

**BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
December 11, 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 (Excused), Kallie Wickman (Excused), 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: Renee Carey – North Central Conservancy, Jason Hemling, Natalia & Elliot Custred.

Renee Carey provided a current newsletter to all council members. This newsletter contained an article on the work Trout Unlimited performed on Island Park for the streambank stabilization. Kleinfelder sent an email stating that all of the property owners have signed the necessary documents and they will be starting the final design for the AMD. They expect final engineering documents to be completed by February with construction to start in the spring.

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 swore in Officer Elliot Custred as a new full-time officer who will start his six (6) months probationary period effective immediately. We are very honored to have Officer Custred who graduated the top of the class. Officer Custred thanked the Council, Mayor and Chief for this support during his training and looks forward to working for the Borough.

Police:

Both cadets have completed the academy and are certified. Hicks-Lee has a vision issue that needs to be resolved before MPOTEC will accept his certification.

Police Committee:

The Police Committee met to discuss the re-hiring of a former officer, Scott Tanner, as a full-time officer and a field training officer. The Committee highly recommended that Officer Tanner be hired. Motion by Kenneth Johnson, Second by James Rakoski to hire Officer Tanner as a full-time police officer. All in Favor.

Borough Manager:

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

The Borough General Fund account was hacked and a new account has to be established. Motion by Josh Jones, Second by Jill Nickerson to direct the Secretary to open a new general fund account and to coordinate the auto-payments and ACH transfers use the new account for future transaction.

Borough Manager and Secretary had a telephone conference with FEMA and PEMA regarding the damages suffered during Tropical Storm Debby. Both agencies will be at the Office for further discussions on December 19th.

Junior Council Person:

Nothing.

VIBE:

Nothing at this time.

Planning Commission Report:

No Meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board:

No Meeting

Recreation:

There was not a quorum at the meeting. The Concession Stand/Electric Building is completed. Next step is to have Penelec run the electric to the building.

Fire and Ambulance:

President Hall asked about the status of the PA Local Share Account and the Borough's involvement. Secretary reported that she has not heard anything since the letter was sent. The Secretary will follow-up with the Fire Department.

Library:

The Library remains very busy. The basket raffle was a big success raising over \$5,000. They are currently interviewing for a part-time evening position.

Street Committee:

Nothing.

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing.

Budget:

The budget, duly advertised, was brought up for adoption. Motion by James Rakoski, Second by Kenneth Johnson to approve the 2025 Budget as advertised.

Blossburg Municipal Report:

The Taylor Run wells are being converted to SCADA for ease in operation. The generator for the Hillside Well has been installed. Once the gas line regulator I installed for the generator, this will be completed. Currently, N. Williamson Road sewer lines are being relined to cut down on infiltration. This was paid by remaining grant funds from RUS in the construction of the new sewer plant.

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: This is currently in Litigation

2025 Tax Ordinance: The Tax Ordinance being duly advertised was brought up for discussion. Motion by James Rakoski, Second by Kenneth Johnson to adopt the 2025 tax ordinance. All in Favor.

County Lighting Ordinance: This will be discussed following review of existing policy.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nothing.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Nothing.

An Executive Session was requested by the Solicitor to discuss legal matters. There will be no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by James Rakoski, Second by Kenneth Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 pm. All in Favor.

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary