

**BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 13, 2023**

The Council Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Jolene Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. An Executive Session was called by President Hall to discuss legal matters.

Attendance: President Jolene Hall, Vice-President Timothy Martin, Pro-Temp Tonya McNamara, Council Members: Jill Nickerson, James Rakoski, Henry Bartlett, Kenneth Johnson (Absent), 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 (Absent).

Guests: Josh Jones, Ian Hicks-Lee, Renee Carey – Northcentral PA Conservancy and Kristie Bowles from Tioga Publishing.

Executive Session adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Renee reported that the Kleinfelder meeting for municipal/county officials was well attended. DEP will be pulling together their meeting in the near future and are working on the temporary and permanent rights of ways. Once she has received a copy of the information she will let the Borough know.

Donations and grants totaling \$4,500 were received to help with the stabilization of the riverbank. Donations/grants were from the Williamson Road Foundation, Hillside Rod & Gun Club, Tiadaughton Trout and the American Legions in Blossburg and Morris Run.

NPC is working on a grant application to the Jones Foundation to hold a couple family focused hikes in 2024. We're partnering with a Forest Therapy facilitator. She would lead the hikes and take some time during the walk to explore what's around. There are two (2) walks planned in 2024, one in the spring and one in the summer. This may be included in a summer program in conjunction with the Library.

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 Timothy Martin. All in favor.

Mayor:

At the end of this meeting, Shane will be resigning as Mayor as he has been elected as a Tioga County Commissioner. He said that being Mayor was an incredible experience, with great council members and employees. Blossburg is a special place and the people are great. The ability of the community and the legislature to come together to accomplish various goals is wonderful and quite out of the norm. He believes the Borough will be in great hands.

Police:

Ian Hicks-Lee has been accepted into the May program at Mansfield University which he will complete in July.

The Chief would like to put the 2013 Police Interceptor sedan on municibid for sale. Motion by Timothy Martin, Second by James Rakoski to sell the 2013 police sedan. All in favor.

Police Committee:

Nothing at this time.

Borough Manager:

A report from CSR, our network/computer contractor, was received showing the number of attempts that were made in the last 30 days to breach our computer system.

Henry Bartlett thanks the Borough for getting the swale in the Plaza parking lot paved this year.

Junior Council Person: Nothing at this time.

VIBE:

Josh Jones reported that the Island Park 150 was well attended. The Light-Up the holidays home decorating contest will be judged on December 17th as well as the business decorating contest. KC101 has put together a very nice prize package for the business contest winners.

Planning Commission Report:

No Meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board:

No Meeting

Recreation:

No Meeting.

Fire and Ambulance:

Nothing.

Library:

The Library remains very busy. The special programs planned are very well attended by the community.

Street Committee:

Nothing.

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing.

Budget:

Borough Manager reported that he is going to continue to drive the old police SUV until it dies. The repairs needed are not worth what we would get if we sent the SUV to auction. We will need to be looking at the possibility of purchasing a new vehicle in the next year.

Blossburg Municipal Report:

Taylor Run has a tentative start-up date of January 22, 2024. The Sewer Plant should have a substantial completion date of April 2024 and be operational in June of 2024.

OLD BUSINESS:

LED Streetlights (April 2021): Penelec sent us a list of streetlights that were not converted and stated that none of the work orders included the streetlights on the list. After reviewing the workorders and the list from Penelec, a return email was sent with the workorders noted by each of the lights in question. We have not received a response to date.

Project Goals for 2022: Project Goal Updates:

- a. **Better Wi-Fi on Island Park:** On Hold
- b. **Sidewalk, Lighting and Signage for Island Park:** Another portion of McIntyre Street had the sidewalks replaced and it looks great.
- c. **Island Park Restroom Replacement:** Waiting for Spring.
- d. **Plaza Refurbishment:** Waiting for spring.

2024 Real Estate Millage Ordinance: The Millage Ordinance has been reviewed for adoption. Motion by Henry Bartlett, Second by James Rakoski to adopt the millage rates for 2024. All in Favor.

Sidewalk Ordinance: The Borough Secretary will be putting together a draft of the proposed ordinance for review by Counsel.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Garbage Rates:** The Landfill contract for disposal of the garbage collected in the Borough has increased by 3.5%. A spreadsheet was provided to Council showing a rate increase of 3.5% for residents and business for review.
2. **Franchise Agreement Renewal:** We received a letter stating that the franchise agreement with Blue Ridge was up for renewal in July 2024. This agreement will be reviewed by Solicitor.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

A letter of resignation was received from Mayor Nickerson resigning his post as Mayor. He stated that it has been a privilege to serve as Mayor for the last 10 years. Motion by James Rakoski, Second by Henry Bartlett to accept his resignation. All in Favor.

James Rakoski asked Shane Nickerson who he would recommend to replace him as Mayor. Shane stated that it was his belief that the best suited person would be Timothy Martin. Tim knows the residents, is active in the community and savvy. Motion by James Rakoski,

Second by Tonya McNamara to appoint Timothy Martin. The motion passed unanimously, with Timothy Martin abstaining from voting.

Timothy Martin then resigned his position as a member of the Borough Council. A motion was made to accept his resignation and to advertise the opening by Henry Bartlett and Second by Jill Nickerson. This was also a unanimous vote.

Solicitor called a short Executive Session following the adjournment for legal matters, no action shall be taken.

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

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary