

**BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 14, 2024**

The Council Meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by President Jolene Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

**Guests:** Steve Hall, Tom Yankowy, Joseph Stitz, Renee Carey, North Central PA Conservancy; and Kristie Bowles from Tioga Publishing.

Renee Carey: The Tioga River stabilization project is scheduled to start on August 19, 2024.

The storm caused more erosion and the water appears to still be high, therefore they may need additional rock and other materials. Tuesday/Wednesday, August 20 or 21<sup>st</sup> may be a good time to go and see what work is being done. There will be a full accounting for possible match for other improvements.

They have approximately 80-85% of the required rights of way for the AMD project. Also, Renee reported that someone is circumnavigating the gate along White Street across from Arbon Cemetery. Doesn't appear to have done any damage.

Tom Yankowy & Joseph Stitz - Nothing

Steve Hall: Steve is the Borough's Emergency Management coordinator and believes we should review the County's plan for more specific steps for the Borough. He is appointed to coordinate with other organizations involved in an emergency not to take over and direct. If the Borough wants him to be involved in an emergency, it is best to contact the County Emergency Services and make a formal request for him to be contacted. There should also be an Emergency declared. In the August 9, 2024 event, the County Commissioners made a declaration for the entire County. However, the Mayor can make that declaration or three (3) members of Council.

Jill Nickerson asked that a meeting be set up with Steve and the members of the Street Committee to review the plan and procedures as it pertains to the Borough. A meeting is being scheduled pending confirmation of schedules.

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

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

**Mayor:**

The Mayor stated that he was/is extremely proud of George, Josh and the Borough employees on how they handled the events during the storm. The Borough is blessed to have this group of individuals. The Chief expressed his thanks to the Mayor for his help in rescuing and removing one of the tenants at 131 Taber Street.

The Mayor and Chief suggested that we include a note to all Landlords in our next billing to let us know their renters and contact information for them. We did not have that information and were only made aware of the people at 131 Taber Street after the initial clearing of the building.

**Police:**

The Chief wanted to thank the Fire Department, Borough Employees, George, Police Department and the Mayor for their assistance during the storm on August 9, 2024. They all did a great job for what we were handed and the timing.

**Police Committee:**

A meeting has been scheduled for August 29, 2024 at 3:30 pm.

**Borough Manager:**

The 2025 MMO for pension plans are \$40,833 for the non-uniformed plan and \$34,838 for the uniformed plan. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by James Rakoski to approve the payment of at least the minimum required amount for 2025. All in Favor. These amounts will be included in the 2025 budget.

**Junior Council Person:**

Absent.

**VIBE:**

Currently in the summer “lull”. The 204-2025 officers were elected and remain the same. Planning for Fall Fest continues and there is a VIBE chicken BBQ on August 17, 2024.

**Planning Commission Report:**

No Meeting.

**Zoning Hearing Board:**

No Meeting

**Recreation:**

The Rec Board met and reviewed and approved the installation of the AED Machine at the new restrooms on Island Park. This machine will be donated by Ward Manufacturing and installed by UPMC. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Josh Jones to approve the installation of the AED Machine. All in Favor.

The last day for the pool will be August 25, 2024.

The School District started the 2024 Tennis practices. The pickleball nets were taken down and the tennis nets were put up.

**Fire and Ambulance:**

Minutes were received from the Ambulance Association.

**Library:**

A status report from the Library was received. Community night is the second Tuesday of each month. Liz was very thankful for the Council recognizing her and giving her a Certificate of Appreciation.

**Street Committee:**

The leveling course of blacktop was put down on Hannibal, Carpenter, Water, Joseph and Taber Streets in preparation for tar and chipping which should begin in September.

**Shade Tree Commission:**

Nothing.

**Budget:**

A meeting was scheduled for August 29, 2024 at 6:00 pm to review the initial draft budget.

**Blossburg Municipal Report:**

The Sportsman's Well old filter media was removed and it was determined that the air scour pipes in the bottom of the 3 filters have to be replaced. The Borough guys are in the process of preparing for the replacement of the pipes.

The Taylor Run wells were operating during the storm. Bellman was restarted and extra chemicals were added to keep the turbidity down. The storm caused a great deal of the gravel and rocks to be washed downstream and left a level of clay which causes the water to be dirty. We are looking into ideas how to stop the clay infiltration into the plant.

The sewer plant had some overflows but for the most part it ran well.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**LED Streetlights (April 2021):** Waiting for Penelec

**Project Goals for 2022:** Project Goal Updates:

- a. **Sidewalk, Lighting and Signage for Island Park:** Hoping to install sidewalks on the North side of McIntyre Street this year.
- b. **Island Park Restroom Replacement:** Completed and is in use. Motion by James Rakoski Second by Josh Jones to remove this item from the Agenda. All in Favor.
- c. **Plaza Refurbishment:** Nothing at this time.

**Civil Service Rules and Regulations:** The Solicitor advertised the amendment to the previously advertised ordinance and it can be adopted. Motion by Josh Jones, Second by Kallie Wickman to adopt Civil Service Rule and Regulations amendment. All in Favor. A meeting of the Civil Service Committee will be scheduled within the next 10 days.

**Concepcion – Maple Hill:** The Solicitor is working with Mr. Concepcion to be out of his travel trailer by the end of October.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Storm August 9, 2024:** An Island Park work bee will be scheduled in the near future once a detailed plan is prepared. If someone wants to do work on the Park in the meantime, they can pick up rocks and debris and put in a pile. There is a lot of silt on the visitors' side of the football field that needs to be removed. Before and after pictures are being taken by those affected by the flooding as well as by the Borough. The Borough will be in contact with the Greene's about their property, along Taber Street, and the damage they received and if we can provide any additional assistance.

**2024 County Response Plan:** This will be reviewed by the Streets Committee and Steve Hall, the Emergency Management Coordinator, on September 10, 2024 at 4:00 pm.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Robb Bowens to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 pm. All in Favor.

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Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary