

**BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
November 13, 2024**

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

Guests: Kristie Bowles (Tioga Publishing).

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

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

Mayor:

The Mayor and Borough Manager attended an informational meeting at Highland Field Services on Bloss Mountain Road to discuss the odor issue. Since purchasing the facility, not a lot has changed. The tanks that are on site do not have lids, and they have made a change to the process so that they do not hold the water in the tanks as long as they did before. Humidity and the length of time the water is in the tanks leads to the odor. Highland stated that they have some additional changes coming, but they don't have a timeframe yet. Seemed to be a good meeting.

Police:

Both Cadets, Eion Hicks-Lee and Elliot Custred, are in the final testing phase. Hicks-Lee was certified and Custred takes his finals next week. Their uniforms have been ordered as well as their duty gear. The next step, after both are certified, will be for each to be weapons certified.

Car 2 received some minor damage with a deer collision. The vehicle is still operable.

We need to replace the No Parking during specific times sign on Main Street by Toddler U to a No Parking here to corner sign. A discussion was held about making the first space on Carpenter Street next to Aging in Place to a Loading Zone area and remove the 2 hour parking signs on Carpenter Street between the intersections of Main and Morris. Would be great to re-paint the curbs and put hash marks in the no parking areas.

A discussion was held regarding the intersection of Main and Hannibal by the Hardware Store. It is hard to see at that corner primarily due to the one bush at the Kwik Fill.

Police Committee:

No Meeting

Borough Manager:

Due to both Christmas and New Year's Day being on a Wednesday, garbage for those 2 weeks will be picked up on Tuesday for everyone.

The 2024 Truck was delivered by Sunbury Motors and was taken to Watson Diesel for the additional work. Borough Manager asked to have the 2001 Ford Truck and the 2013 SUV that was a Police Inceptor sent to auction. Motion by Kenneth Johnson, Seconded by Robert Bowens to authorize the 2001 Ford Truck, the 2013 SUV and the Ford Taurus (previously authorized for sale) sent to auction for sale. All in Favor.

A question was raised regarding installing a Stop or Yield sign at the corner of Granger and Bleker Streets. Borough Manager and Chief will look at this. Someone commented that the Stop sign at the corner of Ruah and Bleker Streets was missing, Borough Manager will confirm. The Mayor approved the installation of a Yield sign at the corner of Granger and Bleker Streets for a 30 day trial period.

Junior Council Person:

Nothing.

VIBE:

Thank you to everyone who came to the Fall Festival, in spite of the weather. The Island Park 150 was held on November 9th. There were a total of 96 participants including virtual runners. New records were set for the number of laps by a Female at 14 laps or 21 miles and for male youth 9 laps or 13.5 miles.

VIBE is wondering if the Borough would take down the Veteran Banners that are bad. VIBE is looking for someone to head up the project to replace banners, but do not have anyone yet.

Planning Commission Report:

No Meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board:

No Meeting

Recreation:

The roof is on the Concession Stand/Electric Building and employees are working on the trim, doors and windows.

The TCCC sign coordination is having a meeting soon with representatives from the Rec. Board, Coal Festival and TCCC.

Fire and Ambulance:

Minutes were received from Ambulance Company.

Library:

The Library remains very busy. There are over 39 baskets for the annual November basket raffle.

Street Committee:

Nothing.

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing.

Budget:

Budget advertised, can be adopted at the December meeting.

Blossburg Municipal Report:

Fencing is being installed in Taylor Run at Well #1. Xylem is working on the chemical feed issue at the sewer plant. The Rod & Gun/Hillside generator is here and in place. Insight Pipe has started televising and cleaning sewer lines along N. Williamson Road.

OLD BUSINESS:

LED Streetlights (April 2021): Waiting for Penelec

Project Goals for 2022: Project Goal Updates:

- a. **Sidewalk, Lighting and Signage for Island Park:** Nothing.
- b. **Plaza Refurbishment:** Nothing at this time.

Concepcion – Maple Hill: Mr. Concepcion was served with the Complaint.

2025 Police Pension Resolution: The Annual Police Pension Resolution was reviewed. Motion by James Rakoski, Seconded by Kenneth Johnson to approve the Resolution. All in Favor

Fire Department 2025 Tax Millage: The annual Fire Department tax millage was reviewed. Motion by James Rakoski, Second by Jill Nickerson to approve the millage. All in Favor.

Garbage Fees: The resolution for the increase of 4.5% in the garbage rates beginning January 1, 2025 was reviewed. Quarterly charges will go from \$40.65 to \$42.48 and extra bags from \$1.30 each to \$1.35 each. Dumpster rates increase by 5%. Motion by James Rakoski, Second by Robert Bowens. All in Favor.

2025 Tax Ordinance: The Tax Ordinance is being advertised and can be adopted at the December meeting. This Ordinance calls for a ¼ mill increase in real estate taxes.

NEW BUSINESS:

The County has adopted a Lighting Ordinance. They have asked Boroughs to review this Ordinance for possible Adoption. This will be added to the December Agenda for discussion.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

A discussion about the 2025 Holidays and including Veterans' Day as a paid holiday for employees. Motion by Kenneth Johnson, Seconded by Robert Bowens to include Veterans' Day as a paid holiday for employees. All in Favor.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Kenneth Johnson, Second by Robert Bowens to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 pm. All in Favor.

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary