice-President Jill Nickerson, Pro-Temp Tonya McNamara, Council Members: Jerome Ogden (Absent), Henry Bartlett, Tim Martin, James Rakoski, 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: Robert Scott, Jamie McCurdy, Kelly Yungwirth and Natalie Kennedy (*Wellsboro Gazette*)

Robert Scott: Read a statement to Council regarding his current situation and asked that the Council take his statement into account when making their determination of the Findings of Facts.

Jamie McCurdy: Nothing

Kelly Yungwirth: Nothing

Natalie Kennedy: Nothing

Council Member, James Rakoski, stated that the Council had a Personnel matter to discuss. Being that Mr. Scott had requested a Public Hearing regarding the charges served upon him, the Council's decision regarding the Findings of Fact from that Public Hearing would be voted on during the Council Meeting rather than in Executive Session. Mr. Rakoski made a Motion that based on the clear and convincing evidence and testimony presented during the Public Hearing and the review of the Findings of Fact as presented by Attorney Brann, Mr. Scott did indeed act in an insubordinate manner in addition to actions unbecoming an officer and that he be terminated as an Officer of the Blossburg Police Department. Motion Second by Henry Bartlett. All Council members voted in the affirmative to the Motion.

Additionally, the Findings of Fact, as prepared by Attorney Brann, were adopted. (Mr. Scott abruptly left the meeting.) President Hall stated that Mr. Scott had 30 days in which to appeal the decision. Any appeal would be filed with the Tioga County Court of Common Pleas. Additionally, President Hall directed the Borough Secretary to send a copy of the Findings of Fact to Mr. Scott. It was decided that the copy be served on Mr. Scott by a Constable.

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

Minutes and Reports were all accepted as presented Motion of Jill Nickerson; Second Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

Mayor:

Due in large part to the Pandemic, many students in the School District did not complete the required hours of Community Service. The School District contacted the Mayor regarding this matter and asked if the Borough would have any projects which the students could help with to obtain their required community service hours. The students would be available during the first two (2) weeks of July. It was suggested that perhaps the students could help at the Arbon Cemetery and/or the Park. Mrs. McCurdy said that there are many elderly residents that could

use help with their yards. The Mayor will set up the work schedule. If anyone has any other ideas about projects, please let him know.

The Mayor was contacted by Daniel Fitzgerald who lives in the house adjacent to the Union Cemetery. The large pine trees that line the North side of the Cemetery are causing issues with his electric. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that he is willing to cut down the trees and dispose of them. Borough Manager stated that he had also talked to Mr. Fitzgerald about this and had suggested since the trees are in Penelec's right of way, to contact Penelec before he does anything. Motion by James Rakoski that if Mr. Fitzgerald wants the trees removed and he is willing to take down the trees at his own risk and cost, he be allowed to do so. Second by Tim Martin. All in Favor.

A gentleman who is interested in purchasing an apartment building in the Borough contacted the Mayor to discuss the building as the Mayor had put the roof on the building. The gentleman said that he likes the Blossburg area and believes it has a lot of potential. He would like to paint the building, renovate some of the apartments. He was wondering if there was a survey of the property. If we or the Improvement Association has a survey, we would be happy to share it with him.

The old Hospital is looking better. There were several teens there cleaning up the property. They were supervised by the Mayor and the Chief.

Police:

The Coal Festival parade, which was postponed until 6:00 p.m. on the 29th, went smoothly. The Proms for both North Penn Mansfield and North Penn Liberty were held on Island Park and there were no issues. Graduation will be next week, and the PD will be providing Security as needed. The new part-time officers are doing very well. One of the officers will be in a separate vehicle and start patrolling. The Chief will be on duty during that time as well in case of an emergency or if assistance is needed. The other part-time officer is working as many hours as possible. The shifts are short-shifts due to a full-time position elsewhere.

Police Committee:

Nothing

Borough Manager:

The wet areas at Arbon Cemetery will hopefully be abated by the Borough finding and cleaning out a diversion ditch located on the upper boundary of the Cemetery. Once that ditch starts working properly, the Cemetery should dry up in the top area. We have received many nice comments from the Community regarding the Cemetery looking better. Thanks to all of the volunteers who have helped.

Junior Council Person:

Not Present.

VIBE:

VIBE discussed during their last meeting that they want to assist with the Sesquicentennial planning. They have a new volunteer to lead the Community Garden and she is doing very well.

Planning Commission Report:

No Meeting

Zoning Hearing Board:

The Zoning Hearing Board approved the Special Exception filed by Brendyn Stager to sell used gun parts at his Granger Street residence.

Recreation:

The pool is open and looks great! At the last meeting, a quote was given for the block work at the large pavilion. The quote was \$1,130. Motion by Tonya McNamara, Second Jill Nickerson, to proceed with the block work at the large pavilion. All in Favor.

Riverwalk: Nothing

Skate Park Addition: The addition should be started in the very near future.

Fire and Ambulance:

Minutes were received from the Fire Department for March and April. Kelly Yungwirth explained the get-fit program started by the Fire and Ambulance Departments. The program involves group exercising, such as walking and swimming. UPMC has allowed them to use their fitness equipment as well. The program is open to anyone, member or not. There will be a presentation regarding healthy food preparation coming up soon. The Fire Department will be having a Chicken and French Fry sale on Friday May 14th in the Plaza parking lot as a fund raiser.

Library:

Borough Manager asked the Mayor and Council Member McNamara if the tree which had split during the windstorm could be cut down. It is leaning heavily towards the fence. They will discuss this at the Library Meeting coming up.

Street Committee:

Borough Manager stated that we are getting ready to start the tarring and chipping, probably the first week or two of July.

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing

Budget:

A year to date Actual to Budget report will be in each Council packet for the July meeting.

Blossburg Municipal Report:

Pall Membrane Pilot study was completed, and the unit removed. Due in large part to the rising cost of construction materials, the Sewer Project originally budgeted to be \$9.6 million dollars is now in the \$12 million dollar range. Currently we are waiting for RUS to complete their Environment Assessment so that we can start bidding out the project. The number of delinquent accounts is decreasing due to a concentrated effort following up with delinquent customers. The Municipal Authority passed a Resolution that added fees to accounts for sending out multiple letters, Notices, etc. Hopefully, that will get customers to start paying without being prompted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sesquicentennial Planning (February 2020):

Meeting will be scheduled for June to further discuss planning.

Shared Services Agreement (June 2020):

Solicitor is reviewing Agreement with Counsel of the other municipalities. He will follow-up with them again.

LED Streetlights (April 2021): We are currently waiting for Penelec to start replacing the lights as discussed at the April meeting.

American Rescue Plan (April 2021): DCED recently sent out information regarding what the money can be used for. It will be reviewed and discussed.

Sale of 245 Main Street: (April 2021) There was discussion regarding auctioning the property and what property is currently in the building. Perhaps have an auction for the building and real estate along with the property.

Old Hospital: Addressed in Mayor's Report.

KCC Building & School: Nothing at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Hall asked if anyone had looked at the dip when entering the Kwik Fill on Bloss Mountain Road. Borough Manager said he believes it is a PennDOT issue, but will verify. Council Member Martin said he believes he has a similar issue at the Bloss Beverage. Borough Manager will look into that as well. This was previously discussed in the October 2020 Meeting.

She also asked that we start adding dates to Agenda Items so that we can track these items better.

Council Member Bartlett wanted to acknowledge Jill Nickerson and Jacki Smith and the other young people that helped with the monument clean-up and landscaping. They did a great job. He also stated that he was ashamed there was no service held for Memorial Day. The service rotates between the VFW and the American Legion. However, several individuals did gather at the monument and recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sang God Bless America.

Additionally, Council Member Bartlett brought up the property located on Taylor Street with the junk cars. This was originally brought up at the April 2021 meeting. Can anything further be done? Chief McCurdy stated that the owner has been fined and pays the fine, but he cannot be forced to remove the vehicles through a citation. Attorney Barrett said he will discuss the matter with the Chief and see if an action can be filed with the Court of Common Pleas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned by President Jolene Hall at 7:25 p.m. Motion by Tim Martin, Second by Tonya McNamara. All in Favor

Cheryl L. Bubacz

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary