

**BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – RECONVENED MEETING
February 26, 2024**

The Reconvened Council Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Jolene Hall.

Attendance: President Jolene Hall, Vice-President Joshua Jones, Pro-Temp Kenneth Johnson
Council Members: Jill Nickerson, James Rakoski (Absent), Robert Bowens (Absent), Mayor,
Timothy Martin, Borough Solicitor, Patrick Barrett (Absent), Police Chief, Josh McCurdy,
Borough Manager, George D. Lloyd (Absent), Borough Secretary, Cheryl Bubacz and School
Representative, Kail Thompson (Absent).

Guests: None.

The purpose of the reconvened meeting was to discuss the Police Committee’s meeting of February 22, 2024 and their interview with a potential part-time police officer and review their recommendations for revised policies for the Police Department.

The Committee interviewed Jeff Perry as a part-time officer with the Borough. Mayor Martin highly recommended that the Council hire Mr. Perry, who is the current Police Chief at Mansfield University. The Mayor believes Mr. Perry has great character, qualifications and experience, having been an officer for 14 years. He would be a welcome addition to the PD. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Joshua Jones to Hire Mr. Perry as a part-time officer with the Borough at a rate of \$21.00 per hour based on the beginning hiring rate of \$19.00 plus \$1.00 for each five (5) years of experience. All in Favor. Once Mr. Perry has had his firearms training with the Borough Firearms and Chief McCurdy completes his MOPTEC status, he will start his initial training, which will not take long, and he will start his shifts.

The Committee also discussed the following items:

1. update to the Residency requirement for full-time officers. Currently the requirement for full-time officers is to be a resident of the Borough within an agreed upon time-frame. The Committee recommends that the requirement be amended to be “Full-time officers are required to establish residency within the Blossburg Police Department’s jurisdiction within an agreed upon timeframe.”
2. review of the Cadet Sponsorship Agreement. The Committee recommends that the Cadet Sponsorship Agreement be adopted pending legal review by the Solicitor.
3. review of revised Drug and Alcohol Policy. The Committee recommends that the revised Drug and Alcohol be adopted not only for the Police Department, but also for all Borough employees.
4. review of an Attendance Policy. The Committee recommends that the proposed Attendance Policy be adopted not only for the Police Department, but also for all Borough employees.

5. review of the Civil Service Rules and Regulations. The Committee recommends that the Civil Service Rules and Regulations be further reviewed by the Council and the Solicitor.

Motion by Kenneth Johnson, Second by Jill Nickerson, that the items recommended herein be added to the Council Agenda for March for further review and consideration. All in Favor.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Council Members held a general discussion regarding the tragic accident that occurred involving Councilman Robb Bowens' son who is still in critical condition at UPMC Williamsport. Motion by Kallie Wickman, Second by Jill Nickerson to provide Robb and his family with a \$100.00 gift card for traveling expenses and meals as they need. All in Favor. Prayers were also given for the recovery of Robb's son.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m. Motion by Kenneth Johnson, Second by Jill Nickerson. All in Favor.

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary