

**BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 13, 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 (on duty), Borough Manager, George D. Lloyd, Borough Secretary, Cheryl Bubacz and School Representative (Absent).

Guests: Natalie Kennedy (*Wellsboro Gazette*), Chuck Dillon from Senator Cris Dush's Office, Betty Woodard, Alan Williams, Misty Jo Osborn and Anna Osborn.

Natalie Kennedy - Nothing

Chuck Dillon Field Representative for PA Senator Cris Dush came to present the Borough with a Proclamation from the Pennsylvania State Senate recognizing the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the Borough.

Betty Woodard came to discuss an issue with a neighboring house which is unsightly and wanted to know what could be done. Additionally, the people have several dogs that bark continuously. Mayor Nickerson stated that he would go and talk to the resident regarding the property and animals.

Alan Williams also came to discuss an issue with a neighboring property. The property has been vacant since 2010 and the trees that line the property are dead and he is afraid they will come down on his garage. The house is also in shambles due to the length of time the property has been vacant and the utilities being turned off. Mayor Nickerson said that he would talk to the property owner; also asked the Solicitor to review the standard for considering the property in the blight program.

Misty Jo and Anna Osborn came to discuss when Trick-or-Treating would be to coordinate with the Fire Department's annual parade.

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

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

Mayor:

We are continuing to see problems with vandalism at the old hospital. The architect has been diligently mapping out the premises for the renovations and the owners are definitely moving forward. They will be putting a new roof on the building in the near future. The owners desire to have an addiction treatment center in the building and they have begun recruiting staff, etc.

Police:

Chief McCurdy was on an active call and was unable to attend. Mayor Nickerson said that there was nothing new to report at this time.

Police Committee:

Nothing

Borough Manager:

UGI will be working on the gas line between the intersections of St. Mary's Street/Davis Street and White Street. While the line is being replaced, that section of Mary's Street will be closed. There will be room to access the St. Mary's Cemetery from White Street.

Councilman Bartlett asked if the tar and chipping the Borough did this year was different than previous years as there seemed to be less loose stones. Borough Manager said the process was slightly different this year, however, the cost was relatively the same as in previous years.

Junior Council Person:

Sarah Kelly has expressed interest in being appointed to this position. Jill Nickerson will get her a packet of information.

VIBE:

The annual VIBE chicken BBQ will be Saturday, October 16th.

Planning Commission Report:

The Planning Commission met on October 11, 2021, to discuss a proposed subdivision/lot addition to a property on North Williamson Road. The Planning Commission approved the request and recommended that Council do the same. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Henry Bartlett to approve the subdivision and lot addition. All in Favor.

Zoning Hearing Board:

Nothing

Recreation:

The Rec Board was approached by the Little League about getting electricity to the fields as you first come onto the Park. The Borough had previously done some of the groundwork for this. As the Borough owns the property and the Rec Board oversees the Park, it was decided that the Borough and Rec Board would be the parties to cover the cost, with help from the Little League. At the same time we are preparing the fields for the electricity, it was suggest that we refurbish the main gates to the Island Park to include electric there as well. This will also help to light some of the walking trail at the beginning of the Park. Motion by Tonya McNamara, Second by Jill Nickerson for the Borough and Rec Board to see that this project be completed. All in Favor.

Riverwalk: Nothing

Skate Park Addition: Addition looks great. A discussion was held regarding the possibility of putting a solar streetlight near the facility. The cost would be approximately \$2,500. However, we may be able to include a streetlight or other lighting when we install the lights to the Little League fields. Additionally, we may be able to get electric to the small pavilion.

Fire and Ambulance:

Minutes were received for the September 13, 2021 meeting of the Ambulance Association. The Ambulance Association will be holding a Gun Bash on November 6th and 7th at the fire hall. They have room for 100 vendors. There will be food and beverages available as well as games of chance.

Councilman Bartlett asked about the poor response times for the ambulance as of late. The main issue seems to be getting individuals to volunteer. Each volunteer needs to have a specific number of hours of training before they can be an active crew member. It's a big commitment of time and funds. Mansfield and Wellsboro currently have paid attendants through UPMC which is why Mansfield is responding to Blossburg calls a lot.

Library:

Board is looking to hire a part-time worker. Interviews will be starting soon.

Street Committee:

Nothing.

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing

Budget:

The 2022 Budget was provided to all Council Members for review. The Revenue and Expenses were about equal at \$998,187.70. This Budget does not include a tax increase. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by James Rakoski that the Budget be advertised. All in Favor.

Blossburg Municipal Report:

The contractor for the Taylor Run water tank believes that the start date will be the spring of 2022 and should be completed by the end of summer of 2022. Once the construction is completed they will begin filling the tank and once filled, the Bellman Run tank will then be drained, repainted and refilled.

OLD BUSINESS:

Shared Services Agreement (June 2020):

Attorney Barrett prepared a shared service agreement such that additional parties could be added to the agreement in the future. This agreement was provided to Borough Manager for review. Council would like to be sure there are fees set in the agreement for equipment sharing.

LED Streetlights (April 2021): Waiting on Penelec to hire a project manager.

American Rescue Plan (April 2021): Nothing

Sale of 245 Main Street: (April 2021): The building could be advertised for sale by sealed bid or a public auction could be held, whichever Council prefers. A discussion was held regarding if the building could be leased to a third party instead of sold. Attorney Barrett will look into this and report back.

Old Hospital: Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Junk Cars on Taylor Street (June 2021). Attorney Barrett needs to review changes sent to his office. Some of the cars on Taylor Street have been removed as have some on Schuylkill Street. It was suggested that the Police Committee meet to discuss further.

2022 Budget Ordinance/Resolution

Budget needs to be advertised.

2022 Tax Ordinance/Resolution

Once the Budget is advertised, then the Ordinance/Resolution can be addressed.

2022 Tioga TCC Voting Delegate Appointment Resolution

Once the elections are over and the Council members are seated, this can be completed.

Trick-or-Treating

After much discussion, a Motion was made by Jill Nickerson, Second by Tim Martin that trick-or-treating be held on Saturday, October 30, 2021 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. There will be trunk-or-treating at the First United Methodist Church as well as on Morris Street again this year. The Motion was passed with James Rakoski the only nay vote. He wanted this to be held on October 31, 2021 which has been our tradition. This item can be removed from the Agenda for November.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution for Garbage Fee Increase

Motion made by Jill Nickerson, Second by Tonya McNamara that the Resolution for a garbage fee increase be added to November's Agenda. All in Favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Westfield will be hosting the TCAB Meeting on October 21, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned by President Jolene Hall at 7:27 p.m. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Tim Martin. All in Favor

Cheryl L. Bubacz

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary