

**BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 11, 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 (Absent), Pro-Temp Tonya McNamara, Council Members: Jill Nickerson (Absent), James Rakoski, Henry Bartlett, Kenneth Johnson (Absent), Mayor, Shane Nickerson, Borough Solicitor, Patrick Barrett (Absent), Police Chief, Josh McCurdy, Borough Manager, George D. Lloyd, Borough Secretary, Cheryl Bubacz and School Representative, Kail Thompson.

Guests: Josh Jones, David Steinbeck and Zac Tilburg from Tioga Publishing.

Mr. Steinbeck came to discuss a portable/adjustable stage that is for sale. The stage is 300 to 600 sq. feet, on axles to allow for ease in moving it. It originally cost \$30,000 to build and is for sale for \$15,000. It was built in 2016 by a local contractor. Council thanked Mr. Steinbeck for the information.

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

Minutes and monthly Reports were accepted as presented by Motion of Tonya McNamara, Second James Rakoski. All in favor.

Mayor:

Nothing at this time.

Police:

Nothing at this time.

Police Committee:

Chief was contacted by a cadet who will graduate in the next 5 weeks interested in possibly working at the Borough. Chief is going to check with the State to find a contract for officers to sign.

Borough Manager:

Renee Carey from the North Central Conservancy notified the Borough that the survey of the property is completed and a draft of the survey should be available for the next meeting.

Junior Council Person: Nothing

VIBE:

Josh Jones reported that a chicken BBQ will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2023 for the benefit of VIBE. Fall Festival is October 15, 2023 there are at least 70 vendors scheduled to be on hand. VIBE is working with the Fire Department to schedule the Halloween parade and trunk or treat.

Planning Commission Report:

No Meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board:

No. Meeting

Recreation:

The three (3) sets of bleachers should be here next week.

Fire and Ambulance:

Minutes were received from both Fire and Ambulance. Mayor talked with the Fire President about the tanker and the replacement of the tank. The Fire Department is looking to get a low-interest loan from the State for \$60,000. They need to have \$12,000 on hand to get the loan. Motion by James Rakoski, Second Henry Bartlett to provide the Fire Department with the downpayment they need for the low-interest loan. All in Favor.

Library:

Library remains very busy. The Tai Chi classes are very popular. The first game night was held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 and there were over 40 people who attended. Story hour has started as well.

Street Committee:

Borough Manager spoke with Lisowski's and if the weather holds out, they will be able to fix the parking lot swale yet this year.

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing.

Budget:

The Budget has been advertised, however, we do not have the proof of publication back from the Gazette yet.

Blossburg Municipal Report:

The sewer plant construction is coming along very well. Borough Manager is very pleased with the Contractor. The pump house on N. Williamson Road is scheduled for demolition on October 12, 2023 and the new pump house should be constructed within the next two (2) months.

The new Wells in Taylor Run have been set into the casings and the electric is being hooked up. Fencing is being installed around the new tank this year. Waiting for Blue Ridge to come to install the internet connections.

OLD BUSINESS:

LED Streetlights (April 2021): There are still a few lights left to be changed over. The light that was installed at the Briar Patch Estates has the wrong length arm. Penelec has been contacted and will be putting the correct arm up in the very near future.

Project Goals for 2022: Project Goal Updates:

- a. **Better Wi-Fi on Island Park:** On Hold
- b. **Sidewalk, Lighting and Signage for Island Park:** Nothing at this time.
- c. **Island Park Restroom Replacement:** Livic has provided a draft of the new design for everyone to review.
- d. **Plaza Refurbishment:** Work needs to be done at the site by the Borough before we can begin the project.

2024 Real Estate Millage Ordinance: Need to meet with the Fire Department to explain their new millage, then the Ordinance can be approved for publication.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

A question was raised about the status of Joseph's Place. Mayor reported that USDA is holding up some of the funds at this time waiting for additional information. The demo work is done and general cleanup outside needs to be done. Once the contracts with USDA are complete, then the bids can be sent out.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned by President Hall at 6:50 p.m. Motion by James Rakoski, Second by Henry Bartlett. All in Favor.

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary