

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 14, 2021

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 (Absent), Borough Manager, George D. Lloyd, Borough Secretary, Cheryl Bubacz and School Representative (Absent).

Guests: Natalie Kennedy (*Wellsboro Gazette*)

Natalie Kennedy - Nothing

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

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

Mayor:

The Mayor and the Chief of Police were at a Seminar at the University. Jill Nickerson reported on behalf of the Mayor. The High School Students who were in need of community service will be starting to work at the cemetery on July 15th. He has marked a couple of places at the cemetery that need to have the ditches cleaned out.

Police:

Jill Nickerson reported that the Chief attending a meeting at the University with Departments from Mansfield, Wellsboro, Elkland and the University on July 12th regarding a STOP Grant. This Grant would provide for safety equipment for schools. Since the Borough has received Grant monies previously, would Council authorize the Borough to act as the host of the Grant if received? Motion by James Rakoski, Second by Jerome Ogden, to authorize the Borough to be the Grant Host for any Grant monies received. All in Favor.

The Chief and Mayor would like to have a meeting with the Southern Tioga School District to determine what their needs are to plan for and budget for Grant Monies.

Police Committee:

Nothing

Borough Manager:

A Notice was received from Senator Dush for a "Talk to the Senator" series. This series of events will be an introductory for local community leaders to meet and for Senator to discuss issues and concerns of the local leaders. The meeting for the Tioga County area will be at the Mansfield Firehall on August 11, 2021 starting at 8:00 a.m.

Tar & Chipping of the roads will start on Monday, July 19, 2021.

Junior Council Person:

Not Present.

VIBE:

VIBE discussed planning for the Fall Festival and the Island Park 150.

Planning Commission Report:

No Meeting

Zoning Hearing Board:

Nothing

Recreation:

The pool is going well. They did have to close a great deal lately due to the thunder. Working on a more designated parking. Bob Metarko is putting mulch in today as a line of where parking ends. The pavilion electric is being worked on now.

Riverwalk: Discussion was held regarding the flooding of the area where Johnson Creek and the Tioga River meet. George is looking into some rip-rap along Johnson Creek prior the that point to help draw the water away from the land.

Skate Park Addition: Nothing.

Fire and Ambulance:

Minutes were received from the Fire Department and Council was very pleased to be kept in the loop of what the Fire and Ambulance Departments are doing.

Library:

The summer programs are going well. They had over 100 people for the Dinosaur program. They may have the Butterly program at the Theatre if it is raining on July 17th.

The Library is having problems getting volunteers to help at the Library. The Art-in-the-Park program will have held at the Library as it is easier to get the supplies to the Library rather than to the Park.

Street Committee:

As discussed earlier, tar & chipping will start on Monday, July 19th weather permitting.

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing

Budget:

A year to date Actual to Budget report was provided to Council. Will be scheduling a Budget Committee meeting. Jerome Ogden is to call the Secretary with available dates.

Blossburg Municipal Report:

DEP is currently reviewing the Taylor Run Tank. Once we have the permit, Dutchland can begin the tank. If Dutchland can get the footers poured this year, we can start the construction of the Tank in 2022. The tank will be 60' in diameter and 40' high and hold 1 million gallons. Once the Taylor Run Tank is filled and running, we can drain the Belman Run Tank, have any repairs completed and have it painted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sesquicentennial Planning (February 2020):

The celebration will be held on Friday, August 27, 2021 on Main Street starting at 5:00 pm until midnight. The flyers regarding the celebration and donation levels were sent out with the water bills. We are getting a good response. The Sesquicentennial Banners have been hung up and look great. We have received \$8,000 from Ward Manufacturing, plus they produced the commemorative trivets; \$5,000 from the Jones Foundation, \$1,000 from the Williamson Road Foundation, \$1,000 from Dave & Bev Jones along with \$500 from NTSWA plus garbage pickup. Many residents have donated \$300. Jill Nickerson asked if Council would put \$2,500 toward the celebration. Jerome Ogden said that he would rather wait to see what the funds were after the celebration and meet any short falls. The celebration has a budget of approximately \$20,000. As of right now, there is \$18,500 in the account.

Shared Services Agreement (June 2020):

Solicitor will try to reach out to the Council for the other two Boroughs.

LED Streetlights (April 2021): Penelec had their project coordinator retire recently. Until a new person is hired and acclimated with the project, this is on hold.

American Rescue Plan (April 2021): We have received the first payment of \$77,559.99 and have put that in a separate account.

Sale of 245 Main Street: (April 2021) This is on hold until we can get the building emptied

Old Hospital: The owners are reapplying for federal funding

Junk Cars on Taylor Street (June 2021). This will be discussed in a short Executive Session.

NEW BUSINESS:

Coal Festival Car Show & Fireworks: The Coal Festival would like to hold the postponed Car Show and Fireworks on Island Park on July 31, 2021. Motion by Tonya McNamara, Second Jill Nickerson. All in Favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Amendments to Sunshine Act: Effective August 29, 2021, the Sunshine Act will be amended to require the following:

1. A meeting agenda must be posted on the Municipality Website at least 24 hours prior to the meeting as well as being physically posted at the meeting location.
2. Agenda must include each matter to be discussed at the meeting or any matter that will have an action taken by the Council. Only the items on the Agenda at the time of posting can be discussed during the meeting and have action taken.
3. If a matter is an emergency which involves “clear and present danger to life or property” the Council can then take action on a matter that is not included on the agenda or to address a matter of business that only arose or was brought to the Municipality’s attention within 24 hours of the meeting
4. To address de minimus matters that do not involve expenditure of public funds or entering into an agreement or contract.
5. Direct the research of a matter which was raised during the meeting by a resident or taxpayer.
6. A majority of the Council members present at a meeting can vote to add an item to the agenda and then vote upon the added item. In this case, the reason for the change to the agenda must be publicly announced at the meeting before conducting a vote to change the agenda; the modified agenda must then be published on the website and posted at the meeting location by the first business day following the meeting and the meeting minutes must reflect the added agenda item, the vote to modify the agenda and the reason for the change.

These changes will affect both the Council Meetings, as well as the Municipal Authority, Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board.

Lions Club Meeting to sign up members and officially start a Blossburg Area Lions Club will be held on July 18th starting at 4:00 pm. The meeting was going to be at the KCC Building on Island Park, however, the building is rented for that day. The meeting will be moved to the Library. We need at least 20 members to start a club. Great tool for fund-raising and their insurance would cover certain events.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned by Vice President Jill Nickerson at 7:00 p.m. Motion by Jerome Ogden, Second by Tim Martin. All in Favor

Executive Session called by Solicitor – No action will be taken.

Cheryl L. Bubacz

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary