

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 11, 2022

The Council Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Jolene Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Guests: René Carey - Northcentral PA Conservancy, Andrew King – SRBC, Charlie and Joyce Andrews – TCCC, Joe Namoli and Natalie Kennedy from the *Wellsboro Gazette*.

Ms. Carey, from the Northcentral PA Conservancy (NPC), came to the meeting to introduce herself and to discuss NPC's acquisition of a 216-acre property in the Borough of Blossburg. This purchase is allowing a project to treat Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) to move ahead. NPC purchased the property from KLJ, Inc. The property will be needed to provide access to two abandoned mine discharges for treatment of the water as part of a larger project to clean up the Tioga River. NPC along with Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) and DEP are currently in the design phase of the project which is estimated to take up to 18 months, with construction to follow. The goal is to have the project complete in 2025. Once the AMD project is complete, NPC will transfer the property to DCNR for their use.

Charlie and Joyce Andrews, from TCCC, who have worked tirelessly over the last decade, the project has their full support. Mayor Nickerson commended Charlie and Joyce for their hard work and the results that they have achieved and said this is what an impact a few people can make to a community. He further stated that the Borough is excited and are here to help when and where we can. Following additional discussions, Ms. Carey, Mr. King and Mr. and Mrs. Andrews left the meeting.

Mr. Namoli and Ms. Kennedy had no comments.

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

Minutes and monthly Reports were all accepted as presented Motion of Tonya McNamara Second Kenneth Johnson. All in favor.

Mayor:

The Mayor attended the recent Blossburg Improvement Association meeting to discuss the possibility of the Borough transferring 245 Main Street to them. After discussions, the Improvement Association really had no use for the building. The Mayor would suggest that Council further discuss but the building up for sealed bids. Mr. Barrett said to be sure to include that the Borough as the right to reject any and all bids.

Please remember the Memorial Day commemoration at the Veterans' Memorial on May 30th at 11:30 a.m.

Police:

The Chief and Officers were attending part one of the MPOTEC certification and was excused from the Meeting.

The Mayor said that the Chief had received correspondence from the Coal Festival Board regarding an Anti-Bullying program that would be available during the Coal Festival. This is a 40-60 minute program that will also be presented at the Elementary School. The cost for the program is \$300.00. Motion by Kenneth Johnson, Second by Henry Bartlett to authorize sponsorship the program and to cover the program cost.

Police Committee:

At the Meeting on April 20, 2022, a discussion was held regarding the junk cars and how far the Borough wants to go with this. People who have been fined have been paying the fines which is provided for in our current Ordinance. The question becomes how far does the Council want to take it. After additional discussion, it was determined that the draft Ordinance that Mr. Barrett prepared will be reviewed and a decision will be made on how to proceed at the June Meeting.

Borough Manager:

Borough is working hard with the Municipal Authority.

Junior Council Person:

Nothing.

VIBE:

The community yard sale was held on May 7th and seemed to be very well received.

Planning Commission Report:

The Planning Commission reviewed a Special Exception filed by the Parker who recently purchased the property at 130 Main Street. He would like to open a machine shop in the garage at the corner of Morris and Nevins, behind 130 Main Street. The Planning Commission recommends the Special Exception.

Zoning Hearing Board:

A meeting needs to be scheduled to review the Planning Commissions' recommendation of the Park Special Exception.

Recreation:

Borough Manager stated that the Pool is being worked on currently. He does not believe that it will be ready before Memorial Day. A leak was found and repaired. Hope to start painting on May 13th and then start filling the pool thereafter.

The Park looks good and the little league fields are looking good. The little league board has been making some upgrades to the fields.

Fire and Ambulance:

Reminder that the Fire Department is having a meeting on May 15, 2022 at 2:00 pm to discuss the future of the Department.

A letter was received from the Ambulance Association requesting funding to purchase a vitals monitor for the new ambulance. After some discussion, the request was tabled pending the May 15th meeting and determining if there is something that the Borough would be better served helping with. There was discussion regarding the Borough previously purchasing monitors for vital signs. Borough Secretary will check when this was and what was purchased.

Library:

The summer programs are being rolled out to the public. The library continues to be doing well.

Street Committee:

Borough Manager stated that at this time he would not be reviewing any of the roads for tar and chipping. He may revisit this in the fall, but with the current cost of oil, etc., it is not economically responsible to proceed with tar and chipping this summer.

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing

Budget:

Borough Manager would like to hold a Budget Committee Meeting. A meeting was scheduled for May 17th at 5:00 pm.

Blossburg Municipal Report:

The Municipal Authority has been very busy with the construction of the new water tank in Taylor Run. The first section of footer was poured today and the second pour should be on Friday.

A question was asked as to how many people attended the pre-bid conference for the Sewer Plant. The Borough Manager said between 35 and 40. They had a good turnout.

OLD BUSINESS:

LED Streetlights (April 2021): Waiting for Penelec to tell us when the next section of replacements will be scheduled.

American Rescue Plan (April 2021): Waiting for the second payment to come in.

Sale of 245 Main Street: (April 2021): As discussed earlier in the meeting, 245 Main Street will be advertised for sealed bids. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by James Rakoski. All in Favor. An advertisement will be drafted for approval by Solicitor.

Old Hospital: The architects continue to be at the site. The bids for construction should be going out soon.

Junk Cars on Taylor Street (June 2021). As discussed earlier in the meeting, this will be addressed at the June Meeting following a review of the existing and revised Ordinance.

Project Goals for 2022: We will review the eight (8) project goals for 2022 periodically and provide updates.

- a. **Better WiFi on Island Park:** The ownership of the poles has been determined. Waiting for Blue Ridge to tell us what is next.
- b. **Sidewalk, Lighting and Signage for Island Park:** This is in the planning stages.
- c. **Restroom Replacement:** A replacement of the restrooms located near the football field is being spec'd and priced. As of this Meeting, \$100,000 of the \$206,000 cost has been secured, with additional parties being contacted.

NEW BUSINESS:

General Discussion:

1. Borough received a letter from the Tioga County Emergency Services regarding the Tioga County Response Operations Plan. The Borough needs to review the Plan and determine if we should adopt the same. This needs to be added to the Agenda for June.
2. The Borough received a letter from the Tioga County GIS Department regarding the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan Renewal for 2022. The Borough needs to review the Plan and determine if we should adopt the same. This needs to be added to the Agenda for June

Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Kenneth Johnson to add the above two (2) items to the Agenda for June's meeting. All in Favor.

Announcements: Reminder of the Fire Department meeting to be held on May 15, 2022 at 2:00 pm at the Fire Department.

Attorney Barrett called an Executive Session to discuss legal matters, no action will be taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned by President Jolene Hall at 7:23 p.m. Motion by Kenneth Johnson, Second by Tonya McNamara. All in Favor

Executive Session ended at 7:31 p.m.

Cheryl L. Bubacz

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary