

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 9, 2023

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, Pro-Temp Tonya McNamara, Council Members: Jill Nickerson (Absent), James Rakoski, Henry Bartlett, Kenneth Johnson, Mayor, Shane Nickerson, Borough Solicitor, Patrick Barrett, Police Chief, Josh McCurdy, Borough Manager, George D. Lloyd, Borough Secretary, Cheryl Bubacz and School Representative, Kail Thompson.

Guests: Josh Jones, Brian McClure, Renee Carey from North Central Conservancy and Zac Tilburg from Tioga Publishing.

Renee Carey reported that the surveyor will be starting the survey of the lands in the next couple of months. The Conservancy is not looking at funding through the Fish Habitat and Trout Unlimited for funding for the repopulation of the River and would like to have a group meeting with them and George. They applied to the Jones Foundation for a grant.

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

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

Mayor:

The Skateboard Competition held on August 5th was a big success and Alan Weed did a great job. There were many people in and out of the competition. Alan is looking forward to making this an annual event. The concert seemed to be well received.

Over the last week, the Communities have lost some great people. Harold "Poncho" Andrews from Arnot and Jim McIntosh from Blossburg. Jim did a lot for anyone who asked. The Mayor remembered one time when Jim went out to fix someone's tire on the Cherry Flats Road and when asked what the charge would be he said \$10, but then lowered it to \$5. In honor and memory of Jim and for all he did for our communities, the Mayor proclaimed April 25th as Jim McIntosh Day starting in 2024. The Council Members were all in favor unanimously.

Police:

The young man who was interested in working for the Borough did not pass 2 of the required tests to be certified. He will now have to attend an Act 120 program in order to reapply for certification.

Police Committee:

No Meeting.

Borough Manager:

Fall Cleanup has been scheduled for October 3rd or 4th depending on your normal garbage day. Everyone received a copy from BSST for a donation. As discussed previously, monetary donations for such programs are not available.

The Pension Plan contributions for 2024 have been calculated. The Uniform contribution is \$33,934 and the Non-Uniform contribution is \$41,124. Both contributions have been included in the budget. Motion by Tonya McNamara, Second by Timothy Martin to approve the contributions as required. All in Favor.

Junior Council Person: Football practice has started and Homecoming has been scheduled for September 29, 2023.

VIBE:

Brian McClure reported that VIBE met at Blossburg Pizza and Subs. The primary topic was the Fall Festival scheduled for October 15, 2023 from 12 to 4. They have many returning vendors. They are looking at the possibility of having a military themed museum in town to be open at least during the Coal Festival. The Discover Blossburg Day had a good turnout with a constant flow of people. They are hoping to have another one in September. The Girl Scouts are putting together Welcome to Blossburg sign designs and they look good so far. The meeting will be held at the Farmer's Table in August.

Planning Commission Report:

No Meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board:

No. Meeting

Recreation:

The Athletic Director for North Penn Mansfield attended the meeting along with the coaches for STYF to discuss the use of the park this fall. Both the tennis and basketball courts are cracking in some locations. The Borough Manager reviewed the cracking with our Engineer and he knows of material that will help fill in the cracks.

Fire and Ambulance:

The Fire Department is conducting a smoke and fire training on August 13th at a house near the Kwik Fill. All required permits and authorizations have been received.

Library:

The Library is very busy and doing well.

Street Committee:

A Street Committee meeting was set for Tuesday, August 15th at 4:00 pm to discuss McIntyre Street sidewalks.

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing.

Budget:

A Budget meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, August 15th at 4:30 pm to discuss the initial draft of the 2024 budget.

Blossburg Municipal Report:

SBR Tanks are installed and tested. The Control and UV buildings are on schedule. The Taylor Run Buildings for Well #1 and Well #3 are up and the first coat of drivet will be put on the outside of the buildings in the next few weeks. Both the Taylor Run and Belman Run IMG water tanks are full. BMA is waiting for quotes for the Belman Run tank repairs and repainting.

The RUS funding for the Sewer Plant Project will close on August 24, 2023. Sewer rates starting in December 2023 will increase from \$120.00/quarter to \$160.00/quarter. This is the fourth increase RUS requires user rates capable of paying their debt funding.

OLD BUSINESS:

LED Streetlights (April 2021): There are a few lights remaining to be changed over and the installation of the new light across from the entrance to Briar Patch Estates.

Project Goals for 2022: Project Goal Updates:

- a. **Better Wi-Fi on Island Park:** On Hold
- b. **Sidewalk, Lighting and Signage for Island Park:** Drawings have been received and are available for review by Council.
- c. **Island Park Restroom Replacement:** On Hold
- d. **Plaza Refurbishment:** Livic has submitted a proposed layout for the area for Council review.

Planning Commission Board Opening: The position has been advertised. No letters have been received to date.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Tioga County has adopted their Tioga County Response Operations Plan. The Borough may adopt their plan or prepare their own. Motion by James Rakoski, Second by Henry Bartless to adopt the County's Response Operations Plan. All in Favor.
2. The 2024 Police Pension Resolution shall be added to September's Agenda.
3. The 2024 Real Estate Tax Ordinance shall be added to September's Agenda.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Henry Bartlett asked if more units could be put in the mobile home park on Gulick Street. The Borough Manager reported that once the consent order from DEP has been lifted, after completion of the new sewer plant, more mobile homes could be added to the park. Mr. Bartlett also asked if since the County is a No Sanctuary County, does the Borough have to do anything regarding that. The Solicitor said no, we are under the County's No Sanctuary.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned by President Hall at 7:02 p.m. Motion by Henry Bartlett, Second by Kenneth Johnson. All in Favor

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary