

**BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 9, 2022**

The November 9, 2022, Council Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Vice-President Timothy Martin. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Guests: Reneé Carey from the Northcentral PA Conservancy (NPC) and Ash Sergejenki and Natalie Kennedy both from Tioga Publishing.

Reneé Carey the stream bank erosion behind the Library, pump house and Island Park were reviewed. The National Trout Center can come out and design the banks to stop erosion and develop the fish habitat in the river. Once the design is done we will have an estimate of the cost to apply for grant funding for the project. The ADM Project is on track to start in the February timeframe. They will be reviewing the design with the Borough for input and options. DCNR is interested in meeting with the local business owners, VIBE and Council to get ideas for when the land is ready for conversion to recreation activities.

A discussion was held regarding stabilizing the riverbank across the river from the back of the Library. Once a floodplain restoration grading is done, it will be easier to access the river for fishing.

Natalie Kennedy introduced Ash Sergejenko who is a new reporter for the Gazette and will be covering the Borough. Council welcomed Ash.

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

Minutes and monthly Reports were accepted as presented by Motion of Jill Nickerson, Second Kenneth Johnson. All in favor.

Mayor:

The Mayor was attending the Tioga County EMS Meeting as was Jolene Hall

Police:

The Chief has been contacted by a local resident about school pickup on Carpenter Street which is causing a bottleneck of cars and busses, with people driving in yards to get off the road. Chief said that he discussed this with the School and they will purchase the No Parking signs and then the Chief will have a letter prepared for parents. Solicitor needs to review the existing Ordinance to see if it needs to be amended or re-written. Councilman Bartlett asked if the signs that are along Ruah Street between Hannibal and Lynd Streets could be used along Carpenter Street. Additionally, we may need to add a crosswalk at the corner of Carpenter and Morris Streets. Motion by Tonya McNamara, Second Henry Bartlett to amend the existing ordinance for parking along Carpenter Street. All in Favor.

Police Committee:

Nothing

Borough Manager:

The Wreaths Across America drive is currently on. The Borough purchased a wreath in 2020 in memory of Council members who had passed who were veterans. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second Kenneth Johnson to donate \$30.00 to Wreaths Across America. All in Favor.

In lieu of purchasing turkeys for the employees, can we purchase \$50.00 gift cards to the Bloss Holiday for the employees as we did in 2021. Motion by Tonya McNamara, Second by Jill Nickerson to purchase \$50.00 gift certificates for employees, the cost to be split with Municipal Authority. All in Favor.

Councilman Bartlett stated that the catch basin near the corner of Morris and Lynd Streets needed to be cleanout as leaves had accumulated in it. Borough Manager would have the street crew look into it.

Junior Council Person:

Nothing.

VIBE:

The Island Park 150 will be held on Saturday, November 12, 2022. Small Business Saturday will be held on November 26, 2022 inviting people to shop locally. Light of the Holidays decorating contest will be soon here.

Planning Commission Report:

Nothing.

Zoning Hearing Board:

Nothing.

Recreation:

The Board discussed having additional pool parties as they are a good money maker.

Fire and Ambulance:

Minutes for September were received from the Fire Department which included their motion and approval to raise their millage 0.25 mills per year for the next four (4) years.

Library:

They are very busy afterschool. The annual Basket Raffle is going on now.

Street Committee:

Nothing.

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing.

Budget:

The Borough Manager would like to have a Budget Meeting. A meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 14, 2022 at 5:00 pm in the Council room.

Blossburg Municipal Report:

The construction of the Chlorine building in Taylor Run has started. The water leak at the corner of Ruah and Seymour Streets was dug up and repaired. Repair parts for the broken valve were 10 weeks out, so the valve was replaced, as well as another valve while the area was dug up.

OLD BUSINESS:

LED Streetlights (April 2021): A discussion was held regarding complaints about the LED lights on Bleker Street. The Codes Officer and Engineer are looking into this.

Junk Cars on Taylor Street (June 2021): Solicitor is working on this amendment, needs to talk with the Mayor and Police Chief.

Project Goals for 2022: Project Goal Updates:

- a. **Better Wi-Fi on Island Park:** Penn Tele Data was on the Park and will be providing a 3 phase proposal for review.
- b. **Sidewalk, Lighting and Signage for Island Park:** Livic has received the authorization to proceed with design of the sidewalk.
- c. **Island Park Restroom Replacement:**
- d. **Plaza Refurbishment:** Livic working on options.

2023 Police Pension Resolution: Motion by Tonya McNamara, Second Jill Nickerson to adopt the 2023 Police Pension Resolution. All in Favor.

2023 Budget: The 2023 Budget was advertised. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Kenneth Johnson to adopt the 2023 Budget, which is a balanced budget. All in Favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

2023 Real Estate Tax Ordinance: Motion by Kenneth Johnson, Second by Henry Bartlett to advertise the 2023 real estate tax ordinance showing the .25 mill increase to the fire millage to the agenda for December. All in Favor.

The Tioga County **Non-Residential Solar Ordinance** was reviewed by Council. Motion by Tonya McNamara, Second by Henry Bartlett to add the County's non-residential solar ordinance to the December agenda. All in Favor.

The Act 57 Resolution to direct the tax collector to waive additional charges for real estate taxes in certain situations was reviewed. This Resolution, prepared by the PA Department of

Community and Economic Development, must be adopted by taxing agencies by January 9, 2023. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Kenneth Johnson to add this Resolution to the December agenda. All in Favor.

DISCUSSION:

Councilman Bartlett asked where we stood on the Fire Department's request for funding. A discussion was held and with the increase in the millage, which the Fire Department requested, will this help to make up their deficit? Additionally, we did not receive information about what was needed/wanted and the costs involved. A plan for future rotation of equipment was requested, but to date not received. Ward Township made a donation to them per their request. This was tabled until the December meeting.

Councilman Bartlett suggested that we add planning for Halloween to the August agenda for better planning purposes.

Solicitor Barrett called an Executive Session to discuss legal matters following adjournment of the meeting. No action will be taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned by Vice President Martin at 7:20 p.m. Motion by Henry Bartlett, Second by Kenneth Johnson. All in Favor

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary